

Settlement of Status for Syrians and Palestinians

The Mechanism to Settle the Status of Syrian Nationals without Legal Status has been extended. The General Directorate of General Security announces that all Syrian nationals residing on Lebanese territory can, until March 31, 2018:

- Apply for a temporary residence permit (pledge of responsibility—work) under a new sponsor. This applies to Syrian nationals whose temporary residence permit has expired or when the temporary residence permit granted under the old sponsor has expired or for those who were granted a reprieve to leave but did not do so during the allotted time.

Residency applications for Syrian minors

- Syrian minors who have reached the ages of 15 to 18 after entering Lebanon are permitted to apply for temporary residency permits in accordance with the applicable regulations, so long as they present a valid individual status record with a photo stamped by the relevant authority and issued no more than two years ago, in the case that no national ID card or passport is available.

Residency extensions for Palestinian refugees in Syria

- Palestinian refugees in Syria who have reached the ages of 15 and 18 after entering Lebanon shall be granted temporary residence permits, renewable according to the applicable regulations so long as they present a valid individual status record with a photo stamped by the relevant authority and issued no more than two years ago, in the case that no national ID card or travel document is available.

Entry permits for Sheikhs (Aqel) from the Druze Unitarian Community

The General Directorate of the General Security announces that Syrians bearing IDs issued by the Druze Unitarian Community in the Syrian Arab Republic, identifying them as sheikhs (Aqel) are permitted, when entering Lebanese territory through any border crossing, to remain in the country for a period of:

- One week, if no official letter of confirmation issued by the religious authorities in Lebanon (Mashyakhah al-Aqel, as well as sectarian judges) is available.
- One month, if the aforementioned letter is available.

Obtaining permits to move freely and [arranging exits for] those wishing to leave

All Syrian nationals in possession of a residency permit (under the liability of a sponsor) but without permits to move freely, as well as those who wish to leave the country, are asked to present themselves at their regional General Security Office or at the special centers for Syrian nationals to obtain the aforementioned permit before leaving the country.

Syrians or Palestinian refugees in Syria born in Lebanon who have never left the country and wish to do so:

Must apply to settle their status and can do so *only* at the regional center that corresponds to their area of residence, after fulfilling the following conditions:

- Presenting a birth certificate issued or certified by the Syrian embassy in Lebanon in the case of Syrians, or a birth certificate issued or certified by the Lebanese Order of Physicians and the Ministry of Health in the case of Palestinian refugees in Syria.
- Having one or both parents present (parents' residency permits must be valid). [If only one parent can be present,] then notarized permission to travel from the other party (either the mother or the father) must be presented.
- In the case that one of the parents is deceased, a valid death certificate or statement must be presented.
- In the case that one of the parents is residing outside the country, this must be clearly indicated on the application form along with the absent parents' full name and date of birth.
- In the case that the parents are divorced, then a valid divorce certificate and custody sentence must be presented.
- Their status will be settled through the issuance of a two-week extension, granted in the form of an independent document or appended to a passport or travel document if they are available.

Accepting applications to extend residency permits for those whose passports have expired

Applications to extend temporary residency permits for Syrian nationals who entered Lebanon on their Syrian passports and whose passports have since expired will be accepted upon presenting a national ID, on condition that the validity of the ID is verified and that it is not broken.