

Schnellrecherche der SFH-Länderanalyse vom 7. Januar 2015 zu Syrien: Pässe

Frage an die SFH-Länderanalyse:

- Können Pässe mit Bestechung erhalten werden?

Die Informationen beruhen auf einer zeitlich begrenzten Recherche (Schnellrecherche) in öffentlich zugänglichen Dokumenten, die uns derzeit zur Verfügung stehen.

1 Korruption und Bestechung

Sowohl *Freedom House* wie auch das *United States Department of State* (USDOS) beschreiben, dass Korruption und Bestechung bereits vor der Revolution weit verbreitet waren und bürokratische Vorgänge mit Bestechung beschleunigt werden konnten. Im Index zur Wahrnehmung der Korruption aus dem Jahr 2013 von *Transparency International* nahm Syrien einer der letzten Ränge ein (168 von 177). In den letzten Jahren sind die Summen, welche für Bestechungen bezahlt werden müssen, massiv gestiegen.

Freedom House, 1. Mai 2014:

«Even before the armed conflict, Syrian government institutions lacked public accountability and were plagued by corruption. Those who question their policies and actions are often imprisoned or otherwise censored or punished. (...) Syria was ranked 168 out of 177 on Transparency International's 2013 Corruption Perceptions Index. Faced with serious financial and economic constraints as a result of the war, the government made some efforts to impose internal discipline in 2013. It approved a draft anticorruption law in August, and from June to August close to 100 civil servants were dismissed over charges of corruption. The head of the terrorism court was appointed in August to lead the anticorruption agency, known as the Central Commission for Monitoring and Inspection. Despite such moves, there is little or no transparency regarding the use of aid from allied states and other forms of assistance. Corruption is also present in rebel-held areas, albeit on a smaller scale. Some rebel commanders, including from the FSA, have been accused of looting or seizing goods and selling them in Turkey. In addition, local administrators and activists complain that little of the international aid reportedly given to opposition representatives abroad seems to reach them, raising suspicions of graft.» Quelle: *Freedom House*, *Freedom in the World 2014 – Syria*, 1. Mai 2014: www.refworld.org/docid/5367737f8.html.

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Freedom House, 9. Mai 2013:

«Corruption is widespread and rarely carries serious punishment, and bribery is often necessary to navigate the bureaucracy. Regime officials and their families benefit from a range of illicit economic activities.» Quelle: *Freedom House*, *Freedom in the World 2013 – Syria*, 9. Mai 2013: www.refworld.org/docid/5194a2eb18.html.



USDOS, 27. Februar 2014:

«**Section 4. Corruption and Lack of Transparency in Government:** The law provides criminal penalties for official corruption; however, the government did not implement the law effectively, and **officials frequently engaged in corrupt practices with impunity. Corruption continued to be a pervasive problem in police forces and security services.**

*Corruption: There were reports of prison guards demanding bribes from prisoners and their visitors. Visiting family members who paid higher bribes enjoyed visits to detainees without police surveillance. The price of bribes skyrocketed from previous years, with the average detainee visit costing 3,000 to 5,000 Syrian pounds (SYP) (\$20 to \$35). Human rights lawyers and family members of detainees said government officials in courts and prisons solicited bribes for favorable decisions and provision of basic services. **Traffic police officers regularly solicited bribes from drivers, and child laborers reported bribing police to avoid arrest.**» Quelle: United States Department of State, 2013 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Syria, 27. Februar 2014: www.refworld.org/docid/53284a6414.html.*

2 Bestechung für die Ausstellung von Pässen

Gemäss der telefonischen Auskunft eines Syrien-Experten gegenüber der SFH vom 7. Januar 2015 konnten zum Beispiel in Aleppo vor sechs Monaten Pässe für 1'500 US-Dollar gekauft werden. Diese werden entweder von korrupten Beamten direkt ausgestellt oder Fälscher stellen sie auf von korrupten Beamten verkauften Passvorlagen aus.

Auch auf dem Online-News-Portal *Middle East Eye* wurde im Mai 2014 über den blühenden Handel mit gefälschten und echten Pässen berichtet, die von korrupten Beamten an Fälscher verkauft werden.

Middle East Eye, 5. Mai 2014:

«He is one of three passport traders in Azaz. Just come to him, and **for \$1,500 you can buy a genuine Syrian passport** – no waiting, no investigation, and no short expiry date if you've skipped military service. **If you're after a renewal sticker, that will cost you just \$100.** Youssef has been in the forgery game for a while, after getting a lucky start in the business. 'Under the regime it was hard to get the papers that would let you take your car over the border into Turkey,' he explained. 'I'd applied to the office in Aleppo, but it was not accepted, so I had the idea to make my own papers. I did it, and at the border the papers worked.' Once he realised that he had a knack for copying documents, he started selling his forgeries to other people. Before the start of the crisis in Syria Youssef's biggest sellers were marriage and degree certificates. But when the revolution erupted, young men started coming to him asking for the papers that would allow them to delay the start of their military service. Then he noticed a shift. 'People's passports started to expire so they brought them to me and I scratched out the date and replaced it,' he said. **Last year he found an even better solution – Youssef's started buying blank passports and renewal stickers from a corrupt regime official. The documents he sells now are indistinguishable from those issued by the regime because they are exactly the same documents.** The only

*difference is that when Youssef sells a passport, no data about the person who has bought it is filed with the regime. (...) **Youssef says that he is now selling up to thirty passports and renewals every single month.** It has become the largest portion of his business. 'No-one wanted fake passports before the war,' he said.» Quelle: Middle East Eye, Forgers doing a roaring trade in fake Syrian documents, 5. Mai 2014: www.middleeasteye.net/news/forgers-doing-roaring-trade-fake-syrian-documents-1531847387.*

IRIN berichtete im März 2012 über die Möglichkeit durch Bestechung an Pässe und Reisebewilligungen zu gelangen. Ein Mann aus Homs bezahlte 426 US-Dollar Bestechungsgeld für Reisebewilligungen.

IRIN, 21. März 2012:

*«Refugees say it is becoming harder to leave', **gave details of a bribe paid by a man, who decided to flee Homs following the unrest there, to obtain authorization for travel, 'He had to travel to the capital Damascus to get passports made for his wife and kids. The process took 5-6 days and cost a 25,000 pound (\$436) bribe to get authorization to travel, required for all young men in Syria. He asked them to put an old date on the permission letter so it would not be obvious that he was trying to flee recent violence. He says he was accepted for travel only because his son was ill.'»** Quelle: IRIN, Jordan-Syria, Refugees say it is becoming harder to leave, 21. März 2012: www.irinnews.org/report/95120/jordan-syria-refugees-say-it-is-becoming-harder-to-leave.*

Gemäss einem Artikel des *National* vom Oktober 2012 sind die Preise um mit Bestechung an Pässe zu gelangen seit dem Ausbruch der Revolution angestiegen. Vor dem Krieg lag die Bestechungssumme für einen Pass zwischen 20 und 40 US-Dollar, im Jahr 2012 wurden von einem Apotheker in Damaskus für drei Pässe 650 US-Dollar verlangt.

National, 25. Oktober 2012:

«'Before the uprising, it typically took just a few days to get passport applications pushed through, with payment of a routine bribe of between US\$20 (Dh73) and \$40. (...) The Damascus pharmacist asked how much he would have to pay in bribes for three passports. He was told it would cost \$650 - about twice the monthly salary earned by a typical civil servant.'» Quelle: The National, Syrians face six-month wait for passport to freedom, 25. Oktober 2012: www.thenational.ae/news/world/middle-east/syrians-face-six-month-wait-for-passport-to-freedom.