

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

EBLAL ZAKZOK, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

DONALD TRUMP, in his official
capacity as President of the United
States, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Civil Action No.: 1:17-cv-02969-GLR

DECLARATION OF SUMAYA HAMADMAD

I, Sumaya Hamadmad, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, hereby submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 and declare as follows:

1. I am a United States citizen, and a practicing Muslim of Syrian descent. I live in Ohio with my husband and three children.
2. Although I was born in Syria, I left Syria when I was three years old and moved to the United Arab Emirates, and then subsequently to Jordan. I came to the United States in 2001 to pursue my Ph.D. in Pharmacology, which I obtained in 2006. I completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Yale University and am currently a researcher in pharmacology at the Ohio State University.
3. I have a younger sister, Dima, who lives in Amman, Jordan. My sister was born in Jordan and has lived in Jordan all her life, but is not a Jordanian citizen.

Syrian citizenship is inherited through the nationality of your parents, and there is no path to citizenship for Syrian immigrants in Jordan.

4. My sister recently graduated from the Jordan University of Science and Technology. She works at a non-governmental organization in Jordan, performing research for a collaborative project that involves the epigenetics of transgenerational trauma of Syrian refugees. She has been the team leader for data collection on this project in Jordan since 2016. Specifically, she is in charge of identifying, recruiting, and collecting DNA samples and interview data from all of the families in the study.

5. Dima has received invitations to perform crucial genetic research at Yale University and the University of Florida. She would be advising on the specifics regarding the collection of DNA swab samples and analyses. She applied for a B1/B2 visa on October 3, 2017, which would permit her to come to the United States for a mixed business and tourist purpose, so that she can perform this research and visit my family during her trip.

6. My sister was interviewed on October 9 at the U.S. Embassy in Jordan and was approved for her B1/B2 visa and was told the visa should be issued in approximately five days.

7. It is my understanding that the Presidential Proclamation announced by President Trump on September 24, 2017, which bars all Syrian citizens from entering the United States on either immigrant or non-immigrant visas after October 18, 2017, will prevent my sister from receiving any further visas to visit or conduct business in the United States indefinitely.

8. My sister was born in Jordan, and she has spent her whole life in Jordan. But it is my understanding that my sister will not be treated like a Jordanian when the Proclamation goes into effect. She will be treated like someone who lives in Syria, even though she has never been to Syria. I do not understand why the United States would prohibit someone like my sister, who has never been to Syria and who is needed to perform important research in the United States, from traveling to the United States.

9. The Proclamation will also prevent my father-in-law, a Syrian national, living in Syria, from being able to visit or immigrate to the United States.

10. My husband has filed a Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative, on my father-in-law's behalf. The petition is currently pending.

11. My father-in-law has been diagnosed with skin cancer and prostate cancer. It is difficult to get access to quality medical care for this kind of condition in Syria. We would like for him to be able to receive treatment for these conditions in the United States.

12. It is stressful to be unable to help my father-in-law. He is 81 years old, and it is hard to live in Syria. My children are his only grandchildren and it is painful for all of us that he lives so far away and may be separated from us indefinitely.

13. It is important to me that my children spend time and connect with the older generations of my family. I have seen how much impact an in-person visit with family can have on my children. My children met their cousins for the first time a year ago, and they still talk about how special it was to meet someone who loves them in person.

14. I want my children to be able to hug their aunt and grandfather, speak Arabic with them, and develop the kind of close relationship with them that can only come from spending physical time together. My sister has not been to the United States since 2005 and has not been able to meet one of my children—her nephew—in person. My mother died four years ago and so I know there are only so many opportunities for my children to meet their family.

15. If the Proclamation goes into effect, I may never be able to provide for my children this important experience of connecting with their relatives. It will inhibit my ability to instill in my children that they are Syrian-American and have a proud heritage.

16. I feel that this Proclamation hurts the United States. Most of my friends who are immigrants are scientists, engineers, doctors, and graduate students. They are people who help contribute and make this country great. I would not have been able to get my Ph.D. if this Proclamation was in place when I arrived. It makes me nervous for the country's future.

17. I believe the Proclamation damages the welcoming atmosphere that the United States had when I immigrated here.

18. I fear for myself and my family that the United States no longer embraces people of different backgrounds and abilities, and I feel that this Proclamation is basically an attack on my Islamic faith and all Muslims.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed at Columbus, Ohio on October 9, 2017.

Sumaya Hamad

SUMAYA HAMADMAD