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A day in the life of... Huseyin Humarli, President of the Journalists and Writers Foundation (Turkey).

"The right to nationality and the avoidance of statelessness has not been among the JWF's priorities and focus in the past. Following the crackdown on dissent by the Turkish government, both in Turkey and abroad and the realisation of the importance of the right to nationality as an effective gateway for the enjoyment of other human rights - involvement in statelessness activities by the JWF could not be avoided."

Read the full interview in this month's "A day in the life of..." at the bottom of this bulletin.

Human Rights Engagement: 74th Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

At the [74th session of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child](#) (February 2017), the Committee issued a strong set of recommendations relating to statelessness. During this session, the Committee specifically referred to target 16.9 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on providing legal identity for all, including birth registration, as a way to reduce and eliminate statelessness among children. [Estonia](#) has been urged to fast-track the naturalisation of children between 15 and 18 years old with undetermined citizenship, who are stateless according to the international law definition. The Committee urged [Serbia](#) to ensure immediate birth registration of children whose parents are stateless or undocumented as a key step in acquiring a nationality. It also recommends implementing safeguards to grant Serbian nationality to all otherwise stateless children residing in the country, regardless of the parent's legal status. [Georgia](#) has been recommended to outline a realistic timeline for effective birth registration and to address the administrative obstacles the country faces, with special attention to stateless persons and other minority groups. Also, an identification and referral mechanism should be established for undocumented children and those at risk of statelessness born in surrogacy situations. Further, the Committee recommends [Barbados](#) to amend its Citizenship Law and establish safeguards to prevent children from being stateless.

During this session, the [Central African Republic](#) (CAR), [Democratic Republic of Congo](#) (DRC), [Malawi](#) and [Saint Vincent and the Grenadines](#) were also reviewed. DRC and Malawi are encouraged to ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons of 1954 and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness of 1961. Barbados has been recommended to withdraw reservations to the 1954 Convention and ratify the 1961 Convention. The Committee recommends Georgia to Accede to the 1997 European Convention on Nationality and the 2006 Council of Europe Convention on the Avoidance of Statelessness in relation to State Succession. The Institute has made joint submissions to the Committee for Barbados, Estonia and Serbia. Click [here](#) for the full text of these submissions as well as submissions made for other states.

Developments relating to the Rohingya

On February 3rd 2017, the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) [issued a report](#) on the horrific human rights violations that have taken place in Myanmar for the past four months. Over 69,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh since 9 October 2016 due to the ongoing violence. Mass gang-rape, killings—including of babies and young children—brutal beatings, disappearances and other serious human rights violations have been

perpetrated by Myanmar's security forces in a sealed-off area in northern Rakhine State in Myanmar. The report is based on testimonies from over 200 Rohingya individuals who managed to flee across the border to Bangladesh. Tensions in Rakhine state have been ongoing for years. Of the [individuals interviewed](#), the majority reported witnessing killings, and almost half reported having a family member who was killed, and/or family members who went missing. Of the women interviewed, more than half of them reported being raped or having suffered from other forms of sexual violence. Myanmar's government has repeatedly failed to give the UN's Human Rights Office access to the sites where the violence has been taking place. UN High Commissioner Zeid has called "on the international community, with all its strength, to join [him] in urging the leadership in Myanmar to bring such military operations to an end. The gravity and scale of these allegations begs the robust reaction of the international community." The report concludes that is highly likely that crimes against humanity have taken place in Rakhine State, Myanmar.

[Myanmar's government officials claim](#) that the 'clearance operation' has ended, which would put an end to a [four month long siege on the Rohingya population](#). Despite this, many Rohingya are [afraid and refuse to return](#) to their homes due to fear of further oppression. International criticism has been targeted at [Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi](#) as she consistently refuses to speak out against the violence towards the Rohingya.

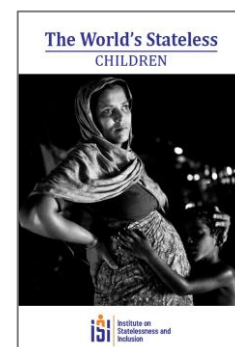
The [UN's Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar will be visiting Bangladesh from 20-23 February 2017](#). The Rapporteur will visit various locations in Cox's Bazar, where Rohingya who have fled the violence in Myanmar are temporarily residing. The Special Rapporteur stated that "[h]aving access to these affected communities would help give [her] a better understanding of their human rights situation in Myanmar." After the visit, the Special Rapporteur will issue an 'end of mission statement', and share her findings when she presents a new report to the UN Human Rights Council on 13 March 2017. The report will be made available online in due course by the UN Human Rights Council. Bangladeshi [plans to relocate Rohingya refugees to an uninhabited, undeveloped coastal island in the bay of Bengal](#) are in the meantime heavily criticised, including by [Human Rights Watch](#).

First reports of passports being withdrawn under new Turkish Decree

Under new state of emergency decrees, the [Turkish government will be able to denationalise critics who fled abroad after the attempted military coup](#) on 15 July 2016. Decrees 679, 680, and 681 will authorise the Turkish Cabinet to denationalise people who have fled abroad and are under investigation if they fail to respond to a summons to return to Turkey within three months. There has been some reporting on the implementation of this decree, for instance in the Netherlands [Dutch Newspaper Trouw reported](#) (in Dutch) that the Turkish consulate in Rotterdam has been withdrawing passports from people who are suspected of having ties to the Gülen movement, the Islamic transnational religious and social movement led by Turkish preacher Fethullah Gülen who is suspected by the Turkish regime to be behind the failed military coup. The Consulate has withdrawn the passport from persons considered to be Gülen sympathisers, informing them that they are considered fugitives who can receive a one-day valid passport to fly to Turkey. There, they must first face trial and will only be able to acquire a new Turkish passport if they are able to prove their innocence. For more on the situation regarding citizenship and the failed military coup in Turkey please also see this month's interview with Huseyin Humarli, President of the Journalists and Writers Foundation.

ISI World's Stateless Report 2017

The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion is proud to present the second edition of its flagship publication, [The World's Stateless Report](#). The Report's launch took place in London on February 2nd, 2017 where it was moderated by Kerry Neal from UNICEF, and at which several experts spoke: Melanie Khanna (UNHCR), Catherine Harrington (Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights), Laura Bingham (Open Society Justice Initiative) and Greg Constantine (photographer). The report is composed of two parts. Part 1 contains regional updates on statelessness for Europe, the Americas, Asia/Pacific, Middle East and North Africa (MENA), and Africa. Part 2 is dedicated to childhood statelessness. Essays were authored by over 50 experts—from UN Agencies, NGOs, academia, litigators, among others—on nationality, statelessness and children's rights. Part 2 deals with various dimensions of childhood statelessness, including right to a nationality, challenges in the context of migration and displacement, the Sustainable Development Agenda, the mechanics of safeguards against childhood statelessness, litigation, legal assistance, and other forms of mobilisation as strategies to tackle childhood statelessness. The report has its own [dedicated website](#) where individual essays and more information about the authors can be found. It will soon be possible to buy a physical copy of the report on the website of [Wolf Legal Publishers](#).



Spotlight on: Juliana Deguis Pierre

In 2013, the Dominican Republic's Constitutional Court issued ruling TC/168-13, denationalising thousands of persons of Haitian descent who were born (and often raised) in the Dominican Republic. Juliana Deguis Pierre was the plaintiff in said landmark case, which rendered her stateless. She has since then become a [symbol of the criticism](#) against ruling TC/168-13 and a symbol for the struggle of thousands of persons of Haitian descent who continue fighting to have their right to Dominican nationality acknowledged by the state authorities. Juliana was able to acquire Dominican nationality through a special naturalisation procedure. She was in possession of [two birth certificates](#), one of 1984 when she was born, and one of 2014, which she was given through the special naturalisation procedure.

In January 2017, the Chamber of Civil, Commerce, and Labour Affairs of Monte Plata annulled Juliana's 'first' birth certificate, which was expedited in 1984 by the Office of the First District of Yamasá. The reason provided for the annulment of her birth certificate is that it was issued in an irregular manner because her parents, Haitian nationals, did not hold any legal migratory status in the country at the time. Her birth certificate was declared ["null and without any legal effect."](#) The Dominican Central Electoral Board requires that every individual is in possession of only one birth certificate; the oldest is revoked. This means that persons of Haitian descent who obtained Haitian nationality through the special naturalisation procedure and are (or were) in possession of two birth certificates will now only be able to keep the most recent certificate. [This would mean they cannot access their original birth certificate \(issued at time of birth\), which would annul any record of their nationality and existence before ruling TC/168-13 and law 169-14.](#) Juliana's is not the only case; there have been dozens of cases already. Many of these individuals are [not even aware that they have been summoned to court and had their birth certificates nullified.](#) This creates greater insecurity for persons of Haitian descent who have been able to acquire Dominican nationality through the special naturalisation procedure.

What's new: Publications, tools and resources

[Statelessness determination: the Swiss experience](#): Forced Migration Review (issue #54) published an article, "Statelessness determination: the Swiss experience", by Karen Hamann, analysing Swiss practice regarding statelessness determination. Karen finds that Swiss practice is progressive in regards to recognition of statelessness, and in comparison to refugees, Swiss law provides for better treatment of stateless persons.

[Behind the Fence](#): 'Behind the Fence' is a multi-media experience which brings viewers inside Myanmar's modern-day concentration camps, the areas where the Rohingya, the world's most discriminated minority, live.

[Need over Nationality: A Plea for Equal Access to Aid in Jordan](#): Chelsee Lalancette wrote a piece for Human Rights Brief on discrimination on the basis of nationality in receiving aid from UNHCR.

[Citizenship in Question: Evidentiary Birthright and Statelessness](#): Benjamin N. Lawrance and Jacqueline Stevens are the editors of this book which explores how States use evidentiary requirements to create and police citizenship. It supports the claim that citizenship is not self-evident, but emerges from (often obscure) written records and is interpreted through laws that are ambiguous and dynamic.

[Burkina: To find their identity, 'ghost children' await civil status through either one of two new developments](#): Unregistered new-borns in Burkina Faso are awaiting civil status as two different approaches are developing. The first has been developed by African company iCivil, and concerns an integrated mobile technology solution designed to [facilitate universal birth registration in developing countries](#). By way of a unique, personalised identification tag and a mobile phone application a new-born received a bracelet from a nurse or midwife through which the birth can be registered online. Burkina is testing other software, called CITOYEN, which although similar to iCivil does not involve a bracelet. It is foreseen that the CITOYEN software will remain to be tested throughout 2017 and 2018 and will be implemented nationally if no problems arise. In the meantime the unregistered 'ghost children' in Burkina Faso, which in 2015 accounted for 21% of all children under five years old will have to wait for a solution for their situation.

[Okakoko villagers receive IDs](#): Villagers from Okakoko, Namibia, who have been without nationality documents for years got their documents from Home Affairs and Immigration.

[Spotlight on Lebanese nationality](#): Following news of George and Amal Clooney expecting twins, the nationality of the still to be born children has already received quite some attention. Due to gender discriminatory nationality law in Lebanon, the twins will acquire British and American citizenship, but not their mother's Lebanese nationality. Luckily the twins will not become stateless, unlike thousands of other children born in Lebanon and who are denied their mother's nationality.

What's new: Law and policy

[Madagascar introduces new law allowing men and women to confer nationality to their children](#): Madagascar has amended its nationality law, which now equally allows men and women to pass Malagasy nationality to their children. The law passed both houses of the National Assembly in December 2016, and was promulgated on January 25th, 2017. With this recent development, the number of countries around the world still bar women from passing their nationality to their children has gone from 27 to 26. Madagascar has still not acceded to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions.

[Law-maker in Kuwait introduces law to allow non-Muslims to acquire Kuwaiti nationality](#): MP Khaled Al-Shatti submitted a draft law that would remove a provision in Kuwait's nationality law which prevents non-Muslims to acquire Kuwaiti nationality. Before going to the National Assembly for a vote to be approved, the proposed amendment must first be approved by the National Assembly's legislative committee and the interior and defence committee. After this, the proposed amendment must be accepted by the government. Al-Shatti opposes the current nationality law, since it bases nationality on religious affiliation instead of existing legal bonds.

[Ted Cruz in push to revoke citizenship from Americans who join Islamic State](#): Senator Ted Cruz (Republican, Texas) is reintroducing efforts to push Congress to pass legislation that would denationalise any US national who tries to join Islamic State or other terrorist groups. Similar proposals have been criticised by civil libertarians, who worry that this could give the federal government expanded powers to denationalise individuals without due process.

[Dutch Senate supports withdrawal of Dutch citizenship from jihadists](#): Earlier this month, the Dutch Senate adopted an administrative measure which expands discretionary powers of the Minister of Justice and Security to denationalize people who assisted in realizing a terrorist activity or were involved in the preparations thereof, unless it would lead to statelessness. This measure exists next to the nationality deprivation provision set out in the Dutch Criminal code which revokes nationality of people convicted of (activities to support) terrorism. It is a worrisome development that people can be deprived of their nationality without a criminal conviction, though the Netherlands argues that due process is guaranteed as people have the right to appeal a decision. The Netherlands justifies this measure as a tool to ensure national security, arguing that people who join terrorist organizations abroad should not await criminal conviction but should be denationalized immediately as their return could pose imminent threats to the national security of the state. This measure raises numerous questions in terms of possible arbitrariness. For more information, [click here](#) (in Dutch only).

Announcements and events

[Statelessness Summer Course: Global focus](#): The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion's annual summer course, on its sixth year, will take place from 31 July - 4 August 2017 in Tilburg, The Netherlands. The course looks at statelessness globally and draws participants from all regions of the world. The course provides participants with new knowledge, tools and skills to address statelessness and to enforce the right to nationality. Besides a basic understanding of nationality and statelessness, the course also offers further deepening of a variety of focus areas, which will be on statelessness among children, forced displacement and migration, and discrimination. The curriculum is taught by lecturers from a variety of backgrounds, both professionally and geographically. For further impression of the course please have a look at this [video](#). The cost of the course is € 950, and a certificate is provided upon completion. Deadline for applications is April 15, 2017.

[IIHL Statelessness Course](#): The International Institute for Humanitarian Law of the University of San Remo will organise its second Course on Statelessness to take place in San Remo, Italy, from 4-7 April 2017. The course is designed for government officials and NGOs dealing with stateless people or looking into addressing statelessness in their country.

[Funding Opportunities](#): Proposals are welcomed at the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration relating to [NGO programs that benefit refugees and other vulnerable populations in Egypt](#). **The deadline for proposal submissions is 9 March 2017**. The BPRM also sent out a [Request for PRM Humanitarian Research Concept Notes](#), currently including research areas as 'Financial Inclusion of Refugees', 'Statelessness', and any other 'compelling humanitarian research topic'. **The deadline for proposals for this request is 10 March 2017**.

[Call for papers: 'Understanding Migration: States of \(Un\)Belonging'](#): The University of Sheffield's Postgraduate Migration Research Network welcomes submissions for its thirds Workshop on Migration. This research conference aims to explore issues on migration and (un)belonging, and offers insights into a wide range of migration topics and discussions. The workshop provides a friendly environment for postgraduate and early career researchers to engage in discussion regarding migration research. Abstracts from any area of migration and from any discipline are welcome. **Deadline for submitting paper abstracts is 10 March 2017**.

Call for papers: Statelessness Working Paper Series: The deadline for submissions to the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion's Statelessness Working Paper Series is coming up **on March 15 2017**. Submissions can be sent by email to papers@institutesi.org. More information is available on our website.

ENS Conference on Detention of Stateless Persons: On 4 and 5 May 2017, the European Network on Statelessness will organise a two-day conference on the detention of stateless persons, to be held in Budapest. More information and instructions on how to register are available on the website. **Registration deadline is 15 March.**

Vacancy: Clinical Instructor, Immigrant Rights and Human Trafficking Program: Boston University School of Law is looking to hire a full-time Clinical Instructor in its Program on Immigrant Rights and Human Trafficking. The mission of the Program is to provide students with skills and knowledge needed for them to engage in representation of victims of human trafficking, asylum seekers, unaccompanied minors and noncitizens facing removal from the USA.

Short Course: Palestine Refugees and International Law: The Refugee Studies Centre of the University of Oxford organises a two-day short course in which the Palestinian refugee case study is placed within the broader context of the international human rights regime. Key themes are statelessness, right of return, repatriation, self-determination, restitution compensation and protection and will be examined along with current discussions about the respective roles of UNRWA, UNHCR and the UNCCP in the Palestinian refugee case.

Scholarship opportunity for full-time MSc Human Rights at the London School of Economics: The Sir Siegmund Warburg Scholarship offers residents of Israel, Palestine/Occupied Territories or Palestinian camps in Syria, Jordan or Lebanon the opportunity to attend the full-time postgraduate MSc Human Rights at the London School of Economics. For the academic year 2017/2018, the scholarship has a value of £30,000, which covers tuition fees and contributes to living expenses. Scholarship applications can only be accepted by those who have already been offered a place on the MSc Human Rights, thus candidates should submit their application to the MSc Human Rights as early as possible. [Applications are currently being accepted to the programme for entry in October 2017.](#) One scholarship is awarded every year.

Rohingya: A Silent Genocide: ISI Co-Director Amal de Chickera will be one of the guest speakers during the discussion 'Rohingya: A Silent Genocide', organised by King's College London Bangladesh Society on 28 February 2017. Speakers will provide insights into the issue, based on their personal experience through working with the Rohingya, one of the world's most discriminated minorities. If you want to attend the event but are not a student at King's College London, please register your participation via the website.

A day in the life of...

Huseyin Hurmali, President of the Journalists and Writers Foundation

Can you give us a short description of the type of work you do?

First, I thank you for giving us this opportunity to express our concerns on what is happening in Turkey. Turkey is an important country with its geopolitical position that serves as a bridge between East and West. Turkey's role is growing not only in politics, economy, and governance but also as a facilitator of a positive social change in the Middle East, Central Asia, and Africa.

The [Journalists and Writers Foundation](#) (JWF) was established in Istanbul, Turkey in 1994 to raise awareness in society about the social, economic, and political participation in the future of the country. The JWF aims to create a common mind by engaging journalists, writers, academics, and thinkers from a wide spectrum of ethnic, cultural, and religious backgrounds. The JWF has promoted the culture of peace through dialogue and reconciliation by fostering pluralism, good governance, and advancing social and economic development, human rights, and gender equality. The JWF organised panels, round table discussions, and conferences to provide innovative ideas and solutions to problem for the policy makers in Turkey, in the region, and the global world.

As a result of the scope of our program, projects, and accomplishments, the JWF was accredited with the ECOSOC General Consultative Status by the United Nations in 2012. The JWF has been working relentlessly to contribute to the United Nations' mandate on sustainable development. The JWF aims to create awareness on the Global Agenda 2030 and implement the sustainable development goals (SDGs) by mobilizing the civil society organizations and facilitating the public-private partnerships. Furthermore, the African Union and the JWF signed a [memorandum of understanding](#) (MoU) in 2015 to strengthen cooperation and to facilitate the development and integration agenda of



the African Union. The MoU also aimed to mobilise the civil society organizations in social, economic, and political participation in the future of local governments.

Following the acquisition of general consultative status, the JWF's board members decided to move its headquarters from Istanbul to New York to work in a closer collaboration with the United Nations. With its headquarters in New York, the JWF has representatives in Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi, and Addis Ababa to work on projects in local and regional levels in collaboration with a large pool of global partners across the globe.

Can you briefly describe what is happening in your country with regards to citizenship issues?

There have been devastating developments in Turkey and the region for the last four years. The Syrian refugee crisis, violent extremism, terrorism and the formation of the ISIS in Syria and Iraq contributed to political, economic, and social distress. The corruption scandal towards the end of 2013 escalated tensions between the government and the opposition parties including the critical media. The government pressured the critics with extensive measures to silence the media, closure of civil society organisations, and taking over of private entities. Human rights treaty bodies, special rapporteurs, other human rights mechanism and human rights groups have increasingly pointed out with concern, in particular in the recent years, the establishment of a disturbing track-record of systematic and widespread human rights abuses in Turkey, including use of torture and ill-treatment, which has gone mostly unpunished.

On July 15, 2016, Turkey underwent a failed military coup, which paved the way to an unprecedented crackdown on human rights and freedoms, through a violent, indiscriminate and disproportionate reaction by the Turkish government. Ever since, over 130,000 individuals from all walks of life, including teachers, professors, medical personnel, journalists, writers, civil society activists, judges, police officers, businessmen, governors, military and the administration are either detained, under investigation, suspended or removed from their positions. Their passports and passports of their family members were also cancelled. Since the attempted coup, up to 92,000 persons were detained and around 45,000 were arrested. Thousands of others were abroad at the time of the attempted coup. It is estimated that hundreds of intellectuals were able to flee oppression, before stricter controls of the borders were introduced. Attempts by mainly victims of the purge to flee the ongoing oppression continue every day; sometimes not successful.

In mid-October 2016, three months after the attempted coup, the Turkish government first indicated that it was preparing to strip of citizenship those who did not return or who had fled abroad. According to the President of Turkey - "Sons of this nation [Turkey] will return and tell the truth to the relevant authorities about whatever they know [about the coup plotters]. If they do not, they will pay the price. At the very least, we will not say that 'this is our citizen.' We will do whatever is necessary wherever we find them." On another occasion in October 2016, referring to individuals fleeing oppression, he further reiterated that - "We have entered their lairs. They run, we are told to chase them. Are they running? Let them become citizens of the places to which they flee. They will no longer be citizens of this country."

In anticipation of legal action through Decrees, elements of the Government's plan to strip fleeing dissidents of their citizenship first appeared in the press by the end of October 2016. Finally, [Article 75 of Decree-Law \(KHK\) 680](#) of January 6, 2017 provided for the following paragraph to be added to the existing Article 29 of Turkish Citizenship Law (No. 5901 of May 29, 2009): "(2) In cases where the investigation or prosecution has been carried out on the grounds of the crimes stated in the Turkish Penal Code dated 26/9/2004 and numbered 302, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314 and 315 of the Turkish Penal Code, the citizens who cannot be reached because of not being in the country shall be notified to the Ministry for the revocation of their citizenship within one month after the investigation by the public prosecutor or by the court during the proceedings. In the event that they do not return to the country within three months despite the announcement made in the Official Gazette by the Ministry of Interior, the Turkish citizenship of these persons may be lost by the proposal of the Ministry and the decision of the Council of Ministers.

Briefly describe what type of statelessness activities your organisation is involved in.

The right to nationality and the avoidance of statelessness has not been among the JWF's priorities and focus in the past. Following the crackdown on dissent by the Turkish government, both in Turkey and abroad and the realisation of the importance of the right to nationality as an effective gateway for the enjoyment of other human rights - involvement in statelessness activities by the JWF could not be avoided.

In view of the above the JWF is currently involved in the following statelessness activities:

- Advocacy and other activities aiming at a better understanding of the issue of eventual statelessness of Turkish citizens.
- Efforts to accurately map the scope and magnitude of the statelessness problem for Turkish citizens around the world.
- Follow legal and other developments concerning nationality and establish dialogue with partners on how to avoid cases of statelessness, including by information exchanges with partners globally.

- Analyse issues related to eventual statelessness and making recommendations accordingly, in order to address the problems and respond to requests for follow-up.
- Dissemination of information to the relevant networks and individuals at risk on the ground, with a view of avoiding negative effects of cancellation of passports and eventually statelessness.
- Focus on nationality issues affecting children (non-registration of births) in the context of international law and practice.
- Share on a regular basis JWF's perspective with relevant organs/bodies in the context of human rights systems at the global and regional level – in particular on the need to avoid statelessness and its negative effects in practice.

What do you find are the biggest challenges you face in your work?

In Turkey's post-coup crackdown, the Turkish government purged 1,284 schools, 15 universities, 800 dorms, 54 hospitals, 195 media outlets, 19 trade unions, 560 foundations, and 1,125 associations. The JWF was also closed down in Turkey, together with thousands of other civil society organisations. Following a Turkey-led effort to revoke the JWF's general consultative status, the Committee on the NGOs recommended the withdrawal of the consultative status based on the argument that the JWF is inexistent. However, the JWF has been conducting its activities from New York as the headquarters with the same mission and vision since 2014. Thus, closure of the office in Istanbul does not prove the argument of inexistence of the NGO. The government is giving directions to the Turkish permanent missions, embassies, consulates and other government bodies to purge the Turkish people abroad who are critical about the human rights violations in Turkey. The government officials are asked to blacklist the Turkish people abroad, gather personal information and provide it to the government officials in turkey. Especially, the Turkish imams in Europe violated civil and human rights by spying on Turkish people for Turkish authorities. Investigations are ongoing in several European countries into what it has described as the "[global spying network](#)" of Turkey's religious officials collecting information on individuals, passed to Turkey via its diplomatic missions.

Additional challenges we face in our work regarding statelessness are the limited expertise and inadequate human resources to timely and effectively address the increasingly complicated issues related to the right to nationality and statelessness in practice. It is our goal to work collaboratively with organisations who are experts and human rights defenders who are specialised in how to tackle the consequences of statelessness and put Turkey back to its track, maintain democracy and human rights for the majority as well as the minorities, and establish peaceful societies for a better future for all.

What do you hope to accomplish through your work?

Avoidance of statelessness and ensuring right to nationality for all Turkish citizens who may eventually be subject to the relevant provisions of Decree-Law (KHK) 680, regardless of their political and other convictions. Many people have been detained, arrested, and jailed without fair trial in Turkey. We would like to help reinstate free and fair trial in Turkey that respects democracy and human rights. There is no way for Turkey to walk away from democracy and human rights in the 21st century.

What can anyone interested in this issue do to get involved?

Join the network of organisations working on the issue and contribute in building enhancing partnerships to effectively prevent loss of citizenship and – in the event citizens are stripped of their citizenship:

- Work in close coordination to avoid deportation of the affected individuals to Turkey, or any other country where they risk ill-treatment or a threat to their lives;
- Work in coordination towards effectively tackling the adverse effects of statelessness and its impact on the enjoyment of other human rights; and
- Undertake coordinated efforts towards restoring citizenship and ensuring right to nationality for the affected individuals.

Contribute to the Statelessness Monthly Bulletin via
news@InstituteSI.org or visit www.InstituteSI.org