

Query response a-7369 of 6 September 2010

Iran: 1) Information on the current procedure for issuance of Iranian passports; 2) Information on last changes of the procedure for issuance of Iranian passports; information on possible updates of the procedure in the period between or previous to 2004-2005; 3) a) Provided that there was an update: Information on time requirements for replacing an old with a new passport; b) provided that there was no update: Information on time requirements for issuance of a biometric passport

This response was commissioned by the UNHCR Protection Information Unit, Division of International Protection. Views expressed in the response are not necessarily those of UNHCR.

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to ACCORD within time constraints and in accordance with ACCORD's methodological standards and the *Common EU Guidelines for processing Country of Origin Information (COI)*.

This response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status, asylum or other form of international protection.

Please read in full all documents referred to.

Non-English language information is comprehensively summarised in English. Original language quotations are provided for reference.

In addition to the information provided below, we are waiting for the response to the inquiries to the Embassies of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Vienna and Berlin. We will forward them to you as soon as we receive them.

1) Information on the current procedure for issuance of Iranian passports

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Netherlands (in the following referred to in short as Iranian Embassy) has published the procedure for the issuing of an Iranian passport on its website not specifying the date of the entry of the information. The first entry of information deals with the procedure for individuals, who thus far have never possessed an Iranian passport. A detailed list is provided, which defines required documents, necessary application forms to be filled out and the number of photos to be made available. It elaborates on requirements for Dutch nationals and summons all applicants who are liable to military service to provide the appropriate documents. Moreover, it is stated that all applicants are required to wire the respective fee for issuing a passport:

"Issuing A First Passport

PLEASE NOTE: The following documents are required for individuals, who thus far have never possessed an Iranian Passport (such as a lost one, invalid, expired...) and have not

been included as 'travelling companion' in the passport of their parents or spouse.

Requirements

1) 2 Filled-out copies of the application Form [101], for the issuance of a first Passport.

2) Original Iranian Birth Certificate (Shenasname), and photocopies of all the pages of the Birth Certificate (This document must contain an ID photo for those above 15 years of age. For Iranians above 15 years of age, whose Birth Certificate lacks an ID photo, it is first necessary to apply for a [replacement of a 15 year old Birth Certificate] or for an [ID photo inclusion in Birth Certificate]

3) Original Dutch Residence Permit card (IND issued document) & a photocopy.

* Individuals who possess a Dutch passport, instead are required to provide the following documents:

a) Filled out application Form [102], for the individual's upholding of his/her Iranian nationality.

b) A photocopy of their Dutch citizenship card (Front and back) and a photo copy of their Dutch Passport.

4) Three 3x4cm passport photos taken within the past six months, (Including a full face, front view, open eyes, a plain white background & without a hat, glasses or neck scarves). According to the regulations of the IRI, women applicants should be wearing head scarves. [Note: Applicant should also remember to include their personal details on the backside of the passport photos.]

5) Individuals who have illegally exited Iran, are also required to append the following documents to their application:

c) A filled out Form [109], for investigation of illegal exit

d) A filled out Form [110], for granting exiting permission for illegal passing foreign resident.

6) Original and photocopy of the Certificate of Completion of Military Service or Exemption from Service, or filling out Form #104 for granting permission to exit once a year (for those required to do Military service and those born after 1338 (1959) who have not yet done their service and are not in possession of any Exemptions and have left the country before 29 of Esfand 1382 (March 2003) and for a stay of 2 years abroad.)

7) Wiring the respective fees using the PIN machine.

PLEASE NOTE: Personal details in the Passport will be arranged and inscribed in English alphabets according to inputs in the forms, are unalterable, & the Embassy will

not be responsible for any input mistakes in the forms, leading to incorrect details in the issued the applicant's passport." (Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Netherlands, undated A)

The website of the Iranian Embassy further informs about the procedure of separating the names of people whose name is already registered with a passport from that passport, so that a new passport can be issued separately for these individuals. This procedure is applicable to children under the age of 18 provided that they can submit a written permission, the spouse of an applicant and children above the age of 18 years. Furthermore, the website entry proceeds with specifying the required documents that correspond by and large with the aforementioned documents:

"Issuance Of Separate Passports

This is an application for having names as registered with a passport, separated from the passport such that a new passport is issued separately for the individuals.

This is done in the following people:

- Under 18 children, with a written out permission letter from the father/Guardian
- Spouse
- Children above 18

Required documents

- 2 Filled-out copies of the application Form [101], for the segregation of a Passport that includes more than one individual's personal details.(For children under 18 yrs of age the form must be completed by their father or guardian)

- Filled out permission letter, found In form [114], for issuing a passport for the individual's child.

- The Original and a photocopy of passport (including first 11 pages, as well as the page containing the details on last entry and departure to & from Iran)

*In case the last departure of one of the passport companions is inscribed in another person's passport, that passport should also be available.

- Original Iranian Birth Certificate (Shenasname), and photocopies of all the pages of the Birth Certificate (This document must contain an ID photo for those above 15 years of age.

- The original and photocopy of a Dutch residence permit card.

*Holders of Dutch passports, must present the following documents stated in A & B, instead of a residence permit card:

A: 2 Filled out copies of Affidavits: found in form [102], regarding the pledge to uphold

an Iranian Nationality.

B: A photocopy of the Dutch Nationality card (Front and Back) and a photocopy of Dutch passport.

- Four 3x4cm passport photos taken within the past six month, (Including a full face, front view, open eyes, a plain white background & without a hat, glasses or neck scarves). According to the regulations of the IRI, women applicants should be wearing head scarves. [Note: Applicant should also remember to include their personal details on the backside of the passport photos.]

- A filled out copy of form [103], for changing place of residence, and issuance of multiple exiting permit.

- Original and photocopy of the Certificate of Completion of Military Service or Exemption from Service, or filling out Form [104] for granting permission to exit once a year(for those required to do Military service and those born after 1338 (1959) who have not yet done their service and are not in possession of any Exemptions and have left the country before 29 of Esfand 1382 (March 2003) and for a stay of 2 years abroad.)

- Wiring the respective fees using the PIN machine.

- A photocopy of their Dutch citizenship card (Front and back) and a photo copy of their Dutch Passport." (Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Netherlands, undated B)

The information provided on the website of the Iranian Embassy mentions a special procedure for the issuing of passports for individuals, who have illegally exited Iran and who are referred to as "illegal passers":

"Passport Issuance For Illegal Passers

Individuals, who have illegally exited the IRI, may apply for passport issuance at the Embassy while observing the following:

PLEASE NOTE: Individuals who illegally crossed this border before 31 Shahriyar 1375 (21 September 1996), are exempted of paying fines! However, it is required to present evidence of having been present in the country before this date.

Required documents

- A filled out Form [109], for investigation of illegal exit.

- A filled out Form [110], for granting exiting permission for illegal passing foreign resident.
- 3. Three 3x4cm passport photos taken within the past six month, (Including a full face, front view, open eyes, a plain white background & without a hat, glasses or neck scarves). According to the regulations of the IRI, women applicants should be wearing head scarves. [Note: Applicant should also remember to include their personal details on the backside of the passport photos.]

- Wiring the respective fees using the PIN machine.

* A photocopy of their Dutch residence permit card (Front and back) or a photo copy of their Dutch citizenship card and Passport." (Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Netherlands, undated C)

In addition, the Iranian Embassy publishes information for passport renewal as well as the procedure for the replacement for damaged and lost passports that involves the issuing of a new passport:

"Passport Renewal

Passports can be renewed exclusively in the following cases:

- Expiry of the 5 or 10 year validity of the previous passport.

- There are no longer any blank pages left in the passport

- Individual has evidence of being registered under a new Name, Surname, or Date of Birth; in which case it is required provide that evidence namely their Iranian Birth Certificate, or 'Shenasname'

It is worth noting as of June 21, 2008, older passports can no longer be extended, and holders of these will need to collect the following documents to get a new passport issued:

- A copy application form [101] for passport renewal

- The Original and a photocopy of their old passport (this should include the first 6 pages for 5-year-long-valid passports, and the first 11 pages for the older passports)

- The original Birth Certificate (Shenasname), as well as a photocopy (2 for Dutch passport holders or refugees) of all the pages. (Birth certificate of individuals above 15 years of age must contain an ID photo)

- The Original copy as well as a photocopy of the individual's Dutch residence permit card.

*Those possessing a Dutch passport must instead of a residence permit card, provide the following mentioned in A.

A:

*2 Filled out copies of Affidavits: found in form [102], regarding the pledge to uphold an Iranian Nationality.

*A photocopy of the Dutch Nationality card (Front and Back) and a photocopy of Dutch passport.

*Refugees and Immigrants or those who have requested asylum upon arrival to the Netherlands, must provide the following mentioned below in B:

B:

*2 Filled out immigration applications.

*A photocopy of Dutch residence permit card (Front and back), as well as that of their Dutch immigration passport.

•A filled out copy of form [103], for changing place of residence, and issuance of multiple exiting permit.

•Original and photocopy of the Certificate of Completion of Military Service or Exemption from Service, or filling out Formno.104 for granting permission to exit once a year (for those required to do Military service and those born after 1338 (1959) who have not yet done their service and are not in possession of any Exemptions and have left the country before 29 of Esfand 1382 (19March 2004) and for a stay of 2 years abroad.)

•Three 3x4cm passport photos taken within the past six month, (Including a full face, front view, open eyes, a plain white background & without a hat, glasses or neck scarves). According to the regulations of the IRI, women applicants should be wearing head scarves. [Note: Applicant should also remember to include their personal details on the backside of the passport photos.]

•Original of Birth certificate (Shenasname), along with photocopies of all the pages of the document and 2 ID photos of the spouse and/or children of applicant (only in the case the applicant has their details inscribed in his passport in advance.

Required documents

•Filled-out application form [111], for the company of the spouse and children of applicant.

•This application form must be filled out by the husband, and for having the company of his wife or via the father for having the accompanying his children in his passport or that of the mother of the children and undersigned.

•Original copy of birth certificate of the individuals accompanying the traveler and the photocopy of all the pages of the certificate.

•Two 3x4cm passport photos taken within the past six month, (Including a full face, front view, open eyes, a plain white background & without a hat, glasses or neck scarves). According to the regulations of the IRI, women applicants should be wearing head scarves. [Note: Applicant should also remember to include their personal details on the backside of the passport photos.]

•A photocopy of the residence permits card (front and back) or a photocopy of Dutch passport.

•Wiring the relevant fees using the PIN machine, at the consular section of the embassy." (Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Netherlands, undated D)

"Replacement For Damaged Passports

If a national's passport is damaged beyond reasonable wear and tear, many airlines and officials will not deem it an acceptable travel document. In this case the Iranian National may refer to the Embassy or Consulate of the IRI and apply for a replacement of a damaged passport.

Required documents

- 2 Filled-out copies of the application Form [101], for the issuance of a first Passport.
 - Original copy of passport, along with a short description of the reason, and the extent of the damage of the passport (In Farsi)
 - Original Iranian Birth Certificate (Shenasname), and photocopies of all the pages of the Birth Certificate (This document must contain an ID photo for those above 15 years of age.
 - The original copy of the Dutch residence-permit card (front and back) and photocopy of it.
- *Individuals with Dutch passports must provide the following documents:
- A: A Filled out copies of Affidavits: found in form [102], regarding the pledge to uphold an Iranian Nationality.
- B: photocopy of the Dutch Nationality card (Front and Back) and a photocopy of Dutch passport.
- Four 3x4cm passport photos taken within the past six month, (Including a full face, front view, open eyes, a plain white background & without a hat, glasses or neck scarves). According to the regulations of the IRI, women applicants should be wearing head scarves. [Note: Applicant should also remember to include their personal details on the backside of the passport photos.]
 - 2 filled out copies of form [103], for changing place of residence, and issuance of multiple exiting permit.
 - Original and photocopy of the Certificate of Completion of Military Service or Exemption from Service (only for those Iranians who have 'The Netherlands' inscribed as their place of residence, on page 8 of their Passport), or filling out Form [104] for granting permission to exit once a year (for those required to do Military service and those born after 1338 (1959) who have not yet done their service and are not in possession of any Exemptions and have left the country before 29 of Esfand 1382 (March 2003) and for a stay of 2 years abroad.)
 - The original Birth Certificate (Shenasname) of companions in the passport (only if there had been any), as well as 2 photocopies of all the pages of each Certificate.

PLEASE NOTE: In order to get companions (i.e. spouse and/or children) included in the

passport, the following documents are required:

- Filled-out application form [111], for the company of the spouse and children of applicant.
- This application form must be filled out by the husband, and for having the company of his wife or via the father for having the accompanying his children in his passport or that of the mother of the children and undersigned.
- Original copy of birth certificate of the individuals accompanying the traveler and the photocopy of all the pages of the certificate.
- Two 3x4cm passport photos taken within the past six month, (Including a full face, front view, open eyes, a plain white background & without a hat, glasses or neck scarves). According to the regulations of the IRI, women applicants should be wearing head scarves. [Note: Applicant should also remember to include their personal details on the backside of the passport photos.]
- A photocopy of the residence permit card (front and back) or a photocopy of Dutch passport.
- Wiring the relevant fees using the PIN machine, at the consular section of the embassy” (Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Netherlands, undated E)

“Replacement For Lost Passports

Required documents

- 2 Filled-out copies of the application Form [101], for the issuance of a first Passport.
 - Original Iranian Birth Certificate (Shenasname), and photocopies of all the pages of the Birth Certificate (This document must contain an ID photo for those above 15 years of age. For Iranians above 15 years of age, whose Birth Certificate lacks an ID photo, it is first necessary to apply for a [replacement of a 15 year old Birth Certificate] or for an [ID photo inclusion in Birth Certificate]
 - Original Dutch Residence Permit card (IND issued document) & a photocopy .
- * Individuals who possess a Dutch passport, instead are required to provide the following documents:
- a) Filled out application Form [102], for the individual’s upholding of his/her Iranian nationality.
 - b) A photocopy of their Dutch citizenship card (Front and back) and a photo copy of their Dutch Passport.
- Four 3x4cm passport photos taken within the past six month, (Including a full face, front view, open eyes, a plain white background & without a hat, glasses or neck scarves) of passport holder and all companions above 2 years of age. According to the regulations of

the IRI, women applicants should be wearing head scarves. [Note: Applicant should also remember to include their personal details on the backside of the passport photos.]

- A filled out copy of form [103], for changing place of residence, and issuance of multiple exiting permit.(only for those whose place of residence had not previously been the Netherlands)

- Original and photocopy of the Certificate of Completion of Military Service or Exemption from Service, or filling out Form [104] for granting permission to exit once a year(for those required to do Military service and those born after 1338 (1959) who have not yet done their service and are not in possession of any Exemptions and have left the country before 29 of Esfand 1382 (March 2003) and for a stay of 2 years abroad.)

- The original Birth Certificate (Shenasname) of companions in the passport (only if there had been any), as well as 2 photocopies of all the pages of each Certificate.

PLEASE NOTE: In order to get companions (i.e. spouse and/or children) included in the passport, the following documents are required:

- Filled-out application form [111], for the company of the spouse and children of applicant.

- This application form must be filled out by the husband, and for having the company of his wife or via the father for having the accompanying his children in his passport or that of the mother of the children and undersigned.

- Original copy of birth certificate of the individuals accompanying the traveler and the photocopy of all the pages of the certificate.

- Two 3x4cm passport photos taken within the past six month, (Including a full face, front view, open eyes, a plain white background & without a hat, glasses or neck scarves). According to the regulations of the IRI, women applicants should be wearing head scarves. [Note: Applicant should also remember to include their personal details on the backside of the passport photos.]

- A photocopy of the residence permit card (front and back) or a photocopy of Dutch passport.

- Wiring the relevant fees using the PIN machine, at the consular section of the embassy

PLEASE NOTE: Those who have exited the IRI after 20 Khordad, 1378 (June 1990), should also mention the date of exiting the country. (only for lost passports)" (Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Netherlands, undated F)

A privately run website named „Big Passport & Visa“ that aims at providing international visa and passport information in order to facilitate international travelling provides undated information on passport procedures in Iran. The website mentions that passports are issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Iran. „Ordinary passports“ are issued by any of the passport and identification centers. Iranian citizens abroad can obtain a passport from any Iranian consular mission in the respective country of residence. It is indicated that the required

documents have to be filled out „fully, legibly and accurately“. Misrepresentation or suppression of facts may lead to denial of the issuance of the passport. Incomplete and incorrect applications will not be processed. The web-entry further mentions difficulties associated to the loss of a passport:

“Iranian passports are issued to citizens of the Islamic Republic of Iran, whether living in the country or overseas, for the purpose of international travel. The passport can also be used as a proof of Iranian citizenship. The new Iranian passports are usually valid for 10 years. They can be renewed after five years. They have a burgundy cover with the Iranian Coat of Arms emblazoned on it. They are issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran. [...]

Types Available

There are two major types of Iranian passports. Choose the one appropriate for you depending on your purpose or position.

- Ordinary passport. Every Iranian national has the right to own an ordinary passport to travel outside the country. This type is issued by any of the passport and identification centers. Iranian citizens abroad can obtain one from any Iranian consular missions in their country of residence.

- Diplomatic and official passports. Diplomatic and service passports are issued to accredited members of any diplomatic mission, high-ranking government officials, employees or members of international organizations (United Nations, Organization of American States, etc), and their family members on their official visits or missions abroad. They are usually exempt from fees. Only the Ministry of Foreign Affairs can issue this type of passport. However, consulates can extend the validity of diplomatic passports for Iranian people living abroad carrying this type.

How to apply

The first thing you will need when applying for an Iranian passport is an application form. You may obtain this from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or any passport office throughout the country. If you're living abroad, you may get a copy from the consular section of any Iranian embassy or consulate. Fill out the form fully, legibly and accurately. Write in capital letters. Any misrepresentation or suppression of the facts may lead to denial of your passport. Incomplete and incorrect applications will not be processed.

Aside from the application form, here are the other documents you are required to submit:

- two pieces of proof of residence (photocopy of utility bills, lease agreement, driver's license, other documents indicating your mailing address)
- certificate of citizenship or identity

- application processing fee
- four recent identical color passport-size photographs

Write your identification on the back of the pictures. Men should not wear hats or eyeglasses. Women should wear a hejab.

Duplicate Passport

Losing your passport can be a very troublesome event. If, unfortunately, you lose your passport, the first thing to do is to report to the police and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Iranian consulate nearest you, if overseas. Then, apply for a duplicate passport. Applications are not usually accepted by mail unless you have approval of the passport issuing office or the consular office. Even so, you may still be required to come in person.

To be issued another passport, submit the following documents:

- a duly accomplished General Form 1, 2
- the original copy of your birth certificate
- clear photocopies of your lost passport's last page indicating the exit stamp from Iran as well as page 2-9
- a copy of a police report indicating you have lost your passport
- four recent identical color passport-size photographs (with identification on the back; no hat or eyeglasses for men and with vale for women)
- an application letter stating reasons for the loss of your passport
- a letter from your university or college (if a student)
- a letter from your employer (if working)

If you have Iranian companions while traveling, you also need to submit original copies of their birth certificates and passport-style photographs.

Passport Renewal

If you already have a passport and you need a new one, make sure to file your application within one year of your current passport's expiry or before six months of its expiry. Here are the documents you need to submit.

- accomplished General Form 1, 2
- four recent identical color passport-size photographs (with identification on the back; no hat or eyeglasses for men and with vale for women)

- your current passport with valid visa

If you are a dual citizen or you have citizenship other than Iranian, you also need to submit photocopies of foreign documents and relevant forms as well as clear photocopies of pages 2 to 9 of your current passport and the last page indicating the exit stamp from Iran.

In case there is information in your passport that needs to be changed, such as the marital status and name of spouse, you are required to submit proof like a photocopy of your marriage certificate. You also need to submit your current passport, which you will get once the processing is over.

Additional Information

One of the most unfortunate things that could happen to an Iranian national is losing a passport. Unlike in many Western countries, applying for a duplicate passport in Iran is not as easy as going online, accomplishing forms and waiting for the new passport to be delivered to your home. You have to realize that the Iranian government is so wary and cautious when it comes to international travel. Authorities see to it that you really lost your passport and did not sell it. Forgery is almost a common thing in passport applications in Iran.

If you lose your passport, prepare for a good six months of not just waiting but also filling out several forms and answering interrogations. Passport authorities will not give you a new one until they are comfortable and sure that you have indeed lost it.

Make sure to let them know that it is important for you to obtain a new passport but never show arrogance. You may be a little persistent but stay humble.”

(Big Passport & Visa, undated)

The Canadian Refugee and Immigration Board (IRB) provides further information on the issuing of passports in Iran. In a telephone interview in February 2006 with an official at the Embassy of Iran in Ottawa it is mentioned that the Iranian police force is the passport issuing authority in Iran. Besides practical guidance required for the issuance of passports, it is reported that applying for a passport may be more complicated for certain individuals:

“...The Iranian police force, the Law Enforcement Forces (LEF), is the passport issuing authority in Iran and has nine passport offices in Tehran as well as forty-nine others in cities across the country (ibid.). To apply for a passport, individuals over the age of 18 years old must appear in person at the LEF passport office, complete and submit an application form and present the required identification documentation (ibid.). While obtaining a passport was more complicated for certain individuals, namely those who had ‘matters to settle with the Iranian authorities’ or married women who must first obtain permission from their husbands in order to apply for a passport, the 2000 report stated that individuals of religious and ethnic minorities did not face any difficulties in obtaining a passport (ibid.)...” (IRB, 3 April 2006a)

A report by the Iran Human Rights Documentation Center (IHRDC) from August 2010 mentions obstacles in the context of issuing a passport as regulated in the Iranian Passport Law. It is reported that a written announcement of a judicial official may circumvent the issuing of a passport to exit the country:

“According to the Iranian Passport Law, “persons will not be issued a passport to leave the country ... [if] according to the written announcement of the judicial officials, [they] are banned from exiting the country.” If such persons, according to this law, have already been issued a passport, upon attempting to exit the country, “the passport will be confiscated” and “the person will not be permitted to leave the country” until the restriction on the persons traveling is lifted.” (IHRDC, August 2010, p. 49-50)

The USDOS 2009 Human Rights Report: Iran also mentions obstacles associated with the issuing of passports with regard to certain groups of Iranian citizens:

“The government required exit permits for foreign travel for all citizens. Some citizens, particularly those whose skills were in demand and who were educated at government expense, had to post bond to obtain an exit permit. The government restricted foreign travel of some religious leaders and individual members of religious minorities and scientists in sensitive fields, and it increasingly targeted journalists, academics, and activists--including women's rights activists--for travel bans and passport confiscation during the year. The government banned travel to Israel, but this ban was reportedly not enforced. [...] A woman must have the permission of her husband, father, or other male relative to obtain a passport. A married woman must receive written permission from her husband before she leaves the country.” (USDOS, 11 March 2010, Section 2d)

See also the following reports for more information on passport issuing procedures:

IRB - Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada: Iran: Information on passport procedures for women; including the issuance of passports and exit permits for unaccompanied Iranian women and children, specifically the requirements for consent by the husband/father or other male relative (2003 - 2005) [IRN100757.E], / December 2005

http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca:8080/RIR_RDI/RIR_RDI.aspx?id=449718&l=e

IRB - Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada: Iran: Types of exit permits issued to individuals for travel abroad; the difference between an exit permit and an exit stamp; how these permits are obtained and whether they are placed inside the passport or take some other form; restrictions applied to certain categories of applicants; the criteria for multiple and single-exit permission; exit fees; whether exit permission is set for a specified time period and the penalties, if any, for overstay; countries that Iranians can travel to without a visa (2004 - February 2006) [IRN101053.E], 3 April 2006b

http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca:8080/RIR_RDI/RIR_RDI.aspx?id=450028&l=e

- DIS - Danish Immigration Service: Human Rights Situation for Minorities, Women and Converts, and Entry and Exit Procedures, ID Cards, Summons and Reporting, etc. Fact finding mission to Iran 24th August – 2nd September 2008, April 2009

http://www.nyidanmark.dk/NR/rdonlyres/90D772D5-F2DA-45BE-9DBB-87E00CD0EB83/0/iran_report_final.pdf

2) Information on last changes of the procedure for issuance of Iranian passports; information on possible updates of the procedure in the period between or previous 2004-2005

In a recent publication by the IHRDC the Iranian Passport Law is mentioned. It was ratified in 1972 and amended in the year 1998:

"Qanun-i Guzarnamihyih Jumhuriyih Islamiyih Iran [Passport Law of the Islamic Republic of Iran] art. 16 (Ratified 1972, amended 1998) [hereinafter Passport Law]" (IHRDC, August 2010, p. 49 FN 356)

According to a statement of the general of the Iranian Police Passport Department published in the Iran Daily in August 2005 a new passport application system had been created in March 2005:

„In August 2005, the director general of the Iranian Police Passport Department noted that, since the creation of a new passport application system in March 2005, there had been no reports of forged passports" (Iran Daily, 21 August 2005)

In a BBC radio programme from 23 March 2010, accessible on the internet, the story of Nahal Tajadod is reported, an Iranian expatriate who told her story of renewing her Iranian passport in Iran. In this context Tajadod mentions that the Iranian passport system had been computerised in 2005:

„Nahal Tajadod is an Iranian living in Paris, who makes occasional trips to Tehran to see friends and family. However, when she needed to renew her passport on a visit to Iran in 2005, she ran into a long chain of difficulties which prevented her return home.

It all started because the Iranian passport system was being computerised at the time of her application. A process that should have taken three days took weeks." (BBC, 23 March 2010)

Please find attached to this response scanned pictures of a passport as first issued in September 2004 according to Keesing's Documentchecker.com, an online database on identity documents (documentchecker.com, undated).

3) a) Provided that there was an update: Information on time requirements for replacing an old with a new passport

In the aforementioned BBC radio programme from 23 March 2010 Nahal Tajadod also mentions that due to the computerization of the Iranian passport system the process of issuing a passport had taken weeks instead of three days:

„Nahal Tajadod is an Iranian living in Paris, who makes occasional trips to Tehran to see friends and family. However, when she needed to renew her passport on a visit to Iran in 2005, she ran into a long chain of difficulties which prevented her return home.

It all started because the Iranian passport system was being computerised at the time of her application. A process that should have taken three days took weeks." (BBC,

23 March 2010)

In the interview led by the Canadian Refugee and Immigration Board (IRB) with the Embassy of Iran in Ottawa in February 2006 mentions that depending upon the volume of demand, it has taken about one month to obtain a passport after the application has been made:

"Passport features and procedures

In a 2 February 2006 telephone interview, an official at the Embassy for Iran in Ottawa provided the following information about Iranian passports. Depending upon the volume of demand, it takes approximately one month to obtain a passport after the application has been made. Passports are valid for five years. In order to obtain a passport, it is important for the applicant to have a birth certificate. The applicant must apply for and pick up their passport in person." (IRB, 3 April 2006)

b) provided that there was no update: Information on time requirements for issuance of a biometric passport

Information on biometric passports ("e-passports") currently being issued can be provided on request.

References: (all links accessed 6 September 2010)

1) Information on the current procedure for issuance of Iranian passports

- Big Passport & Visa: Iran Passports, undated
<http://bigpassportandvisa.com/iran-passports/>
- Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Netherlands: Issuing a First Passport, undated A
<http://iranianembassy.nl/en/consular.php?content=231>
- Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Netherlands: Issuance of Separate Passports, undated B
<http://iranianembassy.nl/en/consular.php?content=233>
- Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Netherlands: Passport Issuance for Illegal passers, undated C
<http://iranianembassy.nl/en/consular.php?content=236>
- Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Netherlands: Passport Renewal, undated D
<http://iranianembassy.nl/en/consular.php?content=232>
- Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Netherlands: Replacement for Damaged Passports, undated E
<http://iranianembassy.nl/en/consular.php?content=234>
- Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Netherlands: Replacement for Lost Passports, undated F
<http://iranianembassy.nl/en/consular.php?content=235>

- IHRDC - Iran Human Rights Documentation Center: Silencing the Women's Rights Movement in Iran, August 2010
<http://www.iranhrdc.org/httpdocs/English/pdfs/Reports/Women's%20Rights.pdf>
- IRB - Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada: Iran: The passport; its features and procedures for application including whether an applicant who was refused a passport would be notified and have recourse; the use and prevalence of fraudulent or counterfeit passports to exit Iran; ease of illegal entry into and exit from Pakistan, Turkey, and Azerbaijan overland, and Oman and the United Arab Emirates by sea; whether authorities seize passports from certain individuals to prevent their departure from the country (2004 - February 2006) [IRN101054.E], 3 April 2006a
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- USDOS - US Department of State: Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2009 - Iran, 11 March 2010
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/nea/136068.htm>

2) Information on last changes of the procedure for issuance of Iranian passports; information on possible updates of the procedure in the period between or previous 2004-2005

- BBC World News: Programme: An Iranian Passport Problem, 23 March 2010
http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/programmes/2010/03/100323_outlook_passport_iran.shtml
- Documentchecker.com: Iran national passport, undated (see attached copy)
- Iran Daily: No title available, 21 August 2005 (available at UK Border Agency)
<http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/iran-250507.doc>
- IHRDC - Iran Human Rights Documentation Center: Silencing the Women's Rights Movement in Iran, August 2010
<http://www.iranhrdc.org/httpdocs/English/pdfs/Reports/Women's%20Rights.pdf>

3) a) Provided that there was an update: Information on time requirements for replacing an old with a new passport

- BBC World News: Programme: An Iranian Passport Problem, 23 March 2010
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