

Regulations relating to Refugees (1963)

In its meeting dated 16 December 1963, the Council of Ministers, based on the proposal No. M/2985 made by the Ministry of Interior on 5 December 1963, adopted the Regulations relating to Refugees as follows:

Article 1. A refugee is a person who for political, religious or racial reasons or for membership of a particular social group fears persecution or a threat to his life or that of his family members supported by him, and seeks asylum in Iran.

Article 2. A refugee is identified by the following ways:

1. crossing the border into Iran;
2. submission of an application while residing outside Iran;
3. denoting request for asylum and entry into Iran;
4. submission of an application while residing in Iran requesting asylum.

Note- With regard to number one above, the refugee should present himself to the first border guard station or competent Government official upon entry into the Iranian territory. In the event the refugee has a weapon, it should be delivered to the Iranian authorities in exchange for a receipt. The above authority shall receive the application and refer the refugee to the district border guard, who shall obtain the required information from the applicant and, through the Governorate or District Governorate Office, shall forward the application to the Ministry of Interior.

Article 3. A committee shall be established at the Ministry of Interior entitled "the Permanent Committee for Refugees" to attend to refugee affairs which functions under the supervision of the Deputy Minister of Interior and with the participation of high-ranking officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Interior, Second Office of the Army, Ministry of Information, Disciplinary Forces, Organization for Border Affairs, Political Director-General and the Head of Political Dept. of Ministry of Interior.

Note 1- If necessary, the Permanent Committee can establish sub-committees in provinces or townships with the participation of the Governor or the District Governor, representatives of the Armed Forces and the Disciplinary Forces.

Note 2- If necessary, the Committee can invite representatives of other organizations for obtaining information and deliberation.

Article 4. Asylum shall be granted if it is established that:

1. The application is free from any mala fide;
2. The purpose of the application is not to seek employment.

Article 5. The Permanent Committee is competent to accept or reject an application for asylum and to attend to other matters relating to refugees and for persons residing outside Iran, Iranian Embassies can be requested to carry out the necessary investigation.

Note- Persons having committed war crimes or crimes against peace or humanity or serious common crimes cannot benefit from the stipulations of the present Regulations.

Article 6. In the event the application is approved, refugee booklet shall be issued for the refugee by the Disciplinary Forces which shall serve as identification booklet and official identity for the holder and shall be registered at the Disciplinary Forces' station of the place of residence of the holder. The holder should renew the validity of the booklet every three months.

Article 7. Upon approval of the application, a refugee shall benefit from the rights accorded to Iranian nationals in the following areas:

1. use of medical, cultural and social services;
2. employment in the fields authorized for foreign nationals and those fields deemed appropriate by the Permanent Committee.

Note 1- A refugee does not have the right to participate in political or union activities.

Note 2- A refugee is free to carry out his own religious ceremonies and to give religious instruction to his children provided that this does not contravene the country's public order.

Note 3- Refugees shall be accorded same treatment granted to foreign nationals residing in the country.

Note 4- A refugee is free to choose his place of residence subject to observance of the country's laws and security considerations.

Article 8. Refugees should give written commitments denoting that they shall observe the country's rules and regulations as long as they remain in the country.

Article 9. In case refugees commit acts contravening the national security or the laws of the country, upon proposal made by the Permanent Committee, the Minister of Interior shall annul their refugees ID, and if his act calls for penal prosecution, they shall be delivered to judicial authorities. At any rate, sufficient time shall be accorded to refugees for leaving the country.

Note 1- A refugee whose ID has been annulled shall remain under the surveillance of disciplinary authorities until his departure from Iran.

Note 2- In case there are no impediments posed by national security or public order considerations, refugees shall be issued with a travel document enabling them to travel abroad.

Article 10. Place of work and residence of refugees shall be determined in accordance with the directions given by the Permanent Committee.

Article 11. In the event the Permanent Committee decides that the circumstances leading to the refugees departure from their country of origin have ceased to exist, the refugees have to leave Iran unless they can provide sufficient proof that their fear of persecution persists.

Article 12. Refugees should not be forcibly returned to the country where their life or freedom is endangered for political, racial or religious reasons or for their membership in a particular social group.

Article 13. Granting citizenship to those refugees who in the course of their stay in country have fully observed the country's rules and regulations shall be considered favourably.

Note 1- With regard to acquisition of movable and immovable properties, a refugee is accorded the same rights granted to foreign nationals.

Note 2- A refugee has the right to refer to Iranian Courts to demand justice.

Article 14. Rules and by-laws adopted previously which are contrary to above stipulations are considered null from the date of entry into force of the present Regulations.

Note- The stipulations of the Regulations apply equally to all refugees regardless of their race, religion or country of origin.