

09-06-2021

No. 3247

## التقرير اليومي

## الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Palestinian Refugees Stranded in Thailand Push for Urgent Humanitarian Action"

- Palestinians of Syria Denounce Delay of UN Aid Delivery
- Palestinian Refugees in AlRashidiya Camp Denounce Uncontrolled Weapon Possession
- Over 3,000 Documentary Reports Issued by AGPS
- Greece Designates Turkey as "Safe" for Migrants from Syria



## **Latest Developments**

AGPS continues to sound alarm bells over the deteriorating humanitarian condition endured by dozens of Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria to the Kingdom of Thailand. The refugees risk to be forcibly sent back to Syria or tossed into Thai detention centers for indefinite periods of time.

Sometime earlier, the refugees urged Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to pressurize the Thai authorities so as to release refugees trapped at IDC detention center and grant them legal and physical protection.

The refugees said the Thai authorities continue to rebuff their appeals for visa-renewal after they overstayed their residence permits. The Thai government also prohibited renting homes to the refugees, who have been considered as lawbreakers rather than asylum-seekers.

Speaking with AGPS on condition of anonymity, a jailed Palestinian refugee who fled war-torn Syria to Thailand said: "We fled the Syrian warfare to Thailand seeking a safe shelter. However, we've been mistreated by local authorities and sent to jail. Others were forcibly pushed back to war-torn Syria."

The witness also said scores of refugees have gone through psychological breakdowns due to the squalid conditions they have been facing in Thailand. "Several detained refugees from different nationalities have attempted suicide after they lost hope".



Palestinian refugees from Syria trapped in Thailand continue to slam the apathy maintained by the international community, the United Nations, the Palestine Liberation Organization, and the Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas regarding their suffering.

AGPS calls on the Thai authorities to work out the refugees' legal status after dozens of them overstayed their visas and have, thus, been sent to jail. Dozens of families continue to live in a state of perpetual fear and deep-seated trauma in Thailand.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugees in Syria (PRS) have denounced delays in aid delivery by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

Speaking with AGPS, a Palestinian refugee said UNRWA's cash assistance represents a lifeline for the cash-stripped Palestinian refugee families who have been struggling with squalid conditions in Syria as a result of the multiple hardships inflicted by the conflict, the coronavirus pandemic and the absence of legal protection.

In its fact sheet entitled "Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal 2021", UNRWA said that the protracted conflict has devastated human security and left 91 per cent of the 438,000 Palestine refugees estimated to remain in the country in absolute poverty and 40 per cent displaced.



As the coronavirus pandemic has rebounded around the MENA region and the globe, Palestinian refugees in war-torn Syria continue to struggle with growing poverty and economic hardship.

Many PRS lost their sources of income; refugee camps have seen unprecedented levels of destruction; rental prices have dramatically gone up; undernourishment and poverty have been a daily nightmare.

Due to the serious protection gaps, children have been forced to drop out of school and join armed groups to help feed their starving families.

Hundreds of families have had women as their sole breadwinners; and in several other cases boys and girls are spotted begging in the street for a few pounds.

Meanwhile, dozens of displaced Palestinian families sheltered in AlRashidiya camp, in the southern Lebanese city of Sur, have launched cries for help over the security mayhem rocking the area due to the uncontrolled circulation of weapons and frequent clashes.

On Sunday, June 6, a fight that flared up in the camp took away the life of one person and left others wounded.

Statistics conducted by local NGOs documented a remarkable decrease in the number of Palestinian families from Syria sheltered in AlRashidiya camp owing to the life-threatening security turmoil



along with the dire socio-economic conditions and ambivalent legal status endured by the displaced families.

In the meantime, AGPS has released 3,253 daily reports documenting the situation of Palestinian refugees across war-torn Syria.

The reports are available on the group's website both in English and Arabic: <a href="www.actionpal.org.uk">www.actionpal.org.uk</a>.

Other materials, including videos, live snapshots, statistics on the number of casualties and detainees, news articles, and press releases also figure on the website.

AGPS material provides thorough data on the daily violations, death toll, and number of detainees in war-torn Syria. It also underscores the crises endured by the Palestinian community in refugee camps across and outside of the embattled Syrian territories.

The provided data is the by-product of joint efforts made by a team of field reporters, news correspondents, journalists, photographers, and researchers.

AGPS is a London-based human rights watchdog that monitors the situation of Palestinian refugees in war-torn Syria. In seeking to fulfill this goal, AGPS team does its best to uphold the finest standards of historiographic ethics and maintain honesty in sourcing. To that very end, live snapshots, footages, and sworn affidavits are taken directly from the fighting scene across a myriad



of flashpoints so as to authenticate AGPS role as a human rights overseer.

Meanwhile, Greece aims to send back asylum seekers from Somalia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Syria and Bangladesh who arrive from Turkey. The government says they are not in danger in Turkey and have no need of protection in Europe.

In a joint statement by the foreign ministry and the migration ministry on Monday the Greek government announced that it has designated Turkey as a "safe third country."

The migration minister, Notis Mitarakis, described the move as "a big step for the fight against illegal migration and criminal activities by smugglers".

The announcement is a clear signal to the Greek coast guard that people of these nationalities will not be permitted to remain in the EU, coast guard sources told the news agency dpa.

Data from the UN refugee agency, UNHCR, show that 47% of the asylum seekers in Greek island camps are Afghans, 15% are Syrians and 9% are from Somalia.

The number of migrants living in the camps has been declining. The latest Greek government figures show that there are fewer than 9,000 people living on the islands of Lesbos, Chios, Kos, Leros and Samos. Last year, the number was over 40,000.