

# Immigration a 'double-edged sword'



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While the issue of illegal and even legal immigration of foreign nationals to Iran has always been one of the country's problems, an Iranian lawmaker believes that the presence of foreign immigrants is like a "double-edged sword" and can be both beneficial and detrimental to the country. "The profit or loss, opportunity, and threat of immigrants depend on how we manage and handle this issue and, for this reason, the Islamic Council approved the plan of the Immigration Organization," explained Mohsen Zanganeh to Iran Daily. Pointing to the need to quickly review the details of the plan of the National Immigration Organization, the generalities of which were approved on the open floor of Parliament in November last year, Zanganeh said, "This organization can better control and manage the issues related to immigrants, and depending on the number of immigrants entering, their manner of entry into Iran, and the status of their residence, we should address and organize them." Ninety two years have passed since the approval of the Immigration Law in Iran, and during this period, the presence of foreign nationals in our country has brought many political, cultural, and economic consequences. Now, the Islamic Council is seeking to finally find a fundamental solution by implementing the plan of the National Immigration Organization to organize and manage foreign nationals. The law regarding the entry and residence of foreign nationals in Iran was approved in 1931. The



Afghans ride in pickup trucks along a desert road in southwestern Nimroz province toward the Afghanistan-Iran border, on 17 February 2022.  
AFP

law states that every foreign national must obtain the permission of the relevant officials of Iran in order to enter, stay, and leave Iran through legal procedures, and by obtaining the necessary permits. Iranian officials abroad should refuse to issue a visa if the presence of a foreigner in Iran is against security, public order, or against the interests of the country, or if the foreigner cannot prove that he earns his livelihood in Iran through his capital or skills.

However, a large part of migrations that have been carried out to the country during these years have been illegal, and the immigrants basically



lacked such characteristics and conditions to enter Iran. Pointing out that the issue of immigration to the country has many positive and negative aspects, the MP explained, "When labor force enters a country, it definitely affects labor costs and leads to its reduction because an increase in the supply of labor automatically leads to a decrease in wages." Referring to the presence of Afghan immigrants and nationals in Iran, he explained, "Afghan immigrants have shown themselves to be very productive and hardworking people during their long stay in Iran. In addition, they do not have high expectations and usually receive lower wages." He continued, "Of course, Afghan immigrants do not have some of the expenses of Iranian residents,

and they can save more on their income and expenses." According to the official statistics published by the Ministry of Interior or Iran's Statistics Center, there are more than five million immigrants in the country, 95 percent of whom are Afghan nationals. Of course, unofficial statistics indicate that there is two to three times this number of immigrants in the country. According to statistics, Afghan immigrants, Iraqi immigrants, and Pakistani immigrants constitute the largest population of foreign nationals in Iran. Referring to the necessity of monitoring the situation of foreign immigrants, Zanganeh said, "If this issue is not closely monitored and the various aspects of the presence of foreign nationals in Iran are not controlled, of course, the increase in the number of immigrants in Iran can have negative consequences."

He added, "In other words, as the presence of foreign labor can be useful for the country and the labor market, its lack of control can also have adverse and negative results on the country's market and economy." The MP went on to note that the presence of foreign immigrants in the country cannot be assumed as a definite threat to the country. "Of course, immigration is not seen as a threat in any other country and with proper policy and management, its adverse and negative consequences can be prevented." Zanganeh pointed to the recent new wave that was formed by some media against Afghan immigrants in Iran and stated, "Some of the problems caused by the presence of Afghan nationals in Iran are exaggerated, and in my opinion, they seek to overshadow Iran-Afghanistan relations."

## When bureaucracy fails the public

By Ali Amiri  
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Last Thursday, in a bid to defend public rights, Tehran's Prosecutor General visited the Iran Customs Administration's warehouse in West Tehran and paved the way for the clearance of 27 ambulances that were deposited there for a long stretch of time. Considering the country's dire need for these ambulances, the customs office cooperated to provide the vehicles to the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education to be used in helping patients. According to IRNA, the ambulances, which were back then donated by international institutions to Iran, had been held in customs due to "a lack of order registration by the Health Ministry". This piece of news, although inherently positive, comes with a few negative implications. It is, first and foremost, deeply troubling that these ambulances were kept in warehouses for a long period of time instead of being utilized for their intended purposes. Why was there a need for order registration in the first place? Isn't it obvious that an ambulance donated to the country is public property and should be cleared without any need for bureaucratic red tape? The long delay in clearing and utilizing these ambulances has no doubt tampered with the country's healthcare system and potentially compromised the availability and efficiency of emergency medical services. The piece of news serves as a prime example of when bureaucracy fails the public and shows its inhumane side. Bureaucracy, although necessary and beneficial, turns inhumane and destructive when it lacks compassion, empathy, or consideration for the well-being and dignity of individuals and the public. Such cases result from a rigid, callous adherence to bureaucratic protocols without taking into account the unique circumstances, needs, or rights of the people involved. In this case, the arbitrary decision regarding the ambulances and the unnecessary delay in their clearance proved to be a direct violation of public rights and an indicator that there is a need for bureaucratic reform in our country.

## Spanish clergy sexually abused over 200k children

More than 200,000 minors are estimated to have been sexually abused in Spain by the Roman Catholic clergy since 1940, according to an independent commission. The report did not give a specific figure but it said that in a poll of more than 8,000 adults, 0.6 percent said they had been sexual abused by members of the clergy when they were children. This figure equates to about 200,000 of Spain's adult population of about 39 million, The Guardian reported. The proportion rose to 1.13 percent - equating to more than

400,000 people - when including abuse by lay members of the church, Spain's national ombudsman, Ángel Gabilondo, said at a news conference called to present the findings of the report. The Roman Catholic Church has been rocked by a series of sexual abuse scandals around the world, often involving children, over the past 20 years. In Spain, a traditionally Catholic country that has become highly secular, clerical abuse allegations are only now gaining traction, leading to accusations by survivors of stonewalling. "Unfortunately, for many years

there has been a certain desire to deny abuses or a desire to conceal or protect the abusers," said Gabilondo, a former education minister. The report is critical of the attitude of the church, calling its response to cases of child abuse involving the clergy "insufficient". It recommends the creation of a state fund to pay reparations to victims. Just before the report was presented in parliament, the Spanish bishops conference said it would hold an extraordinary meeting on Monday to discuss its findings. Spain's parliament in March 2022 overwhelmingly approved the



creation of an independent commission led by the ombudsman to "shed light" on allegations of sexual abuse of "defenseless boys and girls" in the Catholic Church.

Spain's national ombudsman, Ángel Gabilondo, addresses a press conference in Madrid.  
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Second Announcement

## Tender invitation

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Tabriz Petrochemical Company intends to procure the amount of 110,000 kg of magnesium stearate (S32) it needs for the ABS production plant from the reliable and reliable manufacturer and supplier of the mentioned product.

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Tender	No	Quantity
MAGNESIUM STEARATE (S32)	PVS-0241036	110000 KG

Public Relations of Tabriz Petrochemical Company ( Public Stock )

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## Maine shooting suspect still at large

A huge manhunt is being carried out in Maine for the US Army reservist suspected of murdering 18 people and injuring 13 others in a mass shooting. Hundreds of police officers and FBI agents are searching for Robert Card, who is said to be armed and dangerous, according to BBC. Schools and businesses have closed and people have taken shelter as far as 80 km away from the scenes of Wednesday's shootings in Lewiston. On Thursday night, police raided a property in neigh-

boring Bowdoin. Part of the search played out on live TV as police executed warrants in the town, which is around a 20-minute drive from Lewiston. Over a megaphone, police were heard yelling for Mr. Card to surrender and to come out of a house "with your hands up." After a few hours, police departed the scene. It is unclear what prompted the search, and an official said police were "simply doing their due diligence by tracking down every lead in an effort to lo-



cate and apprehend Card." Wednesday's bloodshed marked the worst mass shooting in the US this year, according to the Gun Violence Archive, which counts those where four or more people are killed or injured, excluding the gunman.