

Waves of Discrimination and Racism against Afghan Immigrants in Iran: Historical Patterns, Social Dynamics, and Human Rights Implications



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ABSTRACT: Iran has historically been a host country for Afghan immigrants due to shared cultural, linguistic, and religious ties and geographical proximity. Migration, a fundamental aspect of human social life, can be driven by various factors, including persecution and the pursuit of better opportunities. However, this migration has sometimes led to nationalist sentiments and xenophobia in the host country, defined as attitudes, prejudices, and behaviors towards individuals perceived as foreign, often resulting in racist behaviors and human rights violations. In recent years, particularly following the Iranian elections in 2024, there has been a noticeable increase in anti-immigrant sentiment and xenophobia towards Afghan immigrants. This trend is alarming as it forecasts potential social divisions between Iranians and Afghan immigrants. The lack of clear media guidelines and specific laws has contributed to the growth of anti-immigrant expressions and racism within Iranian society, media, social networks, and culture. The situation has escalated with the spread of stereotypes and discriminatory information against immigrants on social networks, leading to prejudiced attitudes throughout Iran. This has highlighted a perceived superiority of Iranian citizens over minority groups, a sentiment that has been reinforced in the social and political structure. Many Iranian politicians and parliament members have openly expressed opposing views on immigration, citing national security concerns, without making efforts to enact laws that would uphold human dignity and properly manage immigration issues.

Policies against Afghan immigrants, including those born and raised in Iran across multiple generations, have been criticized for being inhumane. Economic challenges in the country are often unjustly attributed to Afghan immigrants, with claims that they are the root cause of inflation, housing shortages, and other social issues. This narrative is supported by government propaganda and racist individuals through social media and other platforms, exacerbating the situation. The discrimination against Afghan immigrants has led to various forms of violence and insults, with many being denied fundamental rights such as purchasing food or renting homes. They are often segregated into specific areas for their basic needs, alienating them from society. This situation underscores the urgent need for comprehensive policies and societal change to address the discrimination and racism faced by Afghan immigrants in Iran, ensuring their rights and dignity are protected. Waves of Discrimination and Racism against Afghan Immigrants in Iran

KEYWORDS: Afghan phobia, bigotry, oppression, Iran, immigrants

INTRODUCTION

Iran is one of the countries that, throughout the history of developments in Afghanistan, have hosted all Afghans in the movement of the people of Afghanistan. Throughout history, there have been various factors that have caused the migration of Afghans to Iran, which include factors of the same culture, language, religion, easy access to return to the country, and geographical determinism; having a common border with Iran can be said to be the factors that caused the migration of the Afghan community to Iran, and On the other hand, it has been a passage for many people who are on their way to European countries (David Scott FitzGerald and Rawan Arar, 2018). However, migration is a part of human social life, and throughout history, people with the subject of migration have either been involved or have emigrated. Various factors, including pressure and tendency, cause these movements inside and outside the country. When these differences and dissatisfaction cause waves of nationalist thought, which in turn leads to a kind of immigrantism or xenophobia. This view can be described from the dictionary of the international word migration that immigrant phobia or xenophobia is the attitudes, prejudices, and behaviors that describe people based on the perception that they are alien or alien to that society, society, or National Identity. In fear or alienation from immigrants, most of the hateful behavior against a population is based on whether they are immigrants or foreigners. In many cases, it will be accompanied by racism, which is

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xenophobia against foreign nationals, especially immigrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers, which is one of the main origins of racism and the violation of human rights that are associated with xenophobia and negotiates.

Iran is no exception to this issue. In recent years, especially in the last few decades, waves of migrant phobia towards Afghan immigrants have increased day by day, which is an alarm for the emergence of social gaps between Iranians and Afghan immigrants in the future. Unfortunately, it seems that this trend of anti-immigrant sentiment in the form and structure of Iranian society has grown more and more daily, which has led to various situations and is being strengthened daily. One of the factors that has been widely discussed and criticized is the lack of a general principle or guideline and specific rules in the media, which is why the lack of these citations and the lack of specific laws have led to the creation of anti-immigrant expressions. Immigration and racism in Iranian society, media, social networks, and culture have caused it.

During the last few years, especially after the Iranian elections in 2024, anti-immigration, especially against Afghan immigrants, has been increasing day by day, in a new wave of anti-Afghanism in Iran, which has led to an increase in stereotypes and false and discriminatory news against immigrants in the social space and social networks in Iran. This increase has led to prejudiced and incorrect attitudes towards immigrants throughout the country Iran, shows the self-superiority of Iranian citizens over other minorities in society, which has been growing in the social and political structure, and even many Iranian politicians and members of Parliament have expressed their disgust with immigrants in Iran about the danger of immigrants to national security, and have not shown any effort to arrange laws and principles that increase human dignity and control of immigrants in Iran. Anti-immigration policies against Afghans living in Iran, not only after the new eras but even those who were born in Iran and grew up in the third and fourth generations, are still incorrect and inhumane in front of them, and this attitude exists not only in the state system but also in the structure of society and society. In most cases, the economic problems in the government and society are exacerbated. The source of the problems is brought forward by Afghan immigrants, and stating that the source of inflation, housing problems, lack of food, economic problems, and existing problems and diseases are all on the Afghan immigrant community. The propaganda apparatus of the government and the racist people through social networks and statements in their social structure consider all the problems to be the problem of illegal immigrants. They say that Afghan refugees are the source of all problems (Steve Sawyer. 2015).

This wave of racism and the general principles of society against immigrants has been accompanied by various dimensions of violence and insults that are increasing day by day; in many cities, fundamental rights have been taken away from these immigrants, such as buying necessities such as bread, food in many stores and bakeries, and Afghan immigrants do not have the right to buy, and to buy, they have to go to specialized places that are located in the They have to buy in places that are very far from urban dwelling. They do not have the right to rent a house, and they do not have the right to own a shop or have the right to work, and many other things. After the withdrawal of the United States and its allies from Afghanistan, the national capitals, the assets of democracy, freedom of expression, and women's rights, which had been imposed on them within 20 years, disappeared and destroyed overnight, just as the deal of the United States and its allies with the withdrawal from Afghanistan has not only caused the regression of Afghan society, but has also caused the living conditions of women, youth, and others to become very narrow and prison-like And by doing so, it caused many other problems in the world, after the withdrawal of the West from Afghanistan, the world in economic, political, and social problems and regional wars such as Russia and Ukraine, the war between Israel and Hamas, and the war in the Middle East and other parts of the world have caused many economic problems.

Moreover, on the other hand, it has caused a significant growth of the ideology of racism and extremism and the extreme right in developing countries, and on the other hand, it has weakened international systems, organizations, and laws, even to defend human rights and human rights in the world, they have been content with the aspect of speaking out, and this has caused many right-wing groups. Extremists have grown up in many countries, and there have been many waves of anti-immigration, violence, forced deportations, beatings of immigrants, the killing of immigrants, and other factors.

Importance of the research topic:

Migration is not a new phenomenon; humans have always been moving from one place to another to obtain food. These movements and human movements create many opportunities and challenges in the host countries, and along with them, they will cause changes in the social textures in a region. Migration plays a far more decisive role in the growth of a country's population and labor force. However, in these 40 years, the immigrants who were born and raised in Iran have no trace of having their civil and fundamental rights; while there are many commonalities between the people of Afghanistan and the people of Iran on many issues, they are still in absolute and great convergence, but anti-Afghanis and they did not have any rights and lived in the form of a soul under pressure, fear and fear for 40 years(Margesson 2007; Rajaee 2000). It is no secret that these immigrants have violated human dignity, values, and status in society, and day by day, not only in real life but also in the vacuum and dispersion of anti-immigrant thoughts, especially

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in recent decades and years, is increasing, even in many places for Afghans, the right to buy bread, the right to a home, the right to work, and education. They have nothing and even equated the Afghan people with animals and are not allowed to be in certain areas, and this shows the human dignity and values in Iran. It shows people who consider themselves defenders of human rights and followers of Islam and Crouch, while there is a society full of hatred and complete anti-Afghanis.

Xenophobia

With the increasing day-by-day migration in the world, especially after many developments, recent wars, and the destruction of governments, racism and xenophobia (migrant phobia) have been institutionalized at the international level. However, no accepted definition of it represents the concept of migrant phobia at the international level. It describes attitudes, prejudices, and behaviors that do not accept, reject, and often speak ill of people based on the perception that they are alien or alien to that society, society, or National Identity."

Xenophobia is considered a practice similar to racism which is similar to racism, and they have many similarities. In this regard, the Declaration on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Intolerance affirms: "Xenophobia against foreign nationals, especially migrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers, is one of the main origins of contemporary racism, and the violation of the human rights of members of such groups occurs widely in the context of discriminatory, xenophobic and racist practices. » (National Center for Biotechnology Information)

Despite international law, human rights, human rights watchdogs, and international organizations that try to protect the rights of immigrants, who play a protective role and fight against this kind of attitude and racism and try to protect the rights of immigrants, they have not been able to play any role in implementing this practice. They are facing this trend and discrimination in most countries of the world day by day. Despite the efforts that have been made in the world to combat various forms of migrant phobia, today, we are still witnessing the emergence and emergence of this phenomenon. The growth of xenophobia has coincided with the rise of far-right political currents in the world, as these political groups, under the influence of a nationalist outlook, strongly emphasize the reduction of the acceptance of immigrants and the return of immigrants to their countries. The manifestation of this issue can be seen in the rise to power of Georgia Meloni in Italy and the French National Front party.

There are many types of migrantophobia. In the mild form of migrant phobia, the members of a society have negative attitudes and prejudices towards a foreign group living in the country, which causes them to reject immigrants from their society and guard against them. However, in the radical form, migrantophobia can lead to violent behaviors against foreign nationals because of their Identity. In the first case, it is merely a form of bias and hatred. Towards foreigners, but in the second case, this hatred also leads to practical actions and violence to eliminate immigrants. Of course, the first form of migrant phobia has the potential to become a conflict against immigrants and may lead to violence against foreign nationals if other grounds are provided.

The issue of immigration has been an essential issue for Iran in the post-revolutionary era. Afghan nationals have been the largest immigrant population in Iran in the last few decades. Afghans entered Iran in several waves of immigration in the post-revolutionary

period, and today, their population has reached about 5 million, according to the statistics of the National Organization for Migration. The most recent wave of migration from Afghanistan to Iran began in the summer of 2021 when the Taliban began to conquer various cities and villages in Afghanistan. From then on, Iran faced a significant population of new immigrants, which created various problems in managing immigrants.

In the last two years, with the growth of Afghans entering Iran, the debate over the Afghan immigrant population in Iran has heated up again, and criticism of the increase in the Afghan population has grown. Some media outlets have talked about 8 million Afghans in Iran, and some have even mentioned higher numbers, as high as 15 million. This anti-immigrant atmosphere has become more prominent since this summer, and suddenly, the production of anti-immigrant Afghan content in the media, social networks, and the atmosphere of Iranian society has increased significantly. Although Afghanophobia is not a new phenomenon in Iranian society and has existed more or less in the past, this phenomenon has spread strangely this year. The anti-immigrant ideas used various frameworks to instill their views against Afghans. Some of them emphasized the adverse economic effects of the presence of Afghans, such as the increase in unemployment of Iranians and the shortage of some goods in the market; some pointed to the negative socio-cultural consequences of immigrants, such as the disruption of Iran's demographic composition and their ethnic and religious threats, and some focused on the security consequences of the increase in the population of Afghans. They emphasized that immigrants are the cause of the increase in crime and the threat to Iran's national security (Maryam Rezaei Zadeh,2023) .

The media and groups that raised these immigrant-phobic thoughts tried at different times to somehow link it to the citizens by the emergence of any social issue. Thus, they created a moral fear of Afghan immigrants in society. For example, they attributed issues such as the non-granting of the rights of the Helmand River to Iran to the Afghans, and the solution to this problem was the expulsion of immigrants. On the other hand, with the occurrence of any mistake, one immigrant attributed it to all Afghan nationals and launched a media wave in this regard. For example, we can mention the bitter events of the terrorist attack on the shrine of Shah

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Cheragh and the murder of the late Mehrjui and his wife, which the opponents of the immigrants made the most of to advance their approach. The last notable example was the Meybod incident in Yazd, which once again caused a wave of hatred against Afghans in Iran. The recent wave of Iran's migrantophobia was initially entirely verbal and cyberspace (BBC,2024). It was mostly limited to recounting and disseminating negative statements about Afghans, but unfortunately, this trend also led to violent conflicts in some cases. For example, we can mention the incident of attacking the houses of Afghans in the city of Iqbaliyeh in Qazvin and Sabash Shahriar. and we witnessed disturbing violent incidents.

The formation of a wave of Afghanophobia in recent months, in addition to being a reaction to the increase in migration from Afghanistan to Iran, was also a reaction to the policies of the Iranian government towards the recent wave of Afghans. In particular, since this summer, at the same time that the plan to establish the National Organization for Migration was proposed in the Parliament, migrant phobia against Afghan nationals has increased, as this perception has been formed in a part of public opinion that the Iranian government is against The lack of serious monitoring of the borders after the Taliban took power led to an increase in the number of illegal immigrants in the country, and by holding a census plan and granting them documents, the presence of this population and the continued entry of illegal immigrants into the country has been consolidated. There was even an impression that the government intended to replace the "authentic" Iranians with "guardians" by granting citizenship to immigrants.

In Iran, although they have been hosting Afghan immigrants for decades, in these decades, they have not done anything special to integrate and protect the rights of Afghan immigrants and to organize and use them correctly in society and immigrants, especially in the last few years, these changing views and opposition to Afghan and Arab immigrants in Iran have increased significantly day by day. The relevant institutions in the Islamic Republic have played a vital role in changing the traditional perception of public opinion in Iran's society. On the other hand, this current situation has been valued by many internal institutions and politicians and has given it more wings indirectly or directly, which is one of the main reasons for forming this anti-immigrant movement. Another issue is that the organizations related to migration and the implementation of better and correct programs in the field of immigration after the anti-immigration movements have not implemented a convincing answer and a systematic program to change thoughts and protect the rights and cohesion of immigrants and the current has provided a convincing response to public opinion and reduced the expansion of this trend to the "enemy's program." The lack of this issue causes Anti-immigrant groups to spread their ideas and mobilize the public space against immigrants with the help of media tools.

The continuation of anti-immigration discourse against Afghans can pave the way for the growth of far-right currents and racist and xenophobic thoughts in our country, which in the current situation is very dangerous for Iran's inflamed, protesting, and bipolar society. The spread of xenophobia in recent months has, unfortunately, also led to violent conflicts. If this trend is not controlled, it can lead to a deepening of the gap between Iranians and Afghan immigrants and increase the existing tensions in the country. In the future.

Given the above, the government must eliminate its current passivity and control the anti-immigration trend by adopting correct and transparent policies and convincing public opinion. In order to achieve this goal, the government must prepare a media package for managing public opinion in the field of immigration and adopt specific strategies to play a role in this field. Along with the people of Iran, they should also be careful about anti-immigrant thinking and refrain from spreading false information in this regard. It is the right of the people to demand the proper management of migrations to the country. However, one should not fall into the trap of immigration phobia and anti-immigration, and instead of an emotional approach, a rational attitude should be adopted towards this issue.

2. Historical Overview of Afghans Migrating to Iran:

Migration is one of the general factors that all human beings have faced since its earliest period. Various migrations have caused the movement of human beings from these migrations in the beginning to find better conditions for life, and these conditions have changed over time, primarily when the changes in the political structures of developed countries have led to waves of migration to different forms and with different demands. Iran and Afghanistan, two neighbors struggling with these problems for years, have been free from waves of migration. As from the history of Afghanistan and the political and social developments in Afghanistan, this migration has led to Iran, which has always hosted this group of immigrants. However, the first significant migrations to Yaran occurred in the late 1970s. In general, since the late 1970s, the migration from Afghanistan to Iran can be divided into five periods, which can be divided in terms of the quality and cause of migration (ncyclopaedia Iranica,2001), which include:

Reasons for the entry of Afghan nationals in different periods:

Throughout the history of Afghan immigration, there have been different conditions and factors in migration to Iran; for example, it can be said that these migrations have occurred due to the similarities of race, religion, culture, language, and other factors. However, for general reasons, especially after the 1970s in Afghanistan, it can be considered the factors of political and military

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changes and civil wars that have had an impact on the migration of Afghans to Iran. Here in this study, we examine different periods of waves in which immigrants have migrated to Iran, including five periods that have been more focused on the positions of the cause of the beginning and change in the political and social system of Afghanistan. This includes:

The First Period of Migration of Afghans to Iran in the Late Qajar Era:

In the first period of migration of Afghans to Iran it can be seen that since the period of 1280 AH, which corresponds to 1880 AD, these immigrants played a robust and systematic role in the economic and social strengthening of Iran the migration of Afghans to Iran which was mainly due to economic differences has existed since the 19th century. Shiite Afghans came to Iran for pilgrimage during different centuries. In 1850, about 500 families of Shiite Hazara people immigrated to Iran and settled in the border areas of South Khorasan, especially Darjam and Bakhzar. About 15,000 families were settled in Torbat-e-Jam in South Khorasan province and the border from 1880 to 1903. (Mahmoudian, 2007, 48) which led to the formation of caravanserais and the Herat Immigrant Association; the Afghan immigrants in the Qajar period who migrated to Iran played a significant role in the development and growth of Iran's economy, especially in the Khorasan Razavi region. In the old days, the people of Herat, which is the border city of Afghanistan with Mashhad, were among the merchants who caused trade in Mashhad; most of their activities were in trade and exchange of goods and various caravans for trade, many of these people who had a significant influence on the market and society of Mashhad, such as *Alhaj Ali Akbar Ma'at Al-Tijari*, one of the Afghan businessmen who was from Herat and participated in the beginning of the constitutional movement. He became a member of the Parliament and was among the great businesspeople of Iran. He began to invest in Iran and the Karun River. This *was the* first migration of Afghans in those years. However, it should be noted that the change in the social structure in the 19th century is mainly referred to as internal migration because the structure and boundaries between the two countries did not have a clear form (Mahmoudian, 2007, p. 48). In this period, due to political and social conditions, the population of Afghans shifted to the joint borders to cities close to Mashhad and other parts. In the Qajar period, the role of Afghan immigrants in Iran was not limited to the economic sector. However, most of them have played an active role in the field of security and other military and political forces of the time; Nusrat *al-Mulk, the son of Dost Mohammad Khan Timurid*, one of the Turks of Afghanistan in the Qajar periods, was the first person to *become the ruler of Quchan* with the rank of colonel *and then the rank* of general, *or* Amir Timur *in 1299*. They had a national council. The Hazara people, such as *Yusuf Khan Hazara* or *Ismail Khan Hazara, were* the two chiefs of the Yusuf Khan Hazara tribe who were part of the army of Nasir al-Din Shah. Different tribes, such as the Pashtuns of Noorzehi, Kandahar, Kabuli, and others, were among those who lived in Iran (Landor, 2009, p. 374).

The second period of migration of Afghans to Iran

The second period of immigration of afghans to Iran was between 1970 and 1980, which was due to the change of internal systems with the outbreak of the civil war in 1987 and also the occupation of Afghanistan by the Soviet forces (Heyman, 1988, Bergo, Verva, 1988-55). The pro-communist revolutionary forces wanted to implement communist principles in this country. However, the religious ideology and the Mujahideen groups were open, and they tried to be different from the government of the time. Therefore, the civil wars in Afghanistan were restored; these civil wars grew more with the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, which caused the civil wars to spread more in the society and cities of Afghanistan. Moreover, people emigrated, and in the meantime, most of the emigration was due to civil wars and ideological opposition to the communist system and against Islam. More than 7 million people emigrated from Afghanistan and neighboring countries did so. In this period, most of the waves of Afghans were to neighboring countries. They had the same culture, religion, and orientation as most of the people of western Afghanistan, such as Herat, Farah, Nimroz, Helmand, Ghor, and others who migrated to Iran. Moreover, the people of the east of the country because of having a common border with Pakistan and having more cultural and linguistic convergence to Pakistan and having close linguistic borders that are incredibly familiar and close to the Pashto and Urdu languages that have been similar to these eastern parts of Afghanistan throughout history and even the central parts of Afghanistan such as Kabul and the central provinces are more inclined to converge with Pakistan and the other issue is the proximity of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border It has made them more accessible to their lives than in the western parts.

The third period of the Taliban's rise to power in 1994:

Period of Migration During the period of these civil wars, which were mostly the middle and rural classes of Afghanistan, after the withdrawal of the Soviets and right-wing groups and the defeat of the communist democratic system in Afghanistan, the Islamic government was formed with the participation of the Mujahideen in Afghanistan. Most of those who had fled to Iran and Pakistan took the process of returning to the country, but this period was very short, which can be attributed to two main reasons. In this

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section, it was examined that the first was in the section of the dispute between the leaders of the Mujahideen over power. The continuity of power in their war system and the division of power and wars based on ethnicity, religion, and region, in this period, most of the war over power was in Kabul, which caused the civil wars between Pashtuns and Tajiks and Hazaras and Uzbeks. From 1994 to 2001, there was a period of the fall of the Mujahideen and the wars of the new front between the Taliban and the Mujahideen, which led to the rise of the Taliban to power, the Taliban, who were a radical religious group strict religious emirate system and changed the entire modern system and began to change people's lives. The first task of this group was to destroy the educational and administrative systems, which caused many people to flee to other countries because of this group's harsh and strict laws, including these factors. On the other hand, civil wars were waged between the Mujahideen over power, in which more than 2 million Afghans were killed and many Afghans were injured and disabled (Majidi, 2008).

These wars and the Taliban's strict laws have caused Afghans to emigrate. To save their lives, their children's education, and the harsh conditions, they migrated to different countries such as Iran and Pakistan. The civil wars caused a new wave of Afghans to migrate to Iran, and the new immigrants were mainly from the cities and belonged to the middle and educated social classes. With the fall of the central government, about 2 million Afghans caused the migration of this group again (Mahmoudian, 23:0532).

The fourth period of return of refugees:

After the September 11 attacks in 2001, the US decision to invade Afghanistan led to the fall of the Taliban regime and led to the establishment of a republican system and the establishment of a democratic system in Afghanistan. Millions of Afghans returned to Afghanistan again in the first years, but this process of return took place during a period of a coup d'état. After a short time, this process of returning refugees to Iran started again, but from 2009 to 2010, a transit area was created for refugees. Most of the refugees in Iran and the refugees who went from Afghanistan to Iran were more likely to return to Iran, but Islamic groups somehow carried out this process. People affiliated with the Taliban and the conditions of the lack of a proper economy in the system caused the process of exodus of refugees from Afghanistan; in the first four years of the government, the process of return was speedy, but this trend took a reverse trend in the next few years. In 2003, an agreement was signed between Iran, Afghanistan, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the signing and resettlement plan of more than 700,000 people returned to Afghanistan. However, sporadic wars, suicide attacks, and violence caused displacement and migration. The withdrawal of international troops from Afghanistan in 2014, the negative impact on the economy, the failure of the system, and the rise of extremist groups caused many concerns. (Castillo 2021,5).

Fifth period: The collapse of Afghanistan's democratic government, the return of its political system, and the return of far-right groups

to Afghanistan considerably changed the waves of pressure on Afghans to leave their country. This led to significant changes in the demographic structure, in which most active groups and educated forces were active.

Most of these people were those who had special conditions in Afghanistan and were in the previous government of Afghanistan. Most of these people had higher education, and some had a way out of this situation to join and get visas for the evacuation. Some countries, such as Canada, Germany, France, Italy, and others, were forced to go to Iran. The other group of people left Afghanistan after a while. This was to maintain the educational conditions and the difficulty of life for women. Most of these people were women who went to Iran to hope for better conditions and continue their education, and then they were forced to deal with different and challenging conditions there. The last group was people who were forced to travel to countries such as Iran illegally and work in difficult conditions due to difficult economic conditions, which has caused waves of young Afghans to migrate to Iran to find work in challenging conditions. Most of these immigrants are young people between the ages of 16 and 30 who primarily work in various jobs that have complex conditions, such as construction workers, workers in brick kilns, collecting garbage, collecting fins, working in factories, working in garbage recycling, animal husbandry, gardening, and other complex work that have been very difficult.

According to available statistics, between 500,000 and 1.5 million new refugees arrived in Iran after the crisis in Afghanistan (the Taliban's takeover), according to the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR,2023), the number of Afghan refugees in Iran after the Taliban came to power, which has reached 5 million by 2024. Due to the lack of accurate and complete statistics, it is not possible to say how many immigrants live in Iran, but based on the complete statistics of the organization, and on the other hand, in the lack of coherence and specific laws for the registration of immigrants by the Iranian government, it has caused the conditions of immigrants and the correct statistics about them to be found, and many organizations, institutions, and politicians on social networks and other parts claiming to have an overpopulation. There are 8 to 15 million Afghans, which was not correct based on logic and statistical principles, and it is just an exaggeration that they show for the excuses of policy-making, changing their viewpoint, tension and destruction against the immigrants, and segregation and division against the immigrants. According to the statistics of immigrants, the International Organization for Migration, and other organizations, in the last year and the last two to three years,

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more than 1 million immigrants have left Iran and are heading to Europe, and a large number have moved to Canada and other countries and have left. On the other hand, more than several groups of hundreds of people from Iran are forced or non-forced from Iran every day. Therefore, due to the lack of a correct statistic and false statistics, these thoughts have been false in the public after the fall that Iran has more than 5 million hosts Afghan refugees. Another issue that has happened in this period has been the spreading of hatred and racism along with the violence that has occurred against Afghan refugees. However, it can also be said that in recent periods. However, the conditions and life have faced many problems for the refugees, but in this period, the intensity of this conflict with the migration of Afghans has been very severe and inhumane; even in many areas, they have the right to live, the right to work, the right to a home and a shop, even the right to have many jobs, even the right to participate in schools and study in schools, the right to study in universities, the right to participate in the entrance exam, and the right to have insurance. The right to property does not have the right to have the principles of general rights. According to the statistics of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR,2021), after 2021, fear of harassment (31%), fear of the Taliban (18%), and economic issues (27%) were the most important reasons for the migration of Afghans to Iran, according to the latest report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (2023), the total number of Afghan refugees in Iran is estimated at 4.5 million. According to UNHCR statistics, in 2023, the most important occupations of these groups of Afghan refugees include construction workers (54%), armed forces torchbearers (12%), textile workers (14%), and construction workers (13%).

3.Social Dynamics of Discrimination anti-Afghanism

Discrimination, prejudice, and hatred towards groups outside of themselves from the racial, religious, and linguistic perspectives are some of the factors that human beings have faced throughout history, as migrant-phobia or discrimination in history in many countries of the world, from Germany the World War to the wars in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the issue of Iran and immigrants, this kind of conflict against other minorities or immigrants In society, this conflict and prejudice are expressed in different forms, but when this conflict is expressed based on a socio-political problem, then the causes are related to them; today, the national security of countries is based on the source of all efforts that examine these efforts in different dimensions, and the feeling of insecurity, insecurity, mobility, and human motivation overshadow all dimensions. (Ackleson, 2005: 165). Among these security-building in economic, political, social, and environmental dimensions, and in some religious countries, we can also mention the dimensions of religious or religious security, which have been studied by those affected by immigration and asylum. There is an illusion of security for immigrants in different countries. However, in general, the issue of securitization of immigrants in most of the different countries has been used by extreme right-wing groups or extreme nationalism, which is presented more and more in these countries than immigrants. An attempt is made to exaggerate these groups of immigrants, even in European countries, such as the far-right parties of Ms. Marine Le Pen in France and the groups of the far-right parties of the German AfD and other groups in Austria or Trump in the United States who are talking about the security of the migrants. The securitization of the issue of refugees and their security is in several dimensions, each of which we will briefly explain in this section. Waves of migrant-phobia against Afghans have existed for many years, and this wave has been formed based on unrealistic statistics. In total, it is distributed in 103 countries around the world. Official and unofficial statistics indicate a population of about 3 million in Iran, mostly in cities such as Mashhad, Tehran, and other parts of the country. In contrast, the National Assembly of Iran and other media talk about fictitious statistics of 11 million or 8 million people, which is far from the truth (Meddle east eye,2023).

The statistics that have been presented on the recent population in Iran should be considered that this population is ahead of the decades, i.e., the first and second generations of those who have lived in Iran for more than 60 years, and among these refugees are those who were born and raised in Iran but do not have any fundamental rights, Identity certificates, and other benefits. This population of first, second, or even third-generation immigrants who were born in Iran do not have any of their social rights, insurance, education, work, and other rights. Have. Many of these immigrants were forced to work because of the lack of work and the lack of the right to work after their studies. While the Afghan refugee population has played a role in infrastructure and Iran for many years, even in the war between Iran and the Afghan refugees, about 3,000 people have been martyred in this war alone. Another issue that these refugees have used has been the issue of proxy wars with the terrorist groups of ISIS and other groups, which has caused the issue of the Liwa Fatemiyoun group to be formed (radiofreeEurope.2023). The government and the system have trained Afghan refugees and have fought against other groups in other countries, but it should be noted that these groups have been used not only in Iran but also in 2022 in the war between Russia and Ukraine; many refugees, especially the Afghan military forces who have taken refuge in other countries after the fall and have been used in proxy wars in Ukraine and elsewhere. The reality of the Liwa Fatemiyoun Group and the Afghan militias, in general, goes back to the beginning of the Iran-Iraq war in 1980, when they were recruited under the name of the "Abu Zar Brigade," according to the statistics of the International Organization for Refugees. In exchange for paying these refugees and their families, the government has offered them to join armed militias to accompany them in the wars (Center for Rhetorical Studies, 2022), which was organized along with other groups such as

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Liwa Fatemiyoun, Zainabiyoun, Alawites, Haidaryoun, and others, which are made up of various fighters from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, Iraq, and others, among which Liwa Fatemiyoun is the largest. They played a vital role in the wars in Syria and Iraq (Fatemiyoun et al.). These groups are involved in the Syrian war, whether in terms of ideological views or monetary interests. An estimated 50,000 Liwa Fatemiyoun militiamen were involved in the Syrian war, and most of them had different motivations for being recruited into these sectors. Most of them left Afghanistan in 2012 for religious and ideological reasons, and some were forced to join the groups for money and accommodation for their families in Iran.

The issue of migrant phobia against the people of Afghanistan in Iran is a political crisis that is sometimes adopted against Afghan refugees, especially in exceptional circumstances, against these people. At the same time, social networks spread rumors and lies in this sector, trying to create a wave of hatred and pressure on the current government. This is a tool for the opposition groups and fascists who use the discontent created in the society against the immigrants for themselves and try to get out of the sphere of incorrect economic, political, and social policies in the society that involve the society in such an atmosphere of pressure. As a result of such an atmosphere, every time, the pressure on the Afghan refugees in the country is intensified. There are different levels. Anti-immigration is in the context of opposition politics. Fascism starts discrimination and oppression at one point but does not stop at one point. Afghanophobia and anti-Afghanism is one of the main strongholds of fascism in Iran.

Legal and Political Frameworks

The politicization of the field of security, especially in the context of Afghan immigration in Iran, is an issue that has grown increasingly prominent. This phenomenon is not unique to this specific scenario but is a widespread concern that affects people and policies globally. The politicization often arises when security measures, which are ostensibly designed to protect a nation and its citizens, are used to advance certain political agendas or to discriminate against specific groups.

In the case of Afghan immigrants in Iran, this issue takes on several dimensions. Firstly, the framing of security concerns has sometimes been used to justify stringent measures against Afghan immigrants, affecting their freedom, rights, and opportunities in the host country (R.K. Ramazani, 1989). This includes increased surveillance, restricted access to employment, education, and healthcare, and even deportation under the guise of maintaining national security.

Such measures not only exacerbate the vulnerabilities of Afghan immigrants but also contribute to a climate of fear and mistrust. The politicization of security in this context often overlooks the fundamental human rights and the humanitarian needs of these individuals. Instead of being recognized as people fleeing conflict and seeking safety, Afghan immigrants are sometimes unfairly depicted as potential security threats. Moreover this politicization can lead to the stigmatization of entire communities, where Afghan immigrants, regardless of their contributions or their adherence to the law, are viewed through the lens of security risks (S. Olszewska, 2015.). This stigmatization can hinder their integration, fuel discrimination, and even incite xenophobic sentiments among the host population.

Addressing the politicization of security concerning Afghan immigrants in Iran requires a multifaceted approach. It necessitates the implementation of policies that are grounded in human rights and international law, and that recognize the dignity and the rights of all individuals, regardless of their nationality or immigration status. It also involves fostering dialogue and understanding to combat stereotypes and prejudices, ensuring that security concerns are not used as a pretext for discrimination or political maneuvering.

In conclusion, while national security is undoubtedly important, it should not be politicized to the detriment of vulnerable populations. The challenge lies in finding a balance that ensures the safety and security of all, without compromising the rights and dignity of Afghan immigrants in Iran.

In demography, migration is generally the change of place and residence of individuals from one geographical point to another (Zanjani, 1997). Moreover, this can be seen in the Afghan refugees based on the comparison between difficult political conditions and wars in different dimensions of time; during several decades of the migration of Afghans all over the world, in Iran, the issue of securitization of policies with the existence of the issue of migration has created a kind of political crisis in the choice of thoughts and actions of political systems and their decisions on the type of immigrants. Moreover, it affects the relations between the two countries. Moreover, differences in terms of ideology are among the issues that, in the view of this group, cause a political threat to the host country based on the type of structural ideology of that country, which is a kind of fear of the expansion of different ideologies in this host country. One of the issues that has been significantly affected by this ideology against Afghans is the issue of political and ideological conditions is the type of ethnicity and tribe and their ideological beliefs that are attached to the people of Afghanistan; they believe that the Pashtun people, who are from the Pashtun-speaking ethnicity, most of whom are Taliban from this group, are considered a threat to themselves, believe that this group is fundamentalist based on ideologies. Moreover, the Taliban have the potential to create security problems and infiltrate Iran's borders. The question that needs to be examined here is whether this securitization of the issue of politics by dealing with immigrants from countries based on race, language, religion, and other factors has made it a means for them to have a different kind of attitude from immigrants.

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Another issue in the dimensions of political security is due to the complex combination of long-term conflicts and insecurities that have resulted from the emergence of Afghan refugees in the labor market and in a society of a kind of cheap labor and better access to the labor market for contractors. Another issue that is of great interest is the illegal immigration of Afghan migrants who enter Iran illegally and the issue of human trafficking and drug trafficking in Iran. The issue that plays a very prominent role in this section today is that the issue is the focus and role of terrorist groups on insecurity and terrorist attacks in Iran, which have infiltrated Iranian society in the form of smuggling and among immigrants during various wars in recent periods, especially in the Middle East, the role of ISIS, Al-Qaeda and the Baloch separatist groups of Jaish al-Adl that are present in Afghanistan, which it paves the way for the group and other countries to use these groups against Iran to carry out attacks and chaos in Iran.

One of the issues that are growing, especially against Afghan refugees in Iran during this period, is the economic issue in Iran; economic threats can have various external, internal, and regional factors. They show immigrants as the cause of problems in the economy of the society and believe that the level of welfare and economic power in the security dimensions is one of the issues in the field of economic security, which is one of the issues in the field of economic security, which is the next one of the theories of military security, which is related to matters such as economy, natural resources, energy resources, and human resources, in addition to the importance of the existence of various resources and sources of wealth of general resources. These dimensions are also counted on people's jobs and jobs, which are considered as essential and vital components (Jamshidi, 2010)

However, from a security point of view, due to the presence of Afghan nationals in Iran and their need to work and earn money, this area has been considered more than other sectors. The exposure of Iran to sanctions by European countries and the United States has caused the rate of inflation and unemployment in Iran to increase, and this has hurt Iran's national security in the economy. Most immigrants who come to Iran based on their younger age rate are between the ages of 15 and 24 and have been active in attracting Afghan immigrants from various sectors such as agriculture, construction, labor, and services. However, society and the government have shown that these immigrants have caused unemployment and the use of jobs and worsened society's economic situation. The impact of immigrants on the economy in developed countries indicates that migration has positive effects on the host country's economy (Farhang, 1996). In this case, all Afghan refugees do not benefit from government support and receive meager salaries at work, and they are not provided with any insurance and no free services.

The security challenge of moving the significant economy forward means job restrictions, which are shown by the arrival of Afghan refugees in Iran; most of the Afghan refugees living in Iran have to do hard construction work, from collecting garbage, working in workshops, working in shops, working in factories. In contrast, many of those with higher education did not have the right to work due to legal restrictions and the right to work. It is active in various fields that perhaps few Iranian citizens want to work in. Other challenges that most immigrants face are economic challenges that educated people are not allowed to invest in. Many educated Afghan immigrants in Iran are facing this problem.

The Social Security field encompasses a broad array of programs and policies designed to provide financial support and assistance to individuals in various stages of life, typically focusing on the elderly, disabled, and survivors of deceased workers. This field is integral to the social safety net in many countries, aiming to reduce poverty, provide income security, and support individuals who are unable to work due to age, disability, or familial circumstances.

The settlement of Afghan refugees in remote areas and in different groups has become an exceptional separation in many cities around Tehran, Mashhad, and the major cities of Iran. In the view of some politicians who believe that the factionalism of Afghan immigrants in small communities in big cities and these separatisms based on an unhealthy and forced migration lead to crime, smuggling, and unrest for the citizens of Iran, most of these types of people have a discriminatory view of other ethnicities and groups, which shows the level of differences, even in the case of people from different cities. Around the borders and cities that are far from the great cities of Iran, they still have a very different view of them because of their religious, ethnic, racial, and linguistic diversity.

Another part of Iranians that many believe is the cause of social security for them is the issue of marginalization in big cities, which is created by immigrants, which has the demographic composition of the host society, especially in villages and areas with a small population. The citizens of Afghanistan have low income and the possibility of a low standard of living, and as a result, most of this population can afford to choose to live; on the one hand, with the lack of harassment in that community, they have been forced to choose to live in the slums and turn to the villages and around the big cities. Treatment in the region and the creation of more false healthcare jobs will be reduced. False jobs must believe that this creates neighborhoods of violence in society.

In one of the reports on the online platform, one of the reporters in the program of the Migration Observatory in Iran believes that the best areas and sensitive parts in the military areas and sensitive and vital areas are in the hands of Afghan immigrants. In this speech, he believes that all Afghan immigrants are criminals and terrorists, which is very shocking. They all know that they are coming and insisting on this basis of their beliefs without having any statistics and evidence, and they claim to use Iran's resources and capital. Even many experts consider this a social danger for Iranian society because Afghan immigrants change the fabric of cities and change the social structure of life by living on the margins and in slums.

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Iranian media have reported that a member of the Iranian parliament, in a speech in the parliament today, Tuesday (3 Mizan), severely criticized the country's policy towards Afghan immigrants. Yaqub Rezazadeh said that 17 million Afghan immigrants in Iran are using the benefits of the citizens of this country. This member of the Iranian Parliament said: "By what rights and rights have 17 million Afghans been allowed to settle and stay in the country and use the subsidies of the Iranian people?" He told the Iranian government officials that by what right have Afghan immigrants been allowed to buy property in their name under the name of marriage with Iranian citizens. Mr. Rezazadeh added: "The name of this is not migration, but the change in the country's demographic structure and the creation of a second Afghanistan in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran." (Amu news, 2024) Recently, the Iranian parliament has presented a plan based on which restrictions will be placed on the presence of foreign nationals in this country.

For one year, Iran is trying to deport about two million immigrants under the pretext of the presence of illegal Afghan refugees. The security of Afghan refugees in Iran is a complex and multifaceted issue, influenced by a range of political, social, and economic factors. Over the years, millions of Afghans have sought refuge in Iran, fleeing conflict, persecution, and economic hardship in their homeland. While Iran has hosted one of the world's largest populations of Afghan refugees, the situation of these refugees within Iran is fraught with challenges, including issues related to legal status, access to services, and personal security.

Legal Status and Documentation:

A significant issue affecting the security of Afghan refugees in Iran is the matter of legal status and documentation. Many Afghan refugees in Iran live without adequate legal documentation, making them vulnerable to deportation, exploitation, and limited access to basic services. The Iranian government has made efforts to register refugees and provide them with temporary residency permits, but the process can be complicated, and many remain undocumented or under temporary protection that does not fully safeguard their rights.

Access to Services:

The access of Afghan refugees to essential services such as education, healthcare, and employment is another critical aspect of their security. While registered refugees have some access to these services, their quality and availability can be limited. Undocumented refugees face even greater challenges, often being excluded from the formal economy and public services, pushing them into precarious living conditions and informal employment where they are at risk of abuse and exploitation.

Discrimination and Social Integration:

Discrimination against Afghan refugees in Iran is a pervasive issue that impacts their security and well-being. Afghans often face prejudice and are sometimes stereotyped negatively, affecting their ability to integrate into Iranian society, gain meaningful employment, and access services. This social exclusion can exacerbate vulnerabilities, particularly for women and children, and can lead to a cycle of poverty and marginalization.

Detention and Deportation:

The threat of detention and deportation looms large for many Afghan refugees, especially those who are undocumented. Raids and deportations can occur, often without warning, leading to family separations and forced returns to Afghanistan, where individuals may face continued threats to their safety and well-being. Such practices undermine the security of Afghan refugees in Iran and contravene international principles of non-refoulement, which prohibit the return of refugees to places where they face serious threats to their life or freedom.

International and Domestic Responses:

The international community, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), has been involved in efforts to support Afghan refugees in Iran, providing assistance and advocating for their rights. The Iranian government has also taken steps to address some issues, such as allowing Afghan children to enroll in public schools. However, comprehensive solutions that address the legal, social, and economic needs of Afghan refugees remain necessary to improve their security and integration into Iranian society.

The security of Afghan refugees in Iran requires attention to their legal status, access to essential services, protection from discrimination and abuse, and safeguards against involuntary return to Afghanistan. Addressing these issues demands concerted efforts from the Iranian government, the international community, and civil society to ensure that Afghan refugees can live in safety and dignity, with opportunities for a stable and secure future (HRW, novembre 2013).

Securitizing the issue of immigration, especially in the face of Afghan immigrants, in this interest when most of the discourses, refuses, stereotypes and all in Iranian society show clear signs of a kind of self-superiority, substitution and racism towards other groups and minorities. This self-superiority and racism are observed not only in front of the immigrants but also among the groups of intellectuals in Iran, such as the Sunnis, Kurds, Turks, and other ethnic groups. The opposition politicians, by presenting these statistics and reports and directing public opinion on the social network and at the level of society, whether directly or indirectly, engage in xenophobia and prejudice against the immigrants. We see it in various networks and platforms, as well as in newspapers and at the academic level.

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The discourse of national security in the Islamic Republic of Iran since the 1970s has been a kind of security policy towards immigrants, which shows a kind of threat to the security of the state in the economic, political, and social sectors, and these policies have been manipulated by various groups and groups of the extreme right and domestic and foreign opposition groups in society. Migrant workers have always faced these pressures and threats. Whenever the government wants to give in to various internal political and social criticisms and pressures and inaction or criticism of the system, this issue arises and comes to life in society. The government agencies in the society blamed the issue of illegal immigrants (asylum seekers) for the lack of work and security and problems such as the economy, lack of housing, and lack of electricity, all of which were blamed on illegal immigrants.

In the Iranian system and society, itself, they have a selective attitude towards immigrants and even other groups, which can be said to have become a kind of systematization. The problems faced by Afghan refugees include the lack of the right to education, the right not to have a job, the right not to have a bank account, insurance premiums, the right to reside, and so on. Iran's policies towards Afghan refugees have not been in general order since the first decades of the 1990s. There has been severe strictness on returning and providing all services to refugees. There is always talk of services to Afghan refugees, which are only in the dimension of returning to Afghanistan and not in other general issues. Another of Iran's immigration policies has been the issue of facilitating cheap labor for Iranian workers. The use of international aid that is not used or used by immigrants. On the other hand, they have used the formation of various groups, such as the Fatemiyoun and other groups, to recruit forces for their proxy wars.

One of the issues that has grown sharply in Iran at this time against immigrants is the issue of the use of subsidies and the unrestricted use of resources, while throughout history, based on Iran's immigration policies, no Afghan immigrants have insurance, free education, the right to own property, the right to use resources at all, in the last period of the exodus of Afghan immigrants after the fall of the republican system, most of the immigrants went to Iran to continue their children's education. Those who have been deprived of this right to education for migrant children have been subjected to severe restrictions in Iran. None of the educational levels in public schools are free for Afghan refugees. In many cases, they are deprived of education at day, intermediate, and higher levels, and most of them have to go to night schools. Due to the problematic family conditions, lack of the right to education, and the imposition of very high tuition fees on Afghan students, Afghan children have stopped studying and gone to work.

This securitization and hardening of Afghan refugees in Iran clearly show the discrimination against these refugees, which has existed in Iran against Afghans for decades. In several decades, we have witnessed waves of anti-Afghanism in Iran. In 2024, this anti-Afghanism will be very intense in cities in different parts of Iran, and the hateful, fascist, and racist attitudes that have been inflicted on immigrants by the community.

It has always used repression and humiliation to varying degrees by layers of the Iranian people and government in the face of anti-Afghanism. There are few Afghans who have not seen the cases or levels. In the last few years, there has been a growing fear and racist and anti-immigrant tendencies in Iran, which were expressed and applied very commonly, nakedly, without the slightest embarrassment or hesitation, and are officially and openly supported by the government. In many cities and villages, governors and police have asked people not to give houses to Afghan immigrants and to introduce them to the police. Anyone who gives them jobs and rents a house will face judicial action, such as the governor of Bushehr, the governor of Behjour, Shiraz, Yasuq, Tehran, Lorestan, Kermanshah, Yazd and other cities of Iran.

In many networks such as Instagram, Telegram, and other programs, most clips are promoted by showing insults to Afghan refugees or referring to very incorrect words, insults, and beatings. In one of the clips available on social media, an Iranian border guard tortures and rapes an Afghan teenager. Interview with the head of real estate in the Shargh Iran newspaper It was said that no real estate has the right to rent a house to foreigners who do not have a residence permit.

These anti-immigration waves have not been presented by chance but by a planned barrel in a period. This wave of hatred and anti-immigration has spread on various social networks, especially Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Telegram, TikTok, and even official television networks and newspapers, because of the spread of these hateful views against immigrants.

Launching a campaign to deport Afghan immigrants on social networks along with spreading rumours:

Launching a campaign to deport Afghan immigrants on social media, coupled with the spread of rumors, represents a significant issue in the discourse surrounding immigration and refugees. This phenomenon not only exacerbates xenophobia and discrimination but also undermines the social fabric that holds diverse communities together. By utilizing social media platforms, individuals and groups can amplify their message to a wide audience rapidly, making it a potent tool for shaping public opinion. However, when used irresponsibly, it becomes a vehicle for spreading misinformation, fear, and prejudice against vulnerable populations like Afghan immigrants in Iran.

The proliferation of rumors and misinformation about Afghan immigrants can lead to a distorted perception of their community, painting them unjustly as a threat to societal security and economic stability. This portrayal not only affects the public's perception but can also influence policy-making and the implementation of stricter immigration laws, further marginalizing these communities. The social media campaigns aimed at their deportation, fueled by baseless rumors, can incite violence, discrimination, and a hostile

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environment, making it increasingly difficult for immigrants to integrate into society, access essential services, and live in dignity (La monde,2024).

Addressing this issue requires a multifaceted approach. It involves promoting media literacy among the general public to critically evaluate the information they encounter online. Additionally, there's a need for stricter regulations on social media platforms to identify and remove hate speech and misinformation actively. Supporting and amplifying the voices of Afghan immigrants and refugee advocacy groups is crucial in countering negative stereotypes and providing a more balanced and humane perspective on immigration.

Most of the anti-immigration campaigns that have been launched in Iran against Afghan immigrants have been in a susceptible political situation, which is the early elections on the one hand and the situation in the Middle East on the other, but this was according to the statistics of Iran, which was announced in the dimension of Afghan immigrants, about 4 million and 300 to 4 million and 500 thousand people. However, after a short period, these rumors in the official newspaper in Iran began to say that 8 million Afghan immigrants were announced, and this false and unsourced news on social media became the source of a wave of anti-immigration(Radio Free Europe,2024). In addition to that, another newspaper, on behalf of the reformists and other groups, published a report against the indirect front of immigrants, stating that "south of Tehran is occupied by Afghan immigrants! This is a purely security issue."

This process of requesting the auction of Afghan immigrants from Iran began in mid-2023 when the hashtag of deporting illegal immigrants began to intensify. This process was accompanied by the war between Iran and Israel and the Iranian elections; one of the issues that was discussed during the election period between the candidates in Iran was the issue of "organizing" foreign nationals in Iran, Massoud Pezeshkian, the head of the 14th government, announced his positions on Afghan immigrants with clarity and stated that the primary and general issue about the program of cohesion of immigrants of this presidential candidate included these issues. It mentioned "complete closure of borders and prevention of further migration, organizing non-Iranian nationals in the country, negotiating with European countries to accept part of the migrants, and receiving fees for the presence of non-Iranian nationals from international organizations."

Four decades have passed since the first wave of Afghan refugees in Iran, but Iran's policies have not taken over the new laws for Afghan refugees. Instead of organizing and organizing the refugees, they have adopted the same strict policy and deportation. Not only have they not succeeded, but they have also faced significant failure. Not only has this policy not been caused, but it has also led to a security issue(Human Rights Watch,2024). The issue of immigrants has caused a lot of tension, discrimination, and violence against these immigrants in recent years. During these years, one of the features of Iran's immigration policy in the last four decades has been that Iranian employers have been directed to use these immigrants as cheap labor. On the other hand, since the use of international aid to facilitate the solution to the challenges of immigrants is tied to Iran's relations with the West, there has not been much news about attracting financial aid in this field to date. Many sociologists in Iran believe that the official integration of immigrants, especially second and third-generation immigrants born in Iran, studied in Iran, and considered part of this country, should be officially integrated into society. Many of the programs that have been implemented in various fields against immigrants should be prevented.

Over the past several years, most of the Afghan nationals who have been in Iranian society have faced the risk of deportation from the country. Many believe that this group of immigrants should be reduced to zero and that everyone should be deported from Iran, which is contrary to human dignity and against international law and human rights. They have also asked for the exclusion of Afghan citizens in Iran, and even the second and third generations, and even the lack of the right to marry Iranian citizens. In the text of the Parliament's bill, it is understood that the cost of living for these people will be so high that they will leave the country alone. At the same time, it is necessary to conduct a general review of the policies and laws related to immigration, whether for those who enter Iran.

About the issue of anti-immigration in recent years, which has intensified, two issues should be stated: first, the groups that have committed this violence and violence and discrimination against Afghan immigrants in Iran and have started their activities through social networks should be distinguished that this organized group has a regular program for organized groups In the best case, the principle of this group has been to create fake news and provide opinions against immigrants, these groups are on social networks, especially social networks that are available to Iranian society, such as Telegram, WhatsApp, Instagram, Twitter, and other sectors, and these groups are supported by domestic and foreign groups that aim to create chaos and violence against Iran. There are Afghan immigrants in Iran, but it needs to be made clear who is organizing them. The second issue is society's general dissatisfaction with the current conditions. Many people, experts, and various partisans believe that all these problems in Iran, including unemployment, lack of housing, inflation, and lack of a regular structure, are all the causes of the Afghan immigrant community. However, many immigrants are in terrible conditions and their work. Many Iranian citizens may want to refrain from working. The other issue is the very incorrect conditions of social services that Afghan immigrants do not use any free rights and benefits, which is believed by more and many Iranians who believe that citizens use government computers, free services, and other services, but in fact, one

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Afghan immigrant and another in exchange for twice as many times as many people. Iranians have to pay for any service, and in many cases, these people do not have the right to subscribe to or use those services, even by paying money.

Every policy that the government is trying to implement, and in society, they deal with different disagreements and dissatisfactions of the society, which are the result of the people's dissatisfaction, has caused the gap between the society and the government to increase, which in turn causes the government to try to bridge this gap between itself and the society through strict measures and measures against immigrants. Moreover, they try to create dissatisfaction. They want to pay attention to the people's grievances, try to blame these problems and dissatisfaction on those immigrants, and put pressure on the immigrants. In the 1970s, when the government was facing pressure and dissatisfaction, they started expelling the immigrants and forcibly going to their homes and deporting them. Violent measures against these people will intensify. They violently evicted them without even looking at the right of residence or prior warning. It is worrying about the formation of a coalition between individuals with far-right nationalism and extremist political groups with different political tastes to exclude this group from society because this kind of convergence of two nodes, whether directly or indirectly, causes more repression and violence against immigrants.

According to the newspaper Le Monde, in 2024, it presented a report on the discriminatory treatment of Afghan refugees, in which the government and radical nationalists in Iran have started a kind of rumors and campaigns against immigrants and demanded the deportation of refugees from Iran. The report states that this wave of campaigns has started with violence on social media and in the community, mentioning that This kind of propaganda is especially to preoccupy the society with the issue of immigrants in order to represent the problems on the shoulders of the immigrants, this kind of propaganda is not only on social networks and in the society, but also in the academic community and other groups, it is a very hot discussion of hatred against immigrants, who have been distorting the image of immigrants with a very incorrect tone and false information data, and this hatred is spreading not only in the part of politics. In a report on Afghan immigrants in Iran on August 10, Le Monde newspaper wrote that a new wave of prejudice and racism against Afghan immigrants has begun in Iran, and the main problem of this wave of prejudice and racism against Afghan society is increasing day by day after the Iranian elections. "The media and government officials also supports this measure. «The newspaper added that the deportation campaign has been launched on social media under the title of "Deportation of Afghans is a national demand. » (Le Monde newspaper,2024)

Many Afghan immigrants do not have access to any fundamental rights after decades of living in Iran, and the lack of policies and laws for refugees has led to growing prejudice against these immigrants. According to the country's laws, Afghan immigrants cannot open a bank account, buy a car, or buy a house in their name. In addition, Afghans' entry into some provinces, parks, and public places in Iran, like festivals, is banned.

Since Jalma, one of the methods that has been created against Afghanistan is that in all areas of life, from education to work, owning a house, and even buying essential food items, they have been banned in many cities. In this report, Ets mentions that an Afghan immigrant woman is accused of humiliating and insulting her neighbors and putting pressure on them from Jalma, which is a daily issue that Afghan refugees face. This immigrant woman said that, unlike last year, she was unable to enroll her child in school this year because the authorities have asked for a guarantee of 100 million tomans for enrollment. Biased rhetoric against Afghan refugees is an issue that has also been mentioned in Iran's election campaigns. Presidential candidate Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf called for the construction of a border wall with Afghanistan to prevent the passage of Afghan refugees. Le Monde newspaper wrote that Iranian media are always trying to exacerbate such problems and blame Afghans.

Also, according to the new laws, foreign immigrants (Afghan immigrants, not immigrants from other groups) to some provinces of Iran, especially Bandar Abbas, Qom, Ahvaz, Kermanshah, Zahedan, and other provinces, and even in parks and public places, especially on holidays, are prohibited.

Many Afghan nationals who have been in Iran from the second and third generations have been deported from Iran in recent days with their residency permits, passports, and other official documents; many of the immigrants who have been interviewed, many of them have been forced into cars during the period of deportation and have taken all their money, belongings, and phones from them.



Many people who have no money have been told in the detention centers that their family has to bring some money to these deportation concentration camps in order to deport them, which is a form of theft and deportation. The government-affiliated newspapers, on the other hand, are more inclined towards anti-Afghanism against Afghan immigrants, and the everyday discourse on social media constantly presents Afghans as the new rulers of Iran, the Taliban, fundamentalism, a symbol of backwardness, and even an animal.

This photo, taken from one of the parks in Iran, is written (strictly avoid bringing dogs and Afghan animals to the park). (A fascist and racist manifestation that equates a human being of Afghan nationality with an animal like a dog) In many media outlets, it has been stated that this painting that exists in the media has been photoshopped. The photo is not original. 13/07/2015

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Also, according to the new laws, foreign immigrants (Afghan immigrants, not immigrants from other groups) to some provinces of Iran, especially Bandar Abbas, Qom, Ahvaz, Kermanshah, Zahedan, and other provinces, and even in parks and public places, especially on holidays, are prohibited.

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According to Le Monde, the other perpetrators of this wave are supporters of a type of extreme nationalism that, in line with the Islamic government, has made society unsafe for Afghan refugees. In alignment with the government, they do not ignore any opportunity to humiliate Afghans, especially their children in schools.

5.Cultural and Media Representation

Hashtag against Afghan immigrants in social networks.

For some time, especially in 2024, anti-immigration, fear-mongering, and hatred towards Afghans living in Iran have been increasing in some broad-spectrum media. This trend has been controversial in Iran's visual media, such as television, newspapers, and other Internet networks. In these media, more indirectly and based on theorizing against immigrants, it seems that this wave of anti-Afghanism is more like a new project. A political figure in various media outlets analyzes the presence of immigrants based on inaccurate statistics, like many extremists of nationalism, from politicians to journalists, professors, and other social activists. In addition to that, the false news and rumors that more than thousands of Afghans cross the border into Iran or become owners of jobs and houses or get a degree in these 24 hours are far from the truth, even those who are second generation or who have been in Iran for more than 3 to 4 years are in incorrect conditions and without documents. Or the presence of 8 to 10 million to 15 million Afghan immigrants in Iran, the use of public facilities by Iranians, including water, gas, public transportation, schools, and medical centers, and the payment of more than \$8 billion in subsidies for energy, essential goods, medicines, etc..... Refugees who have been in Iran for more than 50 years are not entitled to any free services and have no right to any free services and have a government computer

in Iran, whether they have recently come to Iran or for a short time and have not yet been able to send their children to schools or by paying millions of tomans to schools and identifying the residency document. One of Iran's policies towards Afghan immigrants is the increase in the prices of obtaining residency rights, enrolling in schools, tripling tuition fees, and not having the right to reside in many cities. Other issues exist in society, and the question is mentioned: How have these immigrants benefited from government subsidies of 8 billion or 3 thousand billion tomans? If they do not even have the right to live in Iran? Do they not consider that the Iranian government has a rigorous system and laws and pressures against Afghan refugees?

Alternatively, they try to show the inhabitants of Afghanistan who are in Iran to a specific group and differentiate between them, between Shiites and Sunnis, between ethnicities such as Pashtuns, Hazara, Tajiks, Uzbeks, Sadats, Baluchis, and others, and by doing so, they try to select the immigrants, or they try to select the immigrants or the news that the increase in unemployment is due to Afghan immigrants, or that the demographic composition of Iran is changing. The cause of this is Afghan immigrants, announcing the high birth rate of Afghans, 50 to 75 percent of the births in Tehran and the cities around Tehran by Afghan women, and the doubling of 80 percent of the country's schools due to the presence of Afghan nationals, the increase in the price of housing and renting due to Afghan immigrants, the daily purchase of 15 to 20 loaves of bread, the south of Tehran under siege by Afghans, the Afghans who are the cause of the increase in crime and insecurity. In Iranian society, the government's attempt to give birth certificates to immigrants for political exploitation and dozens of other similar hate crimes have undermined their authenticity. Sadly, most of these materials have been raised not only by ordinary people but also by the so-called elites and distributed on various networks by fake and real users.

All these fake and false news and statistics have caused provocation in the Iranian people's society; on the other hand, most of the Iranian people are struggling with problems and pressures, poverty, unemployment, and cooperation, and when these media and

¹ <https://observers.rfi.fr/fa/20150713-afghanistan-iran-migrants-racism-park-photoshop>

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other political groups show that in order to achieve political and social goals and by creating rumors that they blame all the problems on immigrants, they are trying to maintain power and create different conditions. They put an end to all problems for themselves in the name of immigrants. Most of the views of Afghan refugees are from a top-down perspective: the exploitation of Afghan labor and labor in Iran, the humiliating treatment of refugees, the impossibility of renting housing, and the problems of education. Work, numerous banking restrictions, the impossibility of obtaining a driving license, lack of property rights, non-sale of items to Afghan immigrants in shops, food stores, greenhouses, and items and prohibiting their use as sellers, working only in hard and heavy labor, closing the shops of Afghan immigrants, prohibiting work in stores, etc.

Later, after the intensification of the publication of negative propaganda against Afghan immigrants in Iran, the controversial headlines in many parts of different cities have led to an increase in this violence against immigrants; exaggerations and untrue topics and content have caused the immigrants to face much violence. The portrayal of Afghan immigrants as an illiterate, unskilled, and overburdened population and savage people by some media outlets has caused further discord.



Yellow banners have been placed in different areas of the city, stating that Afghan foreign nationals must be evacuated from the 15th district of Tehran. In addition, the owners of houses and cars provided to foreign nationals are also warned to return the money, including houses and cars, as soon as possible. They should act. In this board, it is written that according to the coordination from the elders and the respected people, it is publicly decided that the dear ones of the property should not rent their houses to foreigners in any way. The respected owners renting their houses to foreigners have a deadline from the specified date to vacate the houses.



This news in Tehran in recent months has led to physical violence and clashes against the immigrants, which led to a rumor that the Afghan immigrants had beaten two Iranian men, and then in the same days, the people of the area fell on the Afghan immigrants with pressure, machetes, and knives, and banners against the Afghan immigrants have been erected in some parts of the area. Young Iranian men have beaten the Afghan immigrants. in the streets. Most of the violence against migrants is taking place in the Wireless Park area, the Atabak and Hashemabad areas and Afghans living in these areas are unable to leave their homes for fear of facing angry groups of young Iranian men. Immigrant families are not allowed to go out for fear of being attacked, and many of the migrants living there are not allowed to film or complain about the initial purchase of food.

In this photo, eyewitness footage of the video footage of the attack by the people of Tehran in District 15 shows that they entered the streets and came to arrest and beat Afghan immigrants and started beating them. After beating them, they handed them over to the police to deport them (BBC,2024).

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In one of the incidents mentioned in this photo, the issue of breaking the neck of a 16-year-old Afghan teenager who had a hearing impairment in front of his mother, they wanted to deport him forcibly. She resisted, and the police trampled on him, beat him, and trampled on the neck of this teenager and broke the neck of this Afghan teenager, which caused much reaction in the country. Some have also supported the police's action. In 2019, an American politician died as a result of the same case in which the police stabbed a citizen in his neck, and this police action was widely reflected in all networks and different countries; Iran was one of the countries that enormously strengthened this case and said that this is violence against others. However, in this case, the police stabbed an Afghan teenager who was in Iran and had hearing problems. They also performed the act and broke the neck of this teenager, and the government took no action to protect the fundamental rights of this immigrant (afintl, 2024).

منابع:
مامور امنیتی جمهوری اسلامی با فشار
زانویش، گردن نوجوان افغان را شکست

برای تایید و خواندن متن خبر این شماره را گوگل کنید 202408072119



Another act in Iranian society against Afghan immigrants by many groups and encouraging others to fight against Afghan immigrants, especially in the cities against immigrants, are the signs of not providing services to Afghan immigrants, which, as you can see, in a clothing store, the Afghan word is forbidden to enter the shop, which in itself shows a kind of blatant propaganda against Afghan immigrants only, which is increasing day by day in Iranian society. Gets. In the second option, a photo that has caused much noise on social media these days outside of Iran was the case of the bakery, in which it was written that it was forbidden to sell bread to citizens, and even wrote a number if they saw a bakery or a violation with its number, which was issued by order of the city prosecutor.

Aggression, discrimination, and crime also have different dimensions, including the practice that they have forbidden the most basic and essential need, which is the purchase of bread, which is a form of discrimination and racism against these immigrants. Moreover, this in itself has caused migrant-phobia and anti-immigration in cyberspace.

Another rumor that has increased in recent days is the murder of a woman in a car that is circulating on social media. The rumor was that this woman was killed and set on fire by Afghan immigrants, who raped her after raping her. At the same time, according to government reports and available news agencies, after investigation, they found out that this woman was killed and burned after problems with her husband. The husband himself beat that person and then threw him into the car and set the car on fire, which they wanted to blame on the immigrants based on the existing rumors and caused waves of violence. In this case, a man locks his wife in a car and sets it on fire. According to Tasnim, the firefighters seen in the pictures notice the presence of the body while extinguishing the fire, and in this way, the man confesses to the murder of his wife.



It is one of the posts that has been circulated on the Twitter network in which he wrote about the influx of Afghan immigrants that Afghans have gone to resorts and are taking pictures of. He wrote that Iranian families cannot take the brand of the waterfall from the hands of these immigrants, and in a text, it is mentioned that this is how Israel took over Palestine. He went on to say that if these occupiers reach Saleh, they will throw such a sea of blood. It is clear from this hateful text that they seek to create a kind of tension against the Afghan refugees and try to express the dire situation and the problems and violence of these refugees by presenting such pictures (AVA, 2023).

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In the past few days, there have been allegations about the spread of leprosy in Iran. Hadi Kasaizadeh, the editor-in-chief of the monthly magazine Azadi Square, published a photo claiming that Afghan immigrants in Iran were the cause of the outbreak of leprosy and had asked Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to expel them. Mr. Kasaizadeh's tweets have been viewed more than 290,000 times. In the past months, he has published many tweets opposing the presence of Afghan immigrants, and he wants them to be expelled from Iran. Investigations by the BBC's fact-checking service show that there have been no official reports or warnings about the prevalence of leprosy in Iran.

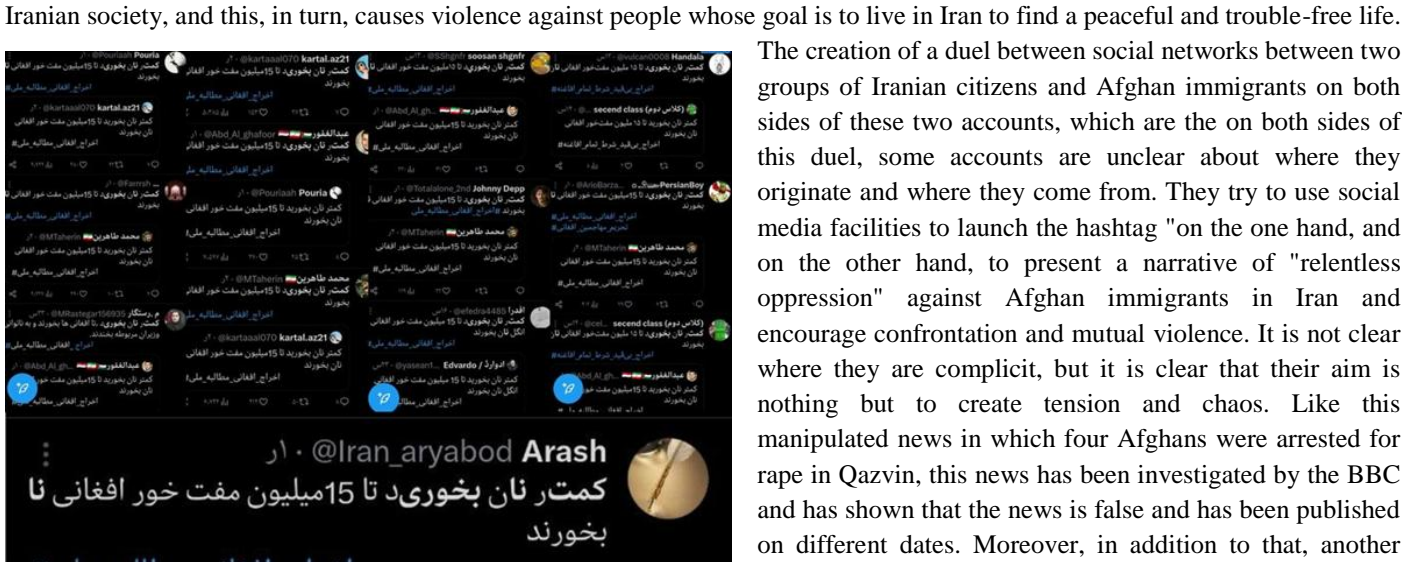


Another case that is not new but has been discussed by users is the case related to the murder of a child. A seven-year-old girl named Elmira Zare, known as Nazgol, who was from the village of Dehkaram in Isfahan province, disappeared in late March last year, and her burnt body was discovered earlier this year with the approval of the head of the Isfahan Provincial Intelligence Police. The murder of this little girl on several social media accounts to Afghan immigrants. We have attributed the comments of the police officials and the lawyer of the case about the case of Elmira Zare to this murder; so far, there is no comment that there is a single suspect among the immigrants (BBC,2024). According to interviews about the case on the news networks of the case, only a few suspects, all members of the girl's family, have been arrested and interrogated. There is no

evidence that there is any trace of the involvement of the immigrants in this case. This case is mainly related to the murder of this person based on the problems in the family, which has been done, but many have blamed the Afghan immigrants for the current case. Based on the fact-checking of this case on the BBC, it was found that they had spread false news against the Afghan immigrants. After a while, it became clear that the murderer of this little girl was the girl's mother. (BBC,2024)



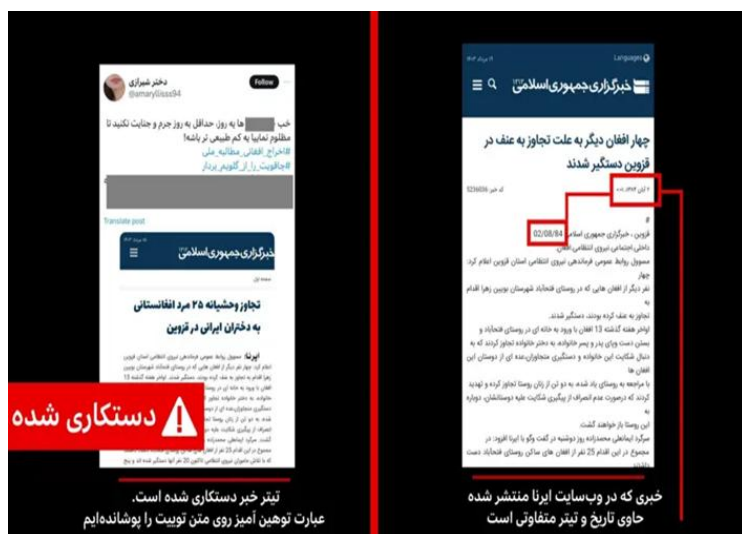
Another issue in these times, especially in the acute and fundamental time of spreading rumors against Afghan immigrants, was the suicide issue in Kerman, which caused the death of many people in Kerman; this Afghanophobia began an hour after the terrorist incident in Kerman the publication of fake news and photo of a Pakistani person, which belonged to a person who was arrested in Khost in 2015 during the final operation. Based on the photographs taken and interviewed by a group of people, they used these photographs. They used them against Afghan immigrants under fundamental conditions, claiming that the terrorist perpetrator in Kerman was an Afghan national. This rumor-mongering is a chosen topic in the context of the suicide attack in Iran. It is clear that the purpose of this chaos is to create more and more violence against this group in Iranian society, and this, in turn, causes violence against people whose goal is to live in Iran to find a peaceful and trouble-free life.



The creation of a duel between social networks between two groups of Iranian citizens and Afghan immigrants on both sides of these two accounts, which are the on both sides of this duel, some accounts are unclear about where they originate and where they come from. They try to use social media facilities to launch the hashtag "on the one hand, and on the other hand, to present a narrative of "relentless oppression" against Afghan immigrants in Iran and encourage confrontation and mutual violence. It is not clear where they are complicit, but it is clear that their aim is nothing but to create tension and chaos. Like this manipulated news in which four Afghans were arrested for rape in Qazvin, this news has been investigated by the BBC and has shown that the news is false and has been published on different dates. Moreover, in addition to that, another

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news on Twitter with the text the brutal rape of Iranian girls in Qazvin by 25 Afghan men and this text Also, after verifying the truth, it was found that it was false and manipulated. It was spread through fake and false accounts on Twitter, which shows the intensity of the use of social networks.



In this photo, which is mentioned, a series of comments and accounts that follow the rhetoric and bad speech against Afghan immigrants under the post of a Twitter user show hatred and migrant-phobia against Afghan immigrants on social media. In this photo, an account wrote that you should eat less bread so that 15 million Afghans eat free food. In this text, two issues have been mentioned; one is the issue of the population that has been mentioned, which is wildly exaggerated because 15 million is equal to half of the population of Afghanistan, according to the statistics of the international organization and even the official statistics of the Iranian government, about 5-7 million with old and new immigrants. However, in this part, they have tried to give unrealistic statistics so that they can further intensify this violence. The next option is about the Iranian economy.

They say that they should eat less bread so that they can eat, which in itself indicates a kind of tension against immigrants so that they can engage society in these immigrant-phobic and hate-mongering thoughts. This issue has also been addressed in the reactions of Afghan political figures, and it has been said that the involvement of Afghan immigrants in criminal crimes is undeniable. However, their crime should be considered as an individual issue and not attributed to all displaced immigrants and poor workers.



In another post that has been circulated on social media, he has stated about the expulsion of an Afghan, a national demand; in this post, we can see about the bloody fight of an Afghan student in the west of Tehran, and the people's protest against the influx of Afghan children into the schools of the authorities. With this text, there is an attempt to create fear and hatred for the Afghan immigrants, who do not give up any opportunity and opportunity, and tries to create people's feelings towards the Afghan immigrants in several dimensions; they target a specific option, the first issue is about incest, honor or women, which is very sensitive in Iranian society, and has a very rapid reaction in the society, the second option is the discussion of children and children. They are trying to show that your children are very different from other children and that the children of Afghan immigrants are ruthless and violent. The second option is about the economic conditions, which is a kind of essential sensitivity, especially in the difficult conditions of Iranian society where they are under pressure, which creates an excellent means of creating a quick reaction against the immigrants, which in turn causes more violence. In public opinion against immigrants.

Some accounts of social media users have ethnic hashtags and try to promote violence and hatred, such as the account on Twitter, which was shared by an elephant in which he wrote about an Afghan immigrant: "Instead of an Afghan in Iran, an Afghan woman is stuck with an Iranian woman for a hijab. It will be written in the name of our nation. In this post, he clearly shows the attempt to create a kind of violence that has come towards the Afghan society and has tried to sensitize the issue of hijab and honor. The accounts of some social media users who promote ethnic hashtags show that most of them are fake or project-based accounts or have racist tendencies. Moreover, in some cases, they lack a clear Identity, and the news and videos they publish are often fake, old, truncated, have a wrong narrative, or belong to a country other than Iran. The wave of Afghanophobia and anti-Afghanism has the color and image of a project.

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The increase in crime is itself due to the deterioration of the economic situation, and attributing it to immigrants is an attempt to turn society's attention in another direction. Delinquency and crime are more related to livelihood problems and marginalized groups than to their background of Afghan descent, which is also the case all over the world. Naturally, the lack of government support for immigrants, their low salaries, and their living conditions severely affect their living conditions. It has direct effects on the increase in delinquency. We know that these groups are more at risk of social distortion and that to address such a threat, the vulnerability of migrants must be reduced. At the same time, this is a simple and superficial analysis that by restricting Afghan nationals, social problems and harms will disappear from society altogether. In order to deal with social anomalies, anti-immigrant sentiment does not have the slightest impact on reducing these anomalies, and it is necessary to think about improving the welfare of all, including immigrants of Afghan descent. Some time ago, a study was conducted on the unemployment rate, the results of which were thought-provoking; based on this study, the unemployment rate in the provinces where the most significant number of

Afghan migrant workers work is lower than the unemployment rate in the provinces where Afghan immigrants do not have the right to enter, so it cannot be said that the unemployment rate is higher in the cities receiving immigrants. This is incorrect because the Ministry of Labor, Cooperatives, and Social Welfare prohibits "allowed" and "unauthorized" foreign nationals from working in many businesses, and the possibility of their employment is recognized only in a limited part of complex jobs. According to the Labor Law, the work activity of immigrants without a "temporary employment license and card" is a crime and a violation. At the same time, it is tough to obtain employment permits have been determined.

Iran's policy on immigrants needs to be clarified.

Iran's policy has long been based on the expulsion and expulsion of Afghan immigrants, and there has been no absolute policy of non-integration. He believes that one of the reasons for the media's indecision and threat-oriented view of immigrants and the issue of migration is the ambiguity of Iran's policies: "In the 1990s, you can see that the policy of the regime was the return of immigrants, and according to this policy, everyone was in the direction of preventing Afghans from staying in Iran and being sent back in any way possible, including not allowing them to integrate into Iranian society or having a positive impact of them in the society or a positive reflection of their presence should be published (John C. Hulsman, 2013). This policy was followed over some time, and if we look at the Iranian media in the 1990s, we see that the place of Afghan immigrants is only on the page of events. They have a deficient presence on the cultural page. In contrast, the people of Iran and Afghanistan have the same language, religion, and culture, and the immigrants did not have a small number of literary and cultural productions. However, they had a minimal presence on the culture page of the media and newspapers, and we always saw them on the events page."

The reason for implementing this policy in the media is that in the 1990s, there was no intention to create a positive image of Afghan immigrants in society, and the central policy was to return them at any cost. Despite the slight changes in immigration laws, this issue has still caused the media in Iran to portray immigrants not as a potential and valuable force but as a harmful and threatening force. In contrast, many Afghan immigrants born in Iran and integrated into this society during this long period have been integrated. On the other hand, Afghan immigrants have always been criminalized in Iranian society, in the media, and even in Iranian series and films. Assault on Afghan women, assault on migrant child laborers in Afghanistan by municipal officials, and people on the streets. In addition to affecting their lives severely.

One of the issues is the situation of Afghan refugees in Iranian schools along with the very high prices of money they charge from these people; one issue and another issue is when the schools start enrolling, Iranian children are all enrolled, and then it is the turn of the Afghan refugees. However, it takes a long time to get students. They have to run for one or two months to be able to do so. Moreover, this change can be seen even in universities and is increasing daily. Another issue is the use of productivity for Afghan refugees to get the most benefit from the workforce and receive the lowest cost. However, especially many Afghan refugees are filled with low-lying buildings in harsh conditions and are deported or threatened with eviction.

Discrimination against immigrants is not only in terms of public opinion in the way of treatment in Iran, but this kind of discriminatory attitude can also be seen in Iranian laws, that the Iranian government has created discrimination against immigrants. Although these refugees have mostly taken refuge in Afghanistan following the 40-year war in Afghanistan and the various problems they are involved in, they are refugees, according to international law, who are called war and political criminals according to the Geneva and New York Conventions. Iran is one of the signatories to this international Convention, which clearly states that all

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countries must face the world's laws. So that immigrants can be attracted to this society without discrimination and in an equal manner within the framework of equal and equal laws without prejudice and discrimination.

However, by creating discriminatory and anti-immigrant laws in Iran, immigrants are far from discrimination and discrimination, and the Iranian government has caused or caused the vulnerability of these immigrants by enacting discriminatory laws against immigrants. On the other hand, the lack of clear and regular laws for immigrants is another problem that immigrants face, which has caused the discrimination and lack of destiny of Afghan immigrants in Iran, who have lived and been born in Iran for 40 to 50 years but still have a citizenship document, permanent residency, and the right to participate in social life and fundamental rights in Iranian society. It has not been done.

These anti-immigration policies in Iran can be seen in several sectors of society. The needs of immigrants are still in place a few years after the passage of Afghan immigrants in Iran, and there has been no change in the structure of Iran's immigration laws and policies toward Afghan immigrants.

Legal Discrimination:

- One of the blatant discriminations against Afghan refugees is legal discrimination against Afghan refugees, which in recent years has been prohibited from having residency in Iran.
- Many refugees who are in Iran have to pay more than 100 million dollars per Afghan person to apply for residency, for those who have fled from war conditions and uncertain conditions.
- They must pay the government a lot to get a residency card and apply.

Another issue is the right to live on many highways and nearly 14 cities in Iran, and no Afghan immigrants have the right to share, live, and work (Mahnah Mihan, 2020, 2020).

Banning the right of immigrant nerds to marry Iranian women, or Iranian men to Afghan women.

In the laws that have been discussed a lot in Iran, especially in recent years, the right to marry Afghan immigrants, whether those who were born in Iran, those who have just arrived, or those who have residency documents in Iran, are not allowed to marry. In many Iranian media, they warn against marrying the Afghan community, which is not in terms of citizenship. They believe that the existence of social and political crises in these countries, such as Afghanistan and Iran, and the entry of these people into Iran and due to the availability of economic, social, and cultural conditions in Iran, the presence of immigrants in the country has continued and Iranian women agree to marry these people under the assumption that they have achieved illusory dreams. This is while the foreign husbands of women in order to go. They come to their country mainly through land borders; they declare that they do not have many problems with their movement, which indicates the absence or lack of strict and strict rules in controlling entry and exit from the borders. This issue is the source of many consequences, including an increase in illegal marriages, an increase in the number of orphaned children without Identity documents, and so on.

The Population Registration Organization of Iran, based on Article 1060 of the Civil Code, bans Iranian women from having a marriage certificate. Marriage registration has legal, financial, and social effects on couples and their children. For this reason, the legislator has emphasized the registration of marriages, and even in the Islamic Penal Code, a punishment has been considered for not registering a permanent marriage.

According to these laws, the practice of marrying immigrants or foreign nationals will cause many legal problems for Iranian women as a result of the uncertainties of their Identity status and having a citizenship document and birth certificate for their children in the future.

Right to education for Afghan children in Iran

Another right that immigrants and their children are involved in is the issue of discrimination in the enrollment of education in schools; many Afghan students in Iran face harsh conditions that are not compatible with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is mentioned in Article 28 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states that member states recognize the right of the child to enjoy education and to achieve To this right, based on the creation of equal opportunities, the following measures have been routine, which include the following: Compulsory and making free primary education available to all, second, encouraging and promoting the creation and expansion of various types of intermediate education, including general and technical and vocational education, providing and making them available to all children, and taking appropriate measures such as the abolition of education. Free and grant grants and needs. Third, higher education should be available to all based on abilities and in any appropriate way. c) Provide educational and vocational information and guidance and make it available to all children. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that discipline in schools is by the dignity of the present Charter of Humane Acts of the Child and the provisions of the Convention (Hasanzadeh, Zahra and Reyhane Zand,2023).

It will be expected. International cooperation in education, particularly to contribute to the eradication of ignorance and illiteracy worldwide and facilitate access to modern teaching methods, scientific and technical knowledge, and methods, will be promoted. In this regard, special attention will be paid to the needs of developing countries (Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989).

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The Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Iran is also a party to and is obliged to implement, stipulates: "All children have the rights outlined in this Convention without discrimination and regard to race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, nationality, ethnicity, social background, property, disability, birth or other status." (Article 2) The Procedure for the Registration of Foreign Students in Schools of the Islamic Republic of Iran stipulates that the registration of Afghan students in Iranian schools is conditional on the registration of children's Identity details in the Sahma system, and in order to register in the Sahma system, children must have a valid residency card. This policy stipulates that the Sahma system must have a unique ten-digit code and authenticate children with a ten-digit code for registration. However, news from inside Iran indicates the fact that many Afghan families living in Iran have not been able to receive a unique 10-digit code or have not been authenticated despite entering the 10-digit code and have not been able to receive an Identity registration receipt in the Sahma system, and have not been able to enroll their children in Iranian schools.

According to the Ministry of Education's guidelines, schools in areas where foreign nationals are allowed to travel should allocate only 20 percent of their capacity to enroll Afghan students, which is another form of discrimination against Afghan children. The guidelines for registering foreign students in schools of the Islamic Republic of Iran explicitly stipulate that "the registration of foreign students without valid and unauthorized residency documents by schools is prohibited."

Afghan nationals have increased sharply and are still increasing: "This year, the issue of educating the children of nationals has changed, the most important of which is that according to the ducation Directive, schools officially charge fees from foreign students. To delve into the topic of discrimination in labor and labor rights for Afghan immigrants, it's essential to start by understanding the broader context of their experience in the labor market. Afghan immigrants, like many other immigrant groups, often face significant challenges that can hinder their success and well-being in their host countries. These challenges include, but are not limited to, language barriers, lack of recognition of their qualifications and skills, and limited access to support networks. However, one of the most pervasive and detrimental barriers they encounter is discrimination in the labor market.

Understanding Discrimination in the Labor Market

Discrimination against Afghan immigrants in the labor market can manifest in various forms, including but not limited to, direct discrimination, such as not being hired due to their nationality or ethnicity, and indirect discrimination, such as policies or practices that disproportionately disadvantage them. This discrimination can lead to a range of negative outcomes, including limited job opportunities, employment in low-paying or insecure jobs, and a general sense of alienation and marginalization.

Labor Rights for Afghan Immigrants

Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive understanding of labor rights and how they can be applied and enforced to protect Afghan immigrants. Labor rights, including the right to fair wages, safe working conditions, and freedom from discrimination, are fundamental human rights recognized internationally. However, the enforcement of these rights often falls short, leaving many Afghan immigrants vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. Improving the situation for Afghan immigrants in the labor market involves multiple stakeholders and a multifaceted approach. Some strategies could include:

1. Policy and Legislative Changes: Enacting and enforcing laws that explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of nationality or immigrant status and ensure that labor rights apply to all workers, regardless of their immigration status.
2. Awareness and Education: Increasing awareness among employers about the contributions that Afghan immigrants can make to the workforce and the importance of diversity and inclusion in the workplace. Additionally, providing immigrants with information about their rights and resources available to support them.
3. Support and Integration Programs: Implementing programs that help Afghan immigrants acquire new skills, recognize their qualifications, and integrate more effectively into the labor market. This could include language training, professional development programs, and mentorship opportunities.
4. Advocacy and Support Networks: Strengthening the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and immigrant advocacy groups in supporting Afghan immigrants, including providing legal assistance, counseling, and support in cases of discrimination or labor rights violations.

The challenges faced by Afghan immigrants in the labor market, particularly discrimination and limitations in labor rights, are significant but not insurmountable. Through a combination of policy reform, education, support programs, and advocacy, it is possible to create a more inclusive and equitable labor market that recognizes the value and rights of all workers, including Afghan immigrants.

Another position that the Iranian government has dealt with against Afghan immigrants for decades is the issue of discrimination in labor; in a circular recently published by the General Directorate of Foreign Affairs, it has been stated that Afghan immigrants have the right to work only in jobs, labor, brick making, garbage disposal, physical and intricate work. In contrast, discrimination in labor and other sectors has even been eliminated in the last few months. Jobs were prohibited, and they did not have the right to work.

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Many employers had the right to work and demonstrate against the work of Afghan immigrants, which is an explicit denial of the human rights of Afghan refugees.

The rights that are in Iran against immigrants in the field of labor law can be divided into several parts, which include the rights that Iranian legislators have enacted only for Iranian nationals, and foreigners in Iran are deprived of these specific laws, according to Article 81 of the Iranian Constitution, it is stated that the privilege of forming companies and institutions of trade, industry, agriculture, mines, and services is prohibited for foreigners, and in the fulfillment of this right of ownership, it is forbidden. The formation of an organization or a company in this structure of the system in Iran is not considered for immigrants or even for nationals, or the foreign claimant does not have the right to ask for security from the Iranian claimant, or the foreigners are deprived of employment in some professions such as stock brokers.

Also, the law of depriving foreign nationals of the ownership of agricultural lands, or in some cases, instead of depriving foreigners of the right to enjoy them, has set or limited certain conditions for them to enjoy the rights of nationals.

However, international law is one of the rights of migrant workers, in which legal protections have been supported, which include human rights, which are stated in the human rights set that all human beings enjoy simply because they are human beings. These rights did not depend on religion, geography, culture, economic system, etc. It also includes migrant workers, and in this regard, in paragraph 3 of Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations, which deals with the purposes and objectives of the United Nations in four paragraphs,

The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, adopted in 1965 by the United Nations General Assembly, which defines racial discrimination in Article 1, refers to the issue of multiple discrimination against migrant workers and emphasizes the need to protect migrants from discrimination. (ICESCR, 1969)

The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) of 1966 also emphasizes in Article 2 that states must promote universal and effective respect for human rights and freedoms by the Charter of the United Nations. Moreover, they must guarantee human rights without distinction regarding race, sex, religion, beliefs, etc.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has also adopted conventions and letters of recommendation on the need to protect the rights of migrant workers. These include Conventions **97, 143, 118, 157, and Recommendations Nos. 100 and 151 of the International Labour Organization (ILO)** on the protection of the rights of migrant workers, the adoption of regulations for their legal employment, and the need for equal treatment between domestic and foreign nationals in the Social Security field. ILO Convention 97 refers to the issue of migration for employment, which has been adopted to facilitate the movement of the workforce to different parts of the world. (ILO, 2015)

In this regard, international law requires the countries of destination of migrants, especially in the case of migrant workers, to ensure access to employment and adequate wages, to establish international standard employment contracts for migrant workers, to prohibit deportation and protection against unemployment, to provide humanitarian and human rights protection to the family of migrant workers, to make policies to eliminate discrimination against migrant workers, to have access to the legal system, and to establish labor organizations for collective bargaining. Migrant workers should take the necessary measures.

However, in Iran, migrant workers, wildly irregular migrant workers, who make up a large percentage of immigrants, are deprived of many of these rights. According to labor law, migrants cannot work in Iran unless they have an entry visa with a specific right to work and obtain a work permit based on the criteria. However, legal and illegal migrant workers have at least one thing in common. Moreover, the regulations related to labor rights, the formation of a labor organization or organization, or even membership are only possible for some groups.

Paragraph (f) of Article 2 of the Law on the Establishment of Islamic Labor Councils mentions "Iranian citizenship" as one of the eight main conditions for membership in this official labor organization. Thus, workers from other countries must refrain from participating in this organization's election process. (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 2010) This condition has deprived hundreds of Afghan migrant workers who work in the workshops of voting and appointing representatives. The same is true for other official labor organizations, including the conditions for elections, membership in the "Labor Guild," and the appointment of a "labor representative" in the workshops.

The discrimination created to defend workers' rights by official labor organizations and organizations has yet to be pursued in the form of regulations for establishing these institutions. In recent years, along with the wave of Afghan immigrants entering Iran and the extensive activities of migrant workers, especially in the construction and service sectors, there have been relatively organized movements by some quasi-governmental labor institutions to prevent the employment of Afghan immigrants. An example of these movements can be seen in the gatherings held on International Workers' Day in 2015. During these gatherings, organized in Iran by the quasi-governmental organization "House of Workers" and allowed to be held in a controlled manner, the demonstrators held placards with the slogan "Employer Modesty, Leave the Afghan." During his speech at the same ceremony, Alireza Mahjoub, the secretary general of the Workers' House, said: "The employment of foreign nationals in construction work is the most important factor threatening the livelihood of construction workers, and this weak segment of society needs dinner." "For us, the workers of Iran, the Afghan workers are our dearest human beings and classmates

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CONCLUSION

The waves of discrimination and racism against Afghan immigrants in Iran are the product of a complex interplay of historical, political, social, and economic factors that have evolved over several decades. Since the influx of Afghan refugees began in the late 1970s, following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Iran has become home to one of the largest Afghan refugee populations in the world. However, this long-standing presence has not translated into social acceptance or integration. Instead, Afghan immigrants—whether documented refugees or undocumented migrants—continue to face deep-rooted marginalization, systemic discrimination, and racial prejudice.

One of the most significant aspects of this marginalization is the Iranian government's legal and policy framework, which severely restricts Afghan immigrants' access to fundamental rights. Afghans are often relegated to the lowest-paying and most labor-intensive jobs, while legal restrictions prevent them from fully participating in the broader labor market. Many Afghans are undocumented, which exacerbates their vulnerability to exploitation and abuse. Even those with legal status face barriers to accessing education, healthcare, and other essential services. For instance, while Iran has allowed Afghan children to attend public schools since 2015, the reality is that many families still encounter bureaucratic obstacles, further limiting educational opportunities for Afghan youth.

Beyond legal and institutional barriers, Afghan immigrants in Iran are also subject to widespread societal discrimination and racism. Negative perceptions of Afghans, often rooted in xenophobic and racist stereotypes, are prevalent in Iranian society. Afghans are frequently scapegoated for economic challenges, with some segments of the population viewing them as competitors for scarce resources or as a strain on Iran's economy. These perceptions are compounded by media portrayals that depict Afghans as security risks or social burdens, further entrenching xenophobic attitudes and reinforcing a sense of "otherness."

Social segregation is another manifestation of this discrimination. Afghan immigrants are often confined to specific areas in cities, where they live in marginalized communities with limited opportunities for social mobility. This segregation perpetuates their exclusion from broader Iranian society and limits opportunities for positive interaction between Iranians and Afghans, reinforcing negative stereotypes. Additionally, Afghans in Iran face harassment and violence from authorities and local citizens, a reality that reflects their precarious status as outsiders in a society that has not fully accepted them.

Economic hardship in Iran has further exacerbated these tensions. As the country grapples with international sanctions, rising unemployment, and inflation, Afghans are increasingly seen as scapegoats for the economic struggles faced by Iranian citizens. In times of economic crisis, anti-Afghan sentiment tends to rise, with calls for stricter immigration policies and deportations becoming more frequent. This has created an environment in which Afghans are not only marginalized socially but also economically and politically, trapped in a cycle of poverty and exclusion.

The geopolitical context has also played a critical role in shaping the treatment of Afghans in Iran. While Iran has used its hosting of Afghan refugees as a bargaining chip in international diplomacy, its internal policies have often been more hostile. The shifting dynamics of Iran's relationship with Afghanistan, particularly during times of regional instability, have led to inconsistent immigration policies. For instance, Afghans have been recruited to fight in the Syrian conflict as part of the Fatemiyoun Division, a Shia militia group supported by Iran, with promises of legal residency and financial compensation. This exploitation further highlights the precarious position of Afghan immigrants, who are often used as pawns in broader geopolitical conflicts.

The COVID-19 pandemic provided yet another layer of vulnerability for Afghan immigrants in Iran. Excluded from the healthcare system and social safety nets, many Afghans were disproportionately affected by the health and economic fallout of the pandemic. In some cases, Afghans were even blamed for the spread of the virus, which led to increased harassment and xenophobic attacks. The pandemic underscored the systemic inequalities that Afghans face, as they were left to fend for themselves in the absence of adequate support from the Iranian government.

In conclusion, the waves of discrimination and racism faced by Afghan immigrants in Iran are entrenched in a combination of legal exclusion, social marginalization, and economic exploitation. Afghans in Iran continue to navigate a hostile environment, where their rights are restricted, their contributions are overlooked, and their presence is often viewed with suspicion. This complex issue requires a multifaceted approach to address the systemic inequalities that Afghans face. The Iranian government must take steps to provide legal protections, improve access to services, and combat the deeply ingrained racism and xenophobia that permeate society. At the same time, the international community must hold Iran accountable for its treatment of Afghan immigrants, ensuring that their rights are respected under international law.

Without comprehensive reform, Afghan immigrants in Iran will continue to face cycles of discrimination and exclusion, perpetuating their marginalized status in society. A more inclusive and humane approach to migration, one that acknowledges the contributions of Afghan immigrants and ensures their dignity and rights, is essential for fostering greater social cohesion in Iran and improving the lives of millions of Afghan refugees who have long sought refuge within its borders. The future of Afghan immigrants in Iran depends on a shift toward policies that promote integration, protect human rights, and combat the pervasive racism that has long plagued their experiences in the country.

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