Syria. In early 2014, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) emerged as one of the most significant radical Islamist fighting forces. The al-Nusra Front (also known as Jabhat Fateh al-Sham and/or Jabhat al Nusra) represents the interests of al-Qaeda in Syria. These jihadist groups have engaged in indiscriminate attacks including bombings and suicide attacks throughout Syria. Most recently on March 17, 2016, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry declared that ISIL had committed acts of genocide against groups of people living in areas of Syria under ISIL control, including Yezidis, Christians, and Shia Muslims.

Furthermore, various aspects of the conflict including economic sanctions imposed by the international community have negatively affected the entire Syrian economy. A report published by the Syrian Center for Policy Research, referenced by a publication from the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut, indicated that by the end of 2014, 82% of Syrian people lived in poverty, and the country had an unemployment rate of 58%. The report also estimated that 877,000 people in Syria became poor in part due to economic sanctions. As of December 2014, the World Bank determined that the conflict in Syria significantly damaged public and private assets, with Syria’s GDP having declined an average of 15.4%. The World Bank also assessed that inflation increased by almost 90% in 2013 and further increased an average of 29% in 2014. Given the conditions in Syria, affected students whose primary means of financial support come from Syria may need to be exempt from the normal student employment requirements to be able to continue their studies in the United States and meet basic living expenses.

The United States is committed to continuing to assist the people of Syria. DHS is therefore extending this employment authorization for F–1 nonimmigrant students whose country of citizenship is Syria and who are continuing to experience severe economic hardship as a result of the civil unrest since March 2011, including those who became lawfully present in F–1 nonimmigrant status between April 3, 2012, and September 9, 2016.

How do I apply for an employment authorization under the circumstances of this notice?

F–1 nonimmigrant students whose country of citizenship is Syria who were lawfully present in the United States on or after April 3, 2012, through September 9, 2016, and are experiencing severe economic hardship because of the civil unrest, may apply for employment authorization under the guidelines described in 77 FR 20038. This notice extends the time period during which such F–1 students may seek employment authorization due to the civil unrest. It does not impose any new or additional policies or procedures beyond those listed in the original notice. All interested F–1 students should follow the instructions listed in the original notice.

Jeh Charles Johnson,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2016–21525 Filed 9–8–16; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 9111–28–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

[OMB Control Number 1615–0102]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Request, Form G–639; Revision of a Currently Approved Collection


ACTION: 60-Day notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration (USCIS) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment upon this proposed revision of a currently approved collection. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the information collection notice is published in the Federal Register to obtain comments regarding the nature of the information collection, the categories of respondents, the estimated burden (i.e., the time, effort, and resources used by the respondents to respond), the estimated cost to the respondent, and the actual information collection instruments.

DATES: Comments are encouraged and will be accepted for 60 days until November 8, 2016.

ADDRESSES: All submissions received must include the OMB Control Number 1615–0102 in the subject box, the agency name and Docket ID USCIS–2008–0028. To avoid duplicate submissions, please use only one of the following methods to submit comments:


(2) Email. Submit comments to USCISFRComment@uscis.dhs.gov;

(3) Mail. Submit written comments to DHS, USCIS, Office of Policy and Strategy, Chief, Regulatory Coordination Division, 20 Massachusetts Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20529–2140.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: USCIS, Office of Policy and Strategy, Regulatory Coordination Division, Samantha L. Deshommes, Chief, 20 Massachusetts Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20529–2140, telephone number 202–272–8377 (This is not a toll-free number. Comments are not accepted via telephone message). Please note contact information provided here is solely for questions regarding this notice. It is not for individual case status inquiries. Applicants seeking information about the status of their individual cases can check Case Status Online, available at the USCIS Web site at http://www.uscis.gov, or call the USCIS National Customer Service Center at 800–375–5283 (TTY 800–767–1833).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments

You may access the information collection instrument with instructions, or additional information by visiting the Federal eRulemaking Portal site at: http://www.regulations.gov and enter USCIS–2008–0028 in the search box. Regardless of the method used for submitting comments or material, all submissions will be posted, without change, to the Federal eRulemaking Portal at http://www.regulations.gov, and will include any personal information you provide. Therefore, submitting this information makes it public. You may wish to consider limiting the amount of personal information that you provide in any voluntary submission you make to DHS. DHS may withhold information provided in comments from public viewing that it determines may impact the privacy of an individual or is offensive. For additional information, please read the Privacy Act notice that is available via the link in the footer of http://www.regulations.gov.

Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies should address one or more of the following four points:

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the
proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Overview of This Information Collection

(1) Type of Information Collection: Revision of a Currently Approved Collection.

(2) Title of the Form/Collection: Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Request.

(3) Agency form number, if any, and the applicable component of the DHS sponsoring the collection: G–639; USCIS.

(4) Affected public who will be asked or required to respond, as well as a brief abstract: Primary: Individuals or households. Form G–639 is provided as a convenient means for persons to provide data necessary for identification of a particular record desired under Freedom of Information/Privacy Act (FOIA/PA).

(5) An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond: The estimated total number of respondents for the information collection G–639 is 163,000 and the estimated hour burden per response is .25 hours.

(6) An estimate of the total public burden (in hours) associated with the collection: The total estimated annual burden associated with this collection is 40,750 hours.

(7) An estimate of the total public burden (in cost) associated with the collection: The estimated total annual cost burden associated with this collection of information is $615,250.

Dated: September 2, 2016.

Samantha L. Deshommes,

[FR Doc. 2016–21664 Filed 9–8–16; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 9111–97–P