



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

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الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"AGPS: 250 Palestinian Children Killed in War-Torn Syria"

- Palestinian Refugee Mohamed Husain Forcibly Disappeared in Syria since 2015
- Turkey Urges Greece to Halt Pushback of Irregular Migrants
- Relief Campaign for Palestinians from Syria Kick-Started in Istanbul

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Latest Developments

A newly-released report by AGPS has kept record of the death of 250 Palestinian refugee children in war-torn Syria until October 29, 2019.

The data pointed out that 128 children died under shelling; 15 were fatally shot by snipers; 11 were gunned down; two children were tortured to death; 22 drowned at sea; 25 others were killed in car blasts; and 34 died due to the blockade and medical neglect. Another 12 children died of other causes, including burns, suffocation, run-over accidents, and abduction.

The overall death toll among the Palestinians of Syria killed since the outburst of the conflict has hit 4,002.



In the past years, sworn affidavits by ex-detainees confirmed the presence of toddlers swung in their mothers' arms in Syrian prisons. Thousands of children have gone orphaned after they lost one or both of their parents in the deadly warfare.

The warfare in Syria has had traumatic fallouts on Palestinian refugee children in and outside of Syria. Post-traumatic stress disorders, mental psychosis, sleeplessness and nightmares, eating



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disorders, and intense fear have all been reported among Palestinian children from Syria.

AGPS renews its calls to the international community, human rights institutions, UNICEF, UNRWA, and all concerned bodies to work on protecting Palestinian children in embattled zones.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee Mohamed Omar Husain has been secretly held in Syrian government jails for the fourth consecutive year.

Mohamed was arrested by Syrian security forces in 2015. His family received no information as to his condition and whereabouts.

AGPS documented the secret detention of 1,768 Palestinian refugees in Syria's state-run prisons, where hundreds of others have also been tortured to death.

In another development, Turkey's Foreign Ministry on Sunday called on Greece's new government to end the illegal practice of "pushback" of irregular migrants over the Turkish border.

In response, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis denied the claims on Tuesday, saying that Ankara should be "more cautious when referring to Greece".

"Although Greece denies the fact that irregular migrants are pushed back into our country by Greek authorities, the pushback of irregular migrants carried out by Greek officials on our border continues both at sea and on land," the Turkish ministry said in a statement.



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In the first 10 month of 2019, 25,404 irregular migrants were pushed back into Turkey by Greece, the ministry said, a significant increase from the 11,867 migrants pushed back in 2018.

In interviews with these migrants, Turkish authorities have learned that, in many instances, the migrants' personal belongings were confiscated and they were subjected to unacceptable treatment, such as beatings, before being pushed back to Turkey by Greek officials.



"We have all kinds of images, photographs, documents and statements of returned people regarding the pushback practices of Greek officials," the ministry said.

The ministry noted that the pushback practices, which are contrary to international law, have also been recorded in reports by the Council of Europe. The council has called on Greece to suspend and investigate these practices, the statement added.

"We invite the new Greek government to work to correct this policy, which is contrary to international law, rather than to deny the pushback cases identified by the Council of Europe, which has all the information and documents that we have," the ministry concluded.



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Under international laws and conventions, Greece is obliged to register any illegal migrants entering its territory; yet, this is not the case for thousands of migrants who were forcibly returned to Turkey especially since the beginning of refugee influx into Europe in 2015.

Turkey and the European Union signed a deal in 2016 to curb illegal immigration through the dangerous Aegean Sea route from Turkey to Greece. Under the deal, Greece sends back migrants held in the heavily-patrolled Aegean islands they crossed to from nearby Turkish shores.

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 guard near the borders.

In the meantime, Khayra Ummah Organization distributed winter clothes to over 200 Palestinian families from Syria who have sought refuge in the Turkish metropolitan city of Istanbul.

The move makes part of a winter campaign launched by the charity in order to assuage the calamitous humanitarian conditions endured by Palestinians from Syria in Turkey.

Unofficial statistics indicate that 8,000 Palestinians from Syria have sought shelter in Turkey, where they have been facing dire socio-economic conditions and denied access to the local labor market.



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
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Turkish embassies continue to prevent Palestinian refugees from Syria from obtaining visas. As a result, hundreds of Palestinians have embarked on life-threatening journeys via illegal immigration roads to reach Turkey, fleeing war-tattered Syria, among other war-stricken zones.

