

**Mahmoud Issa**  
**A# 208-926-772**  
**POD:P-CELL:207-BED:H**  
**Otay Mesa Detention center**  
**7488 Calzada De La Fuente**  
**San Diego, California 92154**

### **MY DECLARATION LETTER**

Dear Your Honorable Judge,

My Name is Mahmoud Issa I am a Palestinian refugee in the country of Syria but I was born in Syria on September 29<sup>th</sup> 1991 but I do not have any nationality nor status from my birth country so therefore I am Stateless in my own birth country of Syria because my grandfather left Palestine in about 1948 due to the war of Israel with the Palestinian army. I do have a special from AL UNRWA organization and they said to me and my family are Palestine refugees in Syria and the code of this card is (1 - 00214679). I am a Muslim Sunni and my native language is Arabic and I am single. I lived in Damascus, Syria at a camp by the name of Khan Danoun in Syria for Palestinian refugees I lived there with my parents .

There are a total of 8 family members in my family which are my 2 parents and 6 siblings including me Actually I have one brother and four sisters all of them are married and live with there spouses, and my father whose name is Mohammad Issa and he was born in Damascus Khan Danoun Camp, Syria and also he was born without a nationality on the month of November 25<sup>th</sup> 1958. My father studied as an assistant Decor engineering and worked as an Draiver in a company, but now he is retired, and my mother Amneh Al-awad was born in Trablous , Lebanon on April 17<sup>th</sup> 1960 and also she is without a national status in which she is stateless. My mother studied high school in Naher Al-bared Camp in Trablous but she has not worked since and now she is a homemaker a house wife at home.

My oldest sister's name is Lilian Issa she was born in Syria Damascus on November 5<sup>th</sup> 1980 and also she does not have national status she is also stateless. she studied as an actress in acting school, and she is married and lives with her husband, she does not have has kids, and she lives in Danoun camp , and she has not worked since and now she is a homemaker a house wife to her husband.

My second sisters name is Manal Issa she was born in Syria Damascus on July 21<sup>th</sup> 1982 and also she does not have any national status she is also stateless, she had studied only up to an high school education, and now she is married and lives with her husband, and she has three kids, and she lives in Kan Danoun camp, and she has not worked since and now she is a homemaker a house wife to her children and husband.

My third sister's name is Wesam Issa she was born in Syria Damascus on July 11<sup>th</sup> 1983 and also she does not have any national status she is also stateless. she studied as a preschool teacher and also worked a s preschool teacher, and she is married and lives with her husband and her 2 children she lives in Al-housinih camp.

My fourth sister's name is Hanan Issa she was born in Syria Damascus on July 1<sup>st</sup> 1984 and also .1.

she does not have any national status she is also stateless my sister studied to be a manager for a business company, she is married and lives with her husband , she has one kid, and she lives in Kan Danoun camp, and she has not worked since and now she is a homemaker a house wife for her kid and husband.

My brother's Khaled Issa he was born in Syria Damascus on April 1<sup>st</sup> 1986 and also he does not have any national status he is also stateless. He studied assistant mechanical engineering and he works as an engineering assistant in a company, and he is married and has two kids, and he lives in Kan Danoun camp .

### **MY EDUCATION HISTORY**

I started to study in the primary school at AL\_Khalsa School at Kan Danoun \_camp and this school is a special school for Palestinian refugees and these schools are controlled by the (UNRWA) organization there I spent 6 years from 1997 to 2003 then I moved to AL- Khalsa medal school there I spent 3 years from 2003 to 2006 then after that I attended high school which is a public school and because the UNRWA just built it for us primary and secondary school students and the name of the school is al-ksouh there I attended from 2007 to 2010. After that I moved to study in the health institute this is a medical school and I studied there intensive care and anesthesiology from 2011 to 2015 I would hope to continue my education but the problem was that the Syrian military army needed to take young men like myself to serve in there military arm forces but besides my main study I tried every day to learn something new and to try to develop study different study courses like life skills and employer skills and I can also train other students and children with special needs also for the community and this is what I had studied at(NLP). I also teach ed first aid skills like C.P.R. addressing and bandaging wounds treating burnt victims and I would also volunteer for an organization group by the name of UNRWA and UNECIF from 2002 to 2015 , and I prepare to write book about my journey to her and about my experince of suffered like twince refugee .

### **MY EMPLOYMENT AND OCCUPATION**

I was working many jobs between my study years just for three months for example one year in a restaurant then to another, and another one I did some painting as a painter but for my special study I had training in a public hospital and I got a job in two hospitals but there were special hospitals and the two hospital names are Jaramana Hospital there I worked from June 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 to April 2015 there I worked as an Anesthesiology in the surgery department. At Al\_Mahini new Hospital there I worked from March 2014 to April 2015 there I worked as an Anesthesiology in the surgery department and in the incentive care unit and in emergency unit, and these two hospitals are located in Damascus, Syria.

### **MY BELIEVES**

I am a Muslim Sunni I believe that God is one and he is our creator and the ruler of the universe and I believe in the prophet Mohammad is his messenger of Allah. I believe that Allah sent him to us to show people how they should live and worship Allah.

Islam is a Arabic word for meaning (To submit) and this word comes from (AL\_SALAM) and (AL\_SALAM) meaning (Peace) because of that Islam is a religion of love and brotherhood and I respect all other religions and I do not have any problems with any of them and because the religion is a personal thing and relation between God and the person and I believe in the Quran which is my holy book and I also believe in helping the poor people we all call this (ZAKAH) which means alms .2. giving and I believe that I should respect and take care of my parents because they gave me life and

took care of me as I was growing up.

In Islam we believe that men and women are considered equal and the Islam put the women in a place great because she is a wife and a mother also Islam did not forget to let us Muslims know that we also need to take care of our loving animals. I also believe of all messengers and prophets like Moses and Jesus Christ, and I believe the prayer is a normal and a beautiful spiritual contact between a person and his God and I pray five times daily with all my heart.

I believe that God gave us what we need if we are sure about that, and that also I celebrate in the month of Ramadan which is my great month and I fast during this month every day from sunrise to sunset and this includes abstinence from sexual intercourse as well as from foods and drinks. I believe freedom should be to all people of all race and color and I do not believe in war itself and punishment or to kill another human being and I do not agree with extremist Muslims groups like Isis and Al Nussra front.

### **MY POLITICAL OPINION**

Before the war started in Syria the control there from one group (AL\_ ALWEEN) with the dictatorial system from AL Bath party and his leader Hafeez Al Assad and after him his son Bashar Al Assad with the same political they think that Syria is only for them and that they can do whatever they want to who ever they want to and also controlling or murdering it's own citizens.

Hafez Al Assa had a bad history with Palestinian people in the 1970's he sent he sent groups from his military army to kill Palestinian people in Tel Al zaatar which is a refugee camp in Lebanon and the home to some 50,000 people who they had killed and also many women and children with the backing of former Syrian president Hafez Al Assad. For me I hate this system and Al Bath party and I believed that Syria was controlled from the dictator and also the Government made the Palestinian people suffer and because we are Palestinian refugees and they did it to discriminate us and punish us for many things.

I Was born in Syria but I could not receive any Syrian citizenship and second I could not practice any higher education as in studying for a master degree also I can not study many special skilled class courses at the University Collage and I can not vote for any type of political things, and I can not share any of my opinions nor participate in trying to make better changes to the country and the life and living problems that the country faces also with the Syrian people because they think we stole their chances from them getting jobs and there opportunity of studying education and so they look at us like second class people and for that we are pretty much forced to live in closed community's in which they call them (Camps for the Palestinian refugees in Syria) like my camp Khan Danoun camp.

Later when the war started the pressure had increased for the Palestinian people to enter the fight or join any any side of the two main organizations there and to share their opinions and the popular front of the Liberation of Palestine general command(PFLPGC). With his leader Ahmed Jebreel they decided to be beside the Syrian Government and the fighting with the Syrian army another opinion for (HAMAS) they decided to be beside the opposition and for that I did not need to join with any of them but if I stayed in Syria I could not do it because they target me to join them and so this is one of the reasons why they took me out of Syria, and because I am tiered of racism and I want to carry a nationality and I want to feel that I have a country to call my own and that I am also equal to it's citizens of the country, and another reason I was arrested two times was because I am a Palestinian and because I am a Muslim Sunni and because I did not follow any type of political as well.

The first time I was detained on December 17<sup>th</sup> 2012 this after there was bombing the AL-yarmuk camp, this was the day I was arrested one day I was coming back from Damascus hospital, I was late for my training studies in the hospital. They stopped me at the check point, and a officer detained me and he started harassing me because ~~I was working~~ in the medical field, and he said that I was helping terrorist people like (Al Nussra front – ISIS) and helping the opposition people .But I told him that I worked as a medical trainee at the hospital, this a government hospital and they can see me there that I work for 8 hours . They asked me to buy them alcoholic beverages and food before they let me go back home .

Second time on May 2014 they stopped buy the check point by the police . They told me that my name is identical for another person who is wanted, they kept me for hours asking me questions and harassing me, I was lucky they let me go after four hours, because some people get detained for similar reason and sometimes are not let go.

The third time in October 2014 , I was stopped at another check point very close to the camp where I live . I was detained for two days. The reason is that there was an attack at the Khan Danun camp. There was military check points near that camp . They asked all young men to do heavy duty jobs to build sand walls to protect the military army and for the army can be protected behind it, they said “ the army is protecting you and you have to protect the army”. They asked me to carry the sand bags to build this. I did this for tow days and also my brother Khalde Issa had to do it to as ZI did myself on separate days.

Another reason it is very important to serve in the Military Arm Forces in Syria and every person has to be a male not a female and in good shape, in good health, and wise with no diseases and has to be over 18 years of age or over. Before I was supposed to serve and because I was studying at the time but when my permission became close to expiring and because of that I also left Syria before my permission expired. I never submitted my self because it is impossible for me to serve in the Syrian military and because I do not believe in war and in fighting and killing innocent people and if I refused to serve and stay in Syria they will target me and they will consider me as a traitor then they will arrest me and they will subject me to torture and will eventually kill me and this is one of the dangerous things that I fear and am very scared and frighten that I know for sure it will happen to me if I return to Syria.

Another reason about my job I worked in the medical field and I was subject to be arrested at any time because by the regime because the might suspect me for working for the opposition like many Doctors and medical staff workers from my camp some of them are my friends like doctor Aladdin Youssef , a neurological surgeon , disappeared after being arrested a Syria military checkpoint on or around December 2012 .A volunteer with the PRCS-S told Amnesty international the doctor Aladdin Youssef was detained after ha entered into an argument with security officials at the checkpoint who refused to allow him to exit in order to fetch medical .

Another Example my friend Moutaseem Rmaid an nears was also arrested on September of 2014 his fate is unknown also I can not stay in any area in which is controlled by the opposition because the terrorist army group are targeting medical staff workers who are working with them like Isis and Al Nussra Front and also in my area Khan Dunoun camp is in a disaster situation and it is known now as the camp of death. My home there was completely destroyed and the Syrian military with (PLP GC)

I lived in Khan Danun camp, this specialist for Palestinian refugees in Syria, from 1948 the ruins provided shelter for refugees from villages in northern Palestine.

The camp which is 23 Km south Damascus and this camp is the one of the poorest camps in Syria, because of that there is pressure on young people to leave school at an early age to contribute to the family's which means many children and women try to find jobs as house cleaners or workers in clothing in the clothing factory's.

When the war started in Syria the situation in the camp, became worse because many neighboring villages are around the camp and fighting in between the Syrian army and opposition and AL-NASRA FRONT the main problem the location of the camp is between Syrian army checkpoints and villages controlled from opposition and ISIS and when they need to fight they fight through the camps and both of them targeted medical workers and arrested many people from the camp, because the Syrian army and young men are supposed to be joined in HAMAS and for opposition supposed to let and also shelling targeted the camp and many victims and a number of wounded victims like Mohey Addin Awad, Ahmad Abd Allah Mestafa Alsowalmi and child Diab Mousa Mahmoud.

It is noteworthy that the camp received thousands of Palestinian family's displaced from their camps because of the bombings and are blocked from going to their homes, and because of all that, I spent almost my time in Damascus and sleep in the hospital where I worked because the life there is so dangerous for me because I had to much fear from the check points of Syrian army after they arrested me and also I very scared and frightened from opposition and ISIS because they targeted the medical workers try to force them into working for them also these groups called HAMAS and NASRA FRONT in which these two terrorist work together groups they once came to my home asking for me because they new I was working at a emergency hospital and knowing that I am young and healthy and they were telling my father that they are here to take with and that they wanted me to join but my father told them that I was not there and then one of the members NASRA FRONT and HAMAS told my father that if they find while they search the home that they were going to kill my father and me. Also on July 7<sup>th</sup> 2014 my fiancée was killed in a bombing raid in the capital Damascus, Syria we were supposed to get in August of 2014 but unfortunately my dreams of getting married and having a family with my fiancée was destroyed and it really took a toll on me and we also use to work at the hospital together in helping the people and my late fiancée and I would also take extra time in helping young children with special needs.

Now on May of 2015 I left Syria and took a flight to country of **Brazil** with a tourist visa then from there I traveled through these other countries **Peru** there I met a human smuggler who helped me reach to the border of **Ecuador** and then in **Colombia** there I met up with another human smuggler who also helped me to travel through a very dangerous jungle with dangerous poison snakes and wild jaguar cats, also dangerous monkey's and rebel soldiers that roam the jungles and that will do harm to foreign intruders like myself after that I traveled through **Panama** in which also I had to travel the ocean and through another dangerous jungle also with dangerous poison snakes, dangerous monkey's and big jaguar cats and it's dangerous rivers after that I continued going through **Costa Rica** there again at the border between **Panama** and **Costa Rica** I met up with another human smuggler who then helped travel through **Nicaragua**, and then By myself I traveled through these countries **Honduras**, **Guatemala**, **Mexico** then at last I got to the Mexican U.S. border and enter through the port of entry of San Ysidro, California U.S.A. But during my travel with my friend we spent 7 days in **Colombia**, **Panama** and for 4 days we did not eat and I did not know the way through this most dangerous .5. jungle where my friend and I could have lost our lives and because of the guide smuggler was kidding

with us about taking us all the way he just ended up disappearing I felt very lost and scared all I wanted was to reach the United States of America.

I was very much looking for a safe life more over true democracy that is practiced in the U.S.A. right social amenities and good health, and when I grow up I dream to carry a nationality and having the feeling that this country I could call my own in also which can protect me with it's laws human rights laws in which I never had and I will love to also help protect this great and most beautiful nation of the United States of America and also I would most love to continue my education in the medical in also helping people in need of medical and also helping children with special needs especially kids with cancer. I had chosen this country of the United States of America and pray that it can help and protect me from the dangers that I most fear and in which I am very frighten of from the country I come from Syria. And my dream is to become a United States Citizen with pride.

### **SUMMARY OF FACTS**

- (1) I am a Palestinian refugee in Syria and I am (Stateless) because of that I suffered discrimination from the Government and it's regime and from the Syrian people themselves.
- (2) Because I am a Palestinian refugee and also a Muslim Sunni and not joined in any group that I was physically harmed twice by the Syrian military and Al Alween and the Government agents in which they beat me badly and mistreated me very awful abusing and forcing to work without my consent.
- (3) I refused to serve in the military and because of that I fled Syria before my education permission was expired and I refused to serve the military and if I would had stayed I would have been arrested or killed by them.
- (4) I do fear very the Syrian military and the Government's regime that I face lots of danger and I fear and I am very frighten for my life of being in Syria and also because I work in the medical field in which they target any type of medical field worker.
- (5) My home was completely destroyed and my living area is still for now in a siege and there are many humanitarian crisis and crime against human beings there and that is still happening all over the country as well by these barbaric people that is ISIS and the Syrian Army plus other fighting groups.
- (6) My late fiance Lames Arida was killed by the bombings in the capital Damascus, Syria.
- (7) My cousin Mohammed Issa was hurt by the bombings in the city of AL-Yarmok camp in Domascus, Syria and he eventually died because of lack of medicine.

Therefor I ask you your honorable judge to please help from the dangerous deaths and violence that I face in the country of Syria I come seeking Refugee and protection from persecution and torture if I return to Syria. Please your honor I also ask you to please give me the opportunity to be embraced by this great and most beautiful nation in the world the United States of America in giving a chance to live a safer and better life and to have the opportunity to continue my medical field education and make something better for myself in life and to get a job and work hard and also contributing my share of paying taxes to this country of the U.S.A.

And so enclosing this letter to you your honorable judge I want to thank you for taking the time in reading my letter and may God bless you and your loved ones "GOD BLESS AMERICA

Sincerely  
Mahmoud Issa

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