



**UNHCR**

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

## News Release

### UNHCR completes review of Afghan cases on Nauru

UNHCR has completed its review of Afghan asylum seekers on Nauru and advised its 12 remaining cases that they had been accepted as needing international protection due to the deteriorating security conditions in their regions of origin in Afghanistan.

The latest decisions follow the recognition of 10 Afghans as refugees in February this year.

UNHCR is now pursuing resettlement options for all its 22 Afghan cases on Nauru.

UNHCR Regional Representative Mr Michel Gabaudan said he is not yet able to say which country has been approached to take the refugees but that negotiations are well underway.

"We recognise that these people have been in detention on Nauru for a long time, and we are moving to find a durable solution for them as soon as we can," said Mr Gabaudan.

The 22 Afghans are the last of a residual caseload of people from the Norwegian freighter the Tampa, who were taken to Nauru by the HMAS Manooka in September 2001 after they had been rescued at sea. They were previously assessed for refugee status and found not to be refugees in 2002.

The UNHCR process to review the Afghan cases began in September 2003, following changing circumstances in certain regions of Afghanistan.

Mr Gabaudan said that the decisions were specific to certain regions of Afghanistan only, and that in other parts of the country former refugees were being repatriated safely with the cooperation of the Afghanistan Government.

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