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IRANIANS HARASS AFGHAN REFUGEES (S)

[REDACTED] Afghan complaints that in the last six months the Iranians have restricted refugee movement and have tried to put refugees into concentration camps surrounded by guards and barbed wire. The Iranians also have not allowed weapons from Pakistan to transit Iran to the northwestern Afghan provinces. They have given no weapons to major Afghan resistance groups in the western provinces but have supported insurgent groups made up of Afghan Shias, especially in the Hazarajat region of central Afghanistan. [REDACTED]

Comment:

Economic and religious differences between local Iranians and Afghan refugees caused Afghans to riot in some Iranian cities in December. Although Tehran probably hopes to reduce the friction by putting some refugees in camps, more tension may arise as the Afghans resist relocation. The Iranians probably will continue to try to restrict the activities and movement of resistance groups in Iran because of the threat large numbers of armed Afghan insurgents would pose to Iranian internal security. They will continue to provide support mainly to those Afghan Shia insurgent groups they control in the Herat area and the Hazarajat.



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