

New Foreign Registration Will Not Be Allowed in 8 Districts of Istanbul

Minister Süleyman Soylu made a statement to members of the press following the Istanbul Immigration Assessment Meeting held at the Istanbul Provincial Directorate of Immigration Management. He stated that Esenyurt and Fatih are closed to all foreign residents. Minister Süleyman Soylu noted the following:

Küçükçekmece, Başakşehir, Bağcılar, Avcılar, Bahçelievler, Sultangazi, Esenler, and Zeytinburnu were already closed to temporary protection in Istanbul and all residence permits were closed. This means that **no new foreigners will be registered in these districts anymore** . What are the exceptions? If they are a student, their university is in that district, they can be accepted there, or if they have purchased a house as an investor, this can be the case. Beyond that, there's also the issue of illness. In other words, it's a health issue for family unity. Furthermore, Küçükçekmece, Başakşehir, Bağcılar, Avcılar, Bahçelievler, Sultangazi, Esenler, and Zeytinburnu are closed to foreigners' residence. Two districts previously existed here: Esenyurt and Fatih. Therefore, 10 districts, including Esenyurt and Fatih, are now closed to foreigners' residence and residence.

Minister Süleyman Soylu stated that attempts are being made to create processes that lead to misinformation, speculation, and xenophobia regarding migration figures, and shared the following information:

"The total number of our Syrian brothers and sisters in Türkiye, that is, those who came to Türkiye due to the internal turmoil in Syria and are under temporary protection, which we describe as 'under temporary protection,' is 3,646,278. Let me be clear: it is not 10 million, not 15 million, not 20 million, not 25 million. The Republic of Turkey is a serious state. It is a state that can produce its documents and written documents. The total number of those staying in Türkiye regularly with residence permits, including student residence, work residence, family residence, those working on missions, those working for foreign companies, foreigners working in Türkiye, and those working in agriculture, is 1,363,983. There are also refugees under international protection with various statuses, and that is a total of 321,052."

Istanbul is Closed to Re-Registration of Syrians Under Temporary Protection Status

Minister Soylu reported that there are 551,829 Syrians under temporary protection in Istanbul, 715,651 foreigners with residence permits, and 3,799 asylum seekers. Recalling that provincial and neighborhood restrictions have been implemented in Istanbul and Türkiye in their assessments of migration, Minister Soylu stated the following:

Istanbul has long been closed to the re-registration of Syrians under temporary protection status. Some neighborhoods and districts in Istanbul are closed not only to Syrians, meaning those under temporary protection status, but to all foreigners. There is an exception. What is the exception? If a student is studying in that district, is a university student, or has a work permit, they can stay there. If they are an investor, if they have purchased a house, they can stay there. There are a few exceptions. I'm talking about family unity, nuclear families, and everything else is closed.

Minister Süleyman Soylu stated that the immigration restrictions implemented in Türkiye and Istanbul have yielded results, saying, "While the total number of foreigners in Istanbul in April was 1,309,394, this number has dropped to 1,271,279 despite the forced arrival of Russians and Ukrainians in recent months. For example, there are districts with a decline. For example, Fatih, which had 49,000 residence permits on January 15, 2021, has reduced its number to 24,611. In other words, we can see that the restrictions are beneficial to its own interests."

Minister Soylu stated that this trend has been slowed down by the measures they have taken, and that the most important measure is that, starting in February, they are not granting residence permits to anyone entering Türkiye with a tourist permit or visa. The Minister explained that they are verifying the location and type of residence of these individuals through screening in Istanbul, and noted that they are continuing this practice.

İSTANBUL İL GÖÇ MÜDÜRLÜĞÜ'NDE, GÖÇ DEĞERLENDİRME TOPLANTISI

İstanbul'da 8 ilçe;

Küçükçekmece, Başakşehir, Bağcılar, Avcılar, Bahçelievler, Sultangazi, Esenler ve Zeytinburnu yeni yabancı ikametine kapatıldı. Daha önce kapatılan Esenyurt ve Fatih ile birlikte **yeni yabancı ikametine kapatılan** ilçe sayısı 10'a yükseldi.

İstanbul'da *geçici koruma statüsü kapsamındaki* Suriyeli sayısı;

551.829,

Çalışma izni, öğrenci izni, kısa süreli turizm gibi ikametli sayısı **715.651,**

Uluslararası koruma kapsamında olan çeşitli statülerde **mülteci sayısı 3.799.**

Böylelikle İstanbul'daki toplam yabancı sayısı **1.271.279**'dur.

2022'nin Nisan ayında İstanbul'daki toplam yabancı sayısı **1.309.394 iken bu sayı 1.271.279'a düştü.**

İstanbul'da bu yıl, **143.457** yabancıya yasal işlem yapıldı.

Bunların içerisindeki **83.605** kaçak göçmenin **68.210'u** sınır dışı edildi.

Sınır dışı edilmek üzere **9.105** kaçak göçmenin geri gönderme merkezlerinde işlemleri devam ediyor.



TÜRKİYE CUMHURİYETİ
İÇİŞLERİ BAKANLIĞI

We sent 80 of the 100 illegal immigrants we caught in Istanbul back to their countries.

Our Minister, Mr. Süleyman Soylu, also pointed out that since the beginning of the year, 143,450 foreigners who were not supposed to reside in the city or who entered Türkiye illegally have been apprehended in Istanbul, and continued as follows:

"Some of them were supposed to reside in other provinces, so we sent them there. Some of them entered Türkiye illegally. We apprehended a total of 83,605 illegal immigrants and foreigners who entered Türkiye illegally. We have deported 68,210 of them so far. This process is still ongoing. We sent them back to their home countries. This is almost over 80 percent. For every 100 illegal immigrants we apprehended in Istanbul, we sent 80 back to their home countries. In addition, we are increasing our removal center capacity in Istanbul to 700 by the end of the year, and with an additional 1,000 in 6 months, we have a capacity of 1,700 and 1,500, for a total of 3,200. He stated that the removal center capacity is considered 18,000 according to European standards, while Türkiye has a removal center capacity of 20,000-22,000.

Minister Süleyman Soylu stated that they continue their orientation training throughout Türkiye, and that the total number of trainings they have conducted this year alone has exceeded 1 million.

Minister Soylu stated that they have reached 1 million of Istanbul's 1.271 million residents through integration training. He explained that they periodically meet with opinion and religious leaders and civil society representatives of foreigners residing in Istanbul and that they are cooperating with them on the voluntary, honorable, and safe return they are implementing under the instructions of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. He also noted that they are continuing to make the necessary preparations, including the construction of briquette houses, particularly in the Jarabulus, Azaz, Mare, Ras al-Ayn, and Tel Abyad regions.

The Increase in the Number of People Registered in Residence Inquiries is Due to Lack of Declaration

Following his speech, Minister Süleyman Soylu responded to a journalist's question, "Lately, we've been receiving various complaints from citizens. When they search through e-Government, they see foreigners registered in their residences. Could the foreigners in this residence have anything to do with the closure of other regions? Because they've also listed those addresses, which they have no connection to, as third addresses in the systems." He stated that Türkiye is a transparent state. Minister Soylu stated that steps are being taken through e-Government applications that could serve as an example to the whole world, and continued:

"It's clear that we've implemented this integration, working with the police, gendarmerie, and all security forces, including the Population and Citizenship Administration and the Immigration Administration. For two years, people have been able to see who lives at home through the e-Government application. Could they see it before? They couldn't. With immigration, there's a population. This is the local population. There's a population, this is the foreign population. We've ensured the integration of the local and foreign populations in this context, that is, we've ensured their interaction. Here, sometimes declarations, sometimes failure to do their work on time, have been identified by our colleagues. Because one of the most

fundamental principles in our population and citizenship affairs is the principle of declaration. Right now, you can go to e-Government and say, 'I'm going from this address to that address.'" Do you have the right to say that? You do. It accepts citizens' statements. While this integration is being provided here, there are cases where 1,200 people lack a statement—that is, they were living there, moved to another place, but didn't register there—which are constantly being checked. At the same time, it also gave citizens' initiative to this screening.

Minister Soylu stated that this number, which stems from a lack of declaration, will be investigated by the relevant authorities, saying, "He could have lived there before. He would either have to declare whether he lives there or moves elsewhere, or I would have to physically or physically identify him and record him. Our district governors and governors have this authority."