

(English version)

Question for written answer E-004330/25
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Raquel García Hermida-Van Der Walle (Renew)
(4 November 2025)

Subject: Situation of Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan and the need for EU action to prevent deportations

Following the European Parliament's recently adopted resolution on the situation in Afghanistan, serious concerns remain regarding the ongoing deportations of Afghan refugees from Iran and Pakistan. In its resolution, Parliament calls on the governments of both countries to immediately halt deportations and to fully respect the principle of non-refoulement.

Recent correspondence received by Members of the European Parliament illustrates the urgency of this issue. One such case concerns an Afghan family currently in hiding in Tehran, including a former Afghan soldier and several young children, who might be deported despite being registered with the UN Refugee Agency. This individual example reflects a wider pattern of Afghans being left without protection.

1. How does the Vice-President/High Representative assess the current situation of Afghan refugees in both Iran and Pakistan, and how does she assess their prospects for safety and security after their potential return to Afghanistan?
2. What action is she taking to support forcefully returned refugees?
3. Is the Vice-President/High Representative willing to engage with both Pakistan and Iran to discuss the ongoing deportations of Afghan families? If not, why not?

Submitted: 4.11.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(8 January 2026)

The EU is deeply alarmed by the mass forced returns of Afghans from Pakistan and Iran. The EU has raised serious humanitarian and human rights concerns regarding the returns, particularly for women and girls and other vulnerable groups ⁽¹⁾.

The EU has supported displaced Afghans and host communities in Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, and Central Asia countries since before the Taliban took power in 2021 and continues to do so through international organisations and the United Nations.

The EU has raised the issue of forced returns of Afghans both bilaterally, as well as within the context of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees, where the EU is an active member.

⁽¹⁾ See for example the speech by the Commissioner for Equality at the Senior Officials Meeting on Afghanistan: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech_25_1511.