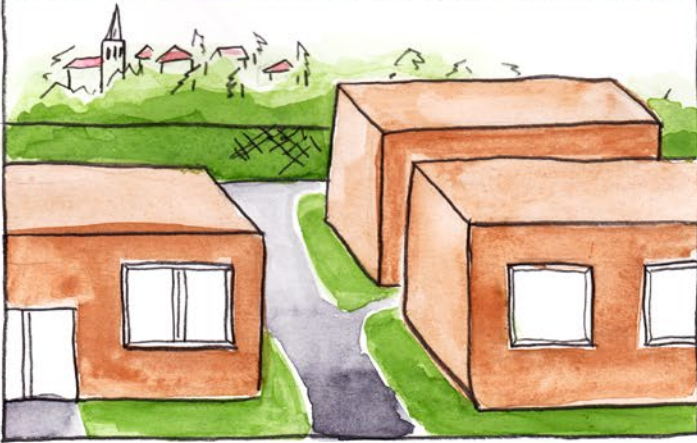


WAITING FOR FAMILY

BY ELEND SHEIKHI AND BURCU TÜRKER



LAZKIN MOHAMMAD HESSO, 30, IS A SYRIAN KURD FROM AL-HASAKAH, A CITY LOCATED IN NORTHEASTERN SYRIA. HE FLED TO GERMANY—CROSSING THROUGH SEVERAL COUNTRIES AND OVER SEA— AND WAS GRANTED SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION AS A WAR REFUGEE. NOW HE LIVES IN THE CITY OF VIERSEN IN NORTH RHINE - WESTPHALIA.



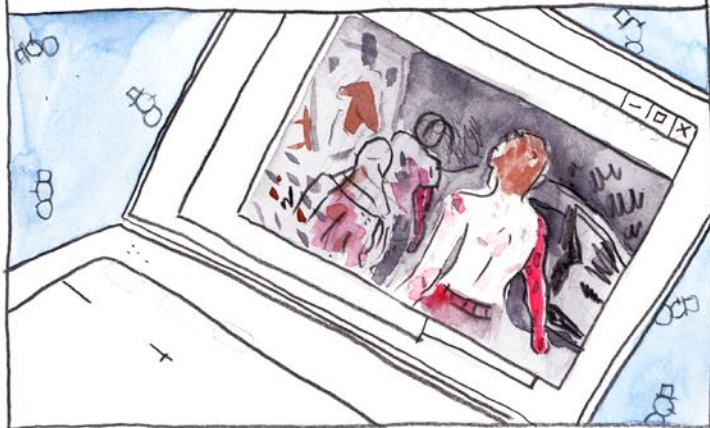
ACCORDING TO THE NEW INTEGRATION LAW ENACTED IN JULY 2016, REFUGEES ARE NO LONGER ALLOWED TO CHANGE THEIR REGISTERED HOMES. THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THIS WILL EASE INTEGRATION. BUT MANY REFUGEES SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY.



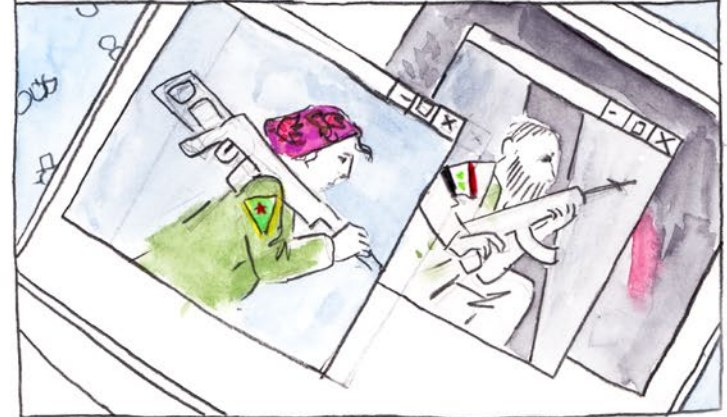
LAZKIN'S WIFE AND TWO-YEAR OLD SON ARE STILL IN SYRIA. THEY LIVE IN QAMISHLI, WHICH IS FREQUENTLY WITNESS TO EXPLOSIONS AND MILITARY CONFLICT.



ACCORDING TO LOCAL MEDIA, 50 PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND 150 WERE INJURED IN THE LAST MAJOR EXPLOSION IN JULY 2016, WHICH TARGETED A VERY CROWDED STREET. ISIS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY.



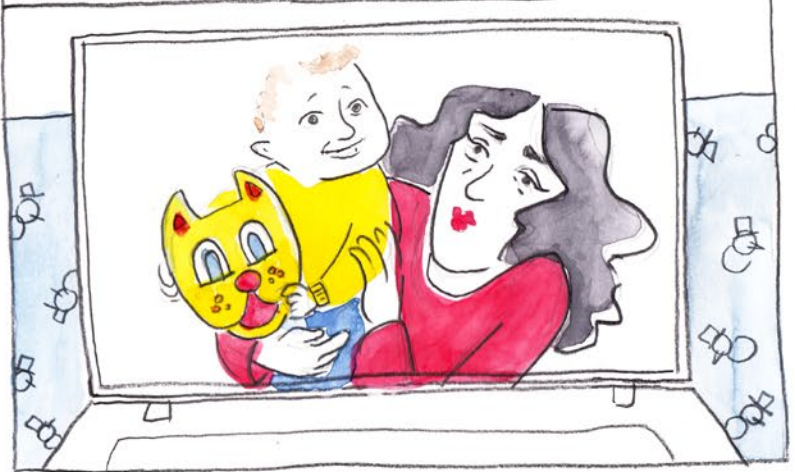
BUT ISIS ISN'T THE ONLY ACTIVE GROUP IN QAMISHLI — THE SYRIAN ARMY, KURDISH FORCES, AND SEVERAL CHRISTIAN MILITIAS ARE TRYING TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE CITY.



LAZKIN WORRIES FOR HIS FAMILY'S SAFETY.

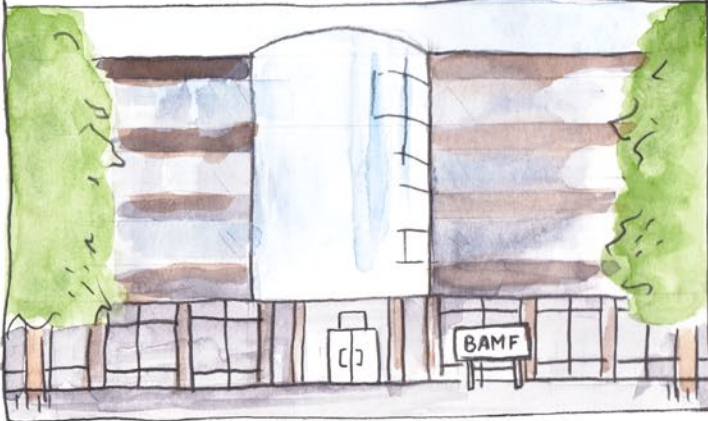
"HELLO, HOW ARE YOU TWO?"

"ALRIGHT I GUESS, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED ...
LOOK, YOUR SON LOVES PLAYING WITH MASKS!"



ACCORDING TO §4 OF THE GERMAN ASYLUM LAW,
ANYONE THREATENED WITH "SERIOUS HARM" IN
THEIR HOME COUNTRY HAS A RIGHT TO
ONE-YEAR SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION.

DEATH SENTENCES, TORTURE OR MILITARY
CONFLICT ALL FIT THE CRITERIA.



THOSE WHO WERE GRANTED SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION
AFTER MARCH 16, 2016, CANNOT APPLY FOR
FAMILY REUNIFICATION UNTIL AFTER TWO YEARS.
SO LAZKIN HAS TO WAIT.

IN THE MEANTIME, HE IS ATTENDING AN INTEGRATION
COURSE. LAZKIN DREAMS OF MOVING FROM VIERSEN
TO ANOTHER CITY TO FIND A JOB AND TO SUPPORT
HIS FAMILY IN QAMISHLI FINANCIALLY.



To Learn More ...

Since the 2015 “summer of migration”, a number of things have changed in Germany’s policies toward asylum. On the one hand, an increasing number of people have been granted subsidiary, or “provisional”, protection. Often, this is limited to one year. Fewer and fewer people, however, now receive three-year refugee protection or political asylum. On the other hand, a new integration law came into effect on July 31, 2016 which aims at integrating refugees into society more effectively. In concrete terms, this means, among other things, that they are no longer able to freely choose their place of residence. But this also means that it is easier for them to find work and begin educational programmes. To what degree such terms are justified is still up for debate.

Overview of the different forms of protection:

<http://www.bamf.de/EN/Fluechtlingschutz/AblaufAsylv/Schutzformen/schutzformen-node.html>

The federal government’s official stance on the new integration law:

<https://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/DE/Artikel/2016/08/2016-08-05-integrationsgesetz.html>

Overview of events in Syria (Qamishli, among others) in 2016:

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2017/country-chapters/syria#803c91>