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## Between Hope and Challenges: Restoring Nationality to Stateless Kurds in Syria

Joint Monitoring and Assessment Report on the Implementation of Article 4 of Decree No. 13 of 2026



محل ورقم القيد : مكتوم القيد

الإدارة العامة لشؤون المدنية GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF CIVIL AFFAIRS		الجمهورية العربية السورية وزارة الداخلية	
استمارة بيانات عائلية بموجب المرسوم التشريعي رقم / 13 / لعام 2026			
رب الأسرة			
بيانات الطلب (تملأ من الموظف)	الاسم	الاسم	
رقم الطلب	اسم الأب	اسم الأم وتسميتها	
المحافظة	اسم الجد	الرقم الوطني	
المركز	محل وتاريخ الولادة رقما وكتابة	مكان وتاريخ الوفاة	
تاريخ الاستلام	الديانة / المذهب	الجنسية	عربي سوري <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> مشمول بالطلب (تملأ من الموظف) <input type="checkbox"/> نعم <input type="checkbox"/> لا <input type="checkbox"/>

غير صالحة لوثائق السفر وخارج القطر

" شما، دة تعریفه " " خاصة بهكتومين القيد "

Six decades of waiting for the restoration of a right that should never have been taken away

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June 2026



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## Executive Summary

This report was jointly prepared by [Synergy Association for Victims](#) and the [Network of Statelessness Victims in al-Hasakah \(NSVH\)](#), in cooperation with the [MENA Statelessness Network \(Hawiati\)](#), to monitor and assess the implementation of Article 4 of [Decree No. 13 of 2026](#) concerning the restoration of Syrian nationality to Kurdish Unregistered Persons (Maktoumeen al-Qayd) affected by the consequences [the 1962 Exceptional Census in al-Hasakah](#) Governorate.

[Decree No. 13 of 2026](#) marks an important and long-awaited step toward addressing one of the most enduring and complex statelessness situations in Syria, which has deprived hundreds of thousands of Syrian Kurds of nationality and the rights associated with it for more than six decades.

As part of efforts to address this issue, Article 4 of Decree No. 13 of 2026 repeals the exceptional measures resulting from the 1962 Census and grants Syrian nationality to Kurdish citizens affected by those measures, including Unregistered Persons (Maktoumeen al-Qayd), while guaranteeing their full equality in rights and obligations. Committees responsible for receiving nationality applications from Kurdish Unregistered Persons [began accepting submissions](#) on 6 April 2026 for a period of thirty days, before the application period was extended by an additional fifteen days.

According to an [announcement](#) issued by the Ministry of Interior on 22 May 2026, the competent committees received 2,892 family applications covering 10,516 individuals. These figures reflect the accumulated demand for nationality restoration. However, estimates by [the Network of Statelessness Victims in al-Hasakah](#) indicate that significant numbers of persons covered by the Decree remain outside the registration process, particularly refugees and Syrians residing in neighbouring countries and Europe, whose numbers are expected to amount to several thousand families.

This report is based on field monitoring, individual interviews with Kurdish Unregistered Persons (Maktoumeen al-Qayd) and their family members inside and outside Syria, observations from registration centres, and a legal analysis of the procedures in place. It aims to assess the opportunities and challenges associated with the implementation of Article 4 of Decree No. 13 of 2026 concerning the restoration of Syrian nationality to Kurdish Unregistered Persons, and to evaluate the extent to which current procedures are able to reach all eligible persons in a fair, effective, and inclusive manner.

Monitoring activities revealed a sense of cautious optimism among affected persons, with many considering the current procedures more accessible and better organized than previous attempts to address the issue. Participants also reported noticeable cooperation in several registration centres, which contributed to building initial confidence in the process and renewed hope for the restoration of legal and civil rights denied to affected persons for decades.

At the same time, the report documented a number of challenges that may affect the inclusiveness, fairness, and effectiveness of the process. These included difficulties related to proving residence or family ties in some cases, particularly for persons who had lost documentation or experienced displacement. Challenges affecting Syrians residing abroad also emerged as a major concern, given the requirement for personal attendance and the need to complete subsequent procedures inside Syria, together with the associated financial and administrative burdens.

The report also documented cases in which Kurdish applicants were registered in official application forms under the designation “Syrian Arab”, before this classification was withdrawn and replaced with “Syrian” following objections raised by affected persons.

In addition, the report identified variations in implementation across registration centres, as well as limited public information regarding application reviews, interviews, and procedures for obtaining civil documentation following approval. This contributed to uncertainty among a number of applicants and their families. Interviews also documented cases involving financial exploitation and the circulation of inaccurate information targeting potential beneficiaries, particularly Syrians residing abroad.

The report concludes that Article 4 of Decree No. 13 of 2026 represents a historic opportunity to address a longstanding legacy of discrimination and statelessness in Syria. However, the success of this measure will depend on ensuring equal access to procedures for all eligible persons, enhancing transparency, standardizing implementation mechanisms, and addressing the challenges faced by persons residing abroad, older persons, and persons with disabilities.

Addressing the consequences of more than six decades of statelessness requires a comprehensive approach that goes beyond the restoration of nationality itself. It must include measures to resolve the accumulated legal and civil consequences of statelessness and ensure effective access to documentation, services, and rights associated with citizenship. Such efforts can contribute to strengthening trust in public institutions and advancing the principles of equality, non-discrimination, the rule of law, and equal citizenship for all Syrians.

[To access the full report \(18 pages\) in PDF format, please click here.](#)

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For further information, please visit the [website](#) of the Network of Statelessness Victims in al-Hasakah (NSVH), or contact us directly through:

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