

Repatriation of Afghan Refugees from Pakistan: an analysis of constraints, challenges and prospects

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Abstract:

This study analyses constraints facing the government of Pakistan in the repatriation of Afghan refugees and investigates the underlying factors forcing the government to return Afghan refugees. The presence of Afghan refugees in Pakistan is associated with involvement in militant and other illicit activities. The call to repatriate Afghan Refugees could be a lasting solution. Accordingly, the main concern for the Pakistani government is to manage its border with Afghanistan, identified as the entry point of the militants and insurgents. Consequently, the Pakistani security agencies and armed forces have been subject to serious reforms, aiming at increasing their motivation and decreasing corruption among the officers, which has been termed as a drawback in fighting terrorism. Reforms are needed in the judicial system to prosecute the culprits arrested by the police force. It is recommended that the UNHCR provide financial assistance, especially for police reforms. Furthermore, closer coordination between the refugees and the law enforcement apparatus is encouraged to curb the association of terrorists and refugees. While repatriation has been identified as the best international norm for solving the refugee dilemma, clear guidelines should be enumerated as to at what cost the practice should be carried on.

Keywords: Afghan refugees, Afghan war, Refugees' social impacts, Refugees' economic impacts, Internal security, Militancy in Pakistan, Repatriation of refugees.

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1. Introduction

The United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951 has been universally acknowledged as a legal and internal instrument which defines how refugees should be treated (UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2000). Article V of the 1969 Convention in Geneva addresses voluntary repatriation. Paragraph one of the articles explains the centre rule. The essential deliberate character of repatriation might be regarded in all cases, and no displaced person should be repatriated without wanting to. Statements that take after the centre guideline is started on the supposition that conditions for safe repatriation have been met and definite obligations of nations of haven and inception and displaced person helping organisations. The states that send the displaced people must team up to get the state. The state must 'make satisfactory plans for the safe return of evacuees who ask for repatriation'. Then again, the nation of inception must 'encourage their resettlement and allow them full rights and benefits of nationals of the nation, and subject them to same commitments' (Sommers, 1999; Weinbaum, 2019).

The process of returning refugees home is globally accepted as the most appropriate. Notably, in 2004, about 107,000 Iraq refugees who had been in Iran since 1975 were repatriated home despite the unstable governance in the country. Further, in 2009, more Iraq refugees in Syria and Lebanon were repatriated (UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2015). In Africa, the repatriation process has been ongoing for many decades, as depicted in the return of Ethiopian returnees from Djibouti in 1983, the repatriation of Namibians in 1989, and the case of Mozambique in 1994. On the same note, Somali refugees in Kenya were voluntarily repatriated in 1993-1994. Similarly, 3.5 million Afghanistan refugees returned home from Pakistan after the overthrow of the Taliban in 2001. However, while the process is not a new undertaking by the Pakistani government, the current course of repatriating Afghan refugees in Pakistan, especially the urban refugees who have established themselves, presents a challenge. Most have economically integrated into local societies and played a vital role in the state's economic growth through entrepreneurship.

Repatriation of refugees as the appropriate measure to curb the increase of refugees worldwide, in addition to the incidences of protracted situations, poses a significant challenge to the operations of the international refugee regime. The arrival of Afghan refugees in Pakistan created a dilemma. Being a signatory of the international conventions, the government was obligated to accommodate the Afghan refugees; on the other hand, the government had an obligation to protect its citizens from external forces aimed at destabilising the state. Afghanistan has been experiencing civil war since 1979, which forced many individuals to seek refuge in the neighbouring countries. However, Afghan refugees had been in Pakistan long before the political unrest of the 1979s, as some of them were seasonal migrants to Pakistan. The Afghan refugee management underwent dynamic adjustments that signalled the commencement of more restraining methodologies towards refugees. Specifically, during the 1979 unrest in Afghanistan due to the Soviet attack, 4.2 million refugees migrated to Pakistan, which was the largest migration in the world. Unfortunately, the influx of refugees from Afghanistan led to the identification of three permanent solutions to the challenge of refugees, which was deemed impossible to implement. The Pakistani government resolved the policy of confinement early in 1991, shifting from the reintegration process it had previously embraced (Bradley, 2004; Ali et al., 2019; Zaman, 2019). On the other hand, due to the political instability and insecurity in Afghanistan, repatriation was not considered a possibility for the refugees.

The Pakistani government, Afghan government and UNHCR signed a tripartite agreement to oversee voluntary repatriation of exiled individuals. Nonetheless, while the process of returning was to take place voluntarily, the 9/11 terrorist attacks, followed by the NATO attack on Afghanistan, resulted in the migration of further refugees to neighbouring countries, especially Pakistan. The terrorist attacks inside Pakistan, especially the December 16, 2015, terrorist attack on the Army Public School (APS), prompted the Pakistani government to announce its intention to close refugee camps and start crack-down operations against Afghan Refugees in Pakistan and the closer of Pak-Afghan border further aggravated the situation. With immediate effect, the Pakistani government ordered UNHCR to close several camps and also commence repatriation of Afghan refugees in the camp and urban centres. The decision by the Pakistani government was based on investigative allegations that Afghans were involved in the APS terrorist attacks. The response by UNHCR indicated that the intention of Pakistan to force repatriations and abruptly close the border would lead to a humanitarian crisis. The Pakistani government claimed that Al Qaeda and other Taliban groups use Afghan refugees to pose a national security threat to the state, providing the recruitment and planning grounds for the attacks. Additionally, the state contends that the costs of maintaining the Afghan refugees have been enormous for the government with little help from the international stakeholders. Nonetheless, the human rights watch activist contends that the allegations by the government cannot be substantiated with empirical evidence. Furthermore, Afghanistan's political and social situations are not yet conducive to receiving returnees. On the contrary, the international community understood the presence of Afghan refugees as a security threat, and as a result, the United States of America offered to assist in repatriation.

The process of repatriation is a controversial concept, which frequently fails to serve its purpose, forcing the victims to return to less-than-ideal situations. Bradley notes that it is vital that academicians neglect additional research on repatriation despite their preference for solving the global crisis (Bradly, 2004). However, the urgency of repatriating Afghan refugees from Pakistan is justifiable due to the security threat they are posing to the host nation. Despite the availability of literature on refugees, specifically refugees from Afghanistan in Pakistan, the impact of their presence, urgency of repatriation, and methodology employed attracted attention to the study. More so, studies on refugee issues have developed, emphasising their welfare in host nations and less interest in its social consequences. Moreover, the phenomenon of Afghan refugees presents a unique case of study as the subjects have been deemed as a security threat to the entire nation. Therefore, the objective of this research study is to evaluate the situation critically by use of the existing repatriation literature. Notably, the study aims to inquire about the main protagonists' intentions to pursue the return process and the implications of the repatriation.

The overall objective of this study is to analyse the constraints facing the Pakistani government in repatriating Afghan refugees and to investigate the underlying factors that promote the return of Afghan refugees. Further, to know about the willingness of the refugees towards repatriation and to find out the possible ways of enhancing the repatriation process to make it more humane and appealing to the subjects. The main research question is, "Why Pakistani government is facing persistent challenges in the repatriation of Afghan refugees back to Afghanistan." This study hypothesises that there are no factors promoting the Pakistani government to return the Afghan refugees. The Afghan refugees are not willing to relocate to Afghanistan. There are no ways to enhance the repatriation process and make it more humane and appealing to the subjects.

2. Literature review

The refugees' issues are varied and complex, so scholars face challenges that have prompted expanded research in the recent past. Specifically, scholars and the international community should consider the challenge posed by the environment in the host nation while providing services to the refugees. The literature reviewed here is divided into four categories: settlement of the refugees in the host society, especially in the urban areas, the concerns and fears of the host society, irrepressible solutions, and the tension between the host countries. Regarding the settlement of the refugees in the local host society, Crisp et al., Sommers, and Jacobson believe that the lifestyle in the home country determines the settlement preference of the refugees, i.e. the refugees who were residents of the urban areas in their host countries before displacement would prefer to settle in urban centres of the host country and those of rural area would prefer to settle in rural areas. This is because the requirements of their previous professions, skills and expertise determine their settlements (Crisp et al., 2009; Sommers, 2001; Jacobson, 2006). Besides, the assistance and support provided by the host country and UNHCR are insufficient for those who are dwellers of the urban centres in their home country (Lucy, 2007; Campbell et al., 2006; Landau & Jacobsen, 2004). The availability of other facilities, such as business, education, health, etc., also compels and attracts the refugees to live outside the camps, especially in urban settings (Macchiavello, 2004; Anwar et al., 2021; Khan, 2017).

To avoid the refugee's exploitation of unfair wages, dangerous working conditions, and long working hours, many refugees procure counterfeit identification documents or pursue private entrepreneurship. For example, the Afghan refugees in Peshawar city have ventured into business. Consequently, in most cases, the authorities ignore their activities while tacitly appreciating their contribution. The authors argue that the refugees make enormous social contributions while expanding markets, importing technical knowledge, and rejuvenating communities. For instance, the Afghan refugees in some particular places of Peshawar, i.e. Old City, Karkhano markets, Afghan colony Faqir Abad, and Board Bazar, have reformed the business centre, making it one of the most visited markets in the city. Conclusively, entrepreneurs who make enormous efforts to win the marketplace will always be reluctant to return to their countries where economic conditions may not offer the same possibilities (Cindy, 2002; Michela, 2004; Jacobsen, 2004; Musyemi, 2006).

Regarding the host society's claim of refugees as a socio-economic burden, Jacobsen and Hovil believe that refugees are assumed to be economic burdens that drain the resources of the host nations. The influx of refugees exerts much pressure on the socioeconomic structures, forcing the host nation to deter from open policies for urban refugees (Karen, 2004; Hovil, 2007; Hiegemann, 2014). Besides, the rapid and large intakes of refugees noticeably affect urban communities. Therefore, the governments are presented with a complex institutional, financial, and economic situation. For instance, the Afghan refugees have a vital impact on the increase in fuel and food prices while placing pressure on particular countries' public and housing sectors (Karen, 2004; Lucy, 2007; George, 2000; Sarah, 2004).

Besides, there are various multifaceted security threats associated with refugees. Sommers holds that the refugees are firstly a threat to their countries of origin. Secondly, Crisp argues that the refugees are considered security threats to the host nation, for example, the Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Meanwhile, Hovil claims that the exiles are always in peril themselves (Michela, 2004). As a result, the containment of the refugees in the camps is essential for their

safety and that of the host nation. For example, the investigation of the APS attacks purported that the terror attacks were organised with the help of the Afghans; the government deemed it necessary to close the Pak-Afghan border and repatriate all the Afghan refugees as a security measure. Besides, the local populations of the hosting nations habitually do not trust the refugees, putting their governments under pressure to formulate strict policies, especially for urban refugees who lack legal status (Campbell, 2005, 2006; Bjelica, 2016; Borthakur, 2017). For instance, after a series of terrorist attacks in Pakistan, many Pakistani citizens bracketed all individuals of Afghan descent as terrorists in the urban centres, a fact that affected many businesses in major cities of Pakistan, which have been vibrant business hubs for many years in the country.

Most of the present articles portray arguments on repatriation, integration or resettlement. Meanwhile, although nationals rarely discuss returning refugees home, it is commonly assumed that many immigrants cannot be taken back home. Considerations of economic integration are highly regarded as a limited elucidation, though offering ramifications to the immigrants based in urban centres: the better way and best solution to the problem of refugees. However, many articles and literature have pointed out that refugees have hugely contributed to the economic growth of the host state through entrepreneurship. Economic integration and expectations of a willing and eventual repatriation are thought unrealistic. The assumption that they will voluntarily abandon their business investments and return to the unstable country is unthinkable. Moreover, UNHCR concurs that even without livelihood opportunities or economic integration in the host nation, the integration process is stalled by insecurity in the home country. Urban refugees from Afghanistan and Iraq in Pakistan and Syria are not ready to be taken back home despite the limited prospects in host nations.

3. Conceptual and theoretical framework

This work incorporates global society, pragmatist thoughts, securitisation, and social hypotheses. Refugees, in general, are created by an un-peaceful environment generated by religious, political, natural calamities, and social tensions in a particular society at a specific time. Key factors in the international refugee regime include host nations, home countries, Non-governmental Organizations, individuals, and international bodies. Unfortunately, the activities of some of these actors are the main causes of tensions, which lead to conflicts and, therefore, refugees. However, the same characters can achieve a mutual peace objective if needed. Mitchell notes that the theories recognise the countries affected as correlated in an overlapping complexity (Mitchel, 2005).

Citizen's security is essential for the well-being of society since it is supposed to safeguard fundamental human rights and freedoms. Therefore, this study bases its arguments on the stability of the individual persons and the whole Pakistani society. Accordingly, it aimed at drawing attention to the security threats posed by the Afghan refugees who have been accused of involving in various terrorist activities as well as aiding in planning terrorist attacks in Pakistan. Irrespective of the economic integration of the Afghan refugees in Pakistan, especially in urban centres, and the social impact, the government of Pakistan must ensure its citizen's security as a fundamental right. More so, despite the goodwill of the nation in line with international obligations to host the refugees, the perceived long-lasting solutions of integrating and resettling refugees have proved hard to achieve due to the influx in the recent past. As a result, the repatriation process is deemed the appropriate action to undertake.

4. Materials and methods

The study has used securitisation theories, societal security, and human security concepts to reach its conclusions. Whereas societal concerns of security evaluate the safety of a group of individuals, human security concerns particular persons. Therefore, there is a paradigm shift from the traditional concept of the state as the object of security to include people. The study's collected data establishes facts about the influx of refugees and insecurity in Pakistan. This study aims to evaluate the relationship between the rise of insecurity in Pakistan and the influx of Afghan refugees in the country. More specifically, it investigated the impact of repatriation on Afghan refugees because of the security crisis in Pakistan. Accordingly, the research fieldwork was based in Peshawar, the urban capital city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan and where most Afghan refugees live. The collection of data included secondary and primary tools. The primary instruments included personal interviews with the already integrated refugees who had established themselves in Peshawar, security officers, residents, UNHCR officials, and other human rights activists. This exercise aimed to gather first-hand information on the affected subjects. Additionally, individual interviews were carried out with the respondents face-to-face. A set of questions was administered to the respondents to be replied to. On the other hand, secondary data from journals, academic literature, internet websites, non-governmental and governmental reports, newspapers and newsletters was used.

5. Findings and discussion

It is fact by literature that mass movement of people imports ideologies and thus provides a conducive environment for violence. Further, the refugees also threaten the communal balance in the given host nation, leading to social and economic instability. The influx of refugees provides grounds for destabilisation by causing violence, coordinating terrorist groups and expanding the social networks in the host country (Melanie, 2012). The arrival of Afghan refugees in Pakistan started in the wake of the Saur Revolution in 1978 as a result of reforms introduced by the communist regime in Kabul (the capital of Afghanistan). However, the large influx of refugees to Pakistan took place soon after the invasion in 1979, and Pakistan provided asylum for the approximately 4.2 million refugees. They were settled in 386 camps, mostly in rural and urban areas of the country. However, the most populous province that has a large number of Afghan refugees was Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) (former N.W.F.P), which has a long border (Durand line) with Afghanistan and also has cultural, religious, and linguistic ties. This large number of immigrants generated grave consequences for Pakistan, especially for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. They have affected the socio-economic and political life of the province. Being a signatory of the international conventions, Pakistan was obliged to accommodate the refugees. Otherwise, the government of Pakistan must protect its citizens from internal and external threats.

As mentioned, the Afghan refugees, over time, were found involved in various social evils, crimes and currently in terrorist activities. Moreover, the impact of the Afghan refugee influx in Pakistan on security has been established as the study's objective. Additionally, the study investigates how the flow of refugees from Afghanistan to Pakistan from 1979 to 2017 has been associated with terrorist groups, leading to the call by the Pakistani government for repatriation. Furthermore, other issues concerning the repatriation process have been analysed about the current situation in Afghanistan. The study also determines the willingness of Afghan refugees in Pakistan to be repatriated back to Afghanistan, bearing in mind the economic

ventures they have established in Pakistan. Besides, the influx of refugees in Pakistan, especially in urban centres, has contributed to national security threats, and cases of crime and terror attacks have been on the rise, making the issue another objective of this study. Other objectives of the study include an examination of the willingness of the refugees to return home as well as the possible ways of enhancing the process and making it humane. Consequently, the Afghani government's preparedness and the refugees' timely return raises concerns. As a result, this study examines the present conditions in Afghanistan to establish if the process will enhance the lives of the affected persons.

There is a link between insecurity in Pakistan and Afghan refugees. The Pakistani government has a strong perception that the current terror attacks are connected with the presence of refugees who are believed to aid the militants in the country. Further, this perception is grounded on the historical complexity between Afghanistan and Pakistan since the inception of Pakistan in 1947. The Afghani government refused to recognise the Durand Line and also supported the anti-Pakistan movement in the bordering region of North-Western Pakistan, i.e., the Pakhtunistan issue. However, while the menace of terrorism is linked back to the Soviet attack on Afghanistan in 1979, currently, the Pakistani security agencies of Pakistan are linking the Afghani citizens in the country with suspicion due to this perception of their links with the terrorists. The complexity has been created by the fact that there is sufficient evidence, as proclaimed by the authorities, to link the terrorists with the Afghan refugees, especially in the event of an Army Public School attack. On the other hand, the failure of the government apparatus to control the free movement of refugees across the Pak-Afghan border makes the issue more complex. Furthermore, according to Hopes, the entrepreneurial nature of refugees, in general, is driven by the inner desire to establish themselves in a new environment (Hopes, 2005). That is why Afghan refugees have established considerable businesses in the urban cities of Pakistan, especially Quetta, Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Faisal Abad and Peshawar. Also, these Afghan refugees are involved in cross-border illegal smuggling, *hundi* (informal transfer of money), and other illegal money, which is, however, doubted to be controlled by the Taliban to finance their activities in the region.

In 2007, the UNHCR decided that the majority of 11.4 million refugees in the globe at the time would be repatriated to their home countries. Anthropologist Feld Basso contends that the sense of belonging to a particular place, regardless of the situation, is vital in creating the driving force for refugees to return home. Refugees are individuals who live in depleted situations where they cannot establish their existence with the environment. The interweaving of practices, identity, and place, which create a suitable place for habitation in a given landscape, are necessary for survival tactics in a foreign land. In contrast, the land of origin remains inextricably linked. Globally, international human rights promote repatriation of refugees as the most appropriate long-lasting solution. Specifically, it states that all persons have the right to return home. Nonetheless, even though defined as voluntary, repatriation is not portrayed as such in the annals of the United Nations. Instead, it is portrayed as vague provisions that try to prevent the refolement of immigrants, as found in the 1951 Convention Article 33, which states that refugees should not be exposed to persecution of any kind. Moreover, the restriction towards refolement depends on the subjective sentiments of the refugees (UNHCR, 1951).

From the above principles, two conclusions can be deduced that guide the parameters of repatriation. First, the refugees should not be subjected to fear of persecution. Secondly, they should not be refoled to a location where they may be in danger or harm. However, in the case

of revocation of refugee status by the host nation, the security objectives ultimately prevail. So, the voluntary nature of repatriation makes it an option. On the contrary, the compulsory return of refugees is similar to forced migration, which created the refugees in the first place. According to international customs and Refugee Conventions, the expulsion of refugees is a breach of international laws. However, the convention fails to enumerate conditions that should be met when the refugees become untenable to their host nations, necessitating their return home. Moreover, willing repatriation is a desirable solution; UNHCR and the individual countries have minimum control over it. There is no clear demarcation when the promotion of repatriation encouraged by UNHCR should stop. All decisions to close a refugee camp walk a thin line between refolement and repatriation; this is because the failure to induce refugees to return home gently creates a dilemma for the host nation. Unfortunately, the Pakistani government finds itself in this situation as many Afghan refugees are not willing to go back home. Most of the refugees argue that even though they would be happy to return home, the timing is wrong, for the situation in Afghanistan is not yet conducive, and they have already established themselves economically.

Moreover, Afghani nationals own most of the flourishing business ventures in Pakistan. Rahmat Ali Agha, who runs several cloth shops in the area, notes that he has established business links abroad, where he imports his goods. On the other hand, he openly portrays his scepticism about the plans by the Pakistani government to repatriate him back to Afghanistan, which will derail his hard-earned success, which he terms as a setback. Additionally, the Human Rights Watch Report of 2014 notes that the Pakistani government has continuously continued to violate the rights of the refugees through its security agencies. Torture, stealing of properties, and abuse of persons have been identified as the primary tools used by the forces to intimidate Afghan refugees in Pakistan, who have all been allegedly identified as terrorists. As a result, the registration of refugees was banned with a call to return all the refugees. Moreover, most recently, the Pakistani government closed the Pak-Afghan border, intending to curb the menace of terrorism in the country while seeking a durable solution for the refugees. Besides, it was established that the primary objective was to plan for a safe return for the Afghan refugees back home. Moreover, World Refugee Day on June 20 noted that the repatriation process would be voluntary as many Afghan refugees had expressed their need to return home, with 18,000 refugees willingly repatriating in 2013.

However, the Afghan government argues that the home country is ready to receive its refugee citizens. These claims are highly refuted by international bodies such as the UNHCR. For instance, UNHCR regards the decision by the Pakistani government as untimely and insensitive, paying no attention to the plight of the refugees. Despite the relations between refugees and the insecurity, the Pakistani government continuously claims that the international bodies have neglected their duties and responsibilities in aiding the Pakistani state financially to support the refugees. As a result, Pakistan, which is a third-world country, continues to struggle to sustain the refugees despite its struggling economy. Consequently, the decision to repatriate the Afghan refugees is the final determination by the host nation, which has refused to relent on its mission.

6. Conclusion

To conclude, it is established that the Afghan refugees have not only socio-economic and political impacts on the local host society and Pakistan state but also have security impacts.

The views of the theorists and scholars assessed in the primary and secondary data analysis section also support the hypothesis that the Afghan refugees' presence has security concerns for the local society of Pakistan. The views of the realist scholars mentioned above also maintain that the host nations are not the only referent objects of security. Besides the socio-economics and having millions of local businesses and entrepreneurs, the Afghan refugees have been currently doubted for their links with the terrorists and increase in insecurity. Therefore, the Pakistani government want to repatriate them. Moreover, the international conventions also do not recommend the repatriation of refugees back to their home country whenever the situation in the home country is not conducive and safe; also, these conventions do not offer any clear-cut directives on what should be done in case when the refugees are posing a threat to the security of the host nation. That is why the repatriation of refugees should be concluded through the coordinated efforts of the UNHCR, Non-governmental organisations (working for refugees) and the host country and the home country so that the returnee refugees are well accommodated and re-integrated into their areas. Nonetheless, the repatriation process is much more complicated since it demands the social transformation of the welcoming community and the refugees. Having economically reestablished themselves in Pakistan, various projects will need to be launched to facilitate the reintegration of the Afghan refugees in their home country, even though life may never be the same again.

The Pakistani officials stress that its citizens' security is the Pakistani government's primary objective. The state is responsible for protecting its citizens from external and internal threats. The main concern in this regard is the management and control of the porous Pak-Afghan border. In this regard, the serious concerns for the Pakistani state are to reform the border management system, reduce the corruption among the officers of various agencies working on the border, and train the border security forces to make them more efficient and effective in their daily routine work. There is also the need for judicial reforms to prosecute the culprits whom security agencies arrest. In this regard, the help of UNHCR is recommended to finance the reform efforts of the Pakistani government. Further, the UNHCR can play a vital role in closer coordination between the security agencies and the Afghan refugees in order to identify and curb the association of terrorists and Afghan refugees.

As identified in the international norm, there should be clear guidelines for repatriation. There should be clear-cut timing and method for this process as there are no guidelines for the cessation of legal refugees in international conventions about refugees nor any clear-cut guidelines about the willingness of the refugees to return to their country of origin when the situation in the country of their origin is not conducive and secure. There should be clear-cut differentiation between the economic migrants and the genuine refugees who migrate due to fear of life and war. For a relevant and sustainable solution for Afghan refugees, there should be representation for Afghan refugees while formulating or making any decision about the fate of Afghan refugees in the government of Pakistan.

Also, in the repatriation efforts, this should be kept in consideration that the Afghan refugees who are living in urban centres of Pakistan and have established their businesses in millions how should be treated and rewarded. Besides, it should also be kept in mind that those refugees who have diffused or integrated into the local society by marrying the local people have got Pakistani identity cards, how they should be dealt with. So, in this regard, a more accommodating decision-making process is necessary to pay attention to the views of the subjects before concluding them. Also, the human rights of the refugees should be kept in mind

when making decisions about their fate. The government of Pakistan should empower a particular body to deal with Afghan refugees while keeping all the above-mentioned options, conventions and rights of the refugees instead of dealing with them inhumanely, treating them harshly and violating their rights.

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