

15-09-2020

No. 2884

## التقرير اليومي

## الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"49,000 Palestinian Students Return to UNRWA Schools in Syria"

- New Assassination Attempt Reported in AlMuzeireeb
- Palestinian Refugees from Syria Subjected to Mistreatment at Cairo Embassy
- 3 Migrants Dead, 20 Missing as Boat Sinks off Aegean



## Latest developments

This school year, 49,000 Palestine refugee girls and boys have gone back to 103 schools run by the UNRWA in Syria, with measures being taken by teaching staff to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Students and teaching staff have been wearing face masks, using disinfectants, and keeping to social distancing as part of safety measures recommended by the Agency.

As the new academic year has stepped in, Palestinian refugee schoolchildren and students continue to struggle with the devastating impact of the ten-year warfare.

Available data by UNRWA indicates that 32 UNRWA facilities have been reduced to rubble in Yarmouk Camp alone, including 16 schools, in the Syrian conflict.

Several other UNRWA facilities were destroyed in the Syrian warfare and others have gone out of operation, including two clinics, a vocational training center, a youth development center, and 28 schools, out of 112 UNRWA schools in Syria.

Upon more than one occasion, the UN has raised alarm bells over the striking upsurge in the rate of school dropouts among the Palestinians of Syria, several among whom have left schools to help feeding their impoverished families in unemployment-stricken refugee camps.



Dozens of Palestinian students, schoolchildren, and teaching staff have been killed or forcibly disappeared in war-ravaged Syria.

Meanwhile, Palestinians taking shelter in AlMuzeireeb town have expressed deep concern over the security situation in the area after reports have emerged on a new assassination attempt targeting a former opposition affiliate.

Activists have accused pro-government militias of assassinating opposition affiliates south of Syria in violation of the reconciliation accords struck between the two sides.

A resident said dozens of assassination operations have targeted Palestinian refugees in the area, warning of the increase of such attempts.

AGPS has documented the death of dozens of Palestinian refugees in AlMuzeireeb town, home to 1,700 Palestinian families displaced from Daraa Camp.

In another development, Palestinian refugees from Syria in Egypt told AGPS that the Palestine Embassy in Cairo kicked them out after they showed up at the embassy and called for a meeting with Ambassador Diab AlLouh.

The refugees said they have been denied entry into the embassy. Security guards forced them out of the area and prevented them from taking photos and live footages.



Palestinian refugees who fled war-torn Syria have been subjected to a fragile legal status in Egypt, where they are treated as foreigners rather than asylum-seekers fleeing war-stricken zones.

Palestinians from Syria in Egypt 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, who fall outside of UNRWA's fields of operations, to legal and physical protection, as per the Refugee Convention of 1951, and to hand them over cash and inkind aids, along with refugee cards, in order to enhance their legal status in the Egyptian territories.

Along similar lines, a boat carrying dozens of irregular migrants sunk off a small Greek island in the Aegean Sea, according to local media.



Some 70 irregular migrants were on board when the boat sunk off the Greek island of Crete.

Greek rescuers saved 56 migrants from the capsized boat, but two children and a woman drowned.

Their bodies were recovered 12 nautical miles (14 miles) off Crete's eastern coast and it is not yet clear if there were more victims.

The Greek coastguard service said four vessels and two helicopters took part in the search late on Monday, amid strong winds.

AGPS statistics indicate that 57 Palestinian refugees from Syria have drowned on the migration route onboard Europe-bound vessels.