

# URGENT ACTION

## 1.4 MILLION REFUGEES NEED REGISTRATION RENEWAL

Since the 'Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan' was announced by Pakistan's government in October 2023, at least 1,080,312 Afghan refugees and asylum seekers have been forced to return to Afghanistan in violation of international law, namely the principle of non-refoulement. The plan, divided into three phases, seeks to deport unregistered refugees, Afghan Citizen Card holders, and Proof of Registration (PoR) card holders respectively. The UN Refugee Agency-issued PoR cards to at least 1.4 million Afghans, set to expire on June 30, 2025. Pakistan must uphold the rights of refugees, immediately stop all deportations, and renew the PoR cards before the deadline expires.

### TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **Second UA 109.23**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

#### Minister of Interior

**Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi**

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*Send a copy of your letter to the address below*

**CC: Pakistani Embassy in the United States  
Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh**

3517 International Court, NW, Washington DC 20008  
Phone: (202) 243-6500  
Email: [consularsection@embassyofpakistanusa.org](mailto:consularsection@embassyofpakistanusa.org)

Dear Honorable Minister,

I am writing to express my urgent concern regarding the imminent expiry of UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) issued Proof of Registration (PoR) cards held by **at least 1.4 million Afghans in Pakistan**. I am also deeply concerned by the harassment, arbitrary detention, and forced return of at least 1,080,312 Afghans, including refugees and asylum seekers, since October 2023.

The PoR cards of at least 1.4 million Afghans in Pakistan are set to expire on June 30, 2025. The Pakistani authorities must renew the PoR cards, as they have done in the past, to ensure that 1.4 million refugees are not exposed to harassment, arbitrary detentions, and forced deportations by the authorities. If forced to return to Afghanistan, they risk serious human rights violations, including extrajudicial executions and torture, as well as crimes against humanity, such as gender persecution.

The 'Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan', announced in October 2023, is an opaque initiative aimed to arbitrarily and forcibly expel Afghan nationals from Pakistan. This plan, involving forced deportations and the crackdown on Afghan refugees, is in violation of Pakistan's international law obligations, notably the principle of non-refoulement.

I therefore urge you to urgently renew the validity of Proof of Registration cards and formally withdraw the 'Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan', stopping all forced returns to Afghanistan. I further urge you to immediately stop the crackdown on Afghans in Pakistan.

Yours sincerely,

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

In October 2023, the interim government [announced](#) the 'Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan', a three-phased plan to deport Afghans from Pakistan. In the first phase, unregistered Afghan nationals were given a 30-day deadline to leave the country or face deportation. More than 468,000 Afghans returned to Afghanistan in October, November, and December 2023. The announcement was followed by a [wave](#) of harassment and arbitrary detention across the country.

The second phase of the Plan was initiated on April 1, 2025, when the government announced that it will deport approximately 800,000 Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders. These cards were issued by the Pakistan government between 2017 and 2019. The government also announced that it will [expel](#) all Afghan nationals from the cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi and urged Afghan nationals in Pakistan awaiting relocation to third-countries or with pending visa applications to leave the country by the end of April 2025. The authorities have warned of ['intense' action](#) now that the deadline has expired. A total of [1,088,133 Afghans](#) have returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan from September 2023 to June 7, 2025, according to the UN International Organization for Migration. The third and last phase of the Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan would be the deportation of UNHCR-issued Proof of Registration (PoR) card holders, potentially upon the expiry of the cards on June 30, 2025.

According to the UNHCR, more than 1.4 million Afghans have been issued PoR cards. The PoR cards were originally set to expire at the end of June 2024, however, the government announced a year-long [extension](#) setting the new expiry date to June 30, 2025. The status of PoR card holders will be unclear if the Pakistani authorities do not renew their validity.

Under the de facto Taliban authorities, Amnesty International has documented a litany of human rights violations such as extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests, torture, enforced disappearances of dissenting voices, journalists, human rights defenders, protesters, artists, and former government employees, among others. If forced to return, Afghan refugees and asylum seekers risk reprisals and other human rights violations from the Taliban de facto authorities. Since April 1, 2025 alone, 51,309 women and 64,010 girls have been forced to return to Afghanistan. Upon their return, they will be denied the right to education and the right to work. The Taliban have imposed more than 70 draconian edicts intensifying restrictions on women and girls, attempting to erase them from public life.

In April 2025, several UN experts called on Pakistan to stop the forcible removal of Afghans. The principle of non-refoulement applies to all countries, as a principle of international customary law. Pakistan has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention Against Torture, which include the principle of non-refoulement.

**PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET:** English, Urdu, or your own language.

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** September 15, 2025

**NAME AND PRONOUN:** At least 1.4 million Afghan refugees (All)

**LINK TO PREVIOUS UA:** <https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-stop-deporting-afghan-refugees-pakistan-109-23/>