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Afghanistan: Types of passports 1997-2007; issuance procedures, formats, colours, validity period

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

According to a representative of the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU), Afghan passports "are issued for the purposes of travel outside Afghanistan, and are not common" (16 Apr. 2006). The report of a fact-finding mission conducted by the government of Finland likewise indicates that passports are "not in common use" (Sept. 2006, 36).

The report includes a description of the passport application procedure, based on second-hand observations in Mazar-i Sharif, as follows:

The application form for a passport is called "Ariza" and costs 5-10 Afghan cents. After filling the application form, the applicant must personally file the form at his provincial police station. The applicant has to prove his identity through his Tashkera. If the person is missing his Tashkera, the police will make enquiries about his identity from the applicants home district authorities. A copy of the Tashkera and the application form signed by the provincial chief of police or his deputy is send to the regional passport office.

In the regional passport office, the applicant is issued with a new document, called "Tarifa". The "Tarifa" states the price of the passport, usually 800-1000 afghanis (around 20 USD). The applicant has to go to the state accountant where he will get the payment details. At the bank, the person will receive a receipt for his payment. With the receipt and 4-6 passport pictures the applicant has to go again to the regional passport office, where the applicant now fills the actual application. The passport office will then stamp the document and file the application.

When the passport is ready, there is an additional administration fee of 150 Afghanis (around 2-3 USD). (Finland Sept. 2006, 36-37)

The Counsellor of the Embassy of Afghanistan in Ottawa noted that all passports must carry the following information:

First name, Surname (or father's name)