

Mr Chris Alexander
Minister of Citizenship and Immigration
Ottawa, Ontario
675 Madera Court, Coquitlam, BC
V3J 5N5

March 17, 2015

Dear Sir, Re: Syrian Refugees in Turkey

I am writing to you to request your assistance in bringing my brother and his family from Turkey to Canada. My husband and I are willing and able to support my brother and his family for as long as they need. With reference to the above, I would like to bring to your attention the issues that we have identified in attempting to complete and submit the appropriate forms and documentation required for Syrians who are currently residing in Turkey.

Your website states that Turkey will only issue an exit visa if the Syrian applicant meets the following criteria:

- Must hold a valid Syrian passport
- Must have entered Turkey legally
- Must be registered with the UNHCR or hold a Turkish Mavi Kimlik ID card.

* Please note that the requirements for Iraqi / Iranian nationals are not as restricted. Why?

We have contacted the UNHCR office in Ankara, who have advised them:

- All Syrians have only been issued with the Yabancı Tanıtma Belgesi
- The majority of Syrians had to enter Turkey illegally due to the fact they were escaping from the war
- The UN office has not issued any certificates to Syrians, and according to the UN, the document / Identity Card that they currently hold is sufficient to have an exit visa issued.

Based on the above information, it is impossible to get the family out of Turkey. Canada will not accept the application with the documents that are available, and the UNHCR will not issue their documents until they have confirmation that the family will be allowed to go to Canada. In addition, in order for the Syrians to obtain the valid passports and entrance, Canada is requiring them to return to their war infested homes, obtain the appropriate documents and re-enter Turkey legally. This is not a possible alternative for them.

I have attached a brief outline of my family's journey from their home in Damascus to Istanbul, including their encounter with the rebels. Since their arrival in Turkey, their life has been very tenuous. As they are Kurds, there is a definite prejudice against them with the Turkish population.

Their situation has become desperate. We request your assistance in the submission and approval of the application for this family.

Yours very truly,

Fatima Kurdi
cc: Fin Donnelly, MP, New Westminster-Coquitlam & Port Moody