

EUROPE MONTHLY REPORT



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Finland's refugee woman and man of 2019: Deeb, from Syria and Toure from Togo. Deeb is now preparing for the admission examinations to study medicine in Finland to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor. Toure started boxing after arriving in Finland and his goal is to become Finland's boxing champion. The purpose of the Refugee Awards is to support refugees in realizing their own goals and dreams in their new home country and to provide encouraging examples of successful integration.

TRENDS AND KEY FIGURES

In May, 6,300 refugees and migrants arrived to Europe, primarily via Greece, Spain and Italy. Overall arrivals to Greece increased marginally compared with the previous month (3,198 versus 3,020), while arrivals to Spain (1,928 versus 1,539) increased by 20% and those to Italy rose (255 versus 782). So far this year just over 27,800 refugees and migrants arrived to Europe via the three Mediterranean routes compared to 43,569 that arrived in the same period last year, marking a 36% decrease.

GREECE: In May, almost 3,200 refugees and migrants arrived by sea (84%) and land (16%) to Greece, with a 33% reduction in comparison to the nearly 4,735 arrivals in May 2018. As of the end of May, the 2019 arrivals to Greece (14,300) are 26% less than the same period in 2018 (19,500) and 67% more than in 2017 (8,600). Those reaching Greece in this period mainly originated from Afghanistan (40%), Iraq (13%), the Syrian Arab Republic (13.5%) and the State of Palestine (12%). In addition, the number of persons rescued or intercepted by the Turkish Coast Guards after departing from the Turkish coastline is almost 9,600 since the beginning of the year, consistent with the same period in 2018 (9,800 individuals). At the land border, 510 people arrived to Evros in May, 56% less in comparison with the previous month (1,160).

SPAIN: Nearly 1,930 people crossed the sea (68%) and land (32%) borders from North Africa in May, half the number of those arrived in

Mediterranean
27,800
arrivals in 2019 ¹

500

estimated dead/missing in 2019 ¹

Greece ²			Italy		
14,300	1,600				
3,159	3,020	3,198	262	255	782
Mar	Apr	May	Mar	Apr	May

Spain ²			Cyprus		
10,400	800				
995	1,539	1,928	163	430	0
Mar	Apr	May	Mar	Apr	May

New asylum applications in Europe ³

Jan-May 2019	196,000
Jan-Dec 2018	702,000
Jan-Dec 2017	819,000
Jan-Dec 2016	1,322,000
Jan-Dec 2015	1,471,000

¹ data.unhcr.org/mediterranean as of 31 May 2019.

² Arrivals include Malta; Greece and Spain both include sea and land arrivals; Spain includes sea arrivals in the Mediterranean and to the Canary Islands.

³ Sources: Eurostats for EU+ countries (Only partial data for April and May 2019. All data is provisional and last updated 18 June 2019); UNHCR for Eastern Europe (as of 30 June 2018), Turkey (as of 30 September 2018) and South Eastern Europe (as of 31 May 2019).

34,705

Relocated in total ⁴
⁴Source: [European Commission](#), as of 30 October 2018.

 from **Greece**

21,999

(33% of 66,400)

 from **Italy**

12,706

(32% of 39,600)

1,867

Returns EU-Turkey statement ¹²
¹²Source: [Ministry of Citizen Protection](#), Greece as of 31 May 2019.

May 2018 (3,940). So far this year, over 10,440 people have arrived to Spain on par with the same period in 2018 (10,640). The primary countries of origin of arrivals are Morocco (24%), Guinea (15%), Mali (14%) and Cote d'Ivoire (11%).

ITALY: The number of refugees and migrants arriving by sea in May (780), while still significantly low in comparison to the same period last year (3,960), represents the highest number of monthly sea arrivals via the Central Mediterranean route in 2019 so far. As of 31 May, 1,560 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea, an 88% decrease compared to sea arrivals in the same period last year. Of those, 34% departed from Libya, 24% departed from Tunisia, 23% departed from Turkey, 12% departed from Algeria, and 6% departed from Greece. As of 31 May, 2,350 refugees and migrants have been rescued/intercepted at sea by the Libyan Coast Guard in 2019. The primary nationalities of those arrived by sea in 2019 so far are Tunisians (22%), Pakistanis (15%), Algerians (13%) and Iraqis (11%).

Western Balkans: Movement through the region continued as the number of arrivals of refugees and migrants detected by Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities in 2019 surpassed 8,200 as of 31 May which is 50% more than in the same period of 2018 (5,400). Out of them, only 195 persons chose, or managed, to formally submit asylum applications by end of May. No protection status was granted to any asylum applicant in 2019. In Serbia, 129 asylum applications were registered by end May, while 12 people were granted refugee status and 14 subsidiary protection. Some 7,700 were believed to be in Bosnia and Herzegovina as of the end of May along with some 3,600 in Serbia.

SAR operations: Multiple search and rescue operations in the Central Mediterranean were conducted by NGOs and authorities vessels in May. In the first half of the month, the NGO vessel Mare Jonio rescued 27 refugees and migrants, while the NGO vessel Sea Watch 3 rescued 65 individuals. Both groups disembarked in Italy. However, both vessels were initially impounded by Italian authorities following disembarkation, while crew members underwent investigations in connection with allegations of abetting illegal immigration. In May, Italian authorities vessels, including the Coast Guard and the Navy, also rescued refugees and migrants who were travelling on board dinghies in distress across the Central Mediterranean. In particular, the Italian Navy rescued over 130 persons in two separate operations taking place on 9 and 30 May, respectively. Notably, in May, the Armed Forces of Malta carried out three rescue operations, bringing over 370 persons to safety following disembarkation in Malta. UNHCR is present at most disembarkation providing arrivals with information on asylum procedures and identifying those with special needs or vulnerabilities bringing it to the attention of relevant authorities for further support.

Dead and Missing: As of 31 May, some 507 people have died or gone missing while trying to reach Europe by sea, equivalent to 1 death for every 41 arrivals, slightly higher than in the same period in 2018 (one death for every 45 sea arrivals). The highest death toll is recorded among those who leave Libya trying to reach Italy. In addition, 34 refugees or migrants are known to have died along land routes in Europe or at Europe's borders.

OTHER SITUATIONS IN EUROPE

Turkey **4.0 million**

Refugees and asylum seekers ⁵

 Syrian Arab Republic **3,606,000**

 Afghanistan **172,000**

 Iraq **143,000**

 Other nationalities **57,000**
⁵ Source: UNHCR as of 31 May 2019

Ukraine **1.5 million**

Internally Displaced Persons ⁶ and **Conflict Affected Persons** ⁷

 Refugees: ⁸ **2,620**

 Asylum seekers: ⁹ **6,565**

 Stateless persons: ¹⁰ **35,650**
⁶ Residing more permanently in government-controlled areas (GCA).

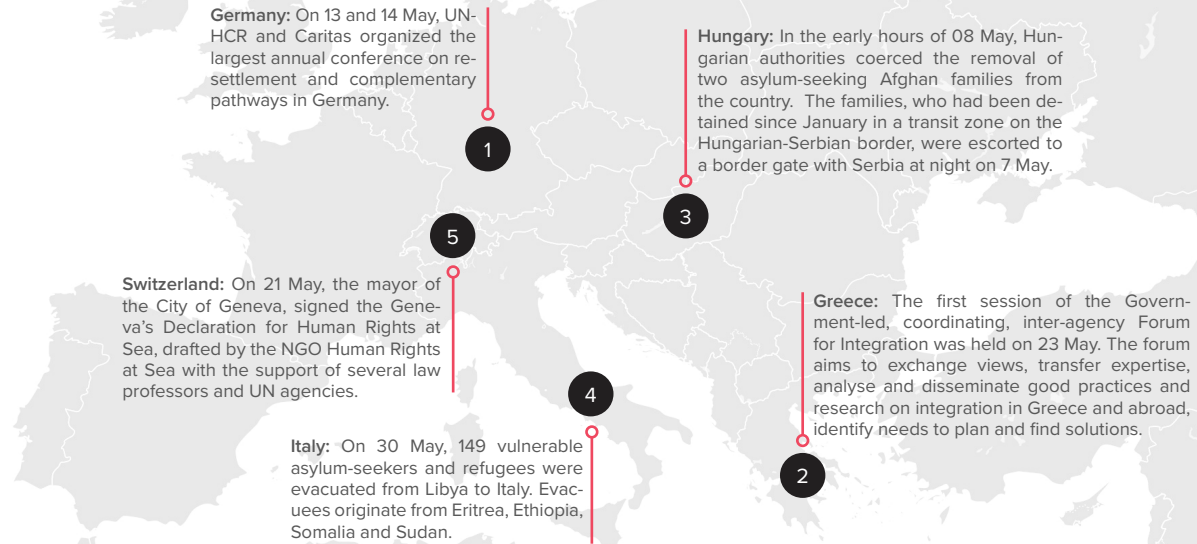
⁷ Estimated number of conflict-affected people living along the line of contact in government-controlled areas (GCA) and non-government controlled areas (NGCA).

⁸ UNHCR, State Migration Service of Ukraine as of 31/12/2018

⁹ UNHCR as of 13/06/2019

¹⁰ State Migration Service of Ukraine as of 01/01/2019

KEY DEVELOPMENTS



Includes Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999)). The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

BELGIUM: On 7 May, UNHCR was invited by the 'Human Rights Platform', hosted by the Belgian Senate, to present the findings of the EU Commission's Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers funded report and its recommendations for strengthened protection policies for Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) and for a child-rights based approach to 'best interests procedures' in the Belgian institutional context. UNHCR's recommendations included reinforcing the access to the (community-level) child protection procedures, strengthening and harmonizing quality of guardianship, and enhancing identification mechanisms, including for UASC within mixed migration flows. Other key recommendations concern the participation of the child, priority processing of procedures and strengthening coordination mechanisms between different actors and decision-making levels. Members of the Platform largely endorsed these recommendations, corresponding to UNHCR's aim to generate broad support for its advocacy lines.

EUROPEAN UNION: European Parliament (EP) elections took place across the EU on 23-26 May. UNHCR has been sharing its seven key calls with candidates for MEPs, and will continue to engage with the elected politicians both in Brussels and at the national level to ensure that international protection for refugees remains on the agenda of the EU legislator. In addition, the 8 videos on the 7 key calls available on the campaign's website - <https://www.unhcr.org/europeanelections/>, are being actively shared through

social media and other channels.

FRANCE: UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Volker Turk, met with the recently appointed Office Français de Protection des Réfugiés et Apatrides (OFPRA) Director General, Julien Boucher on 15 May in Paris. Underlining the long-standing cooperation with OFPRA and regular protection dialogue with France, discussions engaged on a number of issues including resettlement, the Mediterranean situation, the Global Compact on Refugees, the situation in Syria and procedures for asylum-seekers and those seeking protection upon entry at border points.

GERMANY: On 13 and 14 May, UNHCR and Caritas organized the [largest annual conference on resettlement and complementary pathways](#) in Germany. The gathering took place in Frankfurt and was attended by international representatives from civil society, churches, the EC, government and authorities. At the event, the community sponsorship pilot programme "Neustart im Team - NesT" was first presented to practitioners from the communities and met with great interest and appreciation. The programme is the result of long-term advocacy by UNHCR and civil society. Prior to this event, the [first German community sponsorship programme](#) was launched on 06 May. The joint pilot programme called "Neustart im Team - NesT" (start over in a team) under participation of UNHCR, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF), the Integration Commissioner, the Interior Ministry and several civil society stakeholders will admit 500 refugees until the

end of the year. The refugees will be selected by UNHCR and their integration process will be facilitated by so-called mentoring teams consisting of five people minimum. The programme is geared towards church communities, sports clubs and companies and builds upon similar successful schemes in Canada and the United Kingdom.

Andrew Harper, UNHCR's Director of the Division of Programme Support and Management, delivered a [keynote speech](#) at [re:publica](#) conference on predictive analytics and the future of humanitarian assistance. Re:publica is the largest digital society conference in Europe and features high-profile speakers from all over the world which took place between 06 and 08 May. The speech covered how predictive analytics can help identify needs and potential gaps for humanitarian services. Harper was also featured [on a panel](#) on digital identity facilitated by the governmental service provider of the Development Ministry (GIZ).

On 30 May, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was awarded with the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen for European Unity. In his acceptance speech Guterres remarks "as former UN High Commissioner for Refugees for 10 years, I saw the scars of displacement and uprooting. And History has consolidated my firm belief that those tragedies can only be avoided by prevention of conflicts and development through international cooperation". The Secretary-General also [highlighted](#) the need for the European Union to lead the international effort to address three main challenges: climate change; new technologies; and migration. The International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen is the oldest and best-known prize awarded for work done in the service of European unification.

GREECE: The first session of the Government-led, coordinating, inter-agency Forum for Integration was held **2** on 23 May. The Forum is chaired by the Sectoral Secretary for Migration Policy and includes various Ministries, UN agencies, the European Commission Directorate-General of Migration and Home Affairs (DG Home), the Cities Network for Integration as well as NGOs. The Forum aims to exchange views, transfer expertise, analyse and disseminate good practices and research on integration in Greece and abroad, identify needs to plan and find solutions. UNHCR welcomes this, and as part of the network supports the work to help refugees find durable solutions and the chance to build self-sustainability. This work is very much needed as 38,032 people were recognized as refugees or received subsidiary protection in Greece since 2015.

HUNGARY: In the early hours of 08 May, Hungarian authorities coerced the removal of two asylum-seeking **3** Afghan families from the country. The two families, four adults and seven children, who had been detained since January in a transit zone on the Hungarian-Serbian border, were escorted to a border gate with Serbia at night

on 7 May. After their cases had been deemed inadmissible based on safe third country concept, they were presented with a choice of entering Serbia or being flown back to Afghanistan on a flight organized by Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency. "The treatment of these families, including their removal from Hungarian territory with no serious effort to look at their claims to refugee status, is deeply regrettable" said Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. UNHCR reiterates its appeal to Hungary to refrain from any attempts to send people back to their country of origin or otherwise remove them from Hungarian territory without proper assessment of their claim to asylum. Also, UNHCR has advised Frontex, to refrain from supporting Hungary in the enforcement of return decisions which are not in line with International and EU law.

On 3 May, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a [press statement](#) about Hungary deliberately depriving 'migrants' in detention centres of food. The OHCHR reminded Hungary of its human rights obligations towards those deprived of liberty, the right to seek asylum, as well as the principle of non-refoulement.

The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Dunja Mijatović, published a [report](#) on 21 May following her visit to Hungary in February criticizing the inaccessibility of refugee protection, the forcible removals and ill-treatment at the border, the detention of asylum-seekers and the treatment of unaccompanied children under 14 years. The Commissioner urges the government to lift the 'crisis situation', to discontinue the application of the new inadmissibility ground, to stop automatic detention of asylum-seekers in the transit zones, to refrain from fanning xenophobia, and to step up integration support.

ITALY: On 30 May, 149 vulnerable asylum-seekers and **4** refugees were evacuated from Libya to Italy. Evacuees originate from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan, comprising 84 adults, 17 accompanied children, and 48 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). The group were moved from UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency's Gathering and Departure Facility (GDF) in Tripoli, after surviving months in dire conditions inside detention centres in other parts of the city. The evacuation was carried out in collaboration with Libyan and Italian authorities. UNHCR staff attended the evacuees' arrival and provided information to new arrivals. "More humanitarian evacuations are needed," [said Jean-Paul Cavalieri, UNHCR Chief of Mission in Libya](#). "They are a vital lifeline for refugees whose only other escape route is to put their lives in the hands of unscrupulous smugglers and traffickers on the Mediterranean Sea." UNHCR is grateful to States that have come forward with evacuation places however, new detainees are arriving at a faster pace than people are departing. With the fighting in Tripoli showing no sign of stopping, the risks of detainees being caught up in the clashes are rising. UNHCR reiterates its call to States to urgently come

forward with further offers of humanitarian corridors and evacuations in order to bring detained refugees in Libya to safety.

PORTUGAL: On 27-28 May, at the Lawyer's Bar Association in Lisbon, the Council of Europe and UNHCR held a seminar on Effective Protection of Refugee and Migrant Children in Portugal. The seminar brought together some 80 participants from relevant Portuguese authorities, Ministries, legal professionals, the Portuguese Ombudsman, as well as other national and international stakeholders. The aim of the [seminar](#) was to discuss ways to strengthen the effective protection of refugee and migrant children in Portugal in a comprehensive manner.

SERBIA: On 16 May, the closing ceremony of the project "Regional Support to Protection-Sensitive Migration Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey", took place in Belgrade. The project has been implemented jointly by Frontex, EASO, IOM and UNHCR since 2016. The programme provided a comprehensive and holistic regional approach to support the establishment of effective and protection-sensitive migration management approaches in the framework of the EU Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) II. UNHCR was particularly involved in sharing its expertise on further strengthening of the procedures for refugee status determination in line with the applicable International Refugee Law standards, as well as on establishing EU-compatible asylum systems for persons in need of international protection.

The second phase of the programme has been carried out throughout 2019. UNHCR continues to coordinate the activities in all countries of the region geared towards improving the quality of asylum processing, monitoring of the refugee status determination and tailored integration plans for recognized refugees.

SPAIN: The UNHCR offices in Spain and Malta have successfully supported the family reunion of a 12 year old unaccompanied boy whose mother and two sisters disembarked in Spain from the Open Arms vessel on 28 December 2018.

SWITZERLAND: On 21 May, the mayor of the City of Geneva, signed the [Geneva's Declaration for Human Rights at Sea](#), drafted by NGO [Human Rights at Sea](#) with the support of several law professors and UN agencies. The principal aim of the declaration is to raise global awareness about the abuse of human rights at sea and to mobilise a concerted international effort to put an end to it. It is notably addressed to the Mayors of European cities, with Geneva as first signatory encouraging other Swiss and European cities to support human rights at sea.

UKRAINE: On 28 May, UNHCR published its Year One Report of Ukraine operation's Multi-Year, Multi-Partner Strategy for Protection and Solutions (MYMP). The [MYMP "Year One" Report](#) recalls UNHCR Ukraine's achievement in its first year of the strategy and projects a way forward for each of the Strategic Objectives of the MYMP. The report has been shared with UNHCR's main donors as well as published online. Since January 2019, UNHCR has been piloting the distribution of acute emergency shelter repair kits in areas that were previously hard to reach and not accessible by other humanitarian organizations. These kits will be used to assist conflict-affected people whose shelters had been damaged and who cannot be assisted through other shelter repair programmes because of limited humanitarian access and security restrictions in these locations. Since the beginning of 2019 to date, 165 kits have been distributed to 15 locations that had not been previously reached by other UN Agencies.

The UNITED KINGDOM: UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Business in the Community (BITC) and UK Government put forward new [recommendations](#) which aim to provide refugees in the UK with the opportunity to contribute to growth and better integrate in the country. "[Tapping Potential: Guidelines to Help UK Businesses Employ Refugees](#)" sets out simple steps that companies can take to enable refugees to more seamlessly enter the workforce and build their skills, benefiting companies and the national economy.

[UNHCR International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia](#)

Echoing the theme chosen for this year's International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia (IDAHOT), "Justice and Protection for All", the first round of consultations with LGBTI organizations and advocates took place on 16 May 2019, in Geneva. Other consultations will take place in different parts of the world in the coming months. "UNHCR has been working hard to ensure that LGBTI asylum seekers and refugees are protected

wherever they are, but we need to mobilize further. This is why it is so important to hear from and join up forces with individuals and organizations that have expert knowledge on this issue," said UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi. From Spain, Italy and Switzerland refugees and asylum-seekers who have sought protection in Europe shared their [power of love stories](#).

UNHCR holds an event to mark the 15th year of the Japanese Fuji Vision Aid Missions to Azerbaijan

The 15th anniversary of the humanitarian aid missions of the [Japanese Fuji Optical Company to Azerbaijan](#) took place on 06 May in Baku with the participation of high-level government officials, parliamentarians, as well as representatives of the United Nations, other international organisations, civil society and the media. Deputy Prime Minister Ali Hasanov, UN Resident Coordinator Ghulam Isaczai, Chairman of Azerbaijan's State Committee for Refugees and IDPs Rovshan Rzaev, Japan's Ambassador to Azerbaijan Teruyuki Katori, Chairman and CEO of Fuji Optical Co. Ltd. Dr. Akio Kanai spoke at the UNHCR-organised event.

The Japanese private company of Fuji Optical Co. Ltd. has conducted humanitarian missions to Azerbaijan every year since 2005. During such missions, Japanese optometrist specialists conduct eye-check for internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees and other vulnerable people and distribute free of charge eyeglasses to them. All missions have been led by the Doctor Akio Kanai, who is the winner of the 2006 Nansen Refugee Award and many other prestigious awards. More than 2.8 million USD have already been spent by Fuji Optical Co. Ltd. during its humanitarian missions to Azerbaijan.



In total, more than 31,000 people with special needs have benefited from this programme.

This year, Fuji Optical Co. Ltd. has donated 3,300 pairs of eyeglasses and other vision and hearing aid items and screened about 2,400 IDPs, refugees and asylum-seekers during the six-day mission from 7 to 13 May 2019 in Yevlakh, Goranboy and Baku.

Through the arts

On the occasion of the 58th Venice Biennale, UNHCR [launched "Rothko in Lampedusa"](#), a project aimed at raising the importance of art as a means to enable refugees to express their talent and benefit host communities. Various initiatives are linked to the project, lasting from May to November 2019. Furthermore, [displaying](#) at the Biennale is also the fishing vessel that sank off the Libyan coast in April 2015, causing some 800 refugees and migrants to die: "[Barca Nostra](#)", an art project by the Swiss-Icelandic artist Christoph Büchel.

On 10 May, in London, UNHCR co-hosted with the [Royal Opera House an 'Insights' event](#) focusing on the role the arts play in raising our awareness of the global refugee crisis and how can the arts provoke action in the face of record-high displacement? The event coincided with Crystal Pite's ballet *Flight Pattern*, a representation of the horrors of forced migration, which is at the Royal Opera House Main Stage and was broadcast to cinemas nationwide. The panel was hosted by broadcaster Samira Ahmed and included speakers from UNHCR, Survivors Speak OUT, The Royal Ballet and Good Chance Theatre.

On 10 May, UNHCR in Serbia published [Legends of Pirates](#) about UNHCR support to an asylum-seeking minor. The story, expressing gratitude to U.S. contributions to the UNHCR programme, depicts the life of asy-

lum-seeking Afghan child in Serbia, who, UNHCR and partners assisted in the asylum procedure, while also appointing a guardian. During his time spent in a winter reception centre in Serbia, he and seven other refugee and internally displaced children formed a group called "Legends of Pirates". UNHCR also supported his enrollment in school, where his talent for drawing was discovered.

On 27 May, famous cellist and UN Messenger for Peace, Yo-Yo Ma, brought his [Bach project](#) to Vienna where he combines Bach's music with reaching out to local communities all around the world, focusing on social topics. In Vienna, inclusion and access to culture for all population groups were in the focus. In cooperation with UNHCR, a workshop for around 80 participants including refugees was organized, followed by a public sharing in one of the most diverse neighbourhoods in Vienna. [UN Secretary-General António Guterres joined Mr. Ma](#) and the participants during the workshop and praised the importance of diversity and the need to foster inclusion. Mr. Guterres visited Vienna for the 40-year celebrations of the UN.

UNHCR Refugee Book initiative brings into light the refugee authors and books from different countries



UNHCR participated in the Kyiv Book Arsenal Festival, Ukraine's most visited international book fair held between 22 and 26 May. In collaboration with the Embassies of Canada, Denmark, Estonia, the Netherlands and Switzerland, UNHCR organized a "Refugee Books Zone" and hosted five writers who were refugees themselves in the past or have written about the refugee experience. The

participation of UNHCR in this book fair was in line with this year's theme of the Kyiv Book Arsenal Festival: "[The Neighbourhood: An Open Question](#)". UNHCR's "Refugee Books Zone" was created as a meeting place for writers, readers and the public at large to learn about refugee authors and their books.

REFUGEE STORIES

[Finland's Refugees of the Year 2019 are Rand Mohamad Deeb and Nourdeen Toure](#)

By the Finnish Refugee Council in Helsinki

In 2014, the family of Rand Mohamad Deeb escaped war-torn Syria. Three years later, the Deeb family arrived in Finland as quota refugees. Despite her young age of 18 years, Deeb has achieved a lot in Finland in a short time. Five months after she arrived in Finland, she enrolled at a Finnish high school. Graduating this spring, Deeb is now preparing for the admission examinations to study medicine at the University of Helsinki to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor.

As the Refugee Woman of the Year, Deeb wants to show people with an immigrant background that learning Finnish and studying is possible in Finland. Helping others is very important to Deeb: "I studied Finnish for eight hours a day to understand its logic. I would like to make it easier for others, which is why I make Arabic teaching videos on YouTube. Learning a language in your own mother tongue is much easier," she continues.

The Refugee Man of the Year, Nourdeen Toure, 28, is as determined to make his dreams come true as Deeb. Toure, who left his home country Togo and arrived in Finland alone at the age of 20, travelled for two years through sev-

eral countries. It was a lonely time: "At first, my only family in Finland was the police and the Finnish Immigration Service," Toure says.

Shortly after his arrival in Finland, Toure started boxing with the goal of becoming Finland's boxing champion. Although Toure did not have a boxing background before coming to Finland, he first competed at a professional level in 2014. Toure is coached by Pekka Mäki, who coaches other top boxers in Finland.

Through the boxing circles Toure made friends, which made Finland feel like home for the first time. The board of the Finnish Refugee Council annually appoints two Refugees of the Year. With this year's awards, the board wants to highlight the active role of young refugees in society. Deeb and Toure are both courageous, ambitious and positive. They are not only great role models for other young immigrants, but for all young people in Finland.

The award for the Refugee Woman of the Year has been assigned every year since 1998 and the Refugee Man of the Year since 2016. The purpose of the Refugee Awards is to support refugees in realizing their own goals and dreams in their new home country and to provide encouraging examples of successful integration.

