

Pakistan - Research Completed by RDC on 12th March 2009

Information on the treatment of Afghans in Pakistan.

A report by the *United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants* states

“In January, Pakistanis in the Mohmand tribal area stoned a refugee to death after elders sentenced him to death for murder and abduction. Also in January, three or four refugees in Jalojai camp died in a bomb blast authorities attributed to a personal dispute. In February, North Waziristan militants beheaded a refugee for allegedly spying for the United States. In April, unknown persons killed two Afghan girls from Surkhab refugee camp while they were selling bangles. In May, nearly 30 people, mostly Afghan nationals, died, and 31 others sustained injuries in a suicide bombing at a Peshawar hotel popular with refugees. In June, militants in the border province of Bajaur beheaded an Afghan refugee suspected of spying for the United States. In August, North Waziristan militants beheaded another two refugees and shot a third for spying for the United States. In September, they shot a refugee they had abducted earlier. In November, unidentified gunmen in Para Chinar killed four Afghan refugees and injured five others as the group traveled to Afghanistan, intending to bury a fellow refugee who had died in a Peshawar camp” (United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (19th June 2008) - *World Refugee Survey 2008 – Pakistan*)

A report by *UNHCR* states

“A growing sense of xenophobia against Afghans as a result of economic, social, ethnic and political shortcomings in the country have created an atmosphere of hostility in the local communities and within refugee-hosting populations in many areas. Local Pakistanis, host to the Afghans and business partners for the past 27 years, are now chiming in with the demand that Afghans must leave and pave the way for Pakistanis to take over their business interests.” (UNHCR (1st September 2007) - *Country Operation Plan 2008*)

A report by *Amnesty International* states

“Some Afghans suspected of links with the Taliban have also been arrested. In all these cases, the detainees have apparently not been charged or tried, and their fate and whereabouts are unknown.” (Amnesty International (29th September 2009) - *Pakistan Human Rights Ignored in the "War on Terror"*)

Also

“On several occasions mass arrests of Afghans have been reported. Some detainees have been held in secret detention centres, contrary to national and international law. In a recent operation in and around Quetta, Balochistan, in mid-July 2006, police arrested some 250 Afghans. About 50 were released within days for lack of evidence. Some police officials reportedly said the detainees did not have proper documentation to stay in Pakistan and would be charged under the Foreigners Act.(89)” (Ibid)

A report by the *reliefweb* states

“The Afghans need the cards to be accurate and updated – ensuring access to basic services. The cards are very well respected by the authorities and service providers” (Reliefweb (10th November 2008) - *Afghans now able to update, modify identification in Pakistan*)

A report by *UNHCR* states

“The Government of Pakistan (GoP) now strictly requires foreigners to obtain a No-Objection-Certificates (NOC) prior to travel to and within the province. NOCs are not always granted” (UNHCR (1st September 2007) - *Country Operation Plan 2008*)

A report by *UK Home Office* states

“Four Afghan refugee camps were scheduled for closure during the year; however, only one—Kacha Garhi camp in NWFP—closed. Police in some cases demanded bribes from Afghan refugees. There were credible reports that members of the intelligence services harassed refugees during their search for al Qa’ida. Some female refugees who accepted jobs with NGOs reported harassment from Taliban sympathizers in their own community. Refugees faced societal discrimination and abuse from local communities, which resented economic competition, and blamed refugees for high crime rates” (UK Home Office (5 November 2008) – *Country of Origin Information Reports*)

A report by *IRIN* states

“Police clashed with Afghan refugees earlier this week as the authorities began the process of closing down Jalozi refugee camp, home to over 70,000 people, outside Peshawar.” (IRIN (17 April 2008) - *Pakistan: Violence marks closure of Afghan refugee camp*)

A report by the *Afghanistan Conflict Monitor* states

“The refugees say that checkpoints in Peshawar City took two to three thousand rupees from each person and the Pakistani police of taking R5,000 from each truck, accusing the drivers of taking wheat back to their families in Afghanistan.” (Afghanistan Conflict Monitor (22nd April 2008) - *Pakistani Police Shake Down Afghan Refugees*)

References

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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