

CASE 1: ALEJANDRO – HONDURAS

Alejandro Rodriguez is a 10-year-old boy from San Pedro Sula, Honduras. Raised by his grandmother with his eight-year-old brother, Alejandro felt forced to leave his home after receiving repeated threats from violent street gang members and narrowly escaping a gang shooting at his grandmother's house that ultimately killed his uncle. Fleeing town one day before school with only a change of clothes, a little food and water, and a small amount of cash, Alejandro and his brother caught a series of buses across borders in to Guatemala and Mexico. Fearing being robbed or beaten by gangs along the way, Pedro stayed awake, watching over his little brother. Joining with a group of others hoping to flee to the USA, Alejandro and his brother crossed the Rio Grande River into Texas on a makeshift raft of branches held together by shoelaces. Once across, Alejandro found a USA border agent and explained that he had left his home in Honduras for fear of his and his brother's life and that he hoped to be reunited with his father who was residing in the USA.

**WOULD THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZE ALEJANDRO AND HIS BROTHER AS REFUGEES?
WHY OR WHY NOT? EXPLAIN YOUR DECISION.**

- Refugee
- Not a Refugee

Reason:

READ ALEJANDRO'S STORY IN THE NEW YORK TIMES: <http://nyti.ms/2bfvssp>

CASE 2: MOHAMMED – IRAQ

Iraqi journalist Mohammed Mushib fled Baghdad for Syria in 2007 fearing for his life. Although critical of both Sunni and Shia in the conflict in Iraq, Mohammed’s reporting was seen as a threat. A few days after his television station was bombed, he received an unexpected knock on his door at home. Looking out the window, he saw three people waiting for him, two with their faces covered and the third with a gun. Mohammed opened the door and was warned to leave or his children’s lives would be in danger. He was told, “The next time we see you, we will kill you.” The next morning he left Iraq and arrived in Syria in the trunk of a car.

WOULD SYRIA RECOGNIZE MOHAMMED AS A REFUGEE? WHY OR WHY NOT? EXPLAIN YOUR DECISION.

- Refugee
- Not a Refugee

Reason:

READ MOHAMMED’S STORY:

http://www.cjr.org/analysis/journalists_seeking_asylum.php

CASE 3: HODA – SYRIA

Using the night as cover, Hoda put her three young children into the car and left her home and everything she knew behind. Life had become increasingly dangerous in her home city of Aleppo, Syria, but when a rocket attack destroyed her neighbor’s house she knew that she could not risk staying any longer. “There were many people in my neighborhood killed, especially young people,” she says. “Fourteen families were killed at once when their building was hit by rockets. I was in my house when a rocket hit. Our neighbor’s house was completely destroyed and ours was very badly damaged. I was so afraid. I had to run out of the house. At 5:00 a.m. that morning I left with my children.” Three months after fleeing home, Hoda and her children have settled in the Bab Al Salame camp, near the border with Turkey in Aleppo Governorate, Syria.

For Hoda and her children, life is almost unrecognizable compared to what it was just a few short months ago. The children ask after their father, who remains trapped in Aleppo. Hoda speaks to him every few weeks but says she does not know whether he is safe. Her biggest challenge now is to provide food for three hungry children who miss their home. “We had a very good life before the war but now everything has changed,” she says. “There is no work here so we can’t earn money to buy food. We eat once or maybe twice a day, mostly just bread and oil.”

**WOULD SYRIA RECOGNIZE HODA AND HER CHILDREN AS REFUGEES?
WHY OR WHY NOT? EXPLAIN YOUR DECISION.**

- Refugee
- Not a Refugee

Reason:

READ HODA’S STORY:

<http://www.caritas.eu/news/stories-from-syrian-refugees-and-idps>

CASE 4: KAMAL - SOUTH SUDAN

Twenty-six-year-old Kamal was a primary school teacher before the civil war in South Sudan started. Due to previous violent fighting in his home village, Kamal was already living in a makeshift shelter in a settlement camp in South Sudan when he was forced to flee again after clashes between the government and rebel forces escalated in nearby areas. Escaping across the Nile River to the the village of Noon, South Sudan, Kamal lived under trees without shelter and limited food supplies. To get water, he had to walk 25 minutes each way to fetch it from the river. The rainy season will arrive soon and Kamal's living conditions will become even more challenging. Kamal also suffers from a variety of illnesses and is in need of medical care.

WOULD SOUTH SUDAN RECOGNIZE KAMAL AS A REFUGEE? WHY OR WHY NOT? EXPLAIN YOUR DECISION.

- Refugee
- Not a Refugee

Reason:

CASE 5: MU MU HAN, MYANMAR

Mu Mu Han is 22 years old and came to Thailand from Myanmar five years ago to support her family. She works in a factory knitting sweaters in Mae Sot, a town on the border between Myanmar and Thailand. Mu Mu Han does not have an official work permit because it costs too much money. She regularly has to pay bribes to local police to remain in the country as well as give her employer money to allow her to stay. Mu Mu Han has a daughter in Myanmar and husband who works in Bangkok, Thailand. She misses them and is only able to visit with them once a year. Mu Mu Han must keep working at the factory so that her family can survive and her siblings and daughter can gain an education and improve their lifestyles.

WOULD THAILAND RECOGNIZE MU MU HAN AS A REFUGEE? WHY OR WHY NOT? EXPLAIN YOUR DECISION.

- Refugee
- Not a Refugee

Reason:

READ MU MU HAN'S STORY:

<http://bit.ly/2b1VSNw>