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Minister of Interior
Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi
4th Floor, R Block, Pak Secretariat,
Constitution Ave, G-5/1,
Islamabad
Pakistan

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Dear Honourable Minister,

**I am writing to express my urgent concern regarding the imminent expiry of UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)-issued Proof of Registration (PoR) cards held by at least 1.4 million Afghans in Pakistan**. **I am also deeply concerned by the harassment, arbitrary detention and forced return of at least 1’080’312 Afghans, including refugees and asylum seekers since October 2023.**

The PoR cards of at least 1.4 million Afghans in Pakistan are set to expire on 30 June 2025. The Pakistani authorities must renew the PoR cards, as they have done in the past, to ensure that 1.4 million are not exposed to harassment, arbitrary detentions and forced deportations by the authorities. If forced to return to Afghanistan, they risk serious human rights violations, including extrajudicial executions and torture, as well as crimes against humanity, such as gender persecution. In particular, at-risk groups such as journalists, human rights defenders, female protestors, artists, and former government officials would be at imminent risk of persecution and repression by the Taliban. While women and girls forced to return will be deprived of their education, work and participation in public life, many Afghans would also be facing separation from their families, loss of livelihood and homelessness.

In October 2023, the government announced the «Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan», an opaque initiative aimed to arbitrarily and forcibly expel Afghan nationals from Pakistan. Since then, the authorities have cracked down on unregistered Afghan refugees, demolishing homes of refugees, confiscating their properties and setting up detention centres – with those held denied access to lawyers.

The forced deportations, along with the crackdown on Afghan refugees is in violation of Pakistan’s international law obligations, notably the principle of non-refoulement.

**I therefore urge you to urgently renew the validity of Proof of Registration cards and formally withdraw the** «**Illegal Foreigners’ Repatriation Plan**»**, stopping all forced returns to Afghanistan. I further urge you to immediately stop the crackdown on Afghans in Pakistan.**

Yours sincerely,

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**Copie**

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