

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Syrian Refugee Crisis And Displacements



The September 2014 issue of the *Forced Migration Review*, a journal periodically published by the Centre for Refugee studies of Oxford University, UK, as a forum for exchange of practical experiences and information among

academics and practitioners, devoted its content to the Syrian refugee crisis and displacements.

Its twenty articles address various topics and issues related to the displacements of Syrian nationals and refugees, including the following: *Development and Protection Challenges of the Syrian Refugee Crisis; The Mental Health of Syrian Refugee Children and Adolescents; the Vulnerability of Palestinian Refugees From Syria; The Impact of Displacement on Disabled, Injured and Older Syrian Refugees, and Protection Challenges of Mobility*. To read these and more articles, click [here](#).

Introduction to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

CPJ is an independent non-profit organization established to protect the rights of journalists and promote freedom of press. In course of covering wars, conflicts and revolutions, investigating secrets and crimes, and holding governments accountable, hundreds of journalists are killed, harassed or imprisoned each year. CPJ supports the work of journalists and promotes freedom of press by engaging in advocacy based on research and documentation. Among other things, the organization produces four types of data:

- **Killed**: a compiled detailed records on journalist fatalities.
- **Imprisoned**: is a snapshot of those incarcerated annually
- **Exiled**: a survey of journalists in exile
- **Impunity Index**:- a calculation of the ration of unsolved journalist and population size.

Go to cpj.org to learn more about these data and attacks on freedom of press and journalists, especially if you are dealing with refugee sponsorship requests coming from journalists or bloggers, who fled their country because of violations of their freedom of expressions.

Upcoming Events

Topic: *Workshop on Private Sponsorship of refugees and Blended VOR Program*

Date: September 27, 2014

Time: 9 am - 3 pm.

Location: Winnipeg, MB

Venue: 521 Bannatyne Ave

Winnipeg, Manitoba. MB

For more information, please contact

Nadine Nasir nnasir@rstp.ca

Topic: *Southern Ontario Sponsorship Group Meeting*

Date: September 25, 2014

Time: 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

Location: Toronto, Ontario

Venue: Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada, 30 Carrier Drive, Suite 100,

Toronto, ON

Available BVORs

VOR 106

The PA is a 31 year old Iranian male who was imprisoned for over three years due to his sexual orientation. While in prison, his brother visited him and threatened to kill him for shaming their family. After being released, the PA was forced to go back to the military, where he feared further persecution. While being transported, he managed to escape and flee to Turkey. The PA fears that he will again be detained by the police or killed by his family if he returns to Iran. He speaks Farsi and has worked as a cellular phone repairman. The PA looks forward to settling anywhere in Canada

BVORs...continued

VOR 129

The PA is a 27 year old Burundian male accompanied by his 26 year old wife, their 4 year old son and their 2 year old daughter. The family is currently living in a refugee camp in Tanzania. The PA fled Burundi as an unaccompanied minor after being attacked by armed men hired by his paternal uncle in order to control his father's land. He does not know what happened to his mother and siblings. The PA's father's relatives, who attacked his family, are still living in Burundi. One of them is working as a ward leader and the PA believes this man has the support of the Burundian government. He is afraid to return to Burundi because he fears his father's relatives who already tried to kill the PA and his family. The PA and his spouse speak Kirundi and Swahili, and welcome the assistance of a sponsoring group anywhere in Canada.

VOR 138

The PA is a 33 year old divorced Burundian female accompanied by her 12, 10 and 1 year old daughters and her 6 year old son. They are currently living in a refugee camp in Tanzania. The PA's family was killed after attacks on her village. As a child she witnessed the death of her mother and was helped by neighbours to cross the border. Upon her arrival in Tanzania, she was placed with an abusive foster parent and she was forced to marry him. He has since passed away and the PA's second husband has left her. The PA fears that she will be targeted and threatened by the people who killed her mother and abducted her father. She believes her father's relatives are responsible for the killing of her parents and that they would recognize her if she returned. Additionally, as a single mother with children, she has no protection in the camp. The PA is seeking a better life for her and her children. The family would appreciate the assistance of a sponsor during their resettlement in Canada.

INQUIRIES & RESPONSES

YOU ASKED... Part I, items E- *Pending cases* - of the SAH annual report asks SAHs to provide a report of their pending cases. As it does not give a time frame, is CIC looking for information of all pending cases, including those submitted before 2013, or only information about cases submitted in 2013. Please advise.

Our REPLY... We have contacted CIC for a clarification and here in below is their response:

"respondents should indicate all cases that are currently pending overseas. So this would mean the sponsorship was approved in Canada (by local CIC or CPO-W) and the case is in progress overseas."

YOU ASKED... We are about to submit a sponsorship application for a woman at risk. We have three allocation spaces, and the principal applicant has two young kids with her and two more children back in her country origin. We are just adding the latter two dependents to the application, but it means we will be short 2 spots. I'm torn as to what to do, we can't leave the dependents off in case they ever want to come to Canada, but it may slow the whole process down (either by adding them now and not having the sufficient spots) OR by adding them later through an add dependent request. What would you suggest in this case?

OUR REPLY... The FAQs on SAH Global Cap Allocation and Usage document prepared by CIC deals with your questions as follows:

"If a SAH does not have enough allocation spaces available for the entire family they should try to find the additional spaces from another SAH. Sponsoring groups must include ALL accompanying and non-accompanying family members that are listed on the Application for Permanent Residence on the sponsorship undertaking forms, and must have enough spaces in their allocations to cover all family members listed on the undertaking. Even if dependants are in a different country, they must still be part of the application. Families CAN NOT be split up."

"In the event that a SAH is unable to find available spaces from within the community, they should contact the SAH Secretariat for information on how they may be able to proceed."