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

التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria

"Japan Contributes US$ 2.85 Million in Emergency Assistance for Palestine Refugees"

- Activists Call for Probe into Death of Refugees on Greek Border
- Palestinian Refugee Achieves Highest Score at German University
- 47 Migrants Rescued off Turkish Coast
- Winter Assistance Provided to Families in Northern Syria Displacement Camps

Latest Developments

The Government of Japan contributed US$ 2.85 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to enable the provision of critical winterization services to Palestine refugees in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.

"I am very happy to announce that the Government of Japan is contributing US$ 2.85 million to UNRWA to support Palestine refugee families in the current winter conditions. This contribution represents our determined commitment and solidarity to Palestine refugees at a time when the region continues to experience serious humanitarian crises," Ambassador Masayuki Magoshi, Representative of Japan to Palestine, said.

UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said: "On behalf of UNRWA, I would like to thank the Government of Japan for its generous support. This timely contribution will help vulnerable Palestine refugees survive some of the most difficult winter weather conditions that the Middle East has seen in decades."

The Government of Japan is a dedicated donor to UNRWA, having supported the Agency since 1953. In 2021, the Government of Japan was the 5th largest contributor to UNRWA.

Meanwhile, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesperson Shabia Mantoo on Thursday said they are investigating the circumstances surrounding 19 migrants who froze to death after being stripped of some of their clothes and pushed back by Greek border guards.

Speaking to the state-run Anadolu news agency (AA), Mantoo added that UNCHR was "deeply saddened and shocked" by the incident and that they were following up on the deaths with all parties concerned.

Emphasizing that she was "heartbroken" over the deaths, Mantoo said migrant lives must be protected. "We call for an urgent investigation. We reiterate our call to ensure that the lives, rights, safety, and well-being of all refugees and migrants are protected and put first," she said.

The death of the migrants was announced by the Turkish Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu on Wednesday, who shared blurred images showing bodies lying by the side on the road, saying they were taken near Turkey's western border town of İpsala.

Greece has been in the throes of Europe's biggest migration crisis since 2015, when more than a million asylum seekers, mainly Syrians, streamed into neighboring Turkey, making the crossing into Greece and on to other parts of Europe.

In early 2020 Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan lifted all border controls, giving a green light to millions of refugees trapped in Turkey to flee to Europe through Greece. The government in

Athens responded by invoking special powers, allowing it to block what it called an enemy invasion.

According to data collected by The Guardian based on reports from United Nations agencies as well as the databases of civil society organizations, European countries pushed back 40,000 migrants, forcibly in most cases, between January 2020 and May 2021, and more than 2,000 migrants died during these pushbacks.

The pushback policy was supported by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) and has become systematic as the migrants, including children, who escaped wars were sent back, the daily reported.

A total of 6,230 pushbacks by Greece took place between January 2020 and May 2021, according to a report by the Border Violence Monitoring Network (BVMN).

A report by Amnesty International published in early June detailed the practices of Greek border forces of violently and illegally detaining groups of refugees and migrants before summarily returning them to Turkey, in a breach of the country's human rights obligations under EU and international law.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee from Syria Razan Shaaban earned the highest score at Hanover University, in Germany, after she defended her MA thesis in architecture.

Razan had studied architecture at Damascus University before she fled war-torn Syria to Germany seeking better opportunities.

She had taken shelter in Berzah neighborhood, in Damascus. Her family hails from Hittin, in occupied Palestine. Her parents are two renowned teachers.

In the meantime, Turkish Coast Guard intercepted 47 irregular migrants off the coast of the state of Mugla, northwest Turkey.

The Turkish coast guard said that on Wednesday evening they intercepted 23 migrants boarding a rubber boat off the Bodrum district. Another 24 migrants were caught on a yacht off the Marmaris district. Two people were detained over smuggling allegations.

The migrants were transferred to the Migration department in Mugla pending the necessary legal procedures.

Turkey has served as a major launch-off point for migrants fleeing Syria, among other war-stricken zones, onboard "death boats" bound for Europe.

AGPS kept record of the death of dozens of Palestinian refugees at sea, trying to reach European destinations.

In another development, Ighatha 48 Association distributed food parcels and winter aid items to displaced families sheltered in substandard facilities set up in northern Syria.

Palestinian refugees sheltered in displacement camps in northern Syria have been enduring a tragic situation. Most of them have been crammed in poorly-equipped tents and denied their rights to vital services.

Hundreds of Palestinian families have been struggling for survival in the poorly-equipped Deir Ballout and Muhammadiya camps, among other camps, after they were forced out of Yarmouk and southern Damascus towns.

For many displaced Palestinian refugees, the perils of coronavirus add to the torment already experienced throughout the conflict.