



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

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## التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



### " Palestinian Refugee Tents in Greece Flooded by Violent Rain Torrents"

- Palestinians from Syria to Receive Free Checks as Medical Delegation Arrives in Lebanon
- Palestinian Writer Ali AlShehabi Forcibly Disappeared by Syrian Gov't for 7th Year
- Explosion of Landmines, War Remnants Takes Away Lives of 6 Palestinian Refugees in Syria

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## Latest Developments

Dozens of migrants took to the streets in the Greek island of Kos after refugee tents have been uprooted and others have fallen apart as torrential downpours have swamped refugee camps set up on the island.

Pictures and videos circulated on social media show dozens of refugees lying in the streets, without roofs over their heads, while their tents have been dismantled by the rain showers.

Over recent weeks, displaced Palestinian families in Greece-based refugee camps have expressed concerns over their fate as a freezing winter season has been around the corner.



The refugees have denounced the absence of vital services, including health care, housing, relief assistance, and power and water.

They further call on the international human rights organizations to take urgent action in response to their appeals.

More than 200 Palestinians from Syria are taking shelter in Kos island, where they have been grappling with squalid conditions and crammed in overcrowded and poorly-equipped tents.



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Over recent years, Greek refugee camps have reportedly been running at three times their capacity. Overpopulated refugee camps cause a shortage of resources, not least healthcare. Often mental health issues are overlooked, despite many refugees having experienced severe trauma

Earlier this month, UNICEF warned that the number of unaccompanied migrant minors staying in overcrowded reception centers on the Greek islands exceeds 1,100, the highest level since the peak of the refugee crisis in early 2016, calling on European countries to do more to protect vulnerable children.

Palestinian refugees from Syria continue to risk their lives onboard the “death boats” to Greece, rummaging around for a momentary respite from the daily scenes of bloodshed and destruction.

AGPS has kept record of the death of dozens of refugees onboard Greece-bound ships. Several others have been arrested by Turkish coast guards.

Activists estimate that around 4,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria are taking cover on such Greek islands as Lesbos, Mytilene, Chios, Leros, and Kos, among other areas.

In another development, a delegation of medics specialized in hand surgery showed up in the Lebanese territories. The move was announced by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in Lebanon, in partnership with Palestine Children’s Relief Fund.

The Red Crescent Society said free medical check-ups and surgeries will be provided for concerned patients at Safad Hospital,





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in AlBadawi refugee camp, north of Lebanon, as of October 13, 2019 until October 17.

Patients aged between two and 18-year-old will benefit from the move. Concerned patients are required to send their personal data and a detailed medical report about their case via whatsapp.

Nearly 28,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria seeking shelter in Lebanon have been subjected to dire socio-economic conditions and a precarious legal status as the Lebanese authorities continue to rebuff their appeals for legal visas and access to the local labor market.

Meanwhile, Palestinian writer Ali Sa'id Shehabi has been secretly held in Syria government jails for the seventh year running.

Shehabi, an English instructor at a UNRWA school, was kidnapped on December 17, 2012. Prior to his abduction, Shehabi had been taking shelter in Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees.

Frequent calls by international NGOs and activists to unearth Shehabi's fate have gone unheeded by the Syrian government.





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The instructor was arrested for the first time in 1974 and jailed for nine months in the Mezzeh military prison in Syria. In 1982 he was sentenced to another ten years over charges of affiliations with Syria's anti-government Communist Labor Party. In 2006, he received a seven-month prison-term on account of his attempts to form a new political party and over allegations of signing the Beirut-Damascus declaration, a statement signed in 2006 by Lebanese and Syrian activists who called on the Syrian government to correct its relationship with Lebanon and to respect Lebanon's independence and sovereignty. The declaration also called for an end to political killings in Lebanon.

AGPS documented the incarceration of over 1,700 Palestinian refugees in Syrian regime lock-ups, among them children, women, academics, university students, and sick civilians.

Along the same line, six Palestinian refugees died of wounds inflicted by mine explosions or blasts of war remnants across the embattled Syrian territories.

The list of casualties includes three children. Mahmoud Fadi AlDerbi was pronounced dead following the explosion of a mysterious object while he was playing outdoors in Daraa. Omar Mohamed Assaad and Mohamed Samir Hamamdah, from AlSayeda Zeinab Camp, died in landmine blasts in AlBahdalia area, in Rif Dimashq. Scores of civilians have been left injured.

At the same time, three Palestinian refugees affiliated with pro-government squads in Syria died in landmine blasts. Mohamed AlMar'I, from the Free Palestine Movement, was pronounced dead after an ISIS landmine exploded in AlHajar AlAswad, south of



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Damascus. Landmine blasts also took away the lives of Reda Samara, a member of Liwaa AlQuds, in Deir AlZor, east of Syria, and Khaled Dakour, a resident of AlNeirab Camp. The latter was pronounced dead in AlSheikh Lotfi neighborhood, in Aleppo.

Mohamed Abdul Razaq Sa'id, sheltered in Khan Dannun refugee camp, was injured in AlDeir Khabiya, in Rif Dimashq, and got his leg amputated. Member of the Palestine Liberation Army Mohamed Maher Zahraoui was also injured in a landmine explosion in Duma, in Rif Dimashq.

Last year, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF called for concerted international action in response to the devastating health consequences of explosive hazards in Syria, saying more than 8 million people were exposed to explosive hazards in Syria, including over 3 million children.



Available data by WHO indicate that in 2017, at least 910 children were killed and 361 children were maimed in Syria, including by explosive remnants of war and victim-activated improvised explosive devices. In the first 2 months of 2018 alone, 1000 children were reportedly killed or injured in intensifying violence.



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The International Committee of the Red Cross said that, each year, large numbers of civilians are killed and injured by explosive remnants of war, such as artillery shells, mortars, grenades, bombs and rockets, left behind after an armed conflict.

For the civilians and communities in war-affected Syria, the presence of these weapons represents an ongoing threat. Many innocent civilians, including Palestinian refugees, have lost their lives and limbs by disturbing or inadvertently coming into contact with explosive remnants of war. These weapons have also hindered reconstruction and threatened economic livelihood. Houses, hospitals and schools cannot be rebuilt until such weapons are cleared.

Local communities often have no means of dealing with the problem themselves. Most do not have the technical capacity or the resources to clear explosive remnants of war safely and few have the resources needed to deal with the psychological, medical and rehabilitative needs of victims.