



Legislative Decree 276²

Dated 15/9/1389 H. and 24/11/1969

Nationality Law

The Head of the State,

Pursuant to the provisions of the Provisional Constitution, and to the Council of Ministers' Decision No. 276 dated 24 November 1969,

Decreases as follows:

CHAPTER ONE

Definitions

Article 1

While applying the provisions of this Decree, the following words and expressions shall take the meanings stated next to each unless otherwise indicated.

- A) The Country: The Syrian Arab Republic.
- B) Nationality: The nationality of the Syrian Arab Republic.
- C) The Ministry: The Ministry of Interior.
- D) The Minister: The Minister of Interior.
- E) Legal Capacity: Every person enjoying full legal competence (has completed eighteen years of age), if comps mentis, and has not been legally declared incapable.
- F) Syrian Arab: Any person who enjoys the nationality of the Syrian Arab Republic.
- G) Expatriate Citizen: Any person of Arab origin who is neither resident of an Arab state nor holding the nationality of an Arab country.
- H) Foreigner: Any person not holding the nationality of the Syrian Arab Republic or that of any other Arab country.

² Published in the Official Gazette Issue 55, Part 1, dated 8/10/1389 H - 17/12/1969, p. 903

l) Naturalized person: A person who has acquired the Nationality of the Syrian Arab Republic, pursuant to the provisions of this Decree or any earlier nationality laws.

CHAPTER TWO

Nationality Confirmation

Article 2

The nationality of the Syrian Arab Republic shall be considered confirmed for every person enjoying it in accordance with Legislative Decree 67 dated 31 October 1961.³

Article 3

The following shall be considered as Syrian Arabs ipso facto:

- A. Anyone born inside or outside the country to a Syrian Arab father
- B. Anyone born in the country to a Syrian Arab mother and whose legal family relationship to his father has not been established
- C. Anyone born in the country to unknown parents or to parents of unknown nationality or without one. A foundling in the country shall be considered born in it, at the place in which he is found unless proved otherwise.
- D. Anyone born in the country and was not, at the time of his birth, entitled to acquire a foreign nationality by virtue of his parentage.⁴
- E. Anyone with Syrian origin but has not acquired another nationality and has not applied for the Syrian nationality within the deadlines stipulated in the past decisions and regulations. The provisions of this Article shall apply even if the date of birth was before this Legislative Decree entered into force.

CHAPTER THREE

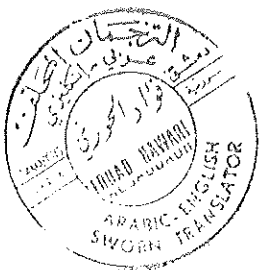
Naturalization

Article 4

Nationality may be granted to a foreigner by virtue of a decree, upon recommendation by the Minister, following an application submitted by the foreigner concerned, who must:

³ Published at the official gazette , Issue 9 dated 9/11/1961, p. 1090

⁴ Refer to Decision 148 of 1974 by the Supreme Administrative Court, published at the Legal Principles , p. 9



- A. Have full legal capacity
- B. Be resident in the country for at least five consecutive years, prior to the submission of the application. Interrupted residence is considered consecutive provided absence does not exceed one year, which is added to the five years.
- C. Be free of all infectious diseases, infirmities, or ailments that may prevent him/her from work.
- D. Be of good conduct and reputation, with no criminal record or freedom-restricting punishment in connection with infamous crimes, unless rehabilitated.
- E. Have specialization or expertise that may benefit the country, or have legitimate means of earning a living or sufficient resources that relieve him/her from needing the others' help.
- F. Be able to read and write Arabic.

Article 5

Nationality shall only be granted on individual basis, with the exception of members of the same family.

Article 6

Nationality may be granted by a decree, upon recommendation by the Minister, without abiding by the nationality provisions of Article 4 for the following persons:

- a. An expatriate citizen who applies for nationality.
- b. A person who has rendered noble services to the country or the Arab nation.
- c. A person who originally belongs to an Arab country, and who applies for nationality on his own request, at the Minister's sole discretion.

Article 7

Nationality may be granted to adult children of a naturalized father upon their request by virtue of a decree based upon recommendation by the Minister. The residence period stipulated in Paragraph B of Article 4 shall be reduced to at least two years.



CHAPTER FOUR

Acquisition of Nationality through Marriage

Article 8

1. Nationality shall be granted to the wife of a naturalized foreigner under the following conditions:

- a. An application in this regard must be submitted to the Ministry.
- b. The marriage should remain valid for two years as of the date of the application.
- c. She should be legally residing in the country during the period mentioned in the preceding paragraph B.
- d. A Decree must be issued by the Minister granting her a nationality.

2. Minor children may acquire nationality unless their normal residence is outside the country and they retained the original nationality of their father according to the regulating legislation related thereto.

3. Minor children who have acquired nationality according to the previous paragraph may re-choose their original nationality within the year subsequent to reaching adulthood. They shall do so upon a decision by the Minister.

Article 9

A foreign woman, married to a person holding the nationality, cannot acquire it except under the stipulations of Paragraph 1 of Article 8.

CHAPTER FIVE

Forfeiting Nationality through Abandonment, or Marriage and Re-acquisition

Article 10

1. A Syrian Arab forfeits nationality if he acquired a foreign nationality, provided that a decree has been issued, based on his request and upon recommendation by the Minister, allowing him to abandon his nationality after having fulfilled all his obligations and duties towards the state.

2.⁽⁵⁾ Any Syrian Arab who has acquired a foreign nationality based on his request before being permitted to abandon his nationality, shall retain it by all

⁵ Amended under Article 1 of Legislative Decree 17 dated 13/2/1972, published at the first part of the official gazette, Issue 8, dated 1/3/1972, p. 351

The text of this paragraph prior to amendment reads:

2. Any Syrian Arab who acquired a foreign nationality upon his request, prior to applying for abandonment of his nationality, shall retain his nationality by all means and in all circumstances, unless it was decided to deprive him thereof in implementation of the provision of Paragraph A of Article 23. He shall be punished by imprisonment from 1-3 months, and a fine of 500-2000 Syrian Pounds, or any of these two punishments.



means and in all situations unless it was decided to deprive him from it in implementation of the provision of paragraph (a) of article 21. He shall be punished by imprisonment from 1-3 months, in addition to a fine of 500-2000 Syrian pounds, or either one of these two penalties.^{6 7}

3. The general prosecutor cannot launch a common right lawsuit in this regard except with the written recommendation of the Minister.

Article 11

1. The acquisition by a Syrian Arab citizen of a foreign nationality, when authorized to do so, leads to the wife's forfeiture of her nationality in case she acquires her husband's nationality under the relevant laws, unless she applies, within a year of her husband's acquisition of a foreign nationality, to keep her Syrian Arab nationality.

2. Minor children forfeit their nationality if the relevant laws governing their father's new nationality provide for their acquisition of it.

3. Children subject to the provisions of the preceding paragraph may opt for their father's original nationality during the year following their attainment of the age of majority if they have been living in the country or have returned to it for the purpose of permanent residence. The Minister shall sanction relevant permission.⁸

Article 12

A Syrian Arab woman married to a foreigner shall keep her nationality unless she asks to acquire her husband's nationality, provided that the relevant nationality law permits her to do so. The wife shall keep her nationality if the marriage contract is considered invalid, under the provisions of relevant Syrian laws but valid under the laws governing that contract.

Article 13⁹

In case a wife has acquired the nationality in accordance with the provisions of Articles 8, 9, 18 and 19, she shall not forfeit it at the end of the marriage, unless she marries a foreigner and acquires his nationality or recovers her original nationality.

Article 14

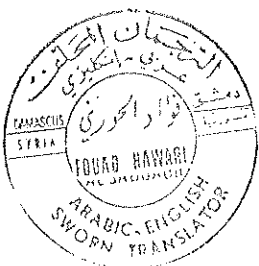
⁶ See Decision 252 of 1975 by the Supreme Administrative Court.

⁷ See the summary of State Council, No. 240 of 1973, regarding permission to acquire a dual nationality.

⁸ See summary of State Council No. 42 dated 7/2/1970

⁹ Amended under Article 2 of Legislative Decree 17 dated 13/12/1972, published at the official gazette, Part One, Issue 8 dated 1/3/1972, p. 351. The text of this Article prior to amendment reads:

Article 13: In case the wife has acquired the nationality in accordance with the provisions of Articles 8,9,19 and 20, she shall not forfeit it at the end of her marital relationship, unless she was married to a foreigner and acquired his nationality, pursuant to relevant laws, or recovered her original nationality.



A Syrian Arab woman who has forfeited her nationality in accordance with the provisions of Articles 11 and 12 may recover it at the end of her marital relation, in case she applies for it and the Minister approves through a decision issued by him.

Article 15

In case a woman recovered the nationality upon the death of her husband, her minor children shall have her nationality. They may, however, have the right to return to their father's nationality within a year of their reaching the age of majority. Permission to do so shall depend upon the Minister's decision.

CHAPTER SIX

Special provisions for other Arab nationals

Article 16

Nationality may be awarded to nationals of Arab countries based upon a decision by the Minister and following a written application by the concerned applicant, who is required to be:¹⁰

- A. Of full legal capacity
- B. A national of an Arab country
- C. Residing in Syria when applying for the nationality
- D. Free of communicable diseases and infirmities that would prevent him from work
- E. Of good conduct and reputation, and with no past criminal record or restriction of freedom for an infamous crime, unless he has been reinstated

Article 17

Minors shall enjoy the nationality even if their ordinary residence has been outside the country.

Article 18

The acquisition by a man of the nationality entails his wife's acquisition of it, provided that:

- A. She expresses a desire thereof by either signing her husband's application or submitting a separate application.
- B. She enjoys the nationality of an Arab country, is of Syrian origin, or was a Syrian Arab citizen before

Article 19

¹⁰ See the summary of State Council No. 181, dated 25/4/ 1972



A woman possessing the nationality of an Arab country, or who is of Syrian origin, or of past Syrian Arab nationality and is married to a Syrian Arab national, shall become a Syrian Arab citizen, based upon the decision of the Minister, following a written request from the woman concerned.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Nationality Dispossession and Restitution

Article 20

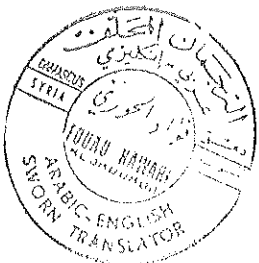
Anyone found to have acquired the nationality by misrepresentation or fraud shall be deprived thereof by virtue of a judicial ruling,¹¹ together with any others who may have concomitantly acquired it.

Article 21

A citizen may be deprived of the nationality by a decree upon proposal by the Minister stating full reasons thereof in any one of the following cases:

- A. If the person concerned has, contrary to paragraph 1 of Article 10 above, acquired a foreign nationality.
- B. If the person concerned has, of his own free will, joined the military service of a foreign state without prior authorization from the Minister of Defense.
- C. If the person concerned has been employed in any capacity by a foreign state inside or outside the country, and has failed to comply with the Minister's order to leave that employment within a stated period.
- D. If the person has engaged in any activity or work for a country which is in a state of war with the Syria.
- E. In case it has been established that the person concerned has illicitly left Syria for another country, which is in a state of war with Syria.
- F. If the person concerned was originally granted the nationality in accordance with the provisions of Article 6, and investigations evidenced that depriving him of the nationality would be in the interest of the security and safety of the country.
- G. If the person has left the country indefinitely for settling in a non-Arab country and has been away for more than three years, and has been notified to return but failed to respond or provided unconvincing reasons, within three months of receiving the notification. In case he has refrained to receive the notification; has been found to be of unknown place of residence, or has been

¹¹ See Decision No. 96 of 1972 by the Supreme Administrative Court. By Judicial Rule is meant the ordinary legal action, and not State Council action. Also see Decision 86 of 1975 by the Supreme Administrative Court.



impossible to serve the notification to him for whatever reason, publication in the Official Gazette shall be regarded as notification.

Article 22

The Decree providing for depriving someone of nationality in accordance with paragraphs D and E above, may also provide for confiscating his movable and immovable assets.

Article 23

The deprivation of someone of nationality shall affect this person alone unless explicitly stated otherwise.

Article 24

Nationality may be restituted to a person who has been deprived thereof, in accordance with a decree, based upon a justified proposal by the Minister. In addition, his seized movable and immovable property may also be returned, or compensated with an amount not to exceed the value of the property seized at nationality deprivation.

CHAPTER EIGHT

Concluding Provisions

Article 25

The Minister shall issue a decision on the issuance of Expatriate Citizen Certificate, its rights and privileges, following consultation with the Foreign Ministry.¹²

Article 26

Decrees and Decisions on nationality acquisition, deprivation, recovery or restitution shall take effect as of the date of their issuance and shall have no retroactive effect. They shall be published in the Official Gazette without prejudice to the rights of bona fide persons.

Article 27

Regulations governing nationality issues shall have general application effect¹³ and their content shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Article 28

¹² Decision 576 dated 5/10/1970 was issued and published at the Official Gazette, Part I , Issue 24 dated 21/10/1970 , p. 2278

¹³ See Decision by the Supreme Administrative Court at State Council No. 33 on cassation, 55 of 1971. It was published in the legal set of principles, decided by the Supreme Administrative Court in 1971, p. 255.



The State Council, in its capacity as a legal administrative body shall be the only competent authority to rule in nationality lawsuits.¹⁴

Article 29

The responsibility to establish nationality related issues shall be borne by persons making claims of enjoying it or not.

Article 30

Except for situations where it is otherwise explicitly stated at this Legislative Decree, minors shall have their father's nationality.

Article 31

Without prejudice of any other more stringent punishments stipulated by other laws, anyone who, for the purpose of proving possession or non- possession of nationality for himself or for others, knowingly presents false data or false documents to the concerned authorities, shall be penalized by a maximum two-year imprisonment or a fine not exceeding one thousand Syrian pounds.¹⁵

Article 32

This Legislative Decree shall have no effect on any status acquired by virtue of earlier nationality legislations.

Article 33

The Minister shall issue regulations regarding implementation of this Legislative Decree.¹⁶

Article 34

Legislative Decree 67 of October 31, 1961 is hereby declared null and void along with all previous nationality-related legislations.¹⁷

Article 35

This Legislative Decree shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Damascus, 24 November 1969.

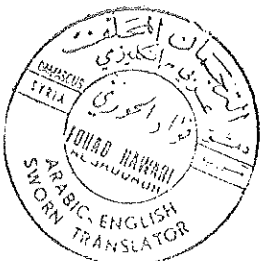
Head of the State
Dr. Nour Eddin Al-Atasi

¹⁴ See Decision 105 of 1973 by the Supreme Administrative Court, p. 114, and decision 138 of 1973.

¹⁵ See Decision 96 of 1072 by the Supreme Administrative Court.

¹⁶ Decision 92 dated 25/2/1976 was issued and published at Issue 6 of the Official Gazette, Issue 8, dated 25/2/1976 , p. 346.

¹⁷ Published in Issue 9 of the Official Gazette, dated 9/11/1961, p. 1090.



Rationale

Following the implementation of Legislative Decree 67 of 31/10/1961 regarding Syrian Arab Nationality, it was found that many aspects of the said Decree needed amendment. We thought about preparing a new nationality law to include these amendments and to obviate any confusion.

Following are the basic amendments included:

First: Nationality law chapter have been changed to eight instead of five, given that their subjects in the present law are overlapping. The amended chapters are as follows:

- First Chapter Definitions
- Second Chapter Confirmation of Nationality
- Third Chapter Naturalization
- Fourth Chapter Acquisition of Nationality through Marriage
- Fifth Chapter Forfeiture of Nationality by Abandonment, Marriage and Restitution of Nationality
- Sixth Chapter Special Provisions for Arab Country Nationals
- Seventh Chapter Deprivation and Restitution of Nationality
- Eighth Chapter Concluding Provisions

A special chapter in this draft was dedicated to definitions, to explain the meanings of certain words and expressions therein. These explanations were used to preclude misinterpretation and ambiguity, and to achieve conciseness as Legislative Decree 67 of 1961 did not cover any of these requirements.

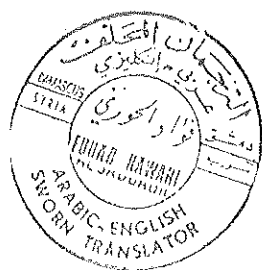
Second: Whereas the previous effective legislations concerning Syrian Arab nationality had not distinguished between foreigners and Arab nationals belonging to other Arab States, considering them all aliens; and given that the Revolution in the Syrian Arab Republic is keen on providing a conducive environment for achieving the goal of a comprehensive Arab unity;

And in keeping with the resolutions of Arab Economic Unity Council on freedom of inter-Arab movement and migration for purpose of work, and facilitation of travel and movement for that purpose;

It was decided to rule out the nationals of Arab countries of the concept of aliens, and to grant them the same privileges and exemptions stated hereunder, aimed to distinguish them from the foreign nationals. That measure aims at achieving the lofty pan-Arab aspirations.

A. With regard to naturalization:

- 1) Issuing them nationality by a ministerial decision instead of decree
- 2) Stipulating no residence period: Ordinary residence on the territories of the Syrian Arab Republic shall be a sufficient requirement when applying for nationality



- 3) Exempting the applicant for nationality from the clause requiring him to have a specialization or expertise, or a consistent source of living or a property as a source of sustenance
- 4) Minors may enjoy the Syrian Arab Nationality, even if their ordinary residence was outside Syria.

B. With regard to the wife:

Article 11 of Legislative Decree 67 of 1961 provided as follows:

- A foreigner's acquisition of the nationality of the Syrian Arab Republic does not entail that his wife may have the nationality acquired by her husband, unless she expresses desire to acquire that nationality. She must also inform the Interior Minister that marital relationship will be sustained between husband and wife for a period of two years from date of notification.

Article 12 of Legislative Decree 67, mentioned above, stated as follows:

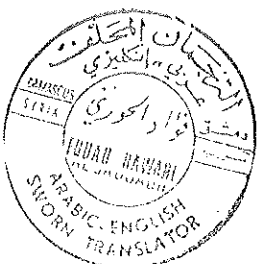
- A foreign woman who is married to a person acquiring Syrian Arab Nationality shall not enter into the Syrian nationality unless she informs the Interior Minister about her desire to acquire that nationality, and stipulated that marital life should be sustained for two years from that notification.

The above Article also provided as follows:

- The Provisions of the first paragraph of this Article, i.e. the preceding paragraph, do not include foreign women, who are originally subjects of an Arab League country, or were of Arab origin. They shall automatically become Syrian Arabs upon their marriage to Syrian Arab nationals.

In accordance with the aforementioned provisions, the following weak points have been observed in the enforced law:

1. The exemption included in Article 11 of the Law was limited to the wife who enjoyed Syrian Arab nationality, or who was of Syrian origin, while the said exemption should have also included Arab women holding the nationality of another Arab state.
2. The word (alien) was used to describe women who had Arab nationality.
3. The desire of a woman who was Syrian or of a Syrian origin, or who held the nationality of another Arab country, to acquire her husband's nationality and be considered a Syrian citizen upon her marriage to a Syrian Arab national, or in case her husband was issued Syrian Arab nationality.



- Given that the lawmaker's purpose of allowing the exemption included in the two Articles above was to distinguish an Arab woman from other foreign women;
- and whereas the said exemption prevented the Arab women of benefiting from that exemption, following the example applied to Syrian women; and as the use of the expression ' aliens' to refer to Arab women was not in keeping with reality, and did not serve the high national interests, aimed to clear Arab women of the concept of 'aliens';
- and based upon the understanding that issuing the nationality to a woman who enjoyed the Syrian nationality or was of Syrian Arab origin, or a woman holding the nationality of another Arab country would be viewed as an ipso facto situation upon her marriage to a Syrian national or issuance of Syrian nationality to the husband, in addition to being in conflict with the desire of certain women married to Syrian citizens to keep their original nationality in order to keep certain rights they would enjoy in their original countries, and which they might forfeit if the acquired another nationality, such as job, pension, and the like;
- and given that non-respect of the desire of certain women was against the international convention on nationality of married women, endorsed by the U.N. in 1957, to which Syria subscribed; t
- therefore Articles 18 and 19 of the draft of the amended law had precluded all those shortcomings, and provided that a woman who had the nationality of another Arab country, or was of a Syrian Arab origin, or was originally holding the Syrian Arab nationality, and was married to a Syrian Arab national or a person issued the Syrian nationality, would acquire the Syrian Arab nationality, upon expressing that desire in writing.

Third: Children born in Syria of a Syrian Arab mother, and whose relationship to father was not legally established, were considered Syrian Arab citizens. That procedure aimed to avoid leaving the born child without a nationality. Besides, a retroactive date was sanctioned in respect of cases where the said person was considered a Syrian Arab by ipso facto.

Fourth: It was stipulated that a foreigner applying for Syrian Arab nationality should have a consecutive residence for at least five years, in accordance with Article 5 of Legislative Decree 67 of 1961. Interrupted residence was considered consecutive, if the period during which the concerned person was absent did not exceed one year, which would be added to the five years at the draft amendment, to avoid any misinterpretations or other interpretive judgments in that regard.

Fifth: Paragraph E of Article 4 of the Legislative Decree 67 of 1961 with regard to the conditions for issuing the Syrian Arab nationality, stipulated that the concerned applicant must be (specialized or have an expertise that would be of benefit in Syria, or that such a person should possess a property...etc. enough to meet his need, provided that his specialization or expertise should not compete the Syrian Arab nationals at the professions).



As the stipulation of competing Syrian Arab nationals would prevent acquisition of nationality by many persons born in Syria and residing therein since birth, another test was used. It was stipulated that nationality applicant must have a legitimate source of income or a property that would meet his needs.

Sixth: Article 6 of Legislative Decree 67 provided that issuance of Syrian Arab nationality must not be implemented except through a law. The amendment draft allowed to issue the nationality to the members of the same family through a decree, aimed to facilitate the concerned persons' problems and reduce unnecessary formalities.

Seventh: Article 11 of Legislative Decree 67 of 1961 stated that the wife of a foreigner who acquired the Syrian Arab nationality would not be considered Syrian, unless she intimated the Interior Minister about her desire to acquire the Syrian Arab nationality, or provided that marital relationship continued for a period of two years from date of intimation. It also provided that she might be prevented from acquiring her husband's nationality through a decree.

As that provision did not stipulate a period for the residence of the wife and adult son in Syria to know the extent of their integration into the Syrian society, neither did it specify the method of accepting children's choice of their father's nationality after they reach legal majority;

The draft amendment obviated those loopholes, and paragraph (1) of Article 8 provided that the wife had to have a legitimate residence in Syria for two years from the date of lodging her application. It also provided that a decision by the Interior Minister should approve her acquiring of nationality. In addition, Article 7 of the draft amendment stipulated that an adult son of a father who acquired the Syrian Arab nationality must be a resident in Syria for at least two to be eligible for that nationality.

Eighth: Paragraph B of Article 15 of Legislative Decree 67 of 1961 imposes a fine and imprisonment on any Syrian Arab who might acquire a foreign nationality without obtaining his/her government approval.

Whereas Syrian citizens are spread all over the world for the purpose of work and earning a living and could not have the intention of permanent settlement in the countries in which they resided, and given that their special interests might in certain case prompt them to seek the nationality of those countries so that they could benefit from the privileges enjoyed by their citizens; and as imposition of punishments against these people might lead to abandoning their original nationality and stay in the foreign countries, preventing their original countries from their potentials and expertise;

It was decided not to implement that punishment unless the Interior Minister ordered to institute the penal action, should national interest demand that. A provision should be included, permitting deprivation of Syrian Arab nationality through a decree, based upon a proposal by the Interior Minister.



Ninth: Paragraph 2 of Article 18 of Legislative Decree 67 of 1961 provided that a Syrian woman who forfeited her nationality on account of her marriage to a foreigner, could recover her nationality at the end of marital relationship, and that minors would normally follow their mother's nationality in the event of the death of their father.

The Law did not include a provision explaining the mechanism used for recovery of nationality, neither did it include a provision that gave children the right to return to their father's nationality after legal majority or allowed the wife to get back her nationality through a decision by the Interior Minister.

Tenth: Under the draft amendment, nationality deprivation, stipulated in paragraphs B and C of Article 20 of Legislative Decree 67, would be implemented in accordance with a decree, and based upon a proposal by the Interior Minister, instead of a decision by the specialized court.

The Ministry of Interior was given that jurisdiction in regard to the stated cases due to their connection with security affairs which fall within the Ministry's scope of authority.

As no mention was made in paragraphs B and C referred to above about the concerned authority in the Syrian Arab Republic, which would permit the Syrian national to serve in the armies of foreign countries or the authority that would request him to quit the service of foreign countries, that authority was defined by the draft amendment of paragraph B as the (Minister of Defense). As regards paragraph C the competent authority was defined as (Interior Minister), clearing the related provision ambiguous and subject to different interpretations.

Eleventh: Article 22 of Legislative Decree 67 entitles persons dispossessed of the Syrian nationality through a decree to appeal before administrative courts at all times without adhering to the stated legal periods.

We decided to delete that Article, keeping the time limits stated in the enforced regulations.

Twelfth: The following situations, regarding nationality depravation through a decree based upon a proposal by the Interior Minister, not included in the Nationality law were added:

A. In case he acquired a foreign nationality without allowing him to give up his Syrian Arab nationality.

B. If he was involved in an activity or action in favor of another country which was in a state of war with Syria.

C. If he left the country on permanent basis for the purpose of settlement in another non-Arab country and remained abroad for a period of three years. The purpose of that action would be to deprive the Jews, who permanently emigrated to the occupied part of Palestine, and whose domicile was



unknown, and where denaturalization under the present regulations would not be possible unless they proved that they existed in a country at a state of war with Syria, an evidence that is impossible for security department to ascertain.

Thirteen: The draft amendment included an addition of a provision that allowed seizure of movable and immovable assets of whoever deprived himself of the Syrian Arab nationality, should he act in favor of or left for a country in a state of war with Syria.

The provision also permitted nationality restitution and restoration of money, or payment of compensation not to exceed its value at the time of deprivation, in accordance with a decree issued upon recommendation by the Minister.

Fourteenth: Article 30 of the Legislative Decree 67 of 1961 provided that the Courts of First Instance would decide cases concerned with nationality related disputes.

Whereas nationality relation represents one of common law links, and is therefore subject to regulations governing this law, and as administrative courts by virtue of their jurisdiction are more empowered than ordinary courts with regard to implementation of the principles of that law, and given that the state council legislations and regulations in the majority of world countries, including France, and the United Arab Republic, have empowered that council to be the sole jurisdictional authority to decide on nationality;

The draft amendment provided that State Council would be exclusively authorized through an administrative judicial body to give judgment with regard nationality lawsuits.

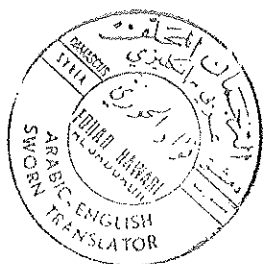
Fifteenth: The draft amendment provided that regulations made in respect of nationality issues shall apply to all, and that contents thereof be published in the Official Gazette, so that it shall not be claimed that these regulations only apply to litigated sides.

Your kind approval and endorsement is hereby solicited

Mohammad Rabah Al-Taweel

Minister of Interior

1 Published in the Official Gazette –first part – Issue 8, dated 1/3/1972, p. 351



Legislative Decree 17¹⁸ (1)

Dated 28/12/1391 corresponding to 13/12/1972

Amendment of Legislative Decree 276 of 1969

Concerning the Nationality Law

The President of the Republic

In accordance with the Provisions of the Provisional Constitution decrees as follows:

Article 1

- 1) Paragraph /2/ of Article 10 of Syrian Arab Nationality, issued pursuant to Legislative Decree 276 dated 24/11/1969 shall be deleted to be replaced as follows:
- 2) Every Syrian Arab national who has acquired a foreign nationality upon his request prior to being allowed to give up his nationality, shall continue to enjoy that nationality from all respects and in all situations, unless he has been deprived thereof in implementation of Paragraph (A), Article 21. He shall also be penalized by imprisonment of 1-3 months, in addition to a fine from 500-2000 Syrian Pounds or by any of these two punishments.

Article 2

Article 13 of the Nationality Law under reference shall be deleted and replaced with the following:

Article 13

If the wife has acquired the nationality in accordance with the provisions 8, 9, 18 and 19, she shall not forfeit it at the end of her marital relationship, unless she is married to an alien, and has acquired his nationality, pursuant to applicable regulations, or in case she has recovered her original nationality.

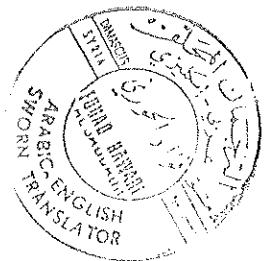
Article 3

This Decree shall be published in the Official Gazette, and shall be effective from the date of issuance.

Damascus 28/12/1391 H. and 13/2/1972

President of the Republic
Lt. General
Hafez Al-Assad

¹⁸ Published in the Official Gazette -Part I - Issue 8, dated 1/3/1972, p. 351



Rationale

An error occurred in respect of two numbers contained in the text of two Articles of Syrian Arab Nationality Law, issued pursuant to Legislative Decree 276 dated 24/11/1969. The correct text is as follows:

First: With regard to Paragraph 2, Article 10:

Error: Every Syrian Arab nationalin implementation of the provision of Paragraph A of Article 23.

Correction: Every Syrian Arab nationalin implementation of Paragraph A of Article 21 .

Second: With regard to Article 13 :

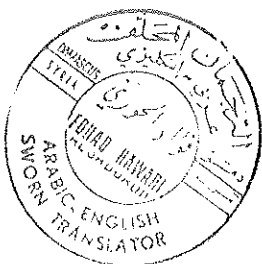
Error: In case a wife has acquired the nationality in accordance with the provisions of Articles 8, 9, 18,19 and 20.

Correction: In case a wife has acquired the nationality in accordance with the provisions of Articles 8, 9, 18 and 19.

Based upon the review made by the Finance Ministry, via its letter No. 12801/9/15 dated 8/7/1971, providing therein its opinion that correction should be made through issuance of a legislative provision similar to that in which the oversight or error has occurred, we have enclosed the draft legislative decree for your kind publication.

Ali Zaza

Minister of Interior



Legislative Decree 272¹⁹

Dated 24/8/1389 H, and 4/11/1969

Conditions regarding Marriage of Syrians and Palestinians to Non-Arab Women

The Head of State,

Pursuant to the provisions of the Provisional Constitution, and

The Decision the Council of Ministers No. 272 dated 3/11/1969, Decrees as follows:

Article 1

Marriage of Syrians or Palestinians under Palestinian Refugees Agency in the Syrian Arab Republic shall not be permitted if spouse is a foreigner – non-Arab, without obtaining prior approval by the Minister of Interior²⁰.

Article 2

Without prejudice to the provisions of effective laws, every Syrian or Palestinian citizen, registered with the Palestinian Refugees Agency in the Syrian Arab Republic, who fails to produce the approval stated in Article 1, above, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for three months to one year. And, the concerned authorities shall not confirm that marriage until after completion of the abovementioned punishment.

Article 3

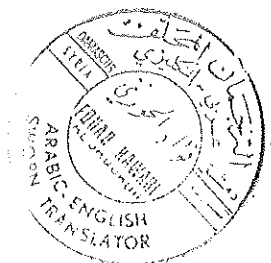
A. A one-year period shall be given from the date of coming into effect of this Legislative decree to submit applications for Interior Minister's approval with regard to marriages which are unregistered with Civil Affairs records or with the Palestinian Refugees Agency in the Syrian Arab Republic, for all marriages occurring prior to aforementioned effective date.

Persons who fail to submit their applications during the stated period shall be punished by a fine of 50-300 Syrian Pounds.

B. The provisions of Article 2 stated in Paragraph (A) thereof, shall apply to wives, in case the required approval by the Interior Minister has not been enclosed.

¹⁹ Published in the Official Gazette, Part I – Issue 53, dated 13/12/1969, p. 860.

²⁰ Paragraph E of Article 40 of the Law on Civil Status issued by virtue of Legislative Decree 59 of 1953 stated that the approval of the Public Security is obligatory if one of the spouses is a foreigner. Decree 59 was issued in the Official Gazette, Issue 63 dated 1 October 1953, p/ 4783.



Article 4

All other provisions that stand in contrast with this Legislative Decree shall be revoked.

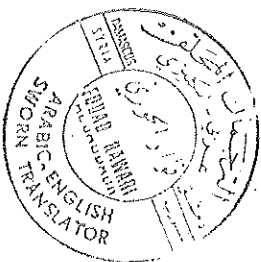
Article 5

This Legislative Decree shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Damascus on 24/8/1389 H and 4/11/1969

Dr. Nour Eddin Al-Atasi

Head of the State



Rationale

1. Marriage of Syrian Arab nationals and Palestinians registered with the Palestinian Refugees Agency in Syria, particularly marriage to foreigners has in recent years reached a stage that entails management. This situation emanates from the large significance of this issue and the dangerous consequences it may have to all aspects of national, social, moral, political, as well as the security aspects, summed up as follows:

A. Consequences from the National Standpoint:

Syrian Arab national's marriage to a foreigner is likely to weaken the national inclination in children, because foreign mothers do not feel that tendency. They may even instill in children's minds the love for their own countries and ethnicity, instead of teaching them to love their nation and homeland.

B. Social and Ethical Consequences:

The different ethical and cultural traditions of various nations and peoples are indisputable. Marriage to foreign women may lead to raising children by their mother along lines different from our Arab traditions and culture. Moreover, foreign mother's disregard of the certain moral values may spoil children ethical principles. Besides, many such marriages prove to be unsuccessful owing to the difference of moods and habits, which adversely reflects on the children and may lead to disintegration of close-knit family bonds.

In addition, Syrian and Palestinian nationals' marriages to foreigners also increase the rate of our bachelor girls, which is likely to lead to poverty and moral corruption.

C. Political and Security-related Consequences:

Arab Syrian citizens or Palestinians registered with the Refugees Agency in the Syrian Arab Republic, who are married to foreign women, may be appointed at sensitive posts. Wives of such senior persons, in case they have Zionist tendencies or antagonistic political trends threatening the state's political mainstream, are likely to influence their husbands' and children's thinking to serve her interests rather than national interests.

In addition, an ill-intentioned foreign wife may attempt to get desired information from her husband, if he happens to be an official or works at a factory or an institution. Consequently, disclosure of this information to foreign countries may harm the entity and security of the state.

2. Regulatory Legal Provisions Governing Marriage to Foreign Women:

Article 40 of Personal Affairs Law stipulates that in case prospective husband or wife are foreigners, the approval of security departments on the marriage contract shall be required. However, the punishment sanctioned against spouses who fail to obtain the needed approval shall be that stipulated in Article 469 of Penalty Law and Article 472, amended by Legislative Decree 85, dated 28/9/1953 (A fine of 25 to 250 Syrian Pounds.)



Decision 576 dated 5/10/1970²¹

**Regarding Creation of a Committee for Issuing
Citizenship Certificate to Expatriates**

The Minister of Interior,

Pursuant to Legislative Decree 276, issued on 24/11/1969, especially Articles 1, 6, 25 and 32 thereof on Syrian Arab Nationality Law;

Legislative Decree 29, issued on 1/1/1970²², especially Paragraph G of Article 29, in respect of entry and residence of foreigners on the territories of the Syrian Arab Republic, and their exit wherefrom; and

The approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs No. QS/90 (14/3/854) dated 30/8/1970, concerning issuing of a citizenship certificate to expatriates,

Decides as follows:

Article 1

A committee shall be created for issuing expatriate citizen certificate as follows:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| ○ Deputy Minister of Interior for Police Affairs | Chairman |
| ○ Consular Affairs Department Director | Member |
| ○ Head of Political Security Section | Member |
| ○ Director General of Immigration and Passport Dept. | Member |
| ○ Head of Naturalization Branch at Immigration and Passport Department | Member |

Article 2

This Committee shall be called for a meeting by its Chairman and shall be specialized in giving opinion regarding all issues presented to it, including applications for an expatriate citizenship certificate, and revocation of issued certificates. The Committee decisions shall be passed by majority votes, and in case of equal votes, the side in which the Head of the Committee is present shall have priority.

Article 3

Applications for issuance of an expatriate citizenship certificate must be submitted on the prescribed forms, to our diplomatic and consular missions abroad, or to the Ministry of Interior (Immigration and Passport Department) at home. Eligible applicants must meet the following requirements:

²¹ Published at the first part of the Official Gazette, Issue 42, dated 21/10/1970, p. 2278.

²² Published at the first part of the Official Gazette, Issue 4, dated 28/1/1970, p. 254



A. Must originally belong to the Arab nation, and does not reside in or hold the nationality of any Arab country.

B. Must not be affiliated to any political party, society, or club with opponent national tendencies, whether inside or outside the country.

Article 4

Heads of Missions and Consular Offices abroad shall give their forthright opinion as regards the applications submitted to them, explaining all particulars concerned with the applicant's status. Immigration and Passport Department Director General shall carry out necessary verification by all affordable means to ensure security status of the concerned applicant.

Article 5

Expatriate citizen certificate shall be issued in accordance with a decision by the Minister of Interior, after being duly processed at the Immigration and Passport Department, Nationality Branch and entering the particulars of its holders into relevant register at the aforementioned branch.

Article 6

Holders of expatriate citizenship certificate shall enjoy the following privileges:

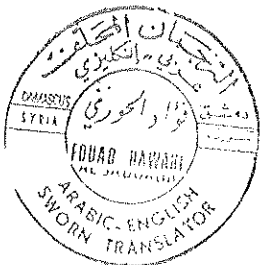
- A. Entry into the Syrian Arab territories without an entry visa. They are also exempted from the requirement to get a residence permit and exit visa upon leaving the country. Only their entry will be entered on arrival, by the concerned security departments.
- B. Holders of the certificate will receive the same treatment given to Syrian Arab citizens, in respect of the right to be employed at private institutions, start their private businesses and free enterprises.
- C. They may invest, move or dispose of their money within the limits and regulations enforced with regard to Syrian Arab citizens.
- D. They shall be offered all possible assistance given to Syrian nationals by the Syrian Arab missions abroad.
- E. They may apply for Syrian Arab nationality, in accordance with the provision of Paragraph A, Article 6 of the Nationality Law, issued pursuant to Legislative Decree 276 of 1969.

Article 7

The Expatriate Citizenship Certificate shall be revoked by a decision of the Minister of Interiors, when deemed that its holder has exploited his status against the interests of the country.

Article 8

Revoked certificates may be reconsidered, six months after revocation decision in accordance with the previous regulations.



Article 9

Persons whose expatriate citizenship certificates have been revoked under the aforementioned regulations, may liquidate his relations in Syria in accordance with the provisions of this decision, three months following the date of revocation decision, provided that such action does not prejudice others' rights.

Article 10

Decisions 1553 dated 26/11/1963²³ and 1735 dated 19/9/1965²⁴ as well as all other contrasting provisions shall be cancelled.

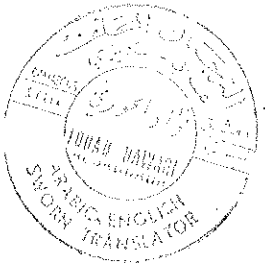
Article 11

This decision shall be published in the Official Gazette and circulated to the concerned parties for implementation.

Damascus on 5/10/1970

Mohammad Rabah Al-Taweel

Minister of Interior



²³ Published in the Official Gazette, Issue 55, dated 19/12/1963, p. 10941.

²⁴ Published in the Official Gazette, Issue 49, dated 4/11/1965, p. 11423.

Decision No. 92²⁵

The Minister of Interior,

Pursuant to the Provisions of Legislative Decree 276 of 1969, containing the Syrian Arab Nationality Law, especially the Provisions of Article 33 thereof, decides as follows:

Following instructions shall be pursued with regard to implementation of the provisions of the aforementioned Legislative Decree:

1. The head of Nationality branch at the Immigration and Passport Department as well as heads of other branches of this Department in the Governorates, are assigned to accept applications submitted for naturalization, reinstatement, abandonment, choice and relinquishment of Syrian Arab nationality, in addition to the other issues stipulated in Legislative Decree 276 dated 24/11/1969, against a receipt handed over to the concerned applicant.
2. It is meant by the expression (whoever originally belongs to an Arab country) mentioned in the aforesaid Legislative Decree, persons with one of his ancestors on the father's side born in an Arab country. This shall entail a proof that evidences such birth supported with written documents issued by that Arab country and duly attested thereby.
3. It is meant by (whoever has a Syrian Arab descent) mentioned in Article 3, Paragraph E, a person having one of his descendants on the father's side born in Syria . This birth must be supported by official documents or administrative investigation. And it is meant by (has not acquired another nationality) that he must not have already acquired a foreign nationality through official authorization.
4. **Naturalization:**
 - A. Nationality applicants must be asked to submit a written application in which he explicitly states his desire to acquire the Syrian Arab nationality, and shall have to sign thereon before the authorized official. The following documents must be attached:
 - 1) A residence permit in case of foreigners, issued by the Immigration and Passport Department or its branches in the Governorates, proving his residence in the country
 - 2) A medical certificate issued by officials Examination Board, evidencing that the applicant is free of communicable diseases, ailments or deformities which may prevent him from work
 - 3) A certificate of good conduct, issued by the District Chief of the place of residence, authenticated by the district police and duly attested by the concerned authorities
 - 4) A Syrian judicial summary stating that the applicant has not been sentenced to a criminal punishment or freedom restricting penalty, arising from an infamous crime, unless reinstated

²⁵ Published in the Official Gazette, Part 1, Issue 8, dated 25/2/1976, p. 346.



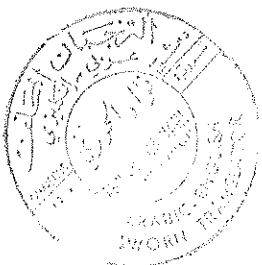
- 5) The applicant concerned must enclose official documents supporting his specialization and expertise, or submit a duly attested certificate evidencing his source of income.
- 6) The concerned applicant must be asked to write down no more than two lines to ascertain his knowledge of Arabic language.
- 7) He must submit two copies of his and his family members' civil registration, stating therein place and date of birth of each of them (day, month, and year) . And, in case the birth of his children was in Syria, he must submit copies of their birth certificates, issued by the concerned Civil Registration Chief, in addition to a copy of his wife's Civil Status certificate, if the wife is Syrian, issued by pertinent Civil Registration Chief. The said certificate must provide the particulars and nationality of the husband and date of marriage.
- 8) He must provide a written statement containing the person's ID particulars and nationality. It must also include his family members, in case of Turkish nationals or of Turkish origin, and state that he does not own landed or other real-estate properties on the Syrian Arab territories. The statement must be signed before the competent official, after attaching thereon a 375-Syrian-Piaster royalty stamp in addition to war effort support fee.

B. Competent Official's Duties:

- 1) Ask the applicant to write two lines at the back of the application in case he is a foreigner, to ascertain his ability to write and read Arabic. The concerned official must include his signature at the end of the lines, mentioning his name and job title.
- 2) Organize a verification table in two copies as per attached form after affixing and duly stamping the applicant's photograph thereon.
- 3) Ascertain the authenticity and validity of the submitted documents, and attest the applicant's signature.
- 4) Regard validity of residence permit from date of commencement in accordance with the Immigration and Passport Department and its branches in the Governorates. Interrupted residence shall be considered consecutive if the absence period does not exceed one year, to be added to the five years. Illegal residence shall not be considered.
- 5) The content of applicant's statement must be circulated to the Real Estate Registrar through Real Estates Directorate General to verify whether the Turkish citizen (only) applying for nationality has any landed properties or agricultural land registered in his name in Syria. The Real Estate Registrar shall be asked include the applicant's name in the property disposal restriction registers.
- 6) Send a letter to Political Security Department, Criminal Security Department and their branches in the Governorates for opinion.

5. Nationality Acquisition by Marriage:

The woman applying for nationality may submit a written application expressing therein her explicit desire to acquire the Syrian Arab Nationality. She must sign on her application before the competent official, and enclose therewith the following supportive documents:



1. Two copies of her foreign civil registration certificate, to include name in both Arabic and English, stipulated that her foreign name matches the one mentioned in her passport or other documents she holds
2. A letter of undertaking in case the wife is a Turkish national, in accordance with item 4, Para. 8 .
3. Two copies of the husbands registration certificate issued by the concerned Chief Registrar, providing the wife's ID details, nationality, and marriage date if included in the Civil Registration details. These two copies shall be required by the Immigration and Passport Department when processing the draft decision. The provided details must include a record of events, like divorce... etc.
4. A residence permit with two-year validity from date of applying
5. A minor who has acquired nationality under Paragraph 2, Article 8, and desires to choose his nationality a year after majority age, must lodge an application signed by him before the competent officer, attached with a copy of his and his father's civil registration certificate. He must also explain the way through which he acquired the Syrian nationality; thereafter a draft decision shall be prepared regarding his restitution of original nationality, without seeking the opinion of other authorities.

6. Forfeiture of Nationality through Abandonment or Marriage, and Nationality Restitution

- A. It is meant by (holding a foreign nationality), included in Paragraphs 1 &2, Article 10, and Paragraph 1, Article 11, any other non-Arab nationality.
- B. The expression (on his request), mentioned in Paragraph 2, Article 10, means that a Syrian Arab must have submitted a written application, through which he has explicitly expressed his volition to acquire the foreign nationality, to the concerned authorities of the foreign state. In other words, the nationality must not be imposed upon the Syrian Arab national against his will.

7.

- A. The applicant desiring to abandon his nationality shall be asked to submit a written petition in which he expresses his desire to surrender his Syrian Arab nationality, and requests permission to have the foreign nationality. He must be asked to sign the petition before the concerned official at the Immigration and Passport Departments or its branches in the Syrian Governorates, or the Syrian missions or consular offices abroad. In addition, two information forms shall be filled out and the photograph of the concerned applicant affixed thereat, as per the enclosed specimen.
- B. A letter shall be addressed to the Political Security Department and the Criminal Security Department or their branch in the Syrian governorates for opinion.
- C. A letter shall be addressed to General Military Recruitment Department or its relevant offices in the governorates to provide their opinion with respect to male applicants.



- D. A letter shall be addressed to the concerned Civil Registry Officer, requesting him to provide the Immigration and Passport Department with two copies of the civil registration profile of the applicant and his family members, to include any other entries of civil registry events.
- E. A letter shall be addressed to the Ministry of Finance to verify existence of any debts incurred with regard to the concerned applicant.
- F. A copy of the nationality abandonment decree or decision shall be sent to the Real Estate General Directorate for inclusion of necessary marks upon the properties of the concerned person at its registers.

8.

- A. Pursuant to Paragraphs 1 and 2, Article 11,, Immigration and Passport Department shall send a copy of the decree issued with regard to the applicant's nationality abandonment to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which shall clarify from the concerned country whether the wife and minors of the applicant may acquire the husband and father under the laws and regulation of that country.
- B. The woman applying for nationality relinquishment must be asked to submit a written application expressing therein her explicit desire to give up her Syrian Arab citizenship, and to sign that application before the competent Immigration and Passport Department officer or the branch immigration officers in the Syrian governorates, or at the Syrian Embassies or Consulates abroad. Two information forms with the photograph of the concerned applicant affixed thereon must be attached, along with the following supportive documents:
 - 1) A marriage certificate, issued by the concerned Civil Registry Officer
 - 2) Husband's foreign nationality acquisition certificate, and the applicant's acquisition of a passport of her husband's nationality
 - 3) A letter addressed to the concerned Civil Registry Officer for providing the Immigration and Passport Department with two copies of wife's registration particulars, identifying therein the husband's ID details and nationality, as well as date of marriage and other entered events, if any.
- C. Application regarding wife's desire to keep her Syrian Arab nationality shall be submitted within one year from the date of her husband's naturalization to the Syrian diplomatic mission in her place of residence, or at the Immigration and Passport Department or its branches in the Syrian Governorates. Application subject must be included in her civil registry record.

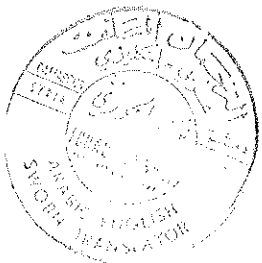
9. In clarification of Article 12, a Syrian Arab woman, married to an foreigner (whether from an Arab or a foreign country), desiring to acquire her husband's nationality, must follow the following procedures:

- A. Submit an application by the concerned person, who shall sign it before the authorized officer at the Immigration and Passport Department or its branches in the governorates, the Syrian diplomatic missions or consulates abroad, or the concerned



authorities in countries which do not have diplomatic representation. Two filled out information forms with photograph of the concerned applicant affixed thereat shall also be enclosed.

- B. A copy of the concerned applicant's civil registration particulars shall be requested from the Civil Registry Officer, in which date of marriage, particulars of husband's ID, and marital status must be stated.
 - C. The Immigration and Passport Department shall enquire through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the husband's country, as to whether the laws of that country permit the wife to acquire nationality.
 - D. In the light of the received reply, the Civil Registry Officer shall be asked to duly place appropriate mark on her registration record, and inform Real Estate Directorate for necessary action.
10. With regard to implementation of Article 13, a Syrian woman, who has acquired the nationality under Articles 8, 9, 18, and 19, shall not forfeit her Syrian nationality, except for the following cases:
- A. If she was married to a foreigner and acquired his nationality. This is verifiable through:
 - 1. Confirmation of marriage
 - 2. Acquisition of the husband's nationality, which may be verified by asking relevant country, or producing a document in that regard issued by that country.
 - B. Restitution of her original nationality, in accordance with a document issued by the respective country, through a formal telephone call
11. In clarification of Article 14, a woman applying for nationality restitution must:
- A. Submit a written application in which she expresses her explicit desire to reconstitute her Syrian Arab nationality, signing thereat before the concerned officer.
 - B. Submit two copies of husband's death or divorce certificate, or any other duly attested document evidencing the termination of marital relationship.
 - C. Submit two copies of minor children's registration certificates (in case of husband's death only).
 - D. Produce two copies of the wife's civil registration certificate, identifying therein the husband's name, nationality and date of marriage.
 - E. A written undertaking in accordance with the prescribed form, signed by her, if she is a Turkish citizen, (in case of divorce only). The form must expressly indicate that she does not have properties or real estates in Syria. The content of the undertaking shall be circulated to the concerned Real Estate Authorities for restricting her right of disposal thereof.
12. As regards clarification of Article 15 concerned with restitution of minors to their father's nationality, procedures stipulated in item 5,



Paragraph 5 above regarding clarification of Article 8, Paragraph 2, shall apply.

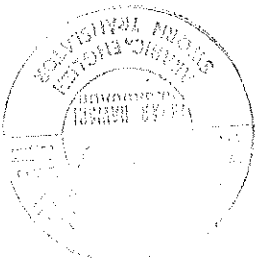
Provisions concerned with Arab Citizens

13. In clarification of Article 19, the applicant concerned must comply with the following requirements:
 - A. A written application signed by the concerned applicant in which she explicitly expresses her desire to acquire the Syrian Arab nationality before the authorized officer.
 - B. Two civil registration certificates with the wife's ID particulars, nationality, and date of marriage identified therein.
 - C. Filled out personal information sheet with applicant's photograph affixed thereon
 - D. Women holding Arab nationality are required to present a copy of a valid ID or passport or an attested civil registration certificate.

Women applicants of Syrian origin must prove that one of her ancestors on the father's side was born in the Syrian Arab Republic. In case of women enjoying Syrian Arab citizenship, a copy of civil record certificate produced from their civil registry, along with entered events shall only be required.

Nationality dispossession and Restitution

14. With regard to interpretation of Article 20, the expression "Judicial ruling" means ordinary ruling and not State Council order (Supreme Administrative Court's Decision No. 96 of 1972)
15. Procedures related to filing reports in respect of illegal travelers:
 - A. Authorization of police units to file reports regarding travelers exiting the country illegally based upon their civil record with the Civil Registry Officers, in three copies, each to be attached with a copy of their civil registration certificate.
 - B. Immigration and Passport Department in Damascus shall be provided with two copies of the filed police report, along with two copies of the concerned persons' civil registration certificates, for onward dispatch to the competent authorities, a third will be retained in the respective file.
 - C. Names given in filed report must match those provided in the civil registration certificates.
16. Immigration and Passport Department / Citizenship Branch/ and Immigration authorities in the Syrian governorates shall be delegated to process nationality applications in accordance with these instructions. The processed applications shall be put up to the Director General of Immigration and Passport Department for perusal and necessary action.
17. Upon issuance of the Syrian Arab nationality, in accordance with the provisions of this Legislative Decree, to foreign or Arab persons,



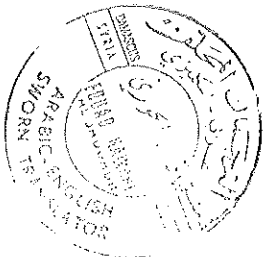
documents in their possession shall be withdrawn and forwarded along with a Foreign Ministry note verbale to their respective countries for information.

18. Decision 1327/N) dated 22/12/1966 shall hereby be annulled, along with all circulars and instructions in contrast with these instructions.
19. These instructions shall be published and circulated to concerned authorities for implementation.

Damascus, 22/1/1976

Ali Zaza

Minister of Interior



Syrian Arab Republic
Ministry of Interior
Immigration and Passport Department
Citizenship Section

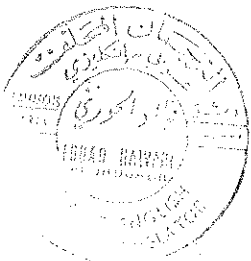
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Certification table for Syrian Arab Nationality Applicants

1. Applicant's name and surname.
2. Date and place of birth.
3. Profession.
4. Domicile.
5. Descriptions.
6. Original nationality.
7. Religion.
8. Period of applicant's actual residence in the Syrian Arab Republic.
9. Date of commencement of his residence.
10. Period of residence interruption and reasons.
11. Particulars of wife and her nationality.
12. Husband's name (in case applicant is female) with details of his nationality.
13. Names and date of birth of children.
14. Basis upon which applicant has been considered a foreign national
15. Has applicant been issued any judicial sentences in the Syrian Arab Republic? (Judicial Record Certificate to be included in file).
16. Health condition (Health certificate issued by Medical Panel to be included).
17. Source of living and income (income source certificate to be included).
18. Number of family members supported by applicant.
19. Knowledge of Arabic and educational qualifications.
20. Reason for applicant's desire to acquire Syrian Arab nationality.
21. Applicant's father's full name, nationality, and date and place of birth (if possible).
22. Applicant's mother's name, nationality, and date and place of birth (if possible).
23. Duration of parents' residence on the territories of the Syrian Arab Republic.
24. Which Syrian Arab Nationality Article applies to applicant?
25. Has the applicant applied for acquisition of nationality before? (identify fate and result of application).
26. Political Security opinion.
27. Criminal Security opinion.
28. Result of studying applicant's file at the Central Document Control Office.
29. Nationality file number registered with the Citizenship Section.
30. Applicant's signature and declaration that he has read Article 31 mentioned hereunder:

We include hereunder the provision of Article 31 of Syrian Arab Nationality, issued pursuant to Legislative Decree 276, dated 24/11/1969 :

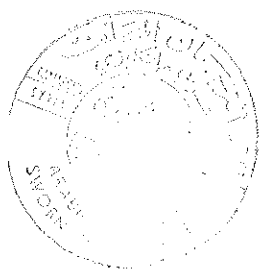


Without prejudice of any other more stringent punishments stipulated by other laws, anyone who, for the purpose of proving possession or non- possession of nationality for himself or for others, knowingly presents false data or false documents to the concerned authorities, shall be penalized by a maximum two-year imprisonment or a fine not exceeding one thousand Syrian Pounds.

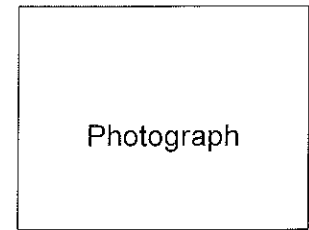
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Applicant's Signature

31. Signature of concerned officer after checking applicant's file, (indicating name and rank)
32. Signature of Immigration Branch Department Chief in the Governorates (indicating name and rank)
33. Certification of Citizenship Section Officer at the Immigration and Passport Department



Syrian Arab Republic
Ministry of Interior
Immigration and Passport Department
Citizenship Section



No.

Information Sheet about Nationality Relinquishment Applicant

Name and Surname

Father's name:

Current nationality:

Mother's name:

Religion:

Place and date of birth...

Place of registration in the Civil Registry – Town/ village / district

Residence No...

Profession/ Job:

Period of residence abroad (...../...../ ...)

Wife's name and nationality:

Name of children based on dates of birth:

Reason for relinquishment of Syrian Arab Nationality:

Obligations by applicant towards the state/ other individuals

A summary of applicant's bio-data (handwritten by applicant) since early childhood, to include social and cultural aspects

Date /...../.....

Applicant's signature

Signed in my presence :

Name and rank:

Date:

Reviewed by Citizenship Section Chief or Officer in Charge at the Foreign Mission.



Constitution of the Syrian Arab Republic of the year 1973¹

Article 43: Citizenship

The Law shall regulate the Syrian Arab citizenship and shall guarantee special facilities for the Syrian Arab expatriates and their sons and for the citizens of the Arab countries.



¹ Published in Legislative Decree 208 dated 9/2/1393 H. and 13/3/1973, Issue 9 (repeated) of the Official Gazette, Part 1, dated 9/2/1393 H. and 13/3/1973. p 1.