

20-05-2020

No. 2766

## التقرير اليومي

## الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"32 Palestinian Residents of Handarat Camp Forcibly Disappeared in Syrian Gov't Jails "

- Palestinian Refugees Express Deep Anger over Mistreatment by Aid Delivery Staff
- UNRWA Pledges to Enhance Cash Aid Distribution Mechanism
- Migration Offices Reopened in Greece



## **Latest Developments**

32 Palestinian refugees taking shelter in Handarat Camp, north of Aleppo, have been secretly incarcerated in Syrian government prisons, according to AGPS data.

AGPS kept record of the names of over 1,790 Palestinians, including women and minors, who have been secretly held in Syrian state penitentiaries.

Another 620 Palestinian refugees have also been tortured to death in Syrian government prisons.

AGPS calls on the Syrian government to disclose the fate of hundreds of Palestinians forcibly disappeared in state-run dungeons.

AGPS believes that the arbitrary internment of Palestinian refugees in war-torn Syria amounts to a war crime.

Many reports issued by AGPS provide details about the Palestinian victims of torture and enforced disappearance during the bloody conflict.

AGPS kept record of several cases where Palestinians have been kidnapped at government checkpoints or during assaults carried out by government troops on Palestinian refugee camps and shelters.

In another development, Palestinian refugees and activists in Lebanon have strongly condemned the distribution mechanism of cash aid by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).



The refugees said they have been subjected to mistreatment by staff at the Bob Finance bank.

They added that the Agency has paid no heed to their safety as no hygiene kit and safety measures have been made available at cash delivery locations.

A video circulated on social media shows a staff member of Bob Finance office as insulting Palestinian refugees lining up in the street to get their cash grants.

Along similar lines, UNRWA issued a press statement on May 18 apologizing to the refugees for the mistreatment they have faced at Bob Finance's bank office.

The Agency pledged to find practical solutions at the earliest possible time to enhance aid distribution mechanisms.

UNRWA called on the refugees to abide by safety protocols and social distancing tips, to wear their face masks, and avoid overcrowding.

It added that the deadline for cash aid distribution will be extended for another three weeks so that all registered refugees can get their cash allowances.

Meanwhile, dozens of migrants and asylum-seekers in Greece have flocked to migration offices in the country after the government announced its decision to reopen offices that have been shut over the past couple of months as part of anti-coronavirus measures.



Sometime earlier, Greece extended measures taken to stem the spread of the coronavirus in the country to May 4, before easing the restrictions.

So far, 2,840 people contracted coronavirus in Greece. The death toll stands at 165.

Camps in Greece have been under quarantine in recent weeks, with authorities trying to keep residents apart from locals.

Palestinian refugees from Syria continue to risk their lives onboard the "death boats" to Greece, rummaging around for a momentary respite from violence and economic hardship.

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 the meantime, Imaar AlSham Association distributed 100 food baskets to displaced Palestinian families in the northern Syrian region of Efrin.

Some 200 Palestinian families taking refuge in Efrin have been facing squalid conditions due to poor hygiene, overcrowding, and absence of relief assistance.