

Subj: **Nader & Ella, Sahar & Arno update**
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Dear Praying Friends,

Below are the most recent updates that Nader & Ella, and Sahar & Arno have sent out about their residency status. I know some of you receive their reports directly and some do not. The bottom line is that until now, no long-term solution has been reached, so they continue to covet your prayers. Some in the U.S. have contacted their congressmen and senators, and others in political offices, about their cases. As a result, requests of the embassies here to help them have been trickling in. Some of us here are discussing with the UNHCR, the Greek Council for Refugees, and the U.S. embassy about granting them interviews. So far this has not happened, but we are hoping for the possibility soon.

Meanwhile, Nader and Ella have submitted paperwork to receive the ONE YEAR resident permit. Although it is only a short-term solution, and they have not yet actually received it, they at least have permission now to stay in Greece until they do receive it (or receive notice of denial, which is less likely but possible).

Sahar's case is more complicated to summarize, but she and Arno remain trusting in God. PLEASE keep praying for these precious friends of ours.

THANK YOU,

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Dear Praying Friends,

Thank you for standing with us in prayers in all my struggles in this difficult situation. The Lord hears the prayers of those who love Him and really cares for us.

Yesterday morning, my team mate Kallie, went with me for the last papers that we need to submit to the municipality. She was persistent in all the way we went through the processing of my application. She spoke for me, as a Greek who knows to deal with his own people. We have been talking to this officer, pleading for my paper to give attention to, and they refused to do so. They directed us to another place to get another paper and pay the amount of more than a thousand euros to start to look for my paper. After paying to pass through the process, they asked again many other papers from me to support my application. I bring everything to them. Finally, they said they cannot do it because I have no passport.

Kallie, my team mate said, "The law is saying so and so, and this law is applicable for him. I will not move from here until you call the top officer."

Satan was at work at that time to come against us. When it was my turn, the current was cut-off, no electricity, the telephone was not working. The officer cannot use the telephone to call. We waited and waited, not moving

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in front of the desk. When the telephone worked, the officer-in-charge called the top officer and gives the answer, "Yes, he can apply even without passport."

"Praise the Lord!" I gave a deep breathe and feel like born again. That was a big breakthrough for my papers. I received the paper from the municipality that I can stay temporarily until I get my Iranian passport.

Prayer requests:

Pray for us that my wife would come under my paper to process also! under this new law.

Pray also that I could get my Iranian passport from my embassy without any danger. It needs a supporting Identification Card from my country that I asked my brother to take for me and send.

Pray especially for the grace of God for us to do according to His will in our life.

The Lord, who is always faithful and true and always ! good, has never neither leaves nor forsakes us. Thank you for all your encouragement and spiritual support that gave us strength to serve the Lord even in difficult situation like this. We are one body and we serve one Lord, the Almighty One. Thank you for all the love you showed to us. We need you in the ministry to stand with us. The Helping Hands ministry is helping as much as they can do to the refugees in Athens. It is hard for us to say "No" for those who are coming for their needs. As a refugee like me, we have been through fires, through thick ! and thin, but we as a team have never forsaken the calling of the Lord to love one another.

Through this difficulties that I suffered from the last 3 months, I received word from the Lord with understanding that He can give me a document that I needed, and it is not too hard for Him, but His word is very clear to me that I belong to Him not for this earth.

Nader and Ella

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Dear Praying friend

Thanks for praying for us in this difficult time. As you know we heard from the police in Glyfada that our case in Greece has been rejected. They gave us till 20th of December. They told me if I don't get other papers which allow me to stay; they will send police to arrest us at our house.

A Sunday two months ago before hearing this news, I felt God wanted me to share a testimony at the Farsi church. I told them about something that happened 3 years ago about a church who gave us a place to stay and asked us to leave that place. I was sad and down and at my morning devotional time I put a CD to worship and it was this song. "God will make a way where there seems to be no way. He works in a way we can not see he will make a way for you" and this song was in my heart and as I was going to Helping Hands I prayed and worshipped God. His present was powerful with me that day. I honestly said to God "Father you know that I don't have enough support to pay the rent but I trust you will provide for me, don't let me down." When I came back home on that day I talked with one of my supporter and after he found out I needed to rent a house and had no money, he told me go and find a house and I pay for it. So God made the way for me on that day.

Two months ago when I went to the police to get my rejection answer this song was in my head "God will make a way where there seems to be no way" so god prepared me for that day with reminding me of His Goodness in my life.

Then I was searching for a lawyer to find out what I should do next. I called everybody that I knew but nobody knew any lawyers in Greece who could

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help us I was getting disappointment and I was ready to give up to find a lawyer. I went to a supermarket and saw one of my friends after a long time. She asked me how I was and I told her about my situation. She said she has a friend who is a lawyer and that she will talk with him and let me know if he can help. She called me after a week and told me her friend accepted to help me with my papers. So finally I found a lawyer in Athens.

These days as we were running around for papers, I had incredible peace in my heart, even though any where I went the doors were closed. Till Wednesday night. After I finished writing my life story for my lawyer and send it to him. I felt horrible and down. I only could think of bad things that happen to us in past 6 years. Every night I cried and cried and my poor husband tried to comfort me.

Friday I was going to see my lawyer to go and do some paper works. As I was getting in the metro I realised desperately need prayers. I called 2 of my friends and asked them to pray for me.

I was waiting for my lawyer and I started to read bible and Prayed. My lawyer came and he said some thing interesting to me. He told me that his mom knows me and I also have been at his house. I found out yes I knew his mother. She is the lady who gave us a stove when I first came to Greece. I remember at that time the church gave us a place to stay we went and cleaned the house and I realised we have nothing. I looked at my mom and said mom we do not have stove, if we move here we will die out of hunger. How are you going to cook? At that day I thought if we would have a stove I would have everything. I wouldn't need anything for the rest of my life.

Next Sunday I met that lady she told me she has a stove that she can give it to us .We went and picked up the stove.

Again God took me to my past and this time I could look at the good side of it. I trust God even though our situation looks really dark but I know His light will shine even today. And He will make a way where there seems to be know way he works in way I can not see but I know he will make a way for me. I want to ask you to continue to pray for us I desperately need it. I know God is trying to heal me from my past wounds. Please pray that we will trust God in this difficult time no matter what happens.

I also have a lot of good news from Farsi church that I want to share but I leave it to the next letter. But please pray for these Farsi believers that God will strengthen their faith. I noticed they were also scared what will happen to their papers when they see me having these difficulties for papers.

Thanks for standing with us in this time.

For His glory alone

Sahar

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This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. Matthew 24:14

To send a financial gift, please

- 1) Make a check to "International Teams"
- 2) Write "Sahar Kamrani Fard" in the memo line
- 3) Mail to

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