1

**Good News for Afghan Students**

In a meeting with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Iran's Minister of Education announced the ministry’s readiness to provide online and virtual educational services to Afghan students.

According to *Khabar Online* and the Ministry of Education’s Public Relations and Information Center, Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, who has traveled to Tehran for discussions with Iranian officials, met with Alireza Kazemi, Iran’s Minister of Education, to discuss educational issues concerning foreign nationals residing in Iran.

Grandi was accompanied by Ms. Yuji Han Soo, Head of the UNHCR Regional Office, and Ms. Yumiko Takashima Ishikawa, UNHCR’s representative in Iran. The meeting focused on reviewing the current status of Afghan refugees.

Expressing his appreciation for the meeting and the support provided by UNHCR in various sectors, Minister Kazemi stated:  
“We value your presence in Iran and welcome you warmly. The Islamic Republic of Iran has always hosted refugees—particularly from Afghanistan—with humanitarian and religious motives. For more than four decades, we have delivered valuable services to refugees and foreign nationals, even under harsh international sanctions. This humanitarian effort deserves recognition in global and international forums, and the UN should more prominently showcase Iran’s compassionate approach.”

Kazemi continued by outlining the educational services provided by Iran’s Ministry of Education to foreign students:  
“Iran offers extensive educational services to migrants and refugees, including free enrollment and schooling, provision of textbooks similar to Iranian students, health and medical screenings upon school entry, and cognitive assessments.”

Referring to health services offered to foreign students, he added:  
“These include free medical care, dental hygiene programs, counseling services, participation in educational, scientific, and cultural camps, welfare support, free access to sports facilities, extracurricular activities, and remedial classes. These are only part of the services provided by the Islamic Republic of Iran to Afghan students.”

Kazemi noted that according to estimates, Iran spends around **$100 million annually** on services for foreign nationals, while UNHCR’s support has accounted for **less than one percent** of this in recent years.

The Minister also pointed to the challenges and threats associated with hosting refugees:  
“Now that Afghanistan is experiencing relative peace and stability, it is best for our dear Afghan guests to return to their homeland with dignity and help rebuild their country.”

He identified **cultural tensions** as another issue caused by the presence of refugees:  
“The increased classroom density due to refugee students has significantly impacted Iranian students’ academic performance.”

Kazemi added that **shortages in educational infrastructure** and the **high costs** of meeting these needs pose another challenge:  
“These costs are both economic and social. Our people expect these resources to benefit Iranian students, which is a reasonable and legitimate demand.”

He also noted that **economic difficulties and social problems** among Afghan refugees have led to child labor:  
“Due to financial struggles, some Afghan families use their children as a source of income, which has led to serious societal problems in Iran.”

Despite all the challenges, Kazemi emphasized that Iran has **never reduced the educational services offered to refugees.**

In response to Grandi’s condolences over a personal loss, Kazemi remarked:  
“The hardship we have endured is nothing compared to the atrocities committed by the Zionist regime in Gaza and the suffering of innocent children there.”

He reiterated:  
“We continue to offer the best possible services to Afghan migrants and guests legally residing in Iran, just as we do for Iranian students. We have issued registration guidelines for Afghan students to all provincial education departments, ensuring that no Afghan student is deprived of education, as has always been our policy.”

Acknowledging the **educational difficulties facing Afghan students**, Kazemi stated:  
“We are ready to provide support by educating all Afghan students through local online platforms. In line with a trilateral cooperation agreement and based on the Charter of Virtual Schools ratified by the Supreme Council of Education, we can issue valid educational certificates.”

**Filippo Grandi's Remarks**

Filippo Grandi thanked Iran for its hospitality and explained that he had long intended to visit Iran.  
“Due to recent challenges, I had been unable to travel here. But I wanted to come before the end of my mission and before the end of the calendar year, as Iran is very important to me both professionally and personally.”

Grandi highlighted a **historic moment** in 2015 when Iran’s Supreme Leader issued a statement allowing Afghan students without legal documentation to attend school, calling it a “remarkable and surprising” act:  
“Many wealthy nations would not have taken such a step.”

He reiterated that the **main reason** for his visit was to express appreciation for Iran’s educational services to refugees:  
“I have repeatedly acknowledged Iran’s exemplary efforts in global forums and have urged others to follow its lead.”

Grandi added that the **UN’s budget has been reduced by 30%**, limiting their ability to provide more financial support:  
“I regret the limited funding available for Iran despite the exceptional services it offers. Unfortunately, the current circumstances prevent us from allocating more.”

He noted that before arriving in Iran, he had visited **Afghanistan**, where **girls are still barred from education beyond elementary school**, calling it a serious concern for the UNHCR.

Grandi also mentioned discussions with Iran’s **Foreign Minister** regarding the **gradual repatriation** of Afghan refugees:  
“I thank you for exempting certain groups from forced return. A gradual return provides time to address their challenges more effectively.”

Referring to the **proposal for virtual education for students outside Iran**, Grandi said:  
“I’ve heard that Iran has proposed virtual education programs for Afghan students abroad. We fully support this initiative, as it holds significant value for the younger generation.”

He concluded:  
“I know I may not be a wealthy partner, but I hope you will allow me to remain your partner nonetheless.

2

**Jomhouri-e Eslami Newspaper: Those Opposing the Deportation of Afghan Migrants Are Either Naive or Profiteers / The Decision Is Entirely Rational**

The precise and nationally aligned decision regarding the repatriation of undocumented foreign nationals, currently being implemented, has faced both domestic and international opposition.

According to *Khabar Online*, *Jomhouri-e Eslami* newspaper wrote:  
Foreign opponents cite reasons so absurd that they clearly reveal their bias. Despite knowing that Iran has borne the highest costs in hosting millions of Afghan nationals for years—enduring all the negative consequences of their presence—they now resort to deceptive human rights rhetoric in response to Iran’s decision to return these individuals following serious security concerns that arose during the recent 12-day imposed war by the Zionist regime.

President Pezeshkian has responded to this tactic with clear logic, stating:  
“What is truly astonishing is the so-called compassion of those who have turned a blind eye to the bombing and mass murder of innocent women and children, as well as the deliberate blocking of food and medicine leading to starvation. Yet when it comes to organizing Afghan migrants, they suddenly invoke human rights as a pretext.”

Global public opinion is deeply affected by the fact that the Zionists, with Western government backing, have killed 60,000 civilians in Gaza over the past 21 months. Around 20,000 children have been massacred, and approximately 90% of Gaza’s homes, along with mosques, hospitals, schools, churches, and all basic infrastructure, have been destroyed. People worldwide are protesting what they call the **genocide of the century** and demanding an end to this war crime. Meanwhile, the U.S. and some European countries support these atrocities—and yet label Iran’s repatriation of Afghan nationals as a violation of human rights!

What’s even more astonishing is that some naïve individuals inside Iran, influenced by these deceitful external claims, oppose the deportation of undocumented migrants.

Regarding domestic opponents—though their number is small—the newspaper distinguishes between **the naive** and **the profiteers** who have been making substantial profits from the continued presence of undocumented migrants in Iran. *Jomhouri-e Eslami* expresses hope that one day the identities of these profiteers, their business models, and the vast sums they earn through this exploitation will be revealed to the public.

The article also highlights examples from several countries to make its case to these misguided individuals:

* **The United States**, after colluding with the Taliban and withdrawing its forces in August 2021, allowed **85,000 Afghans** to enter. However, they were kept under strict surveillance in camps far from cities. Most were eventually deported, and now only **18,000**, mostly skilled professionals, remain. Compare that to **over 10 million** Afghans freely living across Iran.
* **The United Kingdom** arrests Afghan nationals and **immediately deports them** via airplane.
* **Germany** has firmly implemented the deportation of Afghans, disregarding human rights concerns or refugee laws.
* Most notably, **Pakistan**, despite helping the Taliban take power in Kabul, decided to expel Afghan nationals and **deported 2 million** in a short time.

The newspaper concludes:  
Western countries consider their harsh deportation policies consistent with human rights and say nothing against Pakistan for similar actions. Yet when Iran does the same, it’s condemned. While such double standards are expected from Western governments, **domestic critics** of deporting undocumented migrants must rethink their position and stop sacrificing national interests for misplaced emotionalism.

3

**Behind Closed Doors: Reviewing the National Migration Organization Bill Out of Public Sight**

**Bakhshayesh Ardestani: They Were Trying to Legitimize the Stay of Afghan Nationals at Any Cost**

The Iranian parliament, which has often championed the principle of transparency, has once again agreed to review a critical bill behind closed doors under Article 85 of the Constitution—raising serious concerns among the public and political observers.

According to *Khabar Online*, on Sunday morning, lawmakers approved the review of the *National Migration Organization Bill* under **Article 85 of the Constitution**, which allows legislation to be reviewed by parliamentary commissions instead of being debated in open sessions. This effectively means decisions on the entry, exit, and residency of foreign nationals in Iran will now be discussed behind the scenes.

While this is the first time the current 12th Parliament has invoked Article 85, past experience during the 11th Parliament—particularly the controversial hijab and chastity law—shows that such closed-door legislations often provoke widespread public backlash. Critics argue that these opaque processes contradict the very **transparency pledges** that parliamentarians made when elected.

**What Is Article 85 of the Constitution?**  
This article stipulates that:

"Parliamentary representation is non-transferable and cannot be delegated. The legislature may not transfer its lawmaking authority to individuals or groups. However, in urgent cases, Parliament may delegate the drafting of specific laws to internal commissions, subject to Article 72. Such laws shall be implemented on a trial basis for a specified period and will require final parliamentary approval."

Critics say that invoking this article for sensitive social matters amounts to **legislating in secrecy**, distancing key national decisions from public scrutiny.

**Bakhshayesh Ardestani: This Bill Seeks to Legitimize the Stay of Afghan Nationals**

In an interview with *Khabar Online*, **Ahmad Bakhshayesh Ardestani**, a member of the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, strongly criticized the new bill.

He stated:

“I personally oppose the creation of the National Migration Organization for several reasons. Firstly, the original bill contained only 10 articles, but the Parliamentary Commission on Councils expanded it to 57—completely transforming its nature.”

He further argued:

“This body shouldn’t be called the *Migration Organization*. It should be named the *Afghan Organization*, because apart from Afghan nationals, Iran does not have any other significant immigrant population.”

Bakhshayesh Ardestani claimed that the bill is part of a broader ideological shift by the previous administration, which, after the emigration of professionals and academics, began promoting an *“Ummah-State”* ideology rather than a *“Nation-State”* model—seeking to fill domestic gaps with immigrants from Islamic countries.

He alleged:

“They are trying to create legal grounds for the continued presence of Afghan nationals—reportedly numbering between 6 and 10 million. We already have departments handling foreign nationals within the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and law enforcement. Now they’ve introduced this new organization. Knowing the issue’s sensitivity, they decided to push it through Article 85 to avoid resistance during open parliamentary sessions.”

According to Bakhshayesh, the proponents justified their move by citing the **600 amendments** submitted for the bill, which they claimed would prolong deliberations. But he argued this was merely an excuse:

“We face thousands of proposals during budget discussions. Why not allocate more days for open review instead of rushing it in secrecy?”

He added:

“In open sessions, everything is broadcast and exposed. They feared opposition and used Article 85 to get this passed quietly. The process is much easier: 20 commission members review, 16 return the next day, sign off, and it’s done. No public debate, no transparency.”

**Moeinoddin Saeedi: Migration Policy Must Not Be Decided Under Article 85**

**Moeinoddin Saeedi**, a former parliamentarian from Chabahar, also condemned the use of Article 85 for this bill. He told *Khabar Online*:

“This article is intended for time-sensitive or low-impact issues. It should not be used for highly sensitive laws with major societal implications.”

He pointed to past misuse of Article 85 for controversial bills like the Population Growth Law, Hijab Law, and the Internet Regulation Bill—each of which sparked public outrage.

Regarding the **National Migration Organization**, he stated:

“Given the country’s recent experiences—including the 12-day war and ongoing concerns about foreign nationals—this matter must be debated openly, in full view of the media and the public.”

He also warned:

“If such legislation is kept confidential under the pretext of ‘security considerations,’ it undermines Parliament’s very legitimacy as the voice of the people. Security concerns cannot be an excuse to bypass open, democratic processes.”

On the broader issue of **transparency**, he concluded:

“Many lawmakers pledge transparency during elections but fail to uphold it once in power. Publicly visible voting is important—but even more so is the transparency of lawmakers’ financial resources. Sadly, most of these promises remain mere slogans

4

**of Births at Omolbanin Hospital in Mashhad Attributed to Foreign Nationals**

The head of Hazrat Omolbanin Women's and Maternity Hospital in Mashhad reported that 40% of all births at the hospital are attributed to foreign nationals. She also expressed concern over the lack of critical units such as an ICU at the facility.

According to Khabar Online (Khorasan), Dr. Nahid Saheb-Delfar, head of Hazrat Omolbanin Women’s and Maternity Hospital, stated in an interview:  
"This hospital, with 136 approved beds and 103 active beds, is one of the key specialized centers for women and maternity care in Mashhad. It currently operates with 399 staff members, providing services to mothers and newborns."

She added:  
"The neonatal ward is one of the most important sections of the hospital, with 40 beds—24 dedicated to neonatal intensive care and 16 for other neonatal services."

Dr. Saheb-Delfar noted that in the first quarter of this year, the hospital recorded an average of about 473 deliveries per month, including both natural and cesarean births, with natural births outnumbering cesareans.

She emphasized:  
"40% of all births in this hospital involve foreign nationals. These services are provided on a fee-paying basis, and the costs are collected from the foreign patients."

Despite the quality and specialized nature of services provided, the hospital lacks an Intensive Care Unit (ICU), she said.  
"If a mother experiences a serious medical emergency, she must be transferred to another hospital, which can pose serious challenges to timely medical intervention

5

**Taliban Consul General in Zahedan Reacts to Return of Afghan Migrants**

The Consul General of Afghanistan in Zahedan has described the Islamic Republic of Iran’s policy toward Afghan nationals as responsible and humanitarian.

According to *Khabar Online*, **Mohammad Ebrahim Khil**, the Taliban-appointed Consul General in Zahedan, visited the **Milak border crossing** and stated:

“The Islamic Republic of Iran’s policy toward the Afghan people reflects a responsible and humanitarian diplomacy. It is a sign of Iran’s goodwill toward its eastern neighbor.”

According to *ISNA*, since mid-July this year, the Islamic Republic of Iran has launched a national plan aimed at **organizing and deporting undocumented and illegal foreign nationals**, primarily targeting Afghan migrants who have entered and resided in Iran without legal authorization.

As part of this initiative, **a significant number of Afghan nationals** have returned to Afghanistan through various border crossings, including **Islam Qala, Dogharoun, and Milak**

6

Taliban: Afghanistan Is Not Ready for the Massive Return of Migrants from Iran

Amir Khan Muttaqi, the Foreign Minister of the Taliban government, expressed concern over the continued return of Afghan migrants from Iran, stating that Afghanistan does not have the necessary preparedness to manage such a situation. He said that the Taliban government has repeatedly told Iranian officials that the repatriation process must be gradual and carried out with dignity and respect for the migrants.

7

**Jomhouri Eslami Newspaper: Don't Shed Crocodile Tears for Afghans Leaving Iran / Taliban Committed Crimes in Iran and IRIB Stayed Silent**

Now that — albeit belatedly — the resolve to expel undocumented migrants has strengthened following the discovery of collaboration between some Afghan nationals and the Zionist regime in the 12-day imposed war aimed at overthrowing Iran, profiteers are once again trying to whitewash the offenders and maintain their lucrative source of income within the country.

According to *Khabar Online*, *Jomhouri Eslami* writes: A number of gullible individuals, influenced by the lies of these profiteers, are now shedding crocodile tears for the undocumented migrants being returned to their country, as if they care more for them than their own kin. Sadly, our dear Iran has always suffered from these two groups: profiteers and the naïve.

Authorities involved in deporting undocumented migrants must not be influenced by the biased, self-serving propaganda of these "purifiers" and should firmly carry out the correct decision they've made. Those who made the decision know well who among the massive numbers of undocumented migrants committed which acts of treachery against Iran's territorial integrity, and what roles they played in cooperating with the Zionist regime’s plot — launched on June 12 — to destabilize the country. Fortunately, the Zionists and their American and European backers failed in this regime-change conspiracy, were struck hard by Iran’s armed forces, and the collaborators — both Iranian and undocumented foreigners — were arrested. This grand conspiracy has been temporarily thwarted.

But the failure of the plot should not mean overlooking the betrayals of infiltrators. Instead, this opportunity must be seized to uproot the channels of infiltration and cleanse all points of penetration. These routes include both the profiteers — who endangered national sovereignty just to line their deep pockets — and unpaid accomplices who, out of naïveté or misguided motivations, caused serious problems for the country and its people.

That member of parliament who claims no undocumented migrants took part in actions against the country during the 12-day war either lacks knowledge of reality or has a suspicious motive for whitewashing, which remains unclear. A wealth of case files documenting cooperation between undocumented migrants and intelligence and security services is proof that such claims are bizarre and unfounded.

The **national media's failure** to expose the role of some undocumented migrants in aiding the Zionist regime is one of the major unanswered questions. When George Floyd was murdered in the U.S. — an event with zero relation to Iran’s sovereignty — IRIB ran daily reports for months. But that same media refused to mention even a word about the role of undocumented migrants in major crimes such as the **shrine stabbings in Mashhad**, the **Shah Cheragh attacks**, the **anniversary bombing of General Soleimani**, armed robberies, and nationwide unrest. It now also remains silent on their involvement in the 12-day war, including spying, targeting assistance, and use of drones. This media silence has been consistent ever since the Taliban took power in August 2021. So go ahead — try and figure out why IRIB is so enamored with the Taliban!

Let’s even suppose none of these crimes or betrayals occurred, and that Iranian officials made the decision to request the return of Afghan migrants simply due to their overwhelming numbers. This is Iran’s **sovereign right**, and **no one** can strip the Iranian government or people of that right. Iran welcomed Afghans with open arms when they were in need and bore heavy costs to support their livelihoods and educate their children. Now that, by their own admission, Afghanistan is safe and livable, it's only natural they return home. This is the **will of the majority of Iranians**, and it's also consistent with **international norms**, which suggest that foreign nationals should not exceed 3% of a host country's population.

That means a maximum of **2.7 million** total foreign nationals would be reasonable in Iran. Yet currently, just **Afghans alone** make up around **four times** that number — well above international standards.

Therefore, **everyone** should support the government’s decision to deport undocumented migrants, and related institutions should not be swayed by the baseless justifications of the opposition. The government must follow the **will of the people**, not the misguided illusions or manipulated opinions of a small minority influenced by profiteers.

8

**Final deadline announced for the exit of undocumented foreigners from the country**

The representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Khorasan Razavi stated: Due to inadequate infrastructure and the hot weather, the deadline for undocumented foreigners to leave the country has been extended until September 6. After this date, undocumented foreigners remaining in the country will be subject to fines for illegal residence.

9

An Afghan man said: "I lived in Iran for 40 years and no one ever disrespected me. The people of Iran are the best people in the world. They are angels. I went to Germany but came back to Iran. In the past three years, some people from Afghanistan entered Iran who were involved in stabbing and theft! My landlord returned every last penny of my money."

10

**Latest update on the departure of foreign nationals from Iran according to the Interior Minister / What percentage of Afghans who left Iran did so voluntarily?**

The Interior Minister, emphasizing the preservation of the dignity of Afghan migrants, stated that in the process of organizing undocumented foreign nationals, coordination has been made with the caretaker government of Afghanistan, and 70% of the foreign nationals transferred to Afghanistan this year have voluntarily left Iran.

According to Khabar Online news agency, Eskandar Momeni, regarding the latest status of organizing foreign nationals in the country, said: "We have hosted the people of Afghanistan in our country for many years, and these people have contributed greatly to the economy and production of the country. There are also many cultural commonalities between the people of Iran and Afghanistan. However, our issue is with undocumented foreign nationals who have entered the country illegally."

According to reports from the House of the Nation, he added: "The country does not have the capacity to accommodate this volume of migrants. Organizing the foreign nationals who have entered the country illegally is underway, and coordination for this purpose has also been made with the caretaker government of Afghanistan."

The Interior Minister stressed: "More than 70% of the foreign nationals transferred to Afghanistan this year have self-identified and voluntarily returned to their country. Of course, we do not deny that there have been problems in some rare cases, but overall, the dignity of the migrants has been preserved, and there is absolutely no issue of migrant hostility. This work is being carried out with respect and dignity for the dear migrants

11

**Will the labor market get a fresh breath with the expulsion of undocumented foreign nationals? / Haj Esmaeili: Afghan foreign nationals are active in the labor market in numbers equal to the country's unemployed population**

A labor market expert says: About 3 million foreign nationals are seriously active in the labor market, while Iran's unemployment rate has been estimated at around 3 million people over the past 5-6 years. This means that as many foreign nationals are active in Iran’s labor market as the number of unemployed Iranians.

Maryam Fekri: With the intensification of the wave of undocumented foreign nationals leaving, economic experts and analysts now believe the labor market will experience some relief in terms of workforce; especially after many years during which experts said that the conditions for Iranian labor were unreasonable and the presence of foreign nationals in various economic sectors disrupted the balance of Iran's labor market.

Based on statistics provided until the end of June 2025, about 433,000 registered and legal foreign workers have been active in Iran’s labor market; a figure accounting for about 2% of the total economically active population. However, according to officials from the Ministry of Labor, Cooperative, and Social Welfare, the number of informal and unauthorized foreign workers is estimated to be several times higher.

According to estimates by this ministry, about 5 million informal foreign workers are active in Iran’s economy, almost all of whom are from neighboring Afghanistan. Some statistics show that 54% of these migrant workers are employed in the construction sector, followed by 19% in industry and 15% in the service sector.

However, according to the latest statistics from the Deputy of Entrepreneurship Development and Employment, about 700,000 Afghan nationals have left Iran so far; a process that officials say continues and has raised concerns in the labor market. Nonetheless, some labor experts believe that in the long term, with the implementation of support packages, Iranian workers will return to the labor market and unemployment will decrease; especially given that Afghan foreign nationals are active in the Iranian labor market in numbers equal to the unemployed population.

**Warnings about the presence of undocumented foreign nationals have been issued many times**

In this regard, Hamid Haj Esmaeili, a labor market expert, told Khabar Online: “We have spoken many times about foreign nationals and their positive and negative effects on the labor market. Even before the government began organizing and expelling illegal foreign nationals, we discussed other issues beyond the labor market, warning about the harmful effects of their presence in Iran—such as subsidies in energy, public food, and bread, which they receive alongside Iranian citizens.”

He added: “The second issue alongside the labor market was social matters; such as their widespread presence in public places, use of public facilities, transportation, green spaces, etc.”

This labor expert pointed out: “In recent months, even before the 12-day war, we repeatedly raised security concerns about their presence. From different perspectives, this issue was raised. Culturally, there were also problems because many of them did not have proper identification or fixed addresses, and in various social settings like bread lines, shops, buses, and streets, their presence caused problems for the people. Various incidents in certain suburbs and marginal areas raised concerns about public security.”

Haj Esmaeili stated: “We had raised overall security threats which unfortunately became more pronounced during the war, and the government also highlighted these issues through the media. Therefore, the necessity of organizing foreign nationals has become more urgent than ever.”

**Afghan foreign nationals are active in the labor market in numbers equal to the unemployed population**

He continued: “According to the government, about 6.1 million foreign nationals are in Iran, as announced by the Ministry of Interior. However, we believe there are about 8 to 9 million foreign nationals in the country, most of whom are without political visas and are illegally active.”

Haj Esmaeili estimated that about 3 million of these people are seriously active in the labor market, while Iran’s unemployment rate has been estimated at between 2.6 to 3 million people in the past 5 to 6 years. “That means foreign nationals are active in the labor market in numbers equal to the unemployed population.”

He pointed out: “Obviously, if we ignore their presence, it will affect the labor market balance and how close we can get to a single-digit and acceptable unemployment rate, such as 1 or 2 percent.”

This labor expert added: “This will help us greatly so that we can focus our labor policies on infrastructure, long-term support for the workforce, occupational safety and health, as well as education and culture. These are areas that have been neglected and caused harm.”

He also noted: “Supply and demand in the labor market have created problems in unemployment. We have seen many young people and graduates leave the country. Unemployment in these two groups is very high.”

He explained: “Currently, the government’s latest announced unemployment rate for youth is about 20%. For graduates, more than 40% of the total unemployment volume belongs to them. And we haven't even discussed women yet.”

Haj Esmaeili emphasized: “If this number of illegal migrants leaves the labor market or the government organizes them, our unemployment problem in the country will be solved, which would be an ideal indicator any government can highlight.”

**Foreign nationals mostly active in the construction sector**

Haj Esmaeili also told Khabar Online that Afghan foreign nationals were mostly active in construction: “Initially, they entered as simple workers, but later became skilled workers, masons, and architects. They have good skills.”

He added: “Many employers in construction handed work over to foreign nationals because of their skills. Also, advantages like insurance, work hours, and wages attracted them, even though their employment framework was completely illegal.”

He stressed: “Currently, foreign nationals are mostly active in construction, also in municipalities and similar sectors. We have appropriate tools to replace foreign workers with Iranian workers because municipalities are governmental institutions. By properly enforcing labor laws, supporting Iranian workers, and paying sufficient wages, we can easily replace Iranian workers with foreign nationals in municipalities. In sectors like agriculture, animal husbandry, and caretaking, the number of foreign nationals is much lower.”

He emphasized: “We must have programs for these sectors. Since construction is currently stagnant, I think no harm will come to this sector. The government and country have done a lot of infrastructure work in the past decade, including vocational training centers for construction workers.”

He continued: “Therefore, in construction, good work has been done; Iranian workers now have skill cards, have gone through training, and enjoy public services like social insurance. The government supports them and has defined long-term support mechanisms. They also have trade unions to follow up their issues. In multilateral agreements between social security, government, parliament, and municipalities, special regulations have been defined so they can properly use social security services for retirement.”

He added: “Good safety and health training has started. So, many problems in construction have been addressed. I also emphasized that the government can replace foreign workers in municipalities by properly enforcing labor laws and supporting Iranian labor.”

**Will the labor market face a shock?**

He said: “Some people worry that in the short term, the departure of foreign nationals will shock the labor market, which is natural. When you plan to replace 2 to 3 million workers, the effects will definitely be felt, especially in groups that used foreign workers.”

Haj Esmaeili added: “Although most of these workers are in informal sectors where employers pay less attention to laws, this transition and organization will cause short-term problems. But in the long term, with government support packages and regulation through labor relations, we can solve these problems within a year.”

He also stressed: “The departure of undocumented foreign nationals will definitely have positive effects, including significant relief on subsidies like energy and public food, because we face shortages in water, electricity, and gas. It will also strongly impact housing demand, which has caused inflation

12

**Statistics on the expulsion of foreign nationals from the country announced**

The Interior Minister said: From the beginning of this year until today, about 800,000 foreign nationals have left the country, more than 70% of whom were self-identified and left voluntarily.

According to Khabar Online citing Mehr news agency, Eskandar Momeni, the Interior Minister, said on the sidelines of today’s cabinet meeting (Wednesday, 16 July 2025) in a press gathering: During the 12-day war, public services, fuel, and essential goods were provided under the supervision of governors, and there were no major problems; life continued as usual. The entire government, with calmness and public cooperation, managed to get through this situation.

He added: The President repeatedly emphasized delegating powers to governors, and these powers were indeed delegated. Without this, perhaps we could not have passed through this situation. Governors were able to bypass bureaucratic hurdles with these authorities. We are a very large country, and it cannot be managed centrally; therefore, necessary delegations had to take place, which they did. I especially thank the governors who were present from the first moments of the war and managed their provinces effectively.

Regarding the latest statistics on the exit of illegal foreign nationals, Momeni stated: From the start of this year until today, about 800,000 foreign nationals have left the country, more than 70% of whom (which equals 560,000 people) left voluntarily and self-identified.

13

**Qom’s parliamentary representative: Did Afghans inform the day and place of the National Security Council meeting? / The issue of infiltration is degrading to local petty criminals**

Mohammad Manan Raeisi, the representative of Qom in the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Parliament), stated in a oral remark: Nuclear scientists who intend to conduct research do not have personal security. Why don’t you amend the promotion regulations?

According to Khabar Online, Mohammad Manan Raeisi, in his oral remark during today’s open session of Parliament (Wednesday, July 16, 2025), said: Yesterday, the Minister of Intelligence and his deputy were guests in a closed session with us. After their speech, I inquired of the deputy minister about the issue of espionage by foreign nationals. Last week, I had asked another official from the ministry, who said that among those arrested for espionage, there was not a single case involving Afghan nationals.

Based on ILNA’s report, the representative of Qom, Kahak, and Jafarabad in Parliament, referring to the fact that some Afghan detainees have been held but not for espionage but for other crimes, added: Unfortunately, the issue of infiltration is degrading to petty criminals like Gol Mohammad and Jan Mohammad from the neighborhood. Did Afghans inform you about the date and location of the National Security Council meeting? Did Afghans inform you where General Salami was at the start of the attack? Did Afghans report where General Hajizadeh was meeting with his deputies? Why don’t we go and identify security vulnerabilities? Why are we not accountable and do not give a proper answer to the nation?

He added: Many of you representatives have academic backgrounds and experience in academic faculty positions. With the promotion regulations designed by the Ministry of Science, we ourselves introduce nuclear scientists to the world because we force them to publish their research in international journals, and if they do not publish their articles, they are not eligible for promotion. This parliamentary representative emphasized the necessity of amending the promotion regulations by the Ministry of Science and said: Nuclear scientists who intend to conduct research do not have personal security. Why don’t you amend the promotion regulations? Why do we open the layers of science? Which country exposes its scientific researchers to danger in this way?

He continued by emphasizing that they definitely defend the path of diplomacy provided that its etiquette is observed: What does it mean that on the same day the US killer president tweets, some officials unconditionally announce that we are ready for negotiation? On the same day that the official White House account tweets “Fight, fight, fight,” we announce that we are ready to negotiate. I implore you to respect this nation; this nation showed complete unity in these twelve days, standing firmly behind the revolution and the regime. We defend negotiation from a position of dignity, not from a position of humiliation

14

**Is the presence of Afghans in Iran beneficial to Iran’s economy?**

The rise in prices of basic goods, the imbalance in gas, electricity, and water supplies are related to various factors, among which mismanagement undoubtedly plays a major role. This mismanagement has partly involved the influx of large waves of Afghan migrants into Iran.

According to Khabar Online, Etilaat newspaper wrote: Officials have stated that at least a 10% reduction in water, electricity, and gas consumption is necessary to avoid imbalance, and this amount equals the consumption of Afghan migrants—migrants who do not pay taxes and are not conscripted for military service.

Iran’s educational facilities, which should be dedicated to literacy and quality improvement for Iranian students, are instead used to expand the quantity of classrooms for Afghan students.

Sometimes it is argued that Afghans provide cheap labor, which may have been true in the past but no longer applies. Moreover, even if these workers previously received lower wages compared to Iranian workers, the profit mainly went to major employers who did not pay insurance fees, while Iranian workers were left unprotected.

Another important point is that Afghans residing in Iran have come voluntarily and willingly, not as refugees forced to migrate under life-threatening conditions. Rather, they have chosen to use the resources of another country instead of staying in their homeland and working to rebuild it.

This situation creates a sense of injustice among Iranians who see themselves working under difficult conditions and paying taxes, while Afghan migrants freely or subsidized by the Iranian government benefit from healthcare, education, and social services. Sometimes, it seems the best help is no help, so that a person learns to solve their own problems

15

**Important Prediction from an Expert on Housing Prices Until the End of the Year / How Far Will the Free Fall of Housing Prices Continue?**

In Tehran’s housing market, the prices of some northern neighborhoods—where housing prices have always been significantly higher than other areas—have started to decline.

According to Khabar Online, sales listings show price reductions for some housing units, which are being offered "below market value." Experts believe the housing market is currently going through special post-war conditions. While housing prices have steadily increased for about a decade, the question is whether we should expect further price declines, and if this decline will continue.

Etemad newspaper wrote: In Tehran’s housing market, the price drop in some northern neighborhoods has begun. Market participants believe that because housing prices in expensive areas of Tehran strongly influence the average housing prices for the entire city and even the country, the effect of price reductions in these areas on overall housing prices is not unexpected.

Fardin Yazdani, senior housing economist, described the continuation of recession and real price declines—or at least price stability—as the main characteristics of the housing market until the end of the year. He pointed out how the war and its aftermath have influenced the market: "There is increased risk and uncertainty in property assets due to political risk, and because housing liquidity has decreased, investments flow to other markets and overall demand declines."

Yazdani believes that while demand reduction is general, in cities like Tehran—which faced the heaviest attacks during the 12-day war—the decrease in housing demand is much more severe. Some market reactions seem abnormal but likely temporary. Normally, price changes in Tehran affect prices in other cities and provinces, but after the war, demand in Tehran has shifted to safer parts of the country, making price growth predictable in those areas.

He adds that concerns have led a flood of housing demand to northern regions, as many who planned to stay in Tehran now feel insecure and have shifted demand elsewhere.

Yazdani concludes that the recent two-year housing market recession has intensified and will likely persist. Continuing uncertainty will prolong and deepen the recession.

He notes that housing liquidity is lower compared to other investment goods like gold or foreign currency, and current conditions have worsened this, driving investment demand away from housing. Consumer demand is also falling due to concerns, and investment is decreasing due to liquidity risk, painting a picture of falling housing prices.

Yazdani says: "Even before the war, forecasts predicted poor real estate liquidity this year, and the war exacerbated factors preventing quick market recovery. Recent listings show the largest price drops in Tehran neighborhoods hit during the war, where demand is almost non-existent."

He predicts real housing prices will fall, though nominal prices may remain stable. When nominal prices stay flat but inflation continues, it means real prices are declining. He cautions not to expect a sharp relative price drop. Due to supply chain problems and recent events, the construction cycle has slowed, so nominal price declines should be limited to specific areas, mainly in some Tehran districts, but price increases are unlikely.

On investment, Yazdani expects private new investments in housing to slow due to risks and uncertainty, and completion of ongoing private projects to slow, reducing supply—unless there are positive political changes.

He confirms government-backed supportive housing construction will continue but may face funding cuts due to many war-damaged units needing reconstruction, which could challenge financing support programs.

Yazdani calls the housing market recession certain if current conditions persist or even if political stability returns, predicting no price increases at least until the end of summer. If permanent peace and calm return, the market will revert to a recession state, likely persisting through the year-end.

He adds that with political stability, housing market activity will gradually recover, construction speed will increase, but underlying housing problems stem from economic and policy issues. After political stability, focus should shift to policy changes, especially reconstruction of war-damaged units and emergency aid for displaced residents

16

**Denial of Rumors About People Without Identity Documents in Sistan and Baluchestan**

In recent days, rumors have circulated on social media regarding people without identity documents in Sistan and Baluchestan, and forms related to this issue have been distributed among the public. The Public Relations Office of the provincial governor’s office announced that the process of case formation and handling of people without identity documents in the province continues as before, based on Article 45 of the Civil Registration Law and the executive guidelines. Any actions in this matter are only carried out through the governorates and civil registration offices.

According to Khabar Online and the Public Relations Office of Sistan and Baluchestan governorate, since recently some individuals have exploited people’s lack of awareness of existing laws to spread rumors and distribute forms, it is hereby declared that these actions have no legal validity and are being pursued by relevant authorities.

The Director General of Civil Registration in Sistan and Baluchestan stated that the province ranks third nationally in birth registrations and denied the rumors circulating on social media about people without identity documents.

Ali Rahmati referred to some clips and posts shared on social media concerning people without identity documents and emphasized that the handling of such cases is still conducted through legal channels and the Civil Registration offices in Sistan and Baluchestan, and recent rumors are rejected.

According to ISNA, quoting the governorate, Rahmati expressed gratitude to the elders, tribal leaders, dignitaries, and people of Sistan and Baluchestan who have always supported the government and the Civil Registration Organization. He added that some opportunists try to misuse public emotions and collect unofficial documents for other goals, but with the vigilance of the people and cooperation of officials, they will certainly fail

17

The Milak border in Hirmand County, Sistan and Baluchestan Province, these days hosts scenes full of hope. Afghan nationals, hopeful for building a better future for their country, are returning to Afghanistan, while the people and officials of the province warmly and generously see them off. A group of local residents of Sistan and Baluchestan spontaneously gathered at the exit point to give a polite and humane farewell. This gesture was highly praised by the migrants, some of whom expressed their gratitude and emphasized that they will carry good memories of Iran with them

18

A Member of Parliament: We didn’t have even one Afghan spy / Thousands of Afghans were defenders of the shrine / Avoid Afghanophobia

While the deportation of illegal Afghan migrants has accelerated these days and discussions about some being spies have emerged, a member of parliament stated: We have not had even one Afghan spy.

According to KhabarOnline, Manan Raeisi, representative of Qom in the Islamic Consultative Assembly, said in an interview on the news network: Based on reliable information, among Israeli spies, there is not even one Afghan migrant.

This MP emphasized that illegal migrants must leave Iran, and added: We have had thousands of Afghan brothers who were defenders of the shrine, martyrs, and veterans. We must be careful to utilize the capacities of legal migrants and avoid Afghanophobia.

19

**The security deposit of deported Afghan tenants must be returned / Rent in Afghan-populated neighborhoods remains at last year’s prices**

The deputy head of the Tehran Real Estate Consultants Union said: With the departure of a significant number of Afghan nationals, we are now facing a challenge. This departure occurred before the end of many rental contracts, causing some landlords difficulties in returning the security deposits to Afghan tenants. Therefore, establishing a fund to safeguard the documents and deposits of foreign tenants in the rental market is necessary.

According to KhabarOnline, Davood Beigi-Nejad, referring to the impact of Afghan migrants’ exit on Tehran’s housing market, stated: Afghan tenants mostly reside in certain neighborhoods, often below Azadi Avenue, in old buildings. Now, with a considerable number of Afghans leaving the country and Tehran, the supply of rental units in these areas has increased, which affects pricing.

ILNA reported that he continued: We observe that rent prices in these neighborhoods have not increased this year, and landlords are offering units at last year’s rates. Rental listings are available at unchanged prices despite the overall increase in rent prices elsewhere.

The deputy head of the union emphasized the necessity of creating a fund to protect the documents and deposits of foreign tenants: Since many Afghans have left before the end of their rental contracts, some landlords face problems returning their security deposits. Hence, establishing a fund to safeguard foreign tenants’ rental documents is essential.

Beigi-Nejad stressed that the documents related to rental contracts should be protected in such a fund to ensure no rights are violated. He asked: What happens to the security deposits of Afghan tenants who have months, sometimes more than six months, left on their leases? Afghans have lived alongside us for years, and their rights should be preserved. By establishing such a fund—possibly managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs—landlords can return deposits even if tenants leave the country early.

Regarding the legal standpoint on whether landlords must return the deposit when the tenant leaves early, he said: The law is silent on this, but ethically, the security deposit should be returned.

He added that many Afghans are currently involved in this issue, which could have repercussions. On a visit to the Tobacco Pass area (District 15 and Khavaran Road), he observed many Afghan residents had left, leaving empty homes, and their security deposits must be returned

20

**Deadline for the Departure of Three Million Illegal Afghan Migrants from Iran**

The Head of the Center for Foreign Nationals and Migrants Affairs of the Ministry of Interior stated that according to the legal deadline, all illegal Afghan migrants must leave Iran by July 5, 2025, and those who return illegally will be banned from obtaining a visa.

According to Khorasan News via KhabarOnline, Nader Yarahmadi, Head of the Center for Foreign Nationals and Migrants Affairs, announced that July 5, 2025, is the final legal validity date of the census identification cards for foreign nationals, and according to the law, approximately 3.1 million undocumented Afghan migrants must leave Iran.

Yarahmadi, who was present yesterday at the Dogharoon border crossing in Taybad County, emphasized in a press conference that in official and unofficial meetings with Afghan officials, guarantees were obtained that the deported migrants will not re-enter Iran.

He added that since the beginning of this year, over 772,000 Afghan migrants have returned to their country through the official border crossings of Dogharoon, Milak, and Mahirud, which represents an increase of 350,000 compared to last year.

Regarding arrangements for the migrants’ return, he explained that in designated camps, for those lacking identity documents, registration via fingerprint is possible; however, passport issuance is only done through Afghanistan's diplomatic missions. Legal migrants holding residency or temporary stay cards can remain in Iran without restrictions.

In response to a reporter’s question about the education of migrant children, the head said legal migrants can register their children for the new school year by visiting guardianship offices and obtaining registration documents. He noted that due to the return plan, a reduction in the number of foreign students is expected.

Yarahmadi stated that the Islamic Republic aims for a strong Afghanistan and believes migrants should contribute to the reconstruction of their country. He referred to the extraordinary conditions of recent weeks and said crowding at land exit points was due to migrants attempting to leave directly without going through camps, but the situation was managed by mobilizing executive, military, and popular forces in Khorasan Razavi Province.

He emphasized that migrants who leave voluntarily will receive special benefits. In provinces such as Khorasan Razavi, about 70% of Afghan migrants have so far returned voluntarily. Yarahmadi warned that illegal migrants who are arrested will be blacklisted and banned from entering Iran for years.

At the end, he addressed migrants’ financial and legal concerns, stating that provincial foreign nationals’ offices are ready to resolve disputes through mediation committees, avoiding judicial costs. He also noted that there is no limitation on the amount of cash migrants can take out, but customs regulations must be observed.

21

**Interesting words of an Afghan elderly man after being expelled from Iran: It's our own fault that...**

Amid the widespread wave of Afghan migrants being expelled from Iran, an elderly man at the Islam Qala border said with a tone full of pain and criticism:  
"This is the fault of the people of Afghanistan who, through sabotage, caused the grounds for expulsion; my saboteur compatriot did not think about his fellow countryman and caused our misery."

22

How Should We Approach the Issue of Afghan Migrants?  
By Rouhollah Sepandarand\*

Perhaps it is already too late to write about the unfortunate events that have occurred in recent months for those whom we have called migrants from a neighboring country—a situation that intensified after the war and Israeli aggression, leaving images of us that we might look back on with historical shame years from now.

Before we get caught up in legal and bureaucratic terms such as “illegal” or “legal” migrant, I want to refer to a social dimension that has likely shaped our identity relations mistakenly, leading us to believe that our attitudes are justified.  
We humans, regardless of all the identity codes we receive through the bureaucratic corridors of national and local governments, are beings with many biological commonalities and shared historical roots, who each happened to be born in some corner of this Earth by chance.

It is probably obvious to remind ourselves that none of us had any choice in selecting our geographical location or place of birth; we opened our eyes to the world without being asked about nationality, geography, ethnicity, color, or race. Whether we have obtained identity documents in this compulsory position or remain wandering across borders drawn by political structures, we still share one thing: we are human, and there is no difference between any of us.

What we must not forget is that we are merely “residents” of a land, not its “owners.” Whether we have happened to reside in a region by chance, or even whether we have chosen or been forced to live in another land after birth, it is neither a cause for superiority nor for slavery and humiliation. Our only valid identity code is our humanity, which compels us to live in a humane way. If we deserve reward or punishment, it should be based on our behavior and way of life, not abstract identity codes such as nationality, ethnicity, race, color, or language.

If an Iranian commits a crime—at any level—the legal response to them should be defined by their action, not their nationality; the commission of a crime by one Iranian does not justify criminalizing all Iranians. The same principle applies to Afghans: if any offense or crime has been committed by someone with Afghan nationality, the legal reference must be to the offender and their act, not to nationality, race, or tribe. These are basic principles which may seem tiresome to repeat, but these forgotten basics have for years—and now with even greater intensity—been used by some to justify improper treatment of Afghan migrants.

Historical experiences can teach us great lessons; the attitudes of the German people toward Polish migrants after World War I, blaming them for work conditions and wages, led to dangerous nationalist tendencies whose consequences we all know.

Our social and human responsibility, wherever we stand, compels us to take a stance regarding recent events in dealing with Afghan residents in Iran before we resort to mere lamentations and popular mourning after the fact. This may not please many of us, but “racism is closer to us than we think.”

22

Conservative Newspaper: Do Not Overdo the Deportation of Afghan Nationals / First Deport Single Individuals, Then Those Who Have Arrived in Iran Within the Last Two or Three Years

The Islamic Republic of Iran has always emphasized the fundamental principles of good neighborliness and brotherly relations with neighboring countries. This approach is not only based on religious and ethical teachings but is also deeply tied to our national interests and regional security.

According to Khabar Online, Khorasan Newspaper wrote: In recent days, we have witnessed some inappropriate behaviors and unjust statements that smell of “Afghanophobia” and promote hatred and division in the public sphere. Such positions and actions stand in stark contrast to the Iranian nation’s long history of welcoming neighboring countries’ nationals, especially Afghans, with open arms and a humanitarian spirit.

They have stood alongside Iranians in the toughest political and economic crises, with commitment and solidarity, as brothers and sisters, and we must not allow false news and public emotions to darken the long-standing brotherly relations between the peoples of the region. Because in the international and regional arenas, sworn enemies— including the Zionist regime and its allies—are always trying to secure their strategic interests by playing political games, creating discord, and sowing division between countries of the region.

Fomenting ethnic, religious, and cultural differences, spreading false news, and inciting public emotions are among their tactics, which we must respond to with full awareness and vigilance.

On the other hand, a logical and well-considered approach to the affairs of foreign nationals is a vital and strategic necessity. These measures must be based on precise and comprehensive planning. Relevant bodies—whether security, cultural, economic, or social institutions—must act with synergy and coordinated cooperation to organize and manage legal foreign nationals in the country. Alongside this, we must firmly and fundamentally oppose coercive and unregulated harsh measures and excessive reactions.

Past experiences have shown that negative and coercive approaches not only fail to produce positive outcomes but also increase tensions and insecurity in society. Instead, efforts should focus on cooperation and coordination with the neighboring country to facilitate the return of undocumented nationals to their homeland.

Moreover, when deporting undocumented nationals at the border, it is essential not to treat everyone the same; this process must be gradual and phased.

First and foremost, the priority should be the deportation of single individuals. Then, those who have arrived in Iran without their families within the last two or three years and have no legal documents should be deported. Unfortunately, what we currently observe is the expulsion of nationals who may have lived in our country for over 30 years, whose children were born in Iran, and who are barely familiar with the other side of the border.

Lastly, Iran and Afghanistan are two neighbors with historical ties and shared interests. Let us not forget how much we share in language, blood, and religion. Let us remember that hundreds of them have proudly sacrificed and been wounded in Syria as part of the Fatemiyoun brigade defending Iran. Let us also remember that among Afghan nationals are many respectable individuals—artists, investors, producers, workers—who add value to the country.

In this regard, from officials and executors to media, virtual space activists, and all stakeholders in information dissemination, utmost respect must be observed. Of course, any misconduct should be dealt with by adhering to humane and ethical principles, avoiding any disrespect or humiliation.

23

A Sarcastic Remark to Babak Zanjani: He Prefers Using Cheap Afghan Labor Over National Security

Babak Zanjani, the major economic corrupter, has also expressed his opinion about Afghans!

According to Khabar Online quoting Jomhouri Eslami newspaper, he wrote on his social media account: "The exit of Afghan nationals and speeding it up in this wartime may not be in the country's best interest. According to unreliable statistics, about 11 million of these nationals live in the country, and upon their departure, they will convert their rials into dollars."

This statement by Babak Zanjani could imply that he is calculating to use cheap Afghan labor for his new economic ventures, which, apparently from his point of view, he values more than the country's security!

24

Housing Construction in the Absence of Afghan Workers / What Is the Government’s Plan to Supply Labor for Construction Sites?

The secretary of the Nationwide Housing Developers Association stated that we must accept that a large portion of the workforce in the country’s construction sites consists of Afghan workers. He added that the exit of foreign nationals has made conditions more difficult for the labor force; however, at the same time, we must acknowledge that in recent times, very unjust conditions have arisen in the country, and from a security perspective, the regulation of foreign nationals is necessary.

Maryam Fekri: As the wave of illegal foreign nationals’ departure intensifies, the question arises whether the country’s construction sector will be affected. According to unofficial statistics, about 7 million Afghan migrants live in Iran, of whom more than 4 million are illegal due to the cancellation of registration papers. Accordingly, the Ministry of Interior has set July 5, 2025 (15 Tir 1404) as the final deadline for the departure of illegal foreign nationals from Iran.

Currently, the exact number of Afghan workers active in Iran’s construction sector is unknown due to their informal and illegal employment status. However, it is estimated that in 2024, the number of construction workers in Iran was about 1.5 million, excluding migrant workers.

Therefore, it appears that with the departure of Afghan workers, the construction sector will be immediately affected. However, Davood Beigi-Nejad, deputy head of the Real Estate Consultants Union, believes that this “surgery” had to be done at some point. He argues that having a segment of our workforce supplied solely by individuals without legal authorization to enter the labor market, whose financial transactions are unclear, and whose origin and skills are unknown, is a problematic situation that needed to be addressed.

Beigi-Nejad also reminded in an interview with Khabar Online: “It’s not just the construction sector; many jobs in agriculture, animal husbandry, and other areas are occupied by these individuals.”

What is the government’s plan for supplying labor in construction?

Farshid Pourhajjat, secretary of the Nationwide Housing Developers Association, speaking to Khabar Online about the impact of foreign nationals’ departure on the construction sector, said: “One of the main reasons for deporting illegal foreign nationals is security concerns, and this surgery had to happen.”

He added: “But we must accept that a large portion of the workforce in the country’s construction sites are foreign nationals, and this fact should not be denied. I believe that the departure of foreign nationals will make conditions harder for our labor force, but on the other hand, we must also accept that very unjust conditions have occurred in the past, and from a security standpoint, this must take place.”

The secretary emphasized: “In any case, the government must see how it can manage the problem that arises in the workforce sector. Generally, a large portion of construction workers were foreign nationals.”

Pourhajjat further stressed that the government must devise a plan to replace the labor force in construction: “We must accept that working conditions in construction sites are tough, and training human resources in construction is even harder, but there is no choice. We must try to both train this labor force and utilize the capacities within the country.”

He continued: “Another point is that currently, millions of people have registered to work as online taxi drivers. This group is part of our labor force, which has chosen to move from construction sites to easier jobs. We can use this capacity in the construction sector.”

The secretary concluded: “I believe that serious and appropriate measures should be planned by the Ministry of Labor and the government so that if the departure of foreign nationals happens, the production sector will not face problems.”

What is the current condition of the construction sector?

Pourhajjat, in an interview with Khabar Online about the current state of housing production and fundamental government actions in the post-war era, said: “The construction sector has not been in favorable condition in recent years. Since 2013-2014 (1392-93), we have witnessed a heavy decline in housing production, and I think 2024 (1403) was also a very bad year.”

He added: “According to released statistics, conditions in 2024 were far from favorable, indicating that we need a coherent policy for housing and strengthening domestic production enterprises.”

The secretary of the housing developers association noted: “Perhaps in major policy-making and regulatory decisions made in Parliament, we have significantly increased the costs and risks of production and investment, and the result is that housing production does not easily take place.”

Pourhajjat stressed: “On the other side, our banking system has not supported this sector in recent years, and wages have not covered family living costs.”

He emphasized: “I think we must develop a coherent plan for the country’s housing sector. This program is multifaceted and must consider various aspects: from buyers, producers, to the structure and bureaucracy governing housing. We must think about healing the sector.”

The housing market expert reminded: “There was a time when issuing a construction permit took a year, but now even getting a completion certificate takes 3-4 months. We have acted with an exclusionary approach in housing that has made private sector investment returns and their entry difficult, in other words, we have kept two gates closed.”

25

**How Much Does the Deportation of Illegal Afghan Nationals Affect Businesses?**

According to the latest unofficial statistics, about 7 million Afghan migrants live in Iran, of whom more than 4 million are illegal due to the cancellation of migrant registration documents.

According to Khabar Online, the newspaper Ham-Mihan wrote: The Ministry of Interior has announced July 5, 2025 (15 Tir 1404) as the final deadline for the departure of illegal foreign nationals from Iran. This issue has caused challenges for some production units.

In Tehran province alone, between 800 to 1,000 illegal foreign nationals are identified daily and transferred to temporary detention centers for deportation. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that in 2024 (1403), more than 559,000 Afghan migrants were deported from Iran, an 18% increase compared to 2023.

Currently, there are about 6.1 million legal and illegal Afghan nationals in Iran, while according to global standards, a maximum of 3% of a country's population (about 2.7 million people in Iran’s case) can be present legally. Therefore, the rest must leave the country. In recent weeks, more than 72,000 illegal Afghan nationals have been returned to Afghanistan via the Dogharoon international border crossing. According to published data, over 30,000 Afghan families have left Iran in the past two months, indicating an increase in family repatriation.

Hojjat Sedighi, the public and revolutionary prosecutor, also announced on April 6, 2024 (17 Farvardin 1403) that last year, 33,582 illegal Afghan nationals were identified before entering Iran at the Taybad border by Iranian security forces. He added that daily illegal Afghan nationals detected in 11 provinces are processed and legally transferred to Afghan authorities via the official Dogharoon border.

Furthermore, Nader Yarahmadi, head of the Department of Foreign Nationals and Migrants Affairs at the Ministry of Interior, announced on December 5, 2023 (15 Dey 1402) that about 3 million illegal foreign nationals have been deported over the past three years.

**Reasons for Deportation**

One of the main reasons for deporting illegal Afghan nationals is security concerns. In recent months, Iranian security forces have arrested several illegal Afghan nationals accused of collaborating with opposition groups, espionage, and connections to foreign intelligence services. Some of these individuals entered the country using fake identities and intended to carry out sabotage activities.

Studies show that some of these individuals entered illegally and lacked valid identification documents. While this cannot be generalized to all Afghan nationals, it has led government officials to plan for the departure of Afghan migrants to achieve security and economic stability. Although these individuals contribute positively to the economic cycle, the country is currently experiencing economic imbalance and unemployment. Their departure can reduce both factors significantly.

Studies also reveal that the birth rate among Afghans is several times higher than that of Iranians. If you visit hospitals in southern Tehran, you will see that a significant portion of births belongs to Afghan women. Therefore, many social experts and activists believe that if the Afghan migrant population reaches around 10 million in a year, it is an extremely high number. The government must allocate costs for their living, including basic utilities like electricity and water.

These individuals need healthcare, food, clothing, and basic life necessities. For example, based on family size, each Afghan family buys at least 10 to 20 pieces of traditional bread (Sangak or Barbari) daily. Considering the price of Barbari bread in southern Tehran is about 3,000 Tomans, this demand can create economic losses in the long term. Additionally, water and electricity consumption are at peak levels, and the higher birth rates lead to greater demand. Some urban activists believe that the deportation of undocumented and unpermitted migrants should be expedited given the current conditions.

Despite these challenges, Ham-Mihan’s investigations show that Afghans have to pay very high rent, leading to collective living arrangements where 2 to 5 families live in one house. This rent burden can also affect housing rents in certain areas, especially in southern Tehran, potentially driving up rental prices.

Masoud, owner of a four-story building in southern Tehran, said about renting to Afghans: “I rent three floors of my personal house mostly to Afghans. The reason is obvious: first, they do not make much noise, even their children are quiet; second, the rent is high and they pay on time. Therefore, in most cases, I prefer quiet migrant tenants.”

If all these individuals’ presence were legal and regulated, there would be no problem. However, the uncertain number of arrivals could cause irreparable economic damage to the country.

**Is the Economy at Risk?**

In recent years, the presence of Afghan workers in Iran’s economy has gradually increased. Studies show that many have managed to start small businesses by pooling their income. Meanwhile, unemployment and underemployment among young Iranians continue to rise. Many domestic job seekers refuse hard, low-paying jobs, and the current conditions—especially after the ceasefire between Iran and Israel—have worsened unemployment among youth.

Studies indicate that most Afghan migrant workers are active in construction, agriculture, and other hard jobs—sectors with the lowest wages, minimal benefits, and highest workloads. Business owners prefer Afghan workers because they accept very low wages and often work without insurance, making them attractive labor for employers.

Some market experts believe that with the recent decrease of Afghan workers in Iran’s economy, labor costs for employers have significantly increased, causing shortages of cheap labor in some sectors. This situation has created unfair competition between Afghan migrants and Iranian workers, often resulting in unemployment for Iranians.

The core issue is that Afghan migrants mostly fled war and insecurity in their country, entering Iran without consideration of conditions. They worked with minimal standards and maximum effort. Globally, Afghan migrants are considered cheap labor, but in Iran, conditions are somewhat different.

The reduction in migrant labor threatens to seriously disrupt some industries and sectors. Consequently, economic activists warn of rising production costs and declining productivity.

**Increased Costs for Iranian Employers**

Mansour, an architect, told Ham-Mihan about the departure of Afghans: “Most construction workers are Afghan because they are cheap and skilled. Many Afghan workers are willing to work as much as two workers and get paid less than one. This means fewer and cheaper laborers. However, the choice of workers depends on investors, many of whom seek cheap labor, and Afghans are the best option.”

He added that for about a month, Afghan workers have been leaving the country for various reasons. Some had permits but left anyway. He emphasized, “We have to use Iranian labor. Yes, Iranian workers are more expensive and can impact housing costs, but the quality will improve.”

**Increasing Labor Costs**

Hossein, owner of a children's clothing workshop in southern Tehran, told Ham-Mihan: “I run a child clothing factory, and since the profit margin is low, most sewing and packaging are done by Afghan workers because their labor is cheaper.”

He explained: “For packaging by an Iranian worker, I must pay full insurance and wages, but my customers only pay for clothes, not packaging. Packaging reduces profit, so it’s better to hire Afghan workers with lower wages. All Afghan workers were satisfied and often referred family and friends to me for work.”

Hossein continued: “When the war began, clothing production stopped for a few days to ensure workers’ safety. The war was halfway through when I said work must resume, but only some workers returned; others were being deported due to warnings. Now I’m hiring Iranian workers. Although I have to pay insurance and wages, at least I am sure the income supports my compatriots.”

**Housing Price Increase with Migrant Departure**

Amirhossein, an architect and designer, told Ham-Mihan: “In the last month, most Afghan workers have left, and only two remain, who have lived here for over 20 years and have permits. They might leave soon. With this wave of migrant exit, we had to replace them with Iranian workers. The problem is Afghan workers had low labor costs, but with Iranian workers, production costs will increase, ultimately raising housing prices.”

He said the average Afghan worker’s daily wage is about 700,000 Tomans, while Iranian workers earn around 1.2 million Tomans, sometimes up to 1.5 million. Higher wages increase investor costs and housing prices, pushing the housing market toward recession.

A female handbag manufacturer in Tehran’s market area said most small workshops rely on Afghan workers, making the market somewhat dependent on them. The war was not over when many Afghans voluntarily settled financial matters and left. She heard others without valid documents were deported forcibly.

She added: “If we want to be patriotic, their departure can bring bread to Iranian workers’ tables. But the problem is Iranian workers cost more, so prices might rise. I used to pay Afghan tailors 7 to 15 million Tomans per month, but now I must pay Iranian workers with full insurance.”

**One Worker, Two Shifts**

Hamed, owner of a fast-food shop in Tehran, said: “A few months ago, Afghan workers were arrested, but those with permits were released after a few days. Recently, deportation orders were issued, causing many to leave.”

He explained: “Our work hours are 10 a.m. to midnight, so fewer Iranian workers agree to long hours for base wages. With low profit margins, we couldn’t afford two Iranian shifts.”

Now with Afghan workers gone, they must hire Iranians for two shifts with full benefits. Given inflation and economic problems, paying these costs is very hard. We might soon face price increases and reduced production.

**Shoemaking Industry Impact**

Reza, owner of a shoemaking workshop, explained: “Shoe production is tough work involving chemicals. Many Iranian workers quit after weeks due to job difficulty and odors. Afghan workers endure these conditions and are willing to work in poor locations for low wages, benefiting employers.”

He said with migrants gone, labor costs for both Iranian and Afghan workers will rise, forcing price increases within legal profit margins, which could hurt the economy.

**Tailoring Workshop Conditions**

Maryam, manager of a sewing workshop in Tehran, said: “I receive large orders for formal and casual clothing. Bulk sewing yields reasonable profits, but needs a large workshop or cheap labor. Currently, cheap labor is best. Most tailors are Afghan women who work fast with family members and accept low wages. Some left the country, and I’m searching for Afghan replacements since they are cheaper.”

**Lower Profit, Cheaper Labor**

Mohammad, a northern farmer, said: “All our workers have permits; no one has approached our farm. But relatives have hired Iranian workers at higher costs. Afghan workers are more productive and cheaper. We start before sunrise, work 10+ hours, and Afghan workers only take one lunch break, whereas Iranian workers take frequent breaks.”

He added Afghan farm worker wages range from 600,000 to 1.5 million Tomans per day, while Iranian workers earn 800,000 Tomans and up for fewer hours. Since products go through middlemen with low profits, Afghan workers are the best option. Iranian workers’ presence raises costs, squeezing profits to single digits.

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**Navid Mohammadzadeh’s anger over the arrest and deportation of Fereshteh Hosseini’s father**

Navid Mohammadzadeh, a well-known Iranian actor, expressed strong anger on his Instagram regarding the arrest and deportation of his father-in-law — the father of Fereshteh Hosseini, an Afghan-Iranian actress.  
He described the action as deeply unfair and painful, criticizing the difficult situation faced by Afghan migrant families in Iran.

27

Migrant Workers Play a Crucial Role in Iran’s Development / The Approach Toward Them Should Be Humane / Civil Society Activists, Social Figures, and Intellectuals Have Generally Remained Silent on the Issue

A sociologist stated that the presence of migrants can be seen either as an opportunity or a threat depending on the circumstances. In Iran, migrants are used as cheap and compliant labor, but they are denied any social benefits.

According to Khabar Online, the issue of migrants and Afghan nationals has once again become a contentious topic. Although discussions focus on the deportation of illegal immigrants, even legally residing migrants face difficulties. In this regard, Navid Mohammadzadeh, an Iranian actor, shared a video about the arrest of his father-in-law, Fereshteh Hosseini’s father, emphasizing that he has been legally living in Iran for 30 years.

Dr. Simin Kazemi, a physician and sociologist, explained that with the rise of the Taliban and the arrival of a wave of migrants to Iran, opposition to migrants intensified, fueled by sources promoting an anti-migrant wave. She said: “A demonization project was launched against Afghans, creating social fear of migrants. In this project, migrants are portrayed as the source of evil and responsible for crimes, and through promoting welfare chauvinism, society is led to believe that resources, subsidies, and even bread belong only to Iranians and Afghans should not benefit from them. This demonization and welfare chauvinism are not just media creations—some government officials also fuel this fire. Migrantophobia is a phenomenon that serves certain functions for the government and is therefore supported.”

She added: “In the context of economic crisis, poverty, existing inequalities, mismanagement, and corruption, migrantophobia sidelines structural analyses and, by highlighting migrants’ negative role, offers a simplistic solution—expulsion and deportation of migrants. On the other hand, it diverts social conflicts from class struggles to tensions between host society and migrants. Essentially, it hides class inequalities by scapegoating Afghan workers as the cause of social misery. This is a cunning and successful distortion of social realities advanced by the Afghanophobia project. Now, in wartime conditions, Afghanophobia has entered a new phase where migrants are depicted as a security threat amid rumors and exaggerations, and pressures to expel and oppress them have increased. Today, every Afghan—whether legal resident or not—is suspected of espionage and collusion with enemies, which leads to their isolation and makes living conditions even harder. Meanwhile, civil society activists, social figures, intellectuals, and others mostly remain silent on the issue, fearing criticism and negative reactions.”

Kazemi further addressed proper ways to handle the presence and deportation of illegal migrants: “Migration is a global reality of today. Insecurity, economic crises, and war force people to leave their homelands. The presence of migrants may be seen as either an opportunity or a threat depending on conditions. In Iran, migrants are used as cheap and compliant labor but are deprived of any social benefits. In practice, there is no real distinction between legal and illegal migrants. The expulsion project affects all of them. Meanwhile, there is an expectation that measures be taken to make legal migration possible, and migrants who have completed legal residence procedures should receive social rights.”

She continued: “For illegal migrants, their cases should be reviewed through official processes, and especially those working as laborers should at least be granted temporary work visas. Migrant workers play an important role in Iran’s development, and the approach to them must be humane and compassionate. Police crackdowns, violence, and expulsion of migrants are inhumane and do not solve the problem; they only lead to violence and social tension. Arrests and deportations of migrants also damage Iran’s international image, portraying Iranians as cruel and intolerant to the world.

28

Arrest of Illegal Foreign Nationals in a Village in Zanjan

During field inspections by the police in the rural area of Zanjan County, a group of illegal foreign nationals working in the farms of the region were identified and arrested.

According to Khabar Online from Zanjan, Colonel Mahdikhani, commander of Zanjan County police, announced that officers from the Nikpey police station, during their continuous patrols in the village of Esfanaj, became suspicious of the presence of several individuals in the agricultural lands.

He added that through intelligence operations and a rapid intervention plan, the gathering place of these individuals was located, and all the illegal foreign nationals were arrested while working on a farm.

After initial investigations, these individuals were handed over to the provincial intelligence and security police to undergo legal procedures and deportation.

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**An Imam Who Compared the Presence of Afghans in Iran to the Migration of Muslims in the Prophet’s Time and Representatives Seeking Legislation for Them Should Be Tried and Removed**

Our dear Iran suffered two kinds of wounds during the 12-day imposed war: the wound from the attacks of F-35s, missiles, and drones coming from Israel, and the wound inflicted on the homeland by traitors and unpatriotic individuals. The first is natural in any war and expected, and its remedy is resistance and defense against the enemy. But the second cannot be healed by any medicine or salve.

According to Khabar Online, the Jomhouri Eslami newspaper wrote: Traitors are those who, for a little money or promises of power, agreed to spy, sabotage their country, or, with resources provided by the enemy, stained their hands with the blood of their compatriots.

The unpatriotic are those who welcomed infiltrators, legitimized their presence, created justifications for their infiltration into different layers of society, and acted hostilely against those who warned of the dangers and the threatening future brought by these infiltrators, stubbornly persisting in their wrong path.

The file on traitors is currently being openly and effectively discussed by many experts and patriots who are exposing the dimensions of these few individuals’ betrayal to public opinion. What has not been sufficiently addressed is the file on the “unpatriotic,” who, through actions contrary to national interests, paved the way for the settling of some infiltrators under the guise of “foreign nationals” in various key positions in the country. During the 12-day imposed war, many of these individuals spied for the Zionist regime, collaborated with it to sabotage important security and military sites and to martyr our compatriots, and even manufactured and transferred military equipment for the enemy, acting as an effective arm for the Zionist regime in this war.

The recent arrests and trials of many illegal Afghan nationals for collaboration with the Zionist regime clearly show that the four-year warnings of well-wishers and patriots regarding the dangers posed by the infiltration of terrorist groups with power in Afghanistan were completely accurate and precise. Those who resisted these warnings and sought to legitimize infiltrators have committed a grave mistake.

The Imam who likened the arrival of illegal Afghans in Iran to the migration of Muslims in the time of the Prophet Muhammad, the one who, by resorting to the theory of cosmopolitanism in Islam, tried to justify the flood of infiltrators into Iran, the national media which supported this dangerous group, the writers who regarded legitimizing the terrorist Taliban group as highly recommended, and the members of parliament who sought to legalize the residence of millions of invaders under the false title of “migrant” through the National Migration Organization bill—all share in the crime committed by illegal foreigners during the 12-day imposed war.

At best, they can be called “unpatriotic” and should therefore compensate for the damages caused by the foreigners they supported and be barred from key positions. Of course, there is the possibility that some among them knowingly supported infiltrators. If their intentional actions are proven, they must be tried and punished.

What the country urgently needs now, in the condition of ceasefire, is first, the complete removal and expulsion of illegal Afghan nationals; second, a thorough and precise reconsideration of the status of legal foreigners; and third, the suspicious National Migration Organization bill should be removed from the parliament’s agenda. The government should withdraw its own bill, which was altered and distorted in parliament into a misleading plan, and prepare and submit a comprehensive law on foreign nationals at an appropriate time, or parliament should approve the original government bill without interference or changes.

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**Arrest of 6 Illegal Afghan Nationals in Shourab Saghir, Saman**

The commander of the police force in Saman County announced the arrest of 6 illegal Afghan nationals in the Shourab Saghir area.

According to Khabar Online news agency from Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari province, quoting the public relations office of the Social Deputy of the provincial police force, Colonel Soleiman Riyahi stated: These individuals were illegally working in the farms of the county. Following judicial follow-ups and police field operations, they were identified, arrested, and transferred to the detention camp for illegal foreign nationals in Isfahan province to complete legal procedures.

Any transfer or leasing of residential property or real estate to illegal Afghan nationals will result in the cancellation of the contract and sealing of the related property.

He also referred to the new policies on dealing with illegal residencies, saying: According to the instructions issued to the police, all illegal foreign nationals must leave the country. Accordingly, any transfer or leasing of property to illegal Afghan nationals will lead to the cancellation of the contract and sealing of the property involved. The police commander of Saman emphasized that these actions are carried out in response to serious public demand and in full coordination with the judiciary, and that the police will strictly enforce the law.

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**The Project of Betrayal Against Iran Intensified with the Increase of Afghan Nationals / What Factors Amplify Betrayal Against the Country?**

In the first days of Israel’s preemptive war against Iran, the issue of "infiltration and betrayal" quickly became a highly frequent keyword.

According to Etemad newspaper, as reported by Khabar Online, the root cause of this issue lies in the volume of attacks carried out through the treacherous cooperation of some Iranian citizens and foreign nationals. These foreigners live in various parts of Iran either under different legal statuses (work or study permits) or illegally, often with informal social support.

Betrayal of the homeland can be categorized into two dimensions: theoretical support and operational support. Theoretical betrayal refers to turning one’s back on the homeland and providing media support to the enemy. Some individuals, convinced that a regime change would bring them political shares in the future, perceive themselves not as traitors but as political activists or freedom fighters, seeking their goals by aligning with the enemy.

This analysis attempts to theorize the “Iranian understanding of betrayal and its individual and social construction” by examining the following factors:

**Individual and Psychological Factors:**  
Healthy individuals, equipped with psychological mechanisms such as shame, guilt, and fear of punishment, generally avoid committing betrayal. However, failures in critical life events—such as family breakdown, divorce, financial bankruptcy, heavy debts, or job loss—can create fertile ground for betrayal as an escape or compensation for these failures. Despite this, most who betray cannot free themselves from guilt and shame and thus often seek ways to atone, sometimes even confessing to authorities. The psychological pressure and inner conflict can push some to the brink of mental breakdown or suicide.  
That said, not all betrayals stem from life hardships; sometimes financial temptations and promises of a prosperous future trigger acts of betrayal.

**Social Factors:**  
Individual and psychological factors interact with sociological factors, either amplifying or mitigating betrayal. Weakening of national identity creates a mindset prone to betrayal. This vulnerability is particularly pronounced among dual nationals and ethnic groups with high perceptions of social inequality, increasing their susceptibility to recruitment by rival intelligence agencies or separatist groups.

Despite these psychological and sociological pressures, individuals rarely betray unless they employ psychological “neutralization” mechanisms to rid themselves of shame and guilt. This mental process enables them to rationalize betrayal as justified, even reframing it under socially acceptable terms like “political struggle” or “revenge against the regime.”

Nevertheless, experience over many years—especially recent days—shows that many critics, even those who have endured imprisonment or factional marginalization, have neither engaged in operational betrayal nor sympathized with the enemy ideologically; rather, they have stood with their country and people.

Israel’s policy to cultivate infiltrators and trap traitors relies on exploiting internal political and social fault lines within Iran as well as regional fissures. Reviewing Israel’s strategies in the Caucasus, the Kurdish independence declaration, and recent Iranian internal protests reveals how these political and social fault lines are manipulated for recruitment, intelligence infiltration, and espionage activities.

For Israel, Iran is more than the Islamic Republic; it is a regional hegemonic rival whose fragmentation serves Israel’s interests regardless of the ruling regime. Therefore, Israel’s infiltration strategy targets Iranian citizen betrayal to exploit it at the right moment.

**To control this critical issue, several points are essential:**

* Combating betrayal requires not only security vigilance and advanced technology in espionage and counter-espionage but also attention to psychological and sociological dimensions. Efforts must be made at the individual level to reduce vulnerability to betrayal and socially to diminish ethnic discrimination while strengthening national identity.
* Regional policies must be carefully managed to avoid exacerbating social and political fissures that adversaries could exploit to persuade citizens to betray their country.
* Demographic policies, particularly regarding the relocation and migration of Iranian ethnic groups within multiethnic provinces, should consider that disrupting population structures can increase insecurity and tendencies toward sabotage and betrayal among minorities.
* Lastly, the presence of neighboring countries’ nationals as students, traders, or travelers, if uncontrolled, risks their recruitment by intelligence services, potentially ensnaring Iranian citizens in betrayal networks.

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**Motamedian: Illegal Foreign Nationals Must Be Returned to Their Home Countries**

The Governor of Tehran visited the Asgarabad Detention Camp in Pishva County to implement cohesive policies for managing illegal foreign nationals and emphasized accelerating the process of organizing these individuals.

According to Khabar Online from ISNA, on June 21, Mohammad Sadegh Motamedian, in line with the Ministry of Interior’s directives and Tehran Province’s firm policies for managing illegal foreign nationals, accompanied by Nader Yarahmadi, Advisor to the Minister and Head of the Ministry of Interior’s Foreign Nationals Affairs Center, visited the Asgarabad Detention Camp.

Motamedian, during the visit, stressed the importance of strictly implementing the Ministry of Interior’s policies and stated: “Illegal foreign nationals must be returned to their home countries according to current laws, and this is a top priority for the governor’s office.”

He added that governors, district chiefs, and village administrators in Tehran Province are obliged to cooperate and expedite the process of organizing illegal foreign nationals.

This visit coincided with the operational launch by Tehran Province authorities to organize and gather illegal foreign nationals, aiming to enhance security in the province and the capital. During the visit, the governor ordered that the process of collecting these individuals be accelerated and pursued rigorously.

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**Order Issued for the Deportation of Illegal Foreign Nationals**

According to the policies communicated to the national police commander, all illegal foreign nationals must leave Iran.

According to Khabar Online news agency, based on these policies communicated to the national police commander, all illegal foreign nationals must leave the country.

Additionally, Brigadier General Ahmad Ali Goodarzi, Commander of the Border Guards of the Iranian Law Enforcement Forces, stated: “Organizing illegal foreign nationals is a public demand.”

He added: “Furthermore, according to the directive, any house or property rented to Afghans will have its contract canceled. The property will be sealed, locked, and confiscated.”

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**Ban on Renting Property to Illegal Foreign Nationals in Mashhad**

The head of Mashhad Real Estate Union stated that according to the new directive, renting property is only permitted to foreign nationals with legal residency. In case of violation, the business unit will first be sealed, and if repeated, its license to operate will be revoked.

According to Khabar Online from Khorasan, Hossein Rostami, head of the Mashhad Real Estate Consultants Union, announced the implementation of a new directive which allows renting property only to foreign nationals who have legal documents such as an Amayesh card, valid passport, or official residence permit.

He emphasized the prohibition of real estate transactions with illegal foreign nationals, adding that foreigners who have entered the country without legal permits are not allowed to buy, sell, or rent property unless they have officially registered a company and obtained a permit from the General Directorate of Foreign Nationals’ Affairs.

Rostami warned that if a contract is signed with foreigners without legal residency permits, the violating business unit will be sealed in the first instance and its business license will be completely revoked upon repetition.

He also mentioned the start of identifying individuals and landlords who, outside official offices and without permission, enter into contracts with foreign nationals, and said legal action will be taken against these violators as well.

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**It Should Not Be Concealed Who Provided Properties to Illegal Foreign Nationals and Under Whose Support**

**Signal of Illegal Foreign Nationals Leaving the Housing Market / Beginning of a Price Drop Wave in Old Houses? / Beigi-Nejad: Financial Flows of Illegal Foreign Nationals Are Unknown**

The Vice President of the Real Estate Consultants Union said: “When we monitor the market, we see that some houses are returning to the market due to the departure of illegal foreign nationals, and this has caused a drop in property prices because of the increased supply.”

Maryam Fekri: The wave of illegal foreign nationals leaving the country has intensified, and according to real estate consultants, we are witnessing the first effects of this event in the housing market. Reports indicate that after these illegal residents vacated properties, prices—especially for old houses—have started to decline.

According to the Head of the Ministry of Interior’s Foreign Nationals and Immigrants Affairs Center, the number of illegal Afghan nationals in the country was 2.1 million last year. Nader Yarahmadi added that an additional 2 million people, whose census cards expired last year, have pushed the total number of illegal foreign nationals to 4.1 million.

Experts and housing market activists believe that the absence of an official system to register rental contracts for foreign nationals—especially those without legal residence permits—has created structural disorder in the housing market, impacting the overall housing economy. Prices of old houses are declining.

In this context, Davood Beigi-Nejad, Vice President of the Real Estate Consultants Union, told Khabar Online about the housing market situation amid the intensified wave of illegal foreign nationals leaving the country: “Illegal foreign nationals typically lived in specific parts of the city, mostly in old properties.”

He added, “Monitoring the market, we see that some of these houses are returning due to their departure, causing a decrease in property prices due to increased supply.”

The Vice President stressed: “This price drop is quite evident. Currently, we have listings for properties vacated by illegal residents, with prices equal to or even slightly lower than last year.”

Beigi-Nejad emphasized: “The important point is that the official systems have not allowed us to register formal contracts for foreign nationals. Who, meaning which unauthorized offices, and under whose support these properties were given to illegal foreign nationals should not remain hidden.”

He insisted: “We cannot just ignore the issue. There must be an investigation into who provided these properties to illegal foreign nationals and under whose protection.”

When asked about specific city areas with price drops, he said: “The area south of Azadi Axis is one such place. Illegal foreign nationals had defined residential areas and were not scattered throughout the city.”

He added that he cannot provide exact figures on price drops because it’s not widespread but confirmed that many old houses and properties vacated by illegal residents in some areas are being offered at prices sometimes even lower than last year.

**Financial Flows of Illegal Foreign Nationals Are Unknown**

Regarding the illegal foreign nationals’ activity in construction, Beigi-Nejad said: “This is a surgery that had to be done eventually. A portion of our labor force has been supplied by people with no legal authorization to enter the labor market, whose financial transactions are unclear, and we have no idea where they come from, what they do, or even their skill level. This is a big problem we needed to address.”

He added: “It’s not just construction; illegal foreign nationals occupy jobs in agriculture, animal husbandry, and other sectors.”

**What’s the Situation in the Rental Market?**

He said: “Summer is a season when housing mobility increases, but since the High Housing Council has directly intervened with set rent rates, the rental market is less volatile compared to previous years.”

When asked if the announced rent rates are observed, he responded: “There is attention to these rates and penalties for landlords who violate the law.”

He noted: “Some landlords may propose higher rents, but since this is a new law and the first year of its implementation, we will see what happens.”

About the housing market condition, he said: “It is similar to previous months; no significant boom.”

When asked if the war will worsen the housing recession, he said: “War should not be the criterion here. We had eight years of the imposed war, then Resolution 598, the JCPOA entry and exit—we’ve had all these events, and people have high experience levels. Looking at the market, we see stability in prices.”

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**Ali Heydari: Afghan Nationals Have Taken Job Opportunities from Iranians**

Ali Heydari, head of the Welfare and Social Security Working Group at the Expediency Discernment Council, referred to the 40-year presence of Afghan migrants in Iran and emphasized that no specific measures have yet been taken for their insurance and social security. He also stated that some employers use Afghan labor to evade insurance obligations, which could have widespread impacts on the labor market and the rights of domestic workers.