



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

11-03-2020

No. 2696

## التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



### "AGPS Speaks Up for Palestinians of Syria at UNHRC"

- Palestinian Refugees in Egypt Denounced Apathy by UNRWA, Palestine Embassy
- Situation of Palestinians from Syria in Lebanon Exacerbated by Poor Healthcare Services
- Germany Offers to Resettle Migrant Children

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

## Latest Developments

The Action Group for Palestinians of Syria (AGPS), in cooperation with the Palestinian Return Centre (PRC), has expressed deep concern over the fallouts of the raging Syrian warfare on the Palestinian refugee community.

An oral statement delivered as part of the 43rd session of the UNHRC in Geneva said the crisis in Syria has been one of the gravest and most demanding emergencies faced in the modern era. The vast majority of the 540,000 Palestine refugees registered in Syria (PRS) are unable to meet their basic needs.

PRC's speaker said 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, the statement read.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

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, it added.

The group also warned that economic hardship also forced thousands of PRS to embark on life-threatening journeys to neighboring countries or to try to get to safety to a European destination. Hundreds have died at sea.

PRC and AGPS have called on the UN and the international community to take urgent steps in order to enhance the socio-economic condition of PRS, safeguard children's right to moral and physical protection, and prevent child labor and forced military conscription.

The groups also said the UN should help create job opportunities and better economic conditions for PRS and help reduce poverty and unemployment pending their safe return to their homeland—Palestine.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Egypt continue to rail against the apathy maintained by UNRWA and the Palestine Embassy regarding their appeals for humanitarian, legal, and socio-economic protection.

A number of refugees said UNRWA continues to turn its back on their calls for cash and in-kind assistance.

PRS have also denounced the mistreatment they have been subjected to by the staff members of the Palestine Embassy in Cairo.

Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria have been subjected to a fragile legal status in Egypt, where they are treated as foreigners



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

rather than asylum-seekers fleeing war-stricken zones. PRS have been denied the right to legal visas, refugee documents, safe accommodation, basic services, and relief assistance.

Those who illegally entered Egypt via the Sudanese borders have been denied the right to free movement, education, and labor, among other basic necessities. Unlike Syrian nationals, who are granted safe asylum in Egypt and systematically assisted by the UNHCR, Palestinian refugees are left on their own.



AGPS data indicates that the number of Palestinian refugees from Syria in Egypt in 2018 was estimated at 3,500, down from over 6,000 in recent years. Some 500 refugees illegally entered Egypt through Sudan.

AGPS continues to stress the need to secure the rights of the Palestinians from Syria in Egypt to legal and physical protection, as per the Refugee Convention of 1951.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugees in Lebanon said they have had scant access to quality healthcare. The Lebanese state does not provide them with any such services, and private treatment is highly expensive.





مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

More than half of Palestinian refugees fleeing to Lebanon live in the 12 official camps across the country, where overcrowding, limited essential services and poor sanitary conditions mean conditions are among the worst in the region.

Over recent weeks, the refugees' fears over their health conditions have hit the zenith as reports of confirmed cases testing positive for coronavirus have increasingly emerged in the Middle Eastern country.

The refugees also said they are only assisted by UNRWA in a handful of health care services, including primary health care, urgent surgeries, and child birth assistance.

The added that UNRWA abstains from assisting the refugees in emergency cases, including traffic accidents. Patients in need of open heart surgeries receive partial funding.

Though UNRWA clinics provide free or low-cost services, the refugees rarely have access to the prescribed medicines.

Those with life-threatening and chronic diseases continue to appeal for urgent medical treatment and financial assistance to purchase medicines and undergo therapy.

Despite their longstanding presence in Lebanon, Palestinian refugees remain excluded from key aspects of social, political and economic life in the country. They are barred from accessing public services, owning or inheriting property, and working in 39 professions.

Around 100,000 Palestinians originally fled to Lebanon at the time of the Nakba mostly from northern and coastal areas of Mandate



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

Palestine including Haifa, Safad, Yaffa, Acre and Nazareth. They were joined by later waves of refugees following the 1967 war, and the 1970 fighting in Jordan. Today, over 400,000 Palestinian refugees are registered with UNRWA in Lebanon.

The United Nation has identified Palestinian refugees in Lebanon as one of the most marginalized and poorest communities in the region. They continue to face high vulnerability and marginalization, making them heavily reliant on humanitarian support to cover their basic needs. The socio-economic hardships and unrest experienced by the country have compounded the refugees' already dire living conditions.

The refugees' vulnerability is further compounded by their precarious legal status. The lack of a valid legal status, often coupled with outdated civil registration documents, results in severely restricted freedom of movement for some Palestinian refugees in Lebanon due to fear of arrest, detention or forced deportation.

Along similar lines, Germany said it is prepared to take in "an appropriate share" of the neediest refugee children housed in overcrowded Greek migrant camps, German officials said on Monday.

The country is set take children in as part of "a coalition of the willing" to be made up of other EU countries.

The announcement from the German government came after its Chancellor, Angela Merkel, met with members of her coalition government to discuss the humanitarian crisis on Greece's borders and in its migrant camps. Migrants and refugees have been



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

amassing along the Greece-Turkey border ever since Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said its borders were open to refugees seeking to cross into Greece.

The plan is set to help between 1,000 - 1,500 children identified as being particularly in need. This means either unaccompanied children under the age of 14 or children in need of urgent medical assistance. News agency AFP said most of those set to benefit were girls.

Chair of Germany's ruling CDU party, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, said that France could possibly join the "coalition of the willing." It is not known which other countries are interested in participating.



DW's Turkey correspondent Julia Hahn, who has been reporting from the border, described the conditions for children and families.

"It's been particularly tough for families with small children," Hahn said on Monday. "Thousands of people have moved to the Greek border. It's been 11 days in the cold with a plastic tent at most. People are relying on food aid."



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

"We've also seen violent scenes playing out there," she added.

Intense fighting in the Idlib region of Syria has caused a new wave of refugees to flee over the Turkish border. Turkey has already taken in over 3.5 million Syrian refugees assisted by billions of Euros of aid provided by the EU under a 2016 deal that ensured Turkey would stop the migrants and refugees entering Europe.

EU leaders and Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan are due in Brussels later on Monday. They will "discuss EU-Turkey matters, including migration, security, stability in the region and the crisis in Syria," Michel's spokesman said on Twitter.