



## Important Announcement to Refugees and Asylum-Seekers A New Presidential Amnesty Decree that Includes the Infractions of Entering and Residing in the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria) by Non-Syrians

- Legislative Decree 242022/ was issued granting an amnesty on a wide range of crimes, including the infractions of illegally entering and residing in Syria, which have been perpetrated before **21 December 2022**.
- Based on that, if you are a refugee or an asylum-seeker and your residence permit in Syria has expired or you have entered Syria illegally, you can benefit from the amnesty through one of the Department of Immigration's branches in near your place of residence.
- If the infraction is related to exceeding the period of the residence permit, and you have no concerns about approaching the Passports and Immigration offices, you can approach the nearest Passports and Immigration branch as soon as possible to avoid paying the fines that will be due against you after the date of the issuance of the decree, noting that under the said decree, the exemption period during which you can regularize your residence is only three months as of the date of the issuance of the decree (21 December 2022).
- **If you have concerns about approaching the Passports and Immigration branches, or you need to regularize your status due to illegal entry to the country, you have to approach one of UNHCR's lawyers at UNHCR's office or call one of the hotlines listed below as soon as possible to receive legal counselling on the possibility/procedures of benefiting from the amnesty decree.**
- If you have exceeded your residence period, the Passports and Immigration Department will regularize your status and fine you only for the days spent illegally after the issuance of the decree on 21 December 2022, and you will be granted a one-month residence permit pending the completion of the required documents (refugee ID, passport, certified proof of residence, personal photos, medical tests for those who have not done them previously) to apply for a residence permit.
- **Pursuant to the amnesty decree, you will benefit from the exemption from detention penalty and the fines which are imposed due to exceeding your residence period or your illegal entry to the country. However, this exemption will not cover the fines of exceeding the residence period incurred after the date of the issuance of the decree (21 December 2022). This fine is SYP 5,000 per person for each day exceeding the residence period, and it might not cover penalties related to other infractions of the Syrian laws.**

If you have any concerns about approaching the Passports and Immigration Department or one of its branches, or if you have any questions, please contact UNHCR's lawyers directly on: 0998760864/ 0993363275 and the hotline: 0992550708 from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm.