

Saudi teen welcomed as refugee in Canada

15th January, 2019



The teenage Saudi asylum seeker who fled Saudi Arabia two weeks ago has been granted asylum by Canada. Rahaf Mohammed Alqunun, 18, arrived at Toronto's Pearson International Airport on Saturday. She was greeted by Canada's Foreign Minister

Chrystia Freeland, who told reporters: "This is a very brave new Canadian." She added: "Rahaf wanted Canadians to see that she has arrived at her new home. She has had a very long and tiring journey and so would prefer not to take questions today. And she is now going to go to her new home." Rahaf was all smiles as she was whisked through the airport wearing a hoodie emblazoned with the word "Canada".

Rahaf is fleeing alleged abuse by her family, whom she claims want to kill her. She was detained in Bangkok on January 6th while trying to board a flight to Australia, where she initially wanted to seek asylum. She appealed for help on Twitter and her plight gained worldwide attention. She was then granted refugee status by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Canada's decision to grant asylum to Rahaf could worsen relations between Canada and Saudi. Relations are already strained after Canada called for the release of a jailed Saudi human rights activist. Saudi suspended new trade with Canada, froze Saudi flights to and from Toronto, and cancelled scholarships for Saudi students in Canada.

Sources: bloomberg.com / reuters.com / ctvnews.ca

Writing

All people seeking asylum should be granted it. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

teenager / asylum / airport / brave / new home / tiring journey / questions / hoodie / abuse / flight / help / worldwide attention / decision / relations / human rights

True / False

- a) The article says the teenager fled Saudi Arabia over three weeks ago. T / F
- b) The teenager was met at a Canadian airport by Canada's Prime Minister. T / F
- c) The teenager (Rahaf Mohammed) had a long and tiring journey. T / F
- d) Rahaf did not smile as she walked through the Canadian airport. T / F
- e) Rahaf was detained in Australia while on her way to Bangkok. T / F
- f) Rahaf got worldwide attention after posting on Twitter. T / F
- g) Relations between Saudi Arabia and Canada are strained. T / F
- h) Saudi stopped Saudi airplanes flying to and from Toronto. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. fled | a. difficulty |
| 2. granted | b. decorated |
| 3. greeted | c. held |
| 4. whisked | d. gave |
| 5. emblazoned | e. stopped |
| 6. alleged | f. hurried |
| 7. detained | g. ran away |
| 8. plight | h. tense |
| 9. strained | i. claimed |
| 10. froze | j. welcomed |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about the Saudi teenager?
- b) What do you know about the asylum system?
- c) What is your country's policy towards asylum?
- d) How brave do you think Rahaf is?
- e) What would it be like to move country alone at the age of 18?
- f) Why are there so many asylum seekers in the world?
- g) How can we help asylum seekers?
- h) What advice do you have for Rahaf?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. asylum | a. by her family |
| 2. granted | b. the word "Canada" |
| 3. a very long and tiring | c. to and from Toronto |
| 4. she was whisked | d. relations |
| 5. emblazoned with | e. asylum by Canada |
| 6. fleeing alleged abuse | f. attention |
| 7. trying to board a | g. tiring journey |
| 8. her plight gained worldwide | h. flight to Australia |
| 9. worsen | i. seeker |
| 10. froze Saudi flights | j. through the airport |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How powerful is Twitter in bringing world attention to things?
- In which country would you seek asylum if you had to?
- What will Rahaf's story do for Canada-Saudi relations?
- How can Canada and Saudi repair relations between them?
- What three adjectives best describe this story?
- Should all asylum seekers be granted asylum?
- What questions would you like to ask Rahaf?

Spelling

- The teenage Saudi salyum seeker
- She was eegretd by Canada's Foreign Minister
- a very long and tiring nruojey
- epferr not to take questions
- she was whexsid through the airport
- a hoodie eozlamned with the word "Canada"
- Rahaf is fleeing alleged ubsae
- She was tedeniad in Bangkok
- Australia, where she ilitinlay wanted to
- her ighlpt gained worldwide attention
- Relations are already taisrend
- aorhlsichsps for Saudi students

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. f	5. b
6. i	7. c	8. a	9. h	10. e

Role Play

Role A – The Right to Play

You think the right to play is the most important human right. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their rights aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): right to democracy, freedom of expression or the right to a nationality.

Role B – The Right to Democracy

You think the right to democracy is the most important human right. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their rights aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the right to play, freedom of expression or the right to a nationality.

Role C – Freedom of Expression

You think freedom of expression is the most important human right. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their rights aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the right to democracy, the right to play or the right to a nationality.

Role D – The Right to a Nationality

You think the right to a nationality is the most important human right. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their rights aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the right to democracy, freedom of expression or the right to play.

Speaking – Human Rights

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important human rights at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

The right to play	The right to own things
Workers rights	The right to trial
The right to democracy	The right to privacy
Freedom of expression	The right to a nationality

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.