



## Statistical Data on Iranian Asylum Seekers and Refugees in 2007

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) annual year-end statistics for 2007 the total number of people of concern to UNHCR dropped from 32.9 million the previous year to 31.7 million. These include an estimated 11.4 million refugees, 760,800 asylum seekers, 729,100 returned refugees, and 13.7 million internally displaced persons. In addition, some 4.6 million Palestinians were cared for by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

Based on data received or estimated by UNHCR the number of **Iranian refugees** at the end of 2007 was estimated to be **68,397** of which **14,120** were assisted by the UNHCR. Another **10,900 Iranian asylum seekers** applied for asylum during 2007. The three countries that **received the largest numbers** of Iranian asylum seekers in 2007 were United Kingdom (2,510), Turkey (1,685), and Germany (631).

### No. of Iranians seeking asylum in previous years

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
17,929	18,250	15,519	13,532	13,401

Of the **14,491 decisions taken** on Iranian asylum applications in 2007, including cases from previous years, **some 3,846 resulted in refugee status**, 1,018 decisions resulted in humanitarian status, 6,895 cases were rejected, and 2,732 cases were closed on other grounds. When cases closed on other non-substantive grounds are excluded, the **global Convention recognition percentage** for Iranian asylum applicants during 2007 amounted to **32.7%**, whereas the total recognition percentage, including grants of **humanitarian status**, amounted to **41.4%**.

### recognition percentage for Iranians in previous years

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
28/33	27/30	23/27	21/28	30/37

Some examples of **first instance total recognition** rates (refugee & humanitarian) for **Iranian** applications in 2007 are: Austria (89%), Canada (84%), France (26%), Germany (27%), Netherlands (46%), Sweden (30%), Turkey-UNHCR (91%), UK (24%), and USA-INS (63%).

**Globally**, a total number of 647,200 first instance or appeal applications for asylum or refugee status were submitted to Governments or UNHCR offices in 154 countries in 2007. Seven industrialized countries receiving most of the new asylum applications were the United States (50,700), South Africa (45,600), Sweden (36,400), France (29,400), the United Kingdom (27,900), Canada (27,900), and Greece (25,100). In total, the **global refugee recognition rate** amounted to **32%**. When asylum-seekers allowed to remain on **humanitarian grounds** are included, the recognition rate increases to **45%**.

### Global recognition percentages in previous years

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
22/30	21/27	21/29	27/37	28/39

By nationality, the highest number of new asylum claims in 2007 was filed by individuals from Iraq (52,000), Somalia (46,100), Eritrea (36,000), Colombia (23,200), the Russian Federation (21,800), Ethiopia (21,600), and Zimbabwe (20,700).

In 2007, some 49,900 refugees were resettled from previous asylum countries with UNHCR's assistance. By nationality, the main beneficiaries were the main beneficiaries of the UNHCR-facilitated resettlement programs were refugees from Myanmar (20,200), Burundi (6,300), Somalia (5,900), Iraq (3,800), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2,500), and Afghanistan (2,300). Some 1,688 **Iranians were also** resettled from Turkey (1,546) and Syria (57).

**SOURCES:** UNHCR, 2007 Global Trends, June 2008. For 2000-2006 figures see our previous statistics sheets.

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