International Relations · GS - II

Examine the humanitarian and legal challenges associated with the deportation of refugees to countries where they may face persecution. Discuss the significance of the principle of non-refoulement.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 31/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Refugee protection; non-refoulement; human rights; 1951 Refugee Convention; due process; persecution; UNHCR; international cooperation

Model Answer

Introduction

Refugee deportation raises complex questions of national sovereignty, immigration control and international human rights obligations. The reported proposal concerning Afghan refugees highlights the importance of assessing the safety of returnees.

Humanitarian and Legal Challenges

1. **Risk of persecution:** Returnees may face threats, violence or discrimination, particularly where they have previously supported foreign military or political institutions.
2. **Due process:** Deportation decisions require fair procedures, individual risk assessments and access to legal remedies.

3. **Human rights concerns:** Forced return may expose vulnerable individuals to arbitrary detention, torture or other serious harm.
4. **Transit-country responsibility:** Deportation through a third country raises questions about safe transit, protection and the risk of onward removal.

Significance of Non-Refoulement

The principle prohibits returning individuals to places where they face persecution or serious harm. It is central to the 1951 Refugee Convention and is also reflected in other international human rights obligations.

Way Forward

States should conduct individual assessments, ensure legal safeguards, cooperate with UNHCR and provide protection to vulnerable groups.

Conclusion

Immigration enforcement must be balanced with humanitarian responsibilities and international legal protections to prevent unsafe and arbitrary returns.

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