

	Quick Facts	
	Immigration detainees (2019)	Not Available
	Detained minors (2017)	Not Available
	International migrants (2019)	2,682,214
	New asylum applications (2016)	85

NOTES ON USING THIS PROFILE

- Sources for the data provided in this report are available online at: <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/middle-east/iran>
- "Observation Dates" indicate the timeframe statistical data correspond to or other data were last validated. More than one statistical entry for a year indicates contrasting reports.

STATISTICS

Detention, expulsion, and incarceration statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Total number of immigration detainees by year	Not Available	2019	Total number of detained minors	Not Available	2017
Criminal prison population	225,624	2014	Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population)	287	2014
	204,365	2010		276	2010
	148,843	2007		208	2007
	144,755	2004		210	2004
	158,000	2001		239	2001
	101,801	1993		174	1993

Demographics and immigration-related statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Population	84,000,000	2020	International migrants	2,682,214	2019
Refugees	979,435	2019	Ratio of refugees per 1000 inhabitants	12.24	2016
	979,435	2016			
	979,437	2015			
	982,027	2014			
Total number of new asylum applications	85	2016			

DOMESTIC LAW

LEGAL TRADITION

	Name	Observation Date
Legal tradition	Muslim law	2017
	Civil law	2017

COVID-19 UPDATES

	Update Status	Observation Date
Latest Update	On 1 May, reports emerged detailing Iranian border guards beating, torturing, and forcing a group of Afghan migrants into the Harirud River in an attempt to prevent them from entering the country from Afghanistan's Herat Province. According to one migrant who witnessed the incident, Iranian guards "warned us that if we do not throw ourselves into the water, we will be shot." As of 3 May, at least seven Afghans are believed to have drowned, and more than 30 remain missing. Doctors at Herat District Hospital stated that they had received several bodies - four of whom reportedly displayed clear signs of death by drowning. In a statement released the following day, Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry announced that an inquiry had been launched, however the Iranian consulate in Herat denied all allegations. It is estimated that between 1.5 and 3 million Afghans live and work in Iran - many as wage labourers on construction projects. Following the outbreak of Covid-19, which hit Iran particularly acutely, large numbers returned to Afghanistan. With Iran starting to ease its restrictions, some have sought to return in search of employment.	2020
	According to UNHCR, "There are close to one million refugees in Iran, mostly from Afghanistan and also Iraq. From the onset of the pandemic, the Government of Iran has made every effort to ensure that all refugees have access to the same health services as Iranians, so that they are fully included in the national COVID-19 response." However, as of this update, the Global Detention Project has found no reports indicating that the government is taking specific measures to assist people who may be in prisons or detention centres for immigration or asylum-related reasons. In mid-March, the government ordered the release of 85,000 prisoners detained in criminal prisons in efforts to combat the spread of Coronavirus. On 20 March, prisoners attempted to escape the Parsilon Prison of Khorramabad in western Iran in a coordinated plan with people involved inside and outside the facility. Reports indicate that individuals attacked the prison from the outside and killed two or three prison guards. Guards and security forces subsequently opened fire on about 250 fleeing prisoners, which left many of them dead. Following the riot, martial law was declared in Khorramabad and raids are being conducted to apprehend the fleeing prisoners.	2020

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification

	Name	Ratification Year
International treaties	CRPD, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	2009
	CRC, Convention on the Rights of the Child	1994
	PCRSR, Protocol to the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees	1976
	ICCPR, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	1975
	ICESCR, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	1975
	VCCR, Vienna Convention on Consular Relations	1975
	ICERD, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	1968
Ratio of relevant international treaties ratified	7/19	

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification

	Number	Observation Date
Ratio of complaints procedures accepted	0/5	
	0/5	

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification

	Name	Recommendation Excerpt	Recommendation Year
<p>Relevant recommendations issued by treaty bodies</p>	<p>Committee on the Rights of the Child</p>	<p>§64. The Committee continues to be concerned about the large number of children living and/or working in the streets, particularly in urban centres such as Tehran, Isfahan, Mashhad, and Shiraz. It regrets that the State party could not present studies on the extent and nature of the problem and is concerned that the centres known as “Khaneh Sabz”, “Khaneh Shoush” and “Khaneh Reyhane” homes, which were established to assist these children, albeit in a limited capacity, have been closed down. It is equally concerned at reports of the round-up and arrest of Afghan children in the streets despite the fact that they were registered with the authorities, and that as a “condition” for their release the authorities request that their parents register for repatriation. The Committee welcomes the policy of the State party to reunite children with their families, whenever possible, and notes the State party’s assurances that these children are assembled in centres for further assistance and not arrested with police methods. §65. The Committee recommends that the State party: ... (d) Ensure that all Afghan children rounded up on the streets are released and are not used to push their parents to repatriate;</p>	<p>2005</p>

Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms

<p>Relevant recommendations of the UN Universal Periodic Review</p>	<p>Recommendation Issued</p>	<p>Year Issued</p>	<p>Observation Date</p>
	<p>No</p>	<p>2010</p>	<p>2017</p>
	<p>No</p>	<p>2014</p>	

INSTITUTIONAL INDICATORS

More information about immigration detention in Iran is available at the website of the Global Detention Project (www.globaldetentionproject.org)