



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Kuwait - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Wednesday 09 June 2010

Treatment of undocumented bidoons in 2010 including those in the process of registration

A report by *Refugees International* in May 2010 states:

“The government of Kuwait continues to balk at granting nationality to its approximately 90,000 stateless residents, or bidoon. Lack of legal status impacts all areas of their lives. Kuwait must begin immediate and transparent reviews of all bidoon cases towards providing naturalization. Meanwhile Kuwait should guarantee the bidoon the right to work and earn equitable incomes, allow their children to enroll in public schools, provide them healthcare free of charge, and issue certificates that record births, marriages, and deaths” (Refugees International (11 May 2010) *Kuwait: Still Stalling on Statelessness*,p.1).

This report also states that:

“Lack of legal status impacts all areas of life for bidoon: their identity, family life, mental and physical health, residence, education, livelihood, and political participation” (*ibid*,p.2).

In May 2010 *Human Rights Watch* reports:

“The nongovernmental Kuwait Society for Human Rights has drawn attention to rights violations faced by Bidun. They frequently cannot obtain essential state-issued documents, such as marriage licenses and birth and death certificates, making it difficult or impossible for them to own property or even legally establish a family” (Human Rights Watch (12 May 2010) *Kuwait: Deliver Promised Rights Reform*).

A report by *Refugees International* in March 2010 commenting on the bidoon notes:

“Adults who have managed to obtain an ID card describe the renewal process as interrogation. “They try to prove your family roots are derived from any other country,” one man stated. Then there are many forms to be completed, supporting documentation, photographs, and a KWD 82 fee (\$306). “If after this you are willing to leave the country, they will treat you gently. Otherwise you are referred for DNA, blood tests, and finger printing.” Some succumb to the lure of counterfeit passports” (Refugees International (25 March 2010) *The State of Kuwait*,p.3).

References

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Sources Consulted

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