



29 January 2025

Mohammed Khan

[fyi-request-29511-e03814a8@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-29511-e03814a8@requests.fyi.org.nz)

DOIA-REQ-0007470

Tēnā koe Mohammed,

Thank you for your request on 10 December 2024 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following:

*Since the defeat of the Syrian government by 'israel' and its American and takfiri terrorist proxies, there have been a number of news articles where supporters of the Abu Sakkak Brigades and Hayat Tahrir al-Sham have celebrated the victory of 'Israel' over Syria.*

*['Finally, we've made it': Syrians in NZ celebrate dictator's downfall | The Post](#)*

*As the groups these persons support are now in control of Syria, it does not seem necessary to continue to grant them refugee status (although supporters of a free and independent Syria are now obviously in grave danger in that nation).*

*1) Is Immigration NZ taking any action to halt applications or renewals of asylum status for persons who claimed asylum on the basis of their persecution for supporting 'israeli' sponsored 'opposition' groups like ISIS, هيئة تحرير الشام, قوات سوريا الديمقراطية, and other anti-Syrian groups?*

*2) If no action has yet been taken, please provide communications to date within Immigration NZ and with external parties in regards the handling of asylum claims for opponents of the now-deposed government of the Syrian Arab Republic, and how asylum claims for Christians and other religious minorities who will now be persecuted; raped, tortured, murdered and cannibalized by the new regime the 'Syrian opposition' supports will now be handled.*

*To minimize the search required, in regards #2 I am restricting my query to only cover the period since the escalation of terrorist attacks against Syria on November 27 of this year.*

## **Our Response**

All asylum claims are considered on a case-by-case basis and determined on their own individual facts and merits in accordance with New Zealand law. Immigration New Zealand (INZ) is continuing to process all refugee and protection claims from Syrian nationals. As part of our usual procedure for determining asylum claims, INZ continues to consider the latest country information about Syria and any character issues that may engage the exclusion provisions of Article 1F of the [Refugee Convention](#).

For more information about the processing of refugee and protection claims in New Zealand, please see the INZ website:

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/preparing-a-visa-application/living-in-new-zealand-permanently/information-for-refugees-and-asylum-seekers/asylum-seekers>



Regarding part two of your request, please refer to the attached appendix for the requested information. Some information has been either marked out of scope or withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons, and under section 9(2)(g)(ii) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of employees from improper pressure or harassment.

I do not consider that the withholding of this information is outweighed by public interest considerations in making the information available.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact [inzoias@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:inzoias@mbie.govt.nz)

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fiona Whiteridge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fiona Whiteridge  
General Manager Refugee and Migrant Services  
Immigration New Zealand  
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment