



KIANA HAYERI FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

At passport offices, Syrians can check whether their names were included on wanted lists — a status that once filled many with fear.

Syrians Want to Be Wanted by the Assad Regime

By RAJA ABDULRAHIM
ALEPPO, Syria — When he returned to Syria recently for the first time in 12 years, Kazem Togan asked the passport control agent to check whether he “had a name” — meaning that he was among the millions of citizens named on wanted lists under the ousted Assad dictatorship.
“You’re wanted by branch 235,” the man told him, smiling as he delivered the news. “The intelligence branch.”
Mr. Togan, a journalist who worked for opposition Syrian media when the old government was in power, said he was thrilled.

Proud of Being on an Ousted Dictatorship’s Lists of Targets

“Today, every Syrian asks as a matter of routine, ‘Was I wanted?’” he said. “Anyone who was detained by the Assad regime or wanted by the Assad regime, there is a measure of pride.”
For more than five decades, the dictator Bashar al-Assad and his father before him ruled Syria by terror. Anyone wanted by any of the regime’s numerous intelligence, military or security

branches was named on lists that could be checked at airports, border crossings or police stations and risked disappearing into the prison system.
This was known in Syria as “having a name.”
Those who spent their entire lives terrified by the prospect of having a security file are now openly asking officials about their status under the former government and bragging about it openly in conversation or on social media. To have been wanted by a government that tortured or killed millions of its own citizens to hold on to power is a badge of honor —
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State No. 51? Not Canada, ‘Captain’ Says.

By VJOSA ISAI
TORONTO — Snow plows rumbled and salt trucks spewed de-icing pellets onto Toronto’s streets, barely visible under two feet of snow. A stocky man brandished a comically small red shovel as he helped dig out a car trapped at an intersection.
The helping hand was provided by Doug Ford, the premier of Ontario, Canada’s most populous province and its largest economy, who came to the rescue of drivers trapped in the January 2022 snowstorm, even giving a few of them rides home.
Some residents criticized the gesture as having the patina of a public relations stunt, but the “little red shovel” moment captured Mr. Ford’s essence: the Everyman who, despite lacking some of the polish of other politicians, still gets the job done.
Mr. Ford has lately been leading the charge against a different kind of storm that has rolled into Canada: President Trump’s threats to the country’s economy and his desire to make it the 51st state.
Mr. Ford, 60, has thrust himself into the public spotlight, aggressively defending Canada’s sovereignty, economy and honor,
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Treasures of the New Frick
The upgraded museum offers views of “Doge Giovanni Mocenigo,” above, and much more. Page C1.

The Tense Pursuit of the Philippines’ Ex-President

By SUI-LEE WEE and CAMILLE ELEMIA
BANGKOK — The visit had been advertised for weeks. Former President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines was going to a rally in Hong Kong during the second weekend in March. But as soon as it began, the trip took on a tantalizing element of intrigue: Was he ever coming back?
To many Filipinos, it appeared that Mr. Duterte was trying to outrun justice. The International

Duterte Unable to Elude International Court

Criminal Court, a sudden swirl of speculation in the Philippines posited, was about to seek his arrest, years after it started investigating the deadly antidrug campaign he had overseen as president and as mayor of Davao. By being in Hong Kong, the theory went, Mr. Duterte would remain free be-

cause China is not a member of the court.
Soon after Mr. Duterte, 79, landed in Hong Kong on March 7, the I.C.C. issued a sealed warrant for him. But wind of the move reached him.
Over that weekend in Hong Kong, his entourage — which included his partner, Honeylet Avanceña, and daughter Sara Duterte, the current vice president — debated whether to stay in Chinese territory or return home,
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Tallow, Panned by Experts, Is Back in the Fryer

By CAROLINE HOPKINS LEGASPI
Will Burgess thinks his French fries taste better now that he fries them in beef tallow. But he isn’t using the animal fat for its taste.
Mr. Burgess, 36, who owns a small restaurant that serves tacos and street food in Middletown, R.I., said he felt a “moral and ethical obligation” to change his menu earlier this year. He came to that conclusion after reading that seed oils, like the canola oil he used to cook his fries and tortilla chips, carried potential harms.
Tallow, he said, made for a healthier, more “natural” frying oil.
Beef tallow, a type of rendered fat, was a staple in America’s home and fast-food kitchens for much of the 20th century before falling out of favor because of its high levels of saturated fat. Now, it’s making a comeback.
In a Fox News segment on March 11, the health secretary, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., celebrated the Midwest-based food chain Steak ‘n Shake for committing to frying its onion rings, chicken tenders and fries in 100 percent



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Beef tallow, a type of rendered fat, used to be a kitchen staple.

beef tallow. Upscale grocers stock products like tortilla chips and protein bars made with beef tallow. On social media, influencers render beef tallow in their kitchens, make tallow chocolates and even rub it on their faces.
But doctors and nutrition experts widely agree that using beef tallow in place of vegetable oil is misguided.
Fats like beef tallow (and its pork-based equivalent, lard) were once America’s go-to cooking oils, said Kevin Klatt, a nutrition scientist and dietitian at the University of California, Berkeley.
That started to shift after the introduction of refined vegetable oils in the early 1900s, which were cheaper to mass produce than tallow.
But it wasn’t until the 1980s and 1990s that fast-food chains pivoted to vegetable oils, largely because of new knowledge that diets
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Congestion Pricing Reprive
The Trump administration extended the deadline by 30 days for New York to end its tolling program. PAGE A16

The MetroCard Bows Out
The transition to a tap-and-go system in New York City is set to save the M.T.A. at least \$20 million annually. PAGE A10



INTERNATIONAL A4-9

Sushi Soothes a Frontline Town
For residents of Sloviansk, a Ukrainian city in Russian cross hairs, a popular dish provides a sense of normalcy that is akin to a wartime necessity. PAGE A4

Taming Hungary’s Egg Prices
Prime Minister Viktor Orban is seeking to vanquish inflation, and a political rival, by capping what supermarkets charge for essential foods. PAGE A5

New Round of Fighting in Gaza
Israel’s military expanded its offensive in Gaza with raids in the north and south, and Hamas fired rockets at Israel for the first time in months. PAGE A7

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A Top Musk Lieutenant
Elon Musk has likened his acolyte at the Department of Government Efficiency to chemotherapy: lifesaving or lethal, depending on the dose. PAGE B1

Fed’s Job Might Get Tougher
President Trump’s plans risk stoking inflation and denting growth, an undesirable combination. PAGE B1

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Maverick in Architecture
David Sellers believed architects could design better buildings if they built them themselves. He was 86. PAGE A22

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Referees Lagging Behind
Women’s basketball is more popular than ever, but one referee said the officiating was at “a crisis moment.” PAGE B7

I.O.C. Elects Woman in a First
Kristy Coventry, below left, a former Olympic swimming champion, faces a raft of urgent issues. PAGE B12



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It’s Beethoven to the Rescue
When a star dropped out of an orchestra’s Carnegie Hall performance, a classic substitute was needed. PAGE C1

In a Dark but Tuneful Future
Sadie Sink, of “Stranger Things” fame, plays a talented teenager in “O’Dessa,” a postapocalyptic musical. PAGE C4

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Julius Krein PAGE A20

