

UNCLASSIFIED



MRN: [25 STATE 71920](#)
Date/DTG: Jul 18, 2025 / 182015Z JUL 25
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Action: ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE *Immediate*
E.O: 13526
TAGS: CVIS, IR, CMGT
Captions: SENSITIVE
Reference: [25 STATE 55146](#)
Subject: [REDACTED] Guidance on Immigrant Visa Exceptions for Ethnic and Religious Minorities Facing Persecution in Iran

1. [REDACTED] This is an action request. **See paragraphs 3-5.**
2. [REDACTED] **Summary:** On June 4, 2025, the President issued Presidential Proclamation (PP) 10949, Restricting the Entry of Foreign Nationals to Protect the United States from Foreign Terrorists and Other National Security and Public Safety Threats, imposing full suspension of entry on nationals of 12 countries and partial suspension of entry on nationals of 7 countries (Ref A). Section 4(b) of the proclamation excepts immigrant visa applicants who are "ethnic and religious minorities facing persecution in Iran." This ALDAC provides updated guidance on which ethnic and religious minorities are excepted and how to process these cases. **End Summary.**
3. [REDACTED] **ACTION REQUEST:** This guidance is for individuals covered by PP10949 (Sec. 4(b)(ix)) who are facing ethnic and religious persecution in Iran. The Department assesses the following meet the PP10949 criteria:

- Ahwazi Arabs
- Azerbaijani Turks (Azeris)
- Baha'i
- Balouch
- Christians
- Jews
- Kurds
- Sabeen-Mandaeans
- Sufi Muslims
- Sunni Muslims
- Yarsans
- Zoroastrians

4. [REDACTED] Ethnic and religious minorities facing persecution in Iran are not limited to the groups identified above and may include other groups. Adjudicators are the ultimate finders of fact in a visa interview. As relevant, the adjudicator should assess whether an IV applicant (including a DV applicant) is a member of an ethnic and/or religious minority facing persecution in Iran. Document in case notes and scan any supporting documents as evidence in support and include detailed case notes of why the adjudicator is making this determination. It is not necessary that an applicant have experienced individualized persecution. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5. [REDACTED] If an applicant is a member of one of these ethnic and/or religious minority groups facing persecution in Iran, the adjudicator should continue to process the case to completion, including the requirements [REDACTED] as described in 9 FAM 304.5-9(D). Adjudicators should use the standard case note: [REDACTED]

██████████ and annotate the visa "Excepted from PP Restricting Entry." Use the exact case note and the exact annotation unless space restrictions in the annotation field do not allow for the full annotation. CA will post additional information and resources related to persecuted ethnic and religious minorities on CA Web (LINK).

6. ██████████ Adjudicators must make their own independent evaluations and should not rely solely on supporting documents from other entities, such as ██████████

██████████ As necessary, consular officers may consult the Department's annual [International Religious Freedom Report for Iran](#), the [Human Rights Report for Iran](#), and cables from the Iran Regional Presence Office (IRPO), and cite these reports in case notes. Consular officers also may contact Consular Team Persia IV Units in Yerevan, Ankara, and Abu Dhabi and the Office of Iranian Affairs for more information or for resources about understanding or verifying specific minority groups in Iran.

7. ██████████ If an applicant already qualifies under another PP10949 exception, the adjudicator does not have to assess whether the applicant is a religious or ethnic minority facing persecution in Iran and can process the visa under the other qualifying exception. Posts may consult with their VO/F analysts regarding any applications that might qualify for this exception.

8. ██████████ As a reminder, the burden is always on the applicant to demonstrate that he is qualified for the visa and not ineligible. If you are not satisfied that the applicant is a member of an ethnic or religious minority facing persecution in Iran, you may refuse him under INA 221(g) and request additional evidence. If an applicant is unable to demonstrate that he qualifies under this exception or any other exception, the applicant must be refused ██████████.

Signature: RUBIO

XMT: BASRAH, AMCONSUL; CARACAS, AMEMBASSY; CHENGDU, AMCONSUL;
KABUL, AMEMBASSY; MINSK, AMEMBASSY; SANAA, AMEMBASSY; ST
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