

# Protesters urge policy reform

## IMMIGRATION

### Activists voice concerns amid federal leader Munk Debate



**Gilbert Ngabo**  
Metro | Toronto

A group of refugee rights activists is calling for an overhaul of immigration policies as national leaders focus on foreign policy.

"Canadian immigration policies have shut the door for people to come and live here permanently," said Syed Hussan, with No One Is Illegal.

"At the same time, Canada is contributing to the same causes that are forcing people out of their homes," he said, in reference to Canada's contribution to international coalitions fighting in the Middle East.

Part of the larger Refugees Welcome campaign, activists gathered Monday evening in Toronto to make their voices heard as Justin Trudeau, Tom Mulcair and Stephen Harper debated foreign policy issues.

Stationed outside Roy Thomson Hall, protesters displayed the names of more than 20,000 who have died while trying to cross borders through the Mediterranean Sea into Europe and the U.S.-Mexico border.



Members of No One Is Illegal and the Refugees Welcome campaign gathered outside Roy Thomson Hall Monday, claiming the country's response to the Syrian refugee crisis is "too limited." STEVEN GOETZ/FOR METRO

They hoped to emphasize the scale of the problem and urge the leaders to consider helping more people.

Canada's response to the Syrian refugee crisis is "too limited," the protesters said. Candidates are talking about bringing in tens of thousands

of refugees, while others countries are expecting to help many more.

Germany, for instance, is expecting more than a million refugees this year.

"This country should take responsibility and stop putting limits on people's ability to

come and live here," Hussan said.

Refugees Welcome started organizing rallies across the country earlier this month. The group wants the government to push for more diplomatic solutions to civil unrest, rather than opting for military intervention.



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Syed Hussan, member of No One Is Illegal