

Ottawa
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Article 61 on South Sudan

Can Canada take South Sudan Refugees in a quota just 25% of Syria's?

Our Articles 1 to 60 were situation analyses of the conflict in South Sudan. Our articles 4 (A), 4 (B) and 4 (C) were the first of our series on "Who is Who". This article 61 deals with the issue of encouraging Canada to take some of the refugees stranded in Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia.

Introduction

We will not talk much. Just read the article below. See how political pressure can yield results. When I first introduced the idea on February 26th that Canada takes 2000 South Sudanese refugees who have relatives in Canada, a man from the floor at the University of Ottawa told me it was impossible. In those days Canada had less than 500 Syrian Refugees accepted. Today the number is over 10,000. 3000 additional Iraqis. NOT ONE FROM SOUTH SUDAN.

If the South Sudan communities in Canada stop bickering and alienation and put their hands together and pressure Harper as ONE BLOCK of 15,000 Canadians of South Sudan origin, and for ONLY ONE ISSUE you may be able to get most of your vulnerable loved ones from the slums of Uganda: Adjumani, Kiryandongo, Kampala (140,000 in Uganda alone), and Ethiopia: Pugnido, Tierkidi, Leitchuor... (195,000 in Ethiopia alone) and Kenya: Kakuma alone has 45,000. All Kenya has 90,000.

Look at how supportive the private groups of the Fertile Crescent in Canada have been: 6000 refugees are sponsored by "Private Groups". They embarrassed the Government to sponsor additional 4000.

If you, South Sudanese, want to start, write to immigration ONE VOICE IS A LOT that you are willing to sponsor ONE PERSON and the ball will roll. Talk to your MP. Go to the local paper. Shout in the streets. Communities can sponsor larger numbers.

This knows no Nuer or Dinka. It knows no government or opposition.

700 people are reading this message. Maybe the leaders of both Government and Opposition can move their people to listen unless they want their citizens to rot in damp camps.

Subsahara Centre Canada

Canada to resettle 10,000 more Syrian refugees over 3 years

Canada also pledges \$90M in humanitarian aid and to resettle 3,000 Iraqi refugees

By Susana Mas, [CBC News](#) Posted: Jan 07, 2015 12:21 PM ET Last Updated: Jan 07, 2015 6:42 PM ET

The UN Refugee Agency says that as of June 2014 it has helped more than 3 million refugees who have fled Syria amid escalating violence. (Mohammed Zaatari/Associated Press)

Immigration Minister Chris Alexander says Canada will resettle 10,000 more Syrian refugees over the next three years in direct response to the United Nations Refugee Agency's global appeal to resettle 100,000 refugees worldwide.

"We are here today as we have been saying for some time to confirm that Canada is doing more," Alexander said during an announcement in Toronto on Wednesday.

Of the 10,000 Syrian refugees, Alexander said that approximately 60 per cent would be sponsored by private groups and 40 per cent would be sponsored by the government.

Canada's pledge comes as a report released Wednesday from the United Nations high commissioner for refugees says the number of Syrian refugees has outnumbered Afghans as the largest refugee population under the protection of the United Nations.

"At more than three million as of June 2014, Syrian refugees now account for 23 per cent of all refugees being helped by UNHCR worldwide," the report said.

The UN Refugee Agency welcomed Canada's "generous commitment" saying, in a written statement, "this substantial pledge is in keeping with Canada's strong humanitarian tradition to offer resettlement to refugees worldwide."

Today's announcement also comes on the heels of intense criticism by immigration groups who said the government was not doing enough after the country fell behind on its previous commitment to take in 1,300 Syrian refugees by the end of 2014.

"As of today 1,285 refugees have been approved to come to Canada. Almost 1,100 of those are in Canada," Alexander said in Toronto.

That number includes 360 refugees sponsored by the government — 160 above its initial commitment of 200.

"We expect the remaining refugees to arrive in Canada by March 2015."

[As CBC News reported on Jan. 1](#), the federal government said 1,063 Syrian refugees had arrived in Canada as of Dec. 29, 2013.

Prioritizing refugees

The government has also come under fire for saying that [it will "prioritize" refugees](#) by ethnic and religious minorities.

Today, a spokesman for Alexander told CBC News the government makes "no apologies" for that.

"Canada is focusing on vulnerable individuals and those facing persecution. We make no apologies for putting focus on people in need, some of whom are being persecuted based on their religious beliefs.

"Our priority is and will continue to be on those who are at risk because they are a religious minority, a sexual minority, or victims of rape," Kevin Ménard told CBC News in an email.

NDP foreign affairs critic Paul Dewar said he welcomed today's announcement but was skeptical of how the government would resettle 10 times more refugees given the lag in their previous commitment.

"I'm glad to see that minister Alexander has changed his position and realized that Canada has a role to play with regards to Syrian refugees. But this is only an announcement and we need to see an actual action plan on how they're going to settle 10,000 refugees," Dewar said in a written statement on Wednesday.

Liberal immigration critic John McCallum expressed similar skepticism saying the government should be sponsoring the majority of the 10,000 refugees instead of leaving it to private groups.

"I am very skeptical. We could be waiting forever before 10,000 Syrian refugees arrive in Canada," McCallum said in a telephone interview from Toronto.

McCallum, who has called on the ambassador of religious freedoms to intervene on behalf of Syrian refugees, added he still has concerns about the government's prioritizing of refugees.

3,000 more Iraqi refugees

Alexander also announced that Canada would help resettle another 3,000 Iraqi refugees by the end of 2015, in addition to the 20,000 Iraqi refugees already resettled in Canada.

Canada's resettlement pledges came with an additional \$90 million in humanitarian assistance for the region.

Of that, \$50 million will help people affected inside Syria and in neighbouring countries, including Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. The other \$40 million will assist those affected by the ongoing crisis in Iraq, the government said.

As part of the humanitarian assistance, World Vision Canada received \$2.3 million for its humanitarian work in northern Iraq.

Dave Toycen, the president and CEO of World Vision Canada, said in a statement that while the conflict in Iraq no longer dominates the headlines as it once did, over 400,000 have fled their homes.

"World Vision is grateful for the support announced today by the Government of Canada for our work with displaced Iraqis who have fled conflict within their own borders.

"With winter storms battering the Middle East ... World Vision will use these funds to provide warm clothing, money and other supplies to children and families in need," Toycen said.