GREATER NUMBERS OF YOUNG IRANIAN REFUGEES CONTINUE TO FLEE IRAN

- In 2009, 11,500 Iranian asylum-seekers lodged applications in 44 industrialized countries, reflecting a 7% increase from 2008.

- As of February 2010, the number of Iranian refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR in Turkey totaled 4,312.

- With an average of 165 asylum-seekers registering per month and an estimated 165 unregistered asylum-seekers entering per month, the more accurate reflection of asylum-seekers and refugees arriving between June 12th and June 1, 2010 is approximately 3,650 Iranians.

- An average of 75% of post-June 12th refugees in Turkey are 35 years of age or younger.

REFUGEES WAIT MONTHS FOR RESETTLEMENT THROUGH UNCHR

- Asylum seekers suffering from serious medical complications as the result of torture and rape can wait an average of 3 to 4.5 months for an RSD interview.

- The average wait time after the RSD interview for post June-12th applicants is 3.9 months, and most will continue to wait for a decision for another 3 – 10 months.

DELAYED DECISIONS BY UNHCR ARE COMPOUNDING HARDSHIPS FOR ALREADY TRAUMATIZED REFUGEES

- Refugees are not issued employment authorization and are forced to pay a residence fee of approximately 336.85 TL ($227) per six months for each adult plus a 138 TL ($93) document fee for the residence permit.

- Their host of daily stressors become amplified due to the delays in RSD processing, including their lack of employment, isolation from family and friends, inability to return to their home country, poor economic, housing and basic sustenance conditions, language and cultural barriers, acculturative trauma, social alienation, and lack of trust among peers.

- All refugees reported that their medical conditions deteriorated in Turkey because of stress, poor nutrition and lack of proper medical attention.

THE GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO THE NEEDS OF REFUGEES IS GROSSLY INADEQUATE

- In 2009, the U.S. resettled 4,991 refugees of all ethnicities from Turkey, whereas European countries resettled 168.

- In 2009, a meager 8% of refugees worldwide were resettled by all European countries combined.

WHAT CAN STATE ACTORS DO ABOUT THIS ISSUE?

- Increase or adopt annual refugee admissions quotas, as well as share best practices on dossier selection to meet protection needs as they arise globally.

- Expand humanitarian parole procedures for the expeditious admission of vulnerable refugees.

- Designate a special refugee admissions category for the recognition of Iranian human rights defenders consisting of student activists, journalists, cultural workers, women’s activists, labor organizers and lawyers as refugees.

- Allocate additional funding to UNHCR Turkey to increase its refugee processing capacity prior to 2012.