

Lebanese Government Decision to Restrict Entry of Syrian Refugees

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Press Statement

Hadi al-Bahra

President of the Syrian Coalition

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We are concerned by reports that the interior ministry of Lebanon has decided to impose new measures restricting the entry of Syrian refugees into Lebanon. Lebanon bears one of the heaviest burdens when it comes to accommodating displaced Syrian civilians in the region. However, we need to take stock and remember that those trying to cross into Lebanon had their livelihoods shattered and homes destroyed. They would not have decided to become refugees had it not been for fear of certain death. Those vulnerable people deserve to live. They deserve hope. We urge the Lebanese authorities to reconsider this decision, and make public the criteria according to which the eligibility of Syrian refugees is being judged.

As winter approaches, we call on the international community to step up support for countries in the region, in particular Lebanon, where more than a million Syrian refugees will be in dire need for protective shelters, clothing, and heating systems. The world must not give up on a population racked by the pains of a savage war; the world must not give up on the Syrian people.