

Information Note on Legal Periods and Procedures for International Protection Applicants and Status Holders, as well as Temporary Protection Beneficiaries residing in the Earthquake Affected Provinces

Due to the earthquakes that took place on February 6, 2023, a **state of emergency** was declared in Adana, Adıyaman, Diyarbakır, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya, Osmaniye, and Şanlıurfa.

If you are an international protection applicant, status holder, or temporary protection beneficiary and you have a pending lawsuit in the courts or that you were going to lodge one, the following information has been submitted for your kind information.

- **If you were residing, as registered**, in Adana, Adıyaman, Diyarbakır, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya, Osmaniye, or Şanlıurfa during the earthquakes that occurred on February 6, 2023; or
- If you were in one of the 10 provinces where the state of emergency was declared **during the earthquakes** that occurred on February 6, 2023, although you are registered in another province;

Legal periods in the following cases that you have already lodged or will lodge across the country have been suspended until April 6, 2023:

- The legal periods in your administrative cases such as the cases against the decisions of rejection of the international protection application, withdrawal of international protection application, inadmissible application, accelerated evaluation, and decisions regarding your temporary protection status, as well as cases related to decisions of the International Protection Evaluation Commission.
- The legal periods of filing a lawsuit, initiating enforcement proceedings (excluding enforcement proceedings regarding alimony receivables), complaints, objections, etc.,
- The legal periods for your civil law cases, such as divorce or custody, and criminal law cases.
- If your province of residence is not among these 10 provinces where the state of emergency was declared, but if you have relatives by blood or in-law in these provinces, or if you went to these provinces to support rescue and damage recovery works, legal periods in the abovementioned cases that you have already lodged or will lodge across the country have been suspended until March 6, 2023.
- **REGARDING DEPORTATION DECISIONS:** As for deportation decisions that were given after February 6, the 7-day appeal period will begin to run as of March 7. The remaining time from 7-day appeal period against deportation decisions that were delivered before February 6, will continue to run as of March 7.

There are suspended and not suspended periods other than those listed above. For detailed information, you can contact the Legal Clinics or you can reach the UNHCR Hotline at 444 48 68. In addition, if necessary, you can apply to the bar associations in the province where you are currently located to benefit from legal aid.

For your lawyers: If your lawyer is registered with the bar association of the provinces where the state of emergency has been declared, or if s/he was in one of these provinces on 6 February 2023, deadlines for the cases followed by your lawyer across the country have been suspended **until April 6, 2023**. If your lawyer is registered with the bar association of the provinces where the state of emergency has not been declared, but s/he went to these provinces to support rescue or damage recovery works, deadlines for the cases followed by your lawyer throughout the country are suspended **until March 6, 2023**.

Important notes

- Even if you went to provinces other than the province where you are registered and where the state of emergency was declared due to the earthquake; your lawsuits, which were already pending before February 6, 2023 in administrative courts or other courts, will continue **where they were filed**, and legal periods will continue from the point that they were suspended **as of 7 April 2023**.
- If, during the earthquakes that took place on February 6, 2023, you were not registered in one of the 10 provinces where the state of emergency has been declared, if you were not in those provinces at that date, or if you did not go to those provinces to support rescue and damage recovery works, then **there will not be a change in the legal durations** of the lawsuits you have already filed or the lawsuits you will file.
- **There is no time limit** for your applications to the Criminal Judgeship of Peace against administrative detention decisions.