



## Statistical Data on Iranian Asylum Seekers and Refugees in 2008

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) there were 42 million forcibly displaced people worldwide at the end of 2008, including 10.5 million refugees who fall under UNHCR's mandate, some 4.7 million Palestinian refugees under the responsibility of the U. N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and 26 million people displaced within their country as a result of armed conflict. The number of people whose asylum applications had not yet been adjudicated by the end of 2008 was estimated at 827,000.

Based on data received or estimated by UNHCR the number of **Iranian refugees** at the end of 2008 was **69,061** of which **13,851** were assisted by the UNHCR. Another **13,329 Iranian asylum seekers** applied for asylum during 2008. The three countries that **received the largest numbers** of new applications from Iranians were the **United Kingdom** (2,585), **Turkey** (2,116), and **Germany** (815).

**No. of Iranian asylum applications in previous years**

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
17,929	18,250	15,519	13,532	13,401	14,120

Of the **11,720 decisions** taken on Iranian asylum applications in 2008, including cases from previous years, some **3,345** resulted in **refugee status**, **752** decisions resulted in **humanitarian status**, **5,147** cases were **rejected**, and 2,476 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 2008 amounted to **36.2%**, whereas the total recognition percentage, including grants of **humanitarian status**, amounted to **44.3%**.

**Recognition percentages for Iranians in previous years**

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
28/33	27/30	23/27	21/28	30/37	33/41

Some examples of **first instance total recognition** rates (refugee & humanitarian) for **Iranian** applications in 2008 are: Austria (73%), Canada (92%), France (46%), Germany (29%), Netherlands (44%), Sweden (24%), Turkey-UNHCR (85%), UK (27%), and USA-INS (74%).

**Globally**, a total number of 839,000 first instance or appeal applications for asylum or refugee status were submitted to Governments or UNHCR offices in 154 countries in 2008. Seven countries receiving most of the new asylum applications were South Africa (207,000), United States (49,600), France (35,400), Sudan (35,000), Canada (34,800), United Kingdom (30,500), and Italy (30,300). In total, the **global refugee recognition rate** amounted to **29%**. When asylum-seekers allowed to remain on **humanitarian grounds** are included, the recognition rate was **41%**.

**Global recognition percentages in previous years**

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
22/30	21/27	21/29	27/37	28/39	32/45

By nationality, the highest number of new asylum claims in 2008 was filed by individuals from Zimbabwe (118,500), Eritrea (62,700), Somalia (51,900), Iraq (43,900), and the Dem. Rep. of the Congo (32,700).

In 2008, some 67,000 refugees were resettled from previous asylum countries with UNHCR's assistance. By nationality, the main beneficiaries of the UNHCR-facilitated resettlement programs were refugees from Myanmar (23,200), Iraq (17,800), Bhutan (8,100), and Somalia (3,500). Some **1,285 Iranians** were also **resettled** from Turkey (1,190) and Iraq (95).

**SOURCES:** UNHCR, 2008 Global Trends, 16 June 2009. For 2000-2007 figures see our previous statistics sheets.

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