

Disposition of Remains Report

The following information is submitted in accordance with referenced requirements. Various area mortuaries were surveyed in order to compile this data. The laws cited are from the national law of Syria regarding registration of the death of non-Syrians. Death events of non-Syrians occurring in Syria shall be registered in death registers, taking into consideration the provisions of Article 22, amended by Decree No. 102 of 1969, and Article 25 of the law of civil status, amended by legislative Decree No. 165 of 1967, as well as Article 45 of the law of civil status, amended by legislative Decree No. 102 of 1969, and legislative Decree No. 146 of 1970.

http://www.civilaffair-moi.gov.sy/sf04/index.php?lang=en&page=en_general_affair.htm

Part I.

Name of Country: Syria

Part II. U.S. Embassy Information in Syria

American Embassy
Consular Section, Damascus
2 Al Mansour Street
Phone: 963-11-3391-4444
Fax: 963-11-331-9678
e-mail: acsdamascus@state.gov
After Hours Phone: 963-11-3391-4444 and than dial (0)

Consular Information Sheet:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1035.html

Travel Warning:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_3036.html

Part III. Profile of Religions in Syria and Religious Services available to visitors.

Country Profile: Syria's population is 90% Muslim--74% Sunni, and 16% other Muslim groups, including the Alawi, Shi'a, and Druze--and 10% Christian. There also is a tiny Syrian Jewish community.

Religious Activities for Visitors: The majority of Syrians are Sunni Muslim, and present in Syria are many mosques that serve both the Sunni and the smaller Shi'a communities. Damascus has many cultures and religious traditions and was a home to the earliest Christian and Islamic communities. There is one Jewish synagogue; several Roman Catholic churches; even more Orthodox (Eastern) churches, including Armenian, Greek, Russian, and Syrian Orthodox; and several Protestant churches, including Anglican (Episcopalian), Baptist Communitarian, and Presbyterian. Mormons maintain a house of

prayer and a community center in Amman, Jordan. Most Far Eastern religions are not represented (i.e., have no official presence) in Damascus.

Part IV. Funeral Directors, Mortician and Related Services Available in Syria:

Joseph Addas (telephone numbers 963-21- 333-7963, 963-21-221-8990 and 963-21-224-0032 and cellular 963-944-977-955, 963-944-595871) is a licensed undertaker in Aleppo.

Shallah Brothers (telephone numbers 963-11-542-1716 (office), 963-11-542-8478 (home) and cellular telephone 963-933-410-488) is a licensed undertaker in Damascus.

The U.S. Embassy in Damascus, Syria, assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms. Names are listed alphabetically, and the order in which they appear has no other significance. Professional credentials and areas of expertise are provided directly by the funeral directors, morticians and other service providers.

Part V. Profile of services available in Syria regarding preparation and shipment of remains:

1. Maximum Period Before Burial:

24 hours after death if body is not embalmed. Mortuaries are not available in Syria. Adequate undertakers are available in Damascus and Aleppo.

2. Embalming:

Embalming facilities exist in Syria, but embalming must take place within 24 hours after death.

3. Cremation

Cremation is neither available nor permitted. Facilities do not exist.

4. Caskets and Containers:

When the remains of the deceased are to be transported out of country, the remains must be placed and sealed in a hard wooden crate lined with lead or zinc with iron locks. The casket must contain sawdust permeated with an antiseptic chemical such as calcium or zinc sulfate. The casket must be closed in the presence of an official doctor from the Ministry of Health and is sealed with an official seal.

5. Exportation of remains:

Local requirements for the exportation of human remains are as follows:

1. Embalming of the remains.
2. Enclosure of the remains as described in paragraph 4 above.
3. Transport authorization from the Ministry of Interior.
4. Embassy authorization for burial in the United States.
5. Medical report of death (4 copies).
6. Death certificate from civil authorities (4 copies).
7. Certificate of embalming from the individual who performed the embalming.

6. Costs:

All dollar costs have been converted from the cost in local currency at the rate of exchange of 46.00 Syrian Pounds to US \$1.00.

	<u>S.P.</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
1. Local internment without embalming.	40,000	\$870
2. Embalming.	25,000	\$545
3. Local internment with embalming.	65,000	\$1415
4. Preparation for shipment (including container, embalming, documentation, casket).	140,000	\$3045
5. When death occurs in the interior of Syria, the remains may be transferred to Damascus for preparation. The approximate cost for the farthest destination among major cities of Syria is 25,000 Syrian Pounds (approx US \$545).	25,000	\$545

6. Airfreight:

The average weight of the casket and containers required for export of remains is 200 kgs or (440 pounds). Below are prices for air shipments from Damascus to various points in the continental United States.

<u>FROM DAMASCUS TO</u>	<u>APPROX. COST PER KILO</u>	<u>TOTAL COST</u>
New York	\$15.00	\$3,000
Chicago	\$16.00	\$3,200
Los Angeles	\$18.00	\$3,600
Dallas	\$17.00	\$3,400

TOTAL COSTS (Preparation for Shipment and Airfreight)

Below are approximate prices for preparation and airfreight shipment of remains from Damascus to several U.S. cities.

<u>DAMASCUS TO</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
New York	\$6045
Chicago	\$6245
Los Angeles	\$6645
Dallas	\$6445

7. Exhumation and Shipment:

Exhumation is permitted after one year has elapsed in the case of a normal death, and three years in the case of a death which occurred by contagious disease. The cost of exhumation and preparation for shipment is approximately 70,000 Syrian Pounds or (approximately \$1,522).

8. Autopsies:

Autopsies are only required if the cause of death is unknown based on an accident or if there is some suspicious activity associated with the death. Other than that instance, no autopsy is required. Any doctor can sign the death certificate.