



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



"19 Palestinian Refugees Tortured to Death in Syrian Jails during 1st Half of 2019"

- Abductions Simmering in Khan Dannun Camp for Palestinian Refugees
- German Interior Minister to Strip Migrants from Syria of Refugee status
- Palestinians among 330 Migrants Stopped by Turkish Coast Guard

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Latest Developments

In its newly-released report, AGPS documented the death of 17 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syria's state-run dungeons during the first half of 2019.

In most of the cases, the victims' families received the death reports following years of enforced disappearance.

AGPS kept record of the secret detention of 1,759 Palestinian refugees in Syrian government prisons.



Affidavits by ex-detainees provided evidence on the involvement of Syrian government officers in harsh torture tactics, including electric shocks, heavy beating using whips and iron sticks, and sexual abuse against Palestinian detainees, in a flagrant violation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).

AGPS estimates the real number to be far higher due to the gag orders slapped by the Syrian government on the detainees' names and fates, along with the families' reluctance to report such cases over retaliation concerns.



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AGPS continues to urge the Syrian government to disclose the fate of scores of Palestinians held in its lock-ups, release the bodies of those tortured to death, to seriously work on halting harsh torture tactics, launch fact-finding probes into crimes of torture, and to bring those involved in such crimes before courts.

Along the same line, a state of panic has overwhelmed residents of Khan Dannun Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, after a girl was kidnapped by anonymous gunmen a few days earlier.

As figures on social media network Facebook, on August 17, the residents attempted to chase down a vehicle to which the kidnapped girl was dragged by anonymous gangsters. Members of Liwaa AlQuds brigade, affiliated with the Syrian government, rounded up the gangsters, who later confessed to the abduction.

Over recent years, hundreds of children have gone missing in war-torn Syria. Dozens have fallen prey to organ trafficking. Their families have been subjected to extortions and blackmails.

In another development, German Interior Minister Horst Seehofer announced a tough response to Syrian refugees who leave Germany for holidays in their home country.

"If somebody, a Syrian refugee, regularly takes holidays in Syria, he cannot honestly claim to be persecuted in Syria," Seehofer told Bild am Sonntag weekly. "We would have to strip him of his refugee status".

As soon as German officials learn of such trips, they will launch a probe into the migrants' refugee status, Seehofer added.



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Talking to the Sunday edition of the mass-circulation Bild newspaper, Seehofer said German authorities were closely monitoring the situation in Syria.

"When the conditions allow, we will conduct deportations," he said.



Seehofer has repeatedly clashed with Chancellor Angela Merkel over her refugee policy, which he believes is too liberal.

Thousands of Palestinian refugees from Syria have migrated to Germany and other European destinations in recent years, fleeing the deadly war, which started in 2011. Hundreds of thousands of people have lost their lives in the conflict.

In the meantime, Turkish authorities have intercepted a total of 330 migrants attempting to cross to the Greek island of Lesbos, officials said on Sunday.

The coastguard in the Küçukkuyu area of the western Çanakkale province said it had conducted seven operations to pick up migrants trying to make the crossing since Saturday evening.

Turkey's seas, particularly the Aegean in the west, have seen a large influx recently with more migrants boarding dinghies to reach



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Europe. They travel in overcrowded and unsafe boats to reach Greek islands scattered across the Aegean region and only a few kilometers away from Turkish shores. Deaths are common in these crossings as many migrants, despite paying thousands of dollars to smugglers, are forced to travel in rubber boats crowded far beyond their capacity.

In March 2016, the EU and Turkey reached an agreement to stop irregular migration through the Aegean Sea and improve the conditions of the more than 3.5 million refugees from Syria in Turkey. An exchange program to return migrants that previously entered Europe to Turkey and settle Syrian refugees in EU countries failed to curb the migrant flow, as tension continues to strike the MENA region.

