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Law No. 18/2014 on the Instructions to Grant Passports

Law No. 18/

The President of the Republic

Pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution

Issued and approved by the Parliament in its session held on 02/01/1435 H., corresponding to / /2014,

Issued the following:

Article 1

In enforcing this law, the following expressions shall have the meanings indicated for each:

- Minister: The Minister of Interior.
- Ministry: The Ministry of Interior.
- Passport: Official travel document given to the citizens of the Syrian Arab Republic.
- Travel document for Palestinian refugees: Official travel document given to the Palestinian- Syrians who are on the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic and registered in the records of the General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees.
- Passage Ticket: Official travel document issued by the Immigration Department subject to the approval of the Minister, to be granted to persons of unknown nationality or stateless persons, as well as to the refugees acknowledged in this capacity, who reside on the Syrian territory yet with known nationalities but unable to obtain travel documents from the embassies their countries, along with their spouses and minor children.
- Passage ticket to return: Official travel document issued by our diplomatic or consular missions abroad, to be granted to Syrian citizens outside the country, authorizing them to return to the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic.
- Sailors' Book: Official travel document issued by the Directorate General of Ports, to be granted to the sailors working on the vessels that navigate beyond in Syrian territorial waters, recording sailors' personal and professional details and maritime services.
- Borders' Permission: Official travel document granted by the governors of border provinces to the citizens who have properties overlapping with neighboring border states.

Article 2

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Syrian citizens are not allowed to leave or return to the Syrian territory except through passports or travel documents in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Article 3

A resolution to be issued by the Minister shall be issued to determine the cases where the passports or the travel documents for Palestinian refugees shall be replaced by borders' permissions, a personal/family ID card, or any suitable replacement.

Article 4

A resolution to be issued by the Minister shall be issued to determine the cases where the citizens of the Syrian Arab Republic shall have to obtain an exit visa.

Article 5

Exit of or access to the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic shall be only through the locations determined by the Minister in coordination with the Minister of Finance.

Article 6

The following passports and travel documents in the name of the Syrian Arab Republic shall be issued from the following authorities:

(A) Foreign and Expatriates Ministry shall issue:

1. Valid passport diplomat.
2. Valid private passport.
3. Valid mission passport.

(B) Diplomatic and Consular Missions shall issue:

1. Regular passport.
2. Travel document for Palestinian refugees.
3. Return passage tickets

(C) Immigration and Passports Directorate shall issue:

1. Regular passport.
2. Travel document for Palestinian refugees.
3. Passage tickets

(D) Directorate General of Ports shall issue:

1. Sailors' Book.

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Article 7

Passports and travel documents shall be granted to every Syrian Arab citizen who fulfills the conditions to obtain them.

Article 8

Passports and travel documents shall be granted to different types of applicants from the Syrian citizens and the persons the Minister deems it necessary to grant them passports.

Article 9

Passports and travel documents' form, duration, method of renewal, the conditions and procedures for granting them shall be determined by the Minister in coordination with the Foreign and Expatriates Ministry.

Article 10

Value for passports and travel documents for Palestinian refugees, as well as passage tickets shall be determined as follows:

1. Four thousand Syrian pounds for each passport, travel document for Palestinian refugees or passage tickets, shall be issued as per order system.
2. Fifteen thousand Syrian pounds for each passport or travel document issued for Palestinian refugees on expedited basis, at the request of the applicant.

Article 11

Any person who holds a passport or a travel document for the Syrian Arab Republic shall not access states not listed on the passport or the travel document unless a permission is granted by the Minister or his authorized representative.

Article 12

A person who loses his passport shall be fined by an amount of fifteen thousand Syrian pounds, unless the loss is due to disasters or the like.

Article 13

Without prejudice to any severer penalty stipulated by laws in force:

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- A. Any person who violates the provisions of Article 2 of this Law shall be punished by imprisonment of three months and a fine of twenty five thousand to fifty thousand Syrian pounds, or either of these penalties.
- B. Any person who violates the provisions of the resolutions issued based on Article 4 of this law shall be punished by imprisonment of three months and a fine of ten thousand to twenty five thousand Syrian pounds, or either of these penalties. The same penalty shall be applied to any person who knowingly submits false statements or incorrect documents to the authority to facilitate obtaining an exit visa for himself or for another person, allowing exiting the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic.
- C. Any person who violates the provisions of Articles 5 or 11 of this law shall be punished by imprisonment for a period from six months to two years and a fine of fifty thousand to one hundred thousand Syrian pounds, or either one of these two penalties.

Article 14

The provisions of this Law shall apply to the Palestinian refugees registered in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Article 15

All legal provisions contrary to the provisions of this Law shall be canceled, specially Law 42, dated 31/12/1975, as amended.

Article 16

The Minister shall issue the executive instructions for this Law.

Article 17

This Law shall be published in the Official Gazette to be enforced one month after the date of publication.

Damascus on 09/01/1436 H. corresponding to 02/11/2014 AD.

President of the Republic

Bashar al-Assad