

Mr Selami Altınok, Minister of Interior
İçişleri Bakanlığı
Bakanlıklar
Ankara, Turkey

Dear Minister,

On October 5, 106 Syrian refugees were released from a camp in Düziçi, in the southern province of Osmaniye. The group included 85 individuals who had been held in the camp since 17 September, after they were rescued from a sinking boat on 15 September. The Syrian refugees have been told they have 16 days to leave Turkey.

I urge you to grant those Syrian refugees temporary protection status in line with Turkey's Law on Foreigners and International Protection.

At the same time, I call on you to ensure that they are not forcibly returned to Syria.

I also urge you to ensure that refugees are not arbitrarily detained in camps and that any measure that restricts the right to liberty of refugees and asylum-seekers must be exceptional and based on a case-by-case assessment.

Thank you for your prompt attention to the above.

Sincerely yours,