

افغانستان آزاد – آزاد افغانستان

AA-AA

چو کشور نیاشد تن من مباد بدین بوم ویر زنده یک تن مباد
همه سر به سر تن به کشتن دهیم از آن به که کشور به دشمن دهیم

www.afgazad.com

afgazad@gmail.com

European Languages

زبان های اروپایی

<http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2013/11/20/afghan-refugees-face-abuse-iran-hrw>

Afghan refugees face abuse in Iran: HRW

11/20/213

An influential rights organisation on Wednesday said Iran's policies toward Afghan refugees and migrant population violated its legal obligations to protect the vulnerable group from abuse.

Iranian forces deported thousands of Afghans summarily, without allowing them the opportunity to prove they had a right to remain in that country or to lodge an asylum application, Human Rights Watch said in a report.

The 124-page report -- "Unwelcome Guests: Iran's Violation of Afghan Refugee and Migrant Rights" -- documents how Iran's flawed asylum system results in a detention and deportation process with no due process or opportunity for legal appeal.

Joe Stork, the HRW deputy director for the Middle East, said: "Iran is deporting thousands of Afghans to a country where the danger is both real and serious. Iran has an obligation to hear these people's refugee claims rather than sweeping them up and tossing them over the border to Afghanistan."

The watchdog noted violations, including physical abuse, detention in unsanitary and inhumane conditions, forced payment for transportation and accommodation in deportation camps, forced labour, and forced separation of families.

While voicing its concern about the Iranian security forces' abuses against unaccompanied migrant children, it said the Afghans were increasingly pressured to leave the country.

In June 2012, the group recalled, Iran ended registration for its Comprehensive Regularization Plan (CRP), which had permitted some undocumented Afghans to legalise their status and obtain limited visas.

In November 2012, the Iranian cabinet instructed the interior ministry to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of an additional 200,000 Afghans legally classified as refugees and terminate the refugee status of another 700,000 Afghans.

Additionally, 300,000 Afghans living in Iran with temporary visas and temporary permission to work under the regularisation plan were ordered to leave the country after their visas expired on September 6, 2013, with no chance of extension.

The Iranian government should address serious flaws in its asylum system denying Afghans the right to lodge refugee claims, HRW stressed, putting at more than 800,000 the number of Afghans recognised as refugees registered in 2003.

There are also problems in Iran's treatment of registered refugees, as the host government has instituted a complex process for Afghans to retain their status. The process includes frequent re-registration with relevant government agencies, without official assistance for those with limited literacy.

The report quoted deportees from Iran as saying the smallest technical errors, including mistakes during the registration process, could prompt the authorities to strip Afghans of their refugee status permanently and deport them summarily.