



Jewish Family Services
of silicon valley

Stories of Refugees Impacted by President Trump's January 2017 Executive Order

Jewish Family Services is the second largest refugee resettlement agency in Santa Clara County, resettling 130-150 refugees per year.

We currently have about 100 people we are working with who are waiting to leave Iran. We have an additional 52 refugees who are "assured cases" waiting for flights. Due to the Executive Order, their many year wait is now extended indefinitely. Some wait in waystations in Vienna, Turkey, Jordan and Egypt. Those who currently have been uprooted from their homes are as follows:

- 2 Christian Eritreans waiting in Egypt
- 19 Iranians of religious minorities (Zoroastrian, Mandai, Christian) waiting in Vienna
- 4 Muslim and 5 Christian Iraqis waiting in Iraq
- 2 Muslim Iraqis waiting in Jordan
- 6 Jews waiting in Russia
- 1 Christian Iranian and 6 Muslim Syrians waiting in Turkey
- 7 people of religious minorities (7th Day Adventist, Russian Orthodox) waiting in Ukraine

Some stories of Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley refugee clients in transit:

A young Seventh Day Adventist Ukrainian family have waited 2 years to join their mother and sister in San Jose. The couple quit their jobs in Ukraine and were scheduled to arrive on February 6th. Their flight to the United States was cancelled due to the Executive Order. They are stuck in Ukraine with no source of income.

Bella is a 76-year-old Jewish grandmother coming from Moscow to join her only son in San Jose. She has waited 3 years to come here and was scheduled to arrive February 14th.

On January 30th, we were notified that their flights were cancelled due to the Executive Order.

SIV Couple Separated:

Note: An SIV (Special Immigrant Visa) is awarded to (typically Muslim) residents of Afghanistan and Iraq who provided translation to American soldiers during the wars. This program began in 2008 to assist translators to come to the United States in an accelerated fashion – i.e. without the need to wait for years to emigrate.

Niran, a Muslim university professor living in Baghdad was scheduled to join her husband, Omar, in San Jose on February 6th. Omar, came to San Jose over four years ago on a Special Immigrant Visa. Originally, Niran was scheduled to come to the United States in November, but she didn't want to leave her students mid-semester. Now she is stuck in Baghdad – without her university job.

A young Assyrian family was scheduled to leave Iran to fly to Vienna on February 13th. (Vienna is a waystation for many refugees). They sold their house and quit their jobs. They purchased very expensive, nonrefundable tickets for their family to fly to Austria. They heard from the Austrian Embassy on January 31st that their flight and visas were cancelled. They can stay at their mother-in-law's small home for a few weeks – but that is it. They lost everything and they are scared.

Anna, a 70 year old Assyria woman from Tehran, is in a Vienna waystation waiting to come to join her sons in San Jose. She is sick – and she is alone. Her family is worried about her.

Find out how you can help!

**Our professional staff and pro-bono immigration attorneys
are working around the clock to help our clients.**

Please share our story and support our work. <http://www.jfssv.org/donate.html>

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www.jfssv.org <https://www.facebook.com/jewishfamilyservicesv/>

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