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Iran: Whether Iranians can retroactively obtain in Iran or abroad a medical certificate stating that they were treated at a particular hospital or medical clinic (2004-2006)

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

A representative of the Interests Section of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the Embassy of Pakistan provided the following information during a 4 May 2006 telephone interview. According to the representative, an Iranian can retroactively obtain a medical certificate stating that he or she was treated at a particular hospital or medical clinic. However, if too much time has elapsed since the person received treatment, the hospital or medical clinic may no longer have his or her file because the policy for archiving patient files varies from one institution to the next. The representative indicated that a person can request a medical certificate in Iran directly from the hospital or medical clinic where he or she was treated, while a person abroad can request one directly from the institution or through the consulate office in his or her region.

A representative of the Royan Institute, a medical research and treatment centre in Tehran, provided the following information in correspondence dated 7 May 2006. To obtain a medical certificate from the Royan Institute, a person must contact the clinic assistant and request a report of the treatment received, which will be sent to the patient after the file has been checked. If the person making the request is abroad, he or she can simply send an e-mail with the file number to international affairs. A report of the treatment is then sent by facsimile or by e-mail.

A visa assistant at the Embassy of Canada in Tehran provided the following information in correspondence dated 9 May 2006. Citing a doctor, he stated that a person looking to obtain a medical certificate retroactively must make a request to the doctor who treated him or her. The doctor must then send a letter to the reception desk of the hospital or medical clinic indicating which documents are to be sent to the requester and authorizing that those documents be photocopied. The person can then go and pick up those medical documents or certificates at the institution's reception desk. The visa assistant indicated that very old files may no longer be available.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References

Canada. 9 May 2006. Embassy of Canada in Tehran. Correspondence quoting a doctor that was sent to the Research Directorate by a visa assistant.

Pakistan. 4 May 2006. Embassy of Pakistan, Interests Section of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Washington D.C. Telephone interview with a representative.

Royan Institute. 7 May 2006. International Affairs. Correspondence sent by a representative to the Research Directorate.

Additional Sources Consulted

Oral sources: Academy of Medical Sciences, Ahvaz Jondishapour University of Medical Sciences (AJUMS), Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in London, Embassy of Canada in Tehran, Islamic Human Rights Commission, Islamic Republic of Iran Ministry of Health and Medical Education, MED & LAB Engineering Magazine, Milad Hospital, Mission for Establishment of Human Rights (MEHR), Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV), Pasteur Institute of Iran, Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Refugee Action Coalition, Refugee Action Committee, Refugee Council of Australia, Tehran Heart Center and Tehran University of Medical Sciences did not provide information within the time constraints for this Response.

The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and the Foundation for Democracy in Iran (FDI) did not have any information on the subject.

Attempts to contact the International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR) and Iran's International Health Services were unsuccessful.

Internet sites, including: Embassy of Pakistan, Factiva, Khatamolanbia Hospital, *Iran Daily*, *Iran Focus*, *Iran News*, Iran Press Service, Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), Islamic Republic of Iran-Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Milad Hospital, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), *Tehran Times*, Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS), United States Department of State, World News Connection.

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