

SIRY  
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LIBANON (32)

4. 1999 12:45PM P 1 20/99  
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KONGELIG DANSK AMBASSADE  
Damaskus

230 ORIGINAL  
Kopi givet S.5 og S.3

Udenrigsministeriet, StF.4

Kopi: S.5 & S.3 (til orientering)

c.c.: Rigspolitiets afdl. E (direkte)

Faxnr.:

|              |      |
|--------------|------|
| SH.4 -       | Bil. |
| 14 JAN. 1999 |      |
| 36. Dan.     | 1    |

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| Fra                               |       | Dato             |            |
| [redacted]                        |       | 14. januar 1999  |            |
| Antal sider i alt                 | Bilag | Journalnummer    | Fax-nummer |
| 3                                 |       | 17.dan.6.gen.lib | 7          |
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### Libanon ændrer reglerne for palæstinenserens indrejse i landet.

Surété Générale, der som bekendt er immigrationsmyndigheden i Libanon, meddelte ifølge vedlagte artikel fra Al Hayat den 12. ds., at man på grundlag af en fælles beslutning taget af præsident Lahoud og premierminister Salim Hoss nu vil behandle libanesiske rejsedokumenter for palæstinensiske flygtninge på linie med libanesiske pas. Som bekendt indførte man i 1995, efter at Libyen udviste tusinder af palæstinensere i protest mod Oslo-fredsftalen mellem palæstinenserene og Israel, et krav om, at palæstinensere med fast bopæl i Libanon skulle indhente udrejse- og genindrejsetilladelse i forbindelse med udrejse fra Libanon for at kunne vende tilbage. Dette resulterede i en række problemer i forbindelse med udsendelse fra bl.a. Danmark af palæstinensere til Libanon. Ifølge Surété Générale skal palæstinensere for fremtiden kunne ud- og indrejse på deres libanesiske rejsedokumenter uden at være nødsaget til at indhente udrejse- og genindrejsetilladelse.

Ambassaden har ved telefonisk henvendelse til Surété Générale fået bekræftet oplysningernes rigtighed. Man har dog samtidig fået oplyst, at reglerne ikke er trådt i kraft endnu, idet man p.t. er ved at forberede de administrative ændringer, som beslutningen afstedkommer. Man kunne ikke oplyse, hvornår man forventede, at ikrafttrædelse ville finde sted.

Beslutningen kommer i kølvandet på et besøg i Beirut den 8.-9. ds. af PLOs politbureauchef Farouq Kaddoumi, som drøftede spørgsmålet om

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palæstinenserne's besværlige situation i Libanon med bl.a. premierminister Hoss. Hvorvidt beslutningen signalerer en generelt mindre striks behandling af palæstinenserne er tvivlsomt, men den er dog et positivt element, som vil gøre livet lettere for de omkring 360.000 palæstinensiske flygtninge, som i praksis har været stavnsbundne til Libanon af frygt for at miste retten til at rejse tilbage.

Ambassaden vil indberette, når oplysninger om reglernes ikrafttrædelse foreligger.

Med venlig hilsen



**FAXED**

*Al Hayat, 13/1/1999*

**Beirut: Palestinian Travel Documents are Now  
Equal to Lebanese Passports**

Beirut - Al Hayat:

The General Directorate of the Lebanese General Security announced that it has decided, following a deliberation between the President and the Prime Minister, "to regard Lebanese travel documents which are issued to Palestinians residing in Lebanon as Lebanese passports, and consequently to treat their holders in the same way as Lebanese passport holders".

More than two years ago, the Lebanese government made a decision whereby it instructed the Ministry of the Interior to impose an exit and entrance fee on Palestinians who hold Lebanese travel documents on the basis of their refugee status (registered with the UNRWA) whenever they want to travel between Beirut and the countries where they work. The said decision was taken following the announcement by Libya two years ago of the expulsion of the Palestinian who were working there, during which waves of Palestinians began returning to Beirut. The objective of the decision was then to make it difficult for the Palestinians to enter to Lebanon if they leave and decide later to rejoin or visit their families. The concerned security bodies were strict about issuing visas to the said people then.

Yesterday's decision, however, gives up on the matter of issuing visas. Now, Palestinians who hold personal Lebanese documents may leave and enter Lebanon without any visas. It is worth mentioning that the Head of the Political Department in the PLO, Farouk Al-Kaddoumi, discussed this matter during his visit to Beirut last week with the aim of facilitating the affairs of the Palestinians residing in Lebanon.

Political sources maintain that facilitating the affairs of the Palestinians eases the tension inside the camps and helps in solving part of their social problems. The Palestinian Human Rights Organisation welcomed the cancellation of the (old) decision, maintaining that the (new decision) "serves the mutual Lebanese-Palestinian interest, and is an accidence to the rightful demands of the Palestinian people in Lebanon".

The Organisation appealed to President Lahoud and Prime Minister Al-Huss to "complete the steps of doing justice to the Palestinians who see a good omen in this new term". The organisation expressed hope that "the Palestinians residing in Lebanon are treated in the same way as Syria as does in terms of equality with the Syrian citizens in human rights and duties".

