



REFUGEE RIGHTS NETWORK (RRN) – PAKISTAN

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Press Release

Islamabad (22-06-2016). Refugee Rights Network, RRN-Pakistan has express its concern over the report issued by UNHCR claiming that Pakistan is second in the world hosting largest population of refugees after Turkey. This information needs to be verified as number surpasses over 3 Million claimed by RRN-Pakistan. Pakistan is hosting 1.5 million registered and equal number of unregistered refugees on its soil since last more than three decades even without signing the international convention of refugees which no other country in the world has the credit. Mr. Qadir Baloch Minister for SAFRON while addressing the refugee day event at Islamabad yesterday also confirmed presence of more than three million afghan refugees in Pakistan.

It is fact that Pakistan has 1.5 million afghan refugees but an equal number of non-registered refugees are also burden on Pakistan and the government of Pakistan is in process of streamlining the unregistered refugees by registering them.

Every person while crossing the border due to persecution falls under the category of refugee and there is no criteria for refugees having POR card for establishing refugee status. The government of Pakistan has always been generous in hosting all the refugees indiscriminately not taking action against non-registered afghan refugees rather it is in process of issuing then documents. The negation of non-registered refugee population may create serious protection concerns.

The world body should correct record, respect the people and government of Pakistan and allocate resources as per population for supporting afghan refugees in Pakistan and facilitating their voluntary repatriation. If non registered afghan are not included in the list of refugees living in Pakistan for decades will create issues at the time of repatriation for Pakistan as well as international community.

RRN Pakistan has urged the government of Pakistan to clarify the position by disclosing actual number of refugees for correction of report issued by world body which may affect the resource mobilization to Pakistan and further create issues in the future. UNHCR Pakistan may also contribute by reflecting the actual situation which is responsibility of all the stakeholders to keep the record straight.

RRN-Pakistan has appealed to the media to highlight the issue as priority to realize the world community about the role and credit of Pakistan in hosting the largest number of refugees for a longest time and now badly neglected by international community not only in resource allocations but also in taking back the credit of hosting largest population of refugees in Pakistan.

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