

Summary of Media Materials

**Informational Campaign at the
Regional Conference on Refugee Protection and
International Migration
Almaty, Kazakhstan
March 15-16, 2011**



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It is time to solve refugee issues together. Aikyn: 16.03.11

According to information received from the Ministry of Interior of RK in 2009 Kazakhstan accepted 166 959 people (among them 130 475 people are from foreign countries and 1036484 are from CIS countries). And according to 2010 statistics this indicator made up 1253291 people. It shows that the amount of new comers to our country rose to 7.4 % in one year. In 2009 155 852 people were extradited by Kazakhstan. There were many who obeyed Kazakhstan laws among them. It confirms that there are a lot of illegal migrants in Kazakhstan. Today in Almaty started the Regional Conference on Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration in Central Asia. Five Central Asian countries and guests from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Iran, Russia and Turkey, NGOs, OSCE participated in the conference.

Ms. Gulshara Abdykalikova, Minister of Labor and Social protection noted that illegal migration issues concern not only Kazakhstan but also neighboring countries, and also mentioned that government made significant job in solving refugee related problems. For example, our compatriots who left country many centuries ago some of them returned to homeland. Approximately 800 thousand oralmans returned to Kazakhstan. Every year 15-20 thousand oralmans receive their special quotas upon arrival. Of course there are a lot of people who have low social condition and those who face conflicts in their countries will to come to Kazakhstan to have better conditions to live.

“Government of Kazakhstan is always open to needs of refugees and illegal migrants that reside in Kazakhstan. It is very important to solve actual problems together. Today I believe participants of the Regional Conference devoted to the refugee issues will discuss important issues that disturb all countries in the world and will come to conclusion in solving them,” said Ms. Abdykalikova and wished success to the Conference. UNHCR and IOM Representatives and the representatives of Kyrgyzstan governments had speeches concerning refugee issues.

Ms. Erika Feller, UNHCR’s Assistant High Commissioner for Protection was speaking at the opening session of a conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration which opened today in Almaty, Kazakhstan. “Migration is not a new phenomenon in the region, but remains an important issue

for governments. While the key drivers of today's movements are economic benefits, forced displacement also continues to be a reality," said Feller.

The UN refugee agency's top protection official cautioned that refugee protection risked being overshadowed by the rising focus on labor migration, irregular migration and human trafficking, noting that refugees often travel alongside others on the move. The two-day regional conference brings together governments, civil society and international organizations to explore collaborative responses to challenges of mixed migration in Central Asia.

Deputy Representative of International Organization for Migration Ms. Laura Thompson noted that mass deportation and other cruel measures do not stop migration, but force them to hide. One of the main goals is to decrease size of illegal migration. Hundred thousand migrants move from Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to Kazakhstan and Russia and other countries. "Most of them are labor migrants, who is seeking job. Despite of the opportunity to earn is significant factor of migration, forced migration is also live issue" she said. Conflicts, non-observance of human rights, unfavorable climatic conditions, and ecological problems are the key drivers of today's movements. Some countries have strict control of refugees and it is clear because every country should think about its national security. Currently illegal migrants and refugee issues are very important problems. However, we cannot ignore such problems. Jointly we have to find solutions to refugee problems. Unfortunately, refugees can be easily involved into corruption; they can be used as drug traffickers from borders. State human rights bodies are fighting with such illegal issues. We all have to find ways in provision of refugees with medical support and other needs as required. I think today we will make some conclusions.

Mr. Almasbek Abytov, Minister of Labor and migration of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan stated – According to our statistics near 600 thousand Kyrgyz citizens work in Kazakhstan. And 583 thousand Kyrgyz people live in Russia. In general, 1 mln Kyrgyz people visit Kazakhstan in a year. Those who have relatives try to stay in Russia. To be frank, after the April conflict in Kyrgyzstan most of our citizens left to Kazakhstan and Russia. We are very thankful to our close Kazakh friends. You always receive citizens from our country with open hugs. For example, 25-30 thousand Kyrgyz people live and work in Almaty. But before our citizens could reside in Kazakhstan 90 days without any registration, but after the last adopted law our citizens have to register in five days after arriving. Of course, it causes some difficulties for our citizens. But such significant issue will be discussed with the government of Kazakhstan in future.

PS:

The participating countries of the Regional Conference adopted the "Almaty Declaration". Refugee and illegal migration issues and the ways of solving them were indicated in the declaration.

Zhomart Moldakhmetuly

Migrants and refugee issues in Central Asia were discussed in Almaty

Panorama: 18.03.2011

Author: AMINA DJALILOVA

Regional Conference on Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration in Central Asia took place in Almaty. International experts from five Central Asian countries and guests from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Iran, Russia and Turkey participated in the Conference. In the framework of the conference following issues were raised: current migration flows in the region, refugee and migrant issues. Representation of United Nations High Commissioner for refugees (UNHCR), International Organization for Migration and United Nations Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) and supported by the the Government of Kazakhstan and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Ms Erika Feller, UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection called to provision of balance in refugee protection and national security and border management issues. "Too often, refugees are equated with migrants in an irregular situation, and viewed negatively by the general public or in the media,"

Feller continued. By the words of Ms. Feller the reason to conduct the Conference in Central Asia was the voluntary and forced movement of people in a large scope.

During the conference she noted that it's necessary to create a clear mechanism of asylum provision to people of concern. It would be helpful to government that accepts refugees to determine their status, to take measures in protecting these people. The mechanism will help to decrease the factors that make people to migrate, added Ms. Feller. Also it's important to integrate moving people into the society, because people who lost opportunity to integrate they marginalize.

Eventually if the government can't to integrate of arrivals it will bring to tensions in the society and xenophobia. Therefore, by addressing to authorities of the Central Asian states Ms. Feller asks to invest means for creation of necessary integration mechanisms for the arriving people into your countries. One more moment I would like to mentions is security issue, - continued the UN Expert. "I understand that the issues concerning the security are completely justified factor of concern for government of states, and they have to deal with solving these problems. However the issues of security provision are not an excuse not to accept refugees into your country, not to provide their rights and freedom. She also mentioned that there are still stateless people in the region, which in fact are out of legal sphere and this problem should be solved also.

During the interview Ms. Feller positively mentioned that our country took the responsibility to create the necessary mechanism in asylum provision of people of concern. And nowadays UNHCR tends to help Kazakhstan to strengthen the capacity for creation of this system. Ms. Feller considers that Kazakhstan could manage with the task of oralmans return. They have received the access to education, medical services and social help.

Deputy Representative of International Organization for Migration Ms. Laura Thompson noted that mass deportation and other cruel measures do not stop migration, but force them to hide. One of the main goals is to decrease size of illegal migration. The most moving people are labor migrants. But there are many people among labor migrants who needs special attitude – specifically victims of human traffic.

Conference participants also discussed about labor migrants who increases the economic potential of receiving country. And they can be investors for the countries of origin. For maximization of contribution from migration it is necessary to provide with integration, to raise qualification on a labor market, to destroy language barrier. UNHCR research on situation in Central Asia was distributed in the framework of the conference. There was mentioned that all countries in Central Asian region ratified the 1951 Convention on Refugee Status and that there are problems in the region more than enough. In 2007 UNHCR issued 10 point Action Plan on refugee protection and mixed migration. It is the fifth in a series of regional gatherings on refugee protection and international migration. The others were held in Yemen (May 2008), Senegal (November 2008), Costa Rica (November 2009) and Tanzania (September 2010). Almaty conference is the last in this cycle.

Analysts of UNHCR say that in 1990s migration was affected by the international conflicts, political instability, demolition of social structure and economical difficulties. In addition hundred thousand ethnic Germans returned to Germany after 1993, near 250 thousand people Crimean Tatars left to Ukraine from the period 1989 to 1999, near 3, 1 mln Russians and 300 thousand Ukrainians left from Central Asia and Caucasus to Russia and Ukraine. The region hereby has lost mass of the economical active and highly educated Russian speaking Slavs, which prevailed in professional elite on the majority part of the Central Asian territory", - was written in the research. The Government of Kazakhstan took political measures to eliminate the consequences of the population shortening and to strengthen the national self-consciousness and stability. It is aimed to stimulate the return of ethnic Kazakhs on the basis of free quota for repatriation. Such policy of ethnic immigration accepted by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan also motivated the return of ethnic Kazakhs (oralmans) and ethnic Kyrgyzs (kaiyrylmans) from other countries of Central Asia, China, Mongolia and Turkey. According to statistics over 464 thousand people returned to Kazakhstan. As many ethnic Kazakh returned out of the established quota, for example from Uzbekistan after the hard worsening the environment of the Aral Sea region, it has to evaluate the general number of returnees- says the experts of international organizations. Forced movement caused by conflicts of political instability took place in the Central Asia. Interethnic conflicts in Uzbekistan in June 1989 made

90 thousand Meskhetin Turks to run to other parts of CIS, including Azerbaijan. In Tajikistan in the consequence of the civil war every seven citizen became either refugee or internally displaced person. In addition racial minorities decided to leave country. And after the war because of the bad economical situation many returned refugees couldn't find job. It caused the raise of labor migration from Tajikistan. The main base of migration movements became the economical motivation.

Most working migrants move from South to North. Main targeted countries – the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan. Our country is on the 15 place in the world on the quantity of accepting labor migrants as of 2010, and Russia is on the second after USA. The Corridor of Kazakhstan- Russia is the sixth by the capacity of the migration corridors in the world: in 2010 2, 6 people used it. Main destinations beyond the CIS are West Europe, the Middle East, Turkey, South Korea, and Japan. Many migrants cross border legally, then afterwards became illegal, by working without any regulated permission and by breaking duration of stay in the country. Such illegal migration largely is a result of discrepancy in the labor legislation, applying by the countries of origin and accepting countries, along with low level of legal basics. Many of them have to use illegal ways of migration because they cannot obtain necessary documents due to limited opportunities of legal job placement or due to expenditures connected with bureaucratically issues.

There are a lot of illegal migrants in Russia and Kazakhstan that exceed the registered migrants as of UNHCR statistics. In 2002 as of IOM statistics illegal migrants from Tajikistan amounted to 16 800 people in Russian Federation, whereas actual amount of non -registered labor migrants exceeded 600 thousand. And a half of Central Asia is facing desertification, salinization, pollution and deficiency of arable land and drinking water and also loose of biological variety and unfavorable climatic conditions. In the result the target communities find themselves lacking in traditional ways of existence that leads to situations when ecological factors can cause movement of people. One of the most polluted parts of the regions is Aral Sea. The general amount of resettled people is unknown, but approximately amount in research is 100 thousand people. Also it is noted that near 10 thousand refugees live in Central Asian countries, there are Afghans, Chechens and ethnic Uighurs from China among them. And also there are insignificant amount of refugees from Iran and Iraq. The first country in the region that accepted refugees is Kazakhstan then follows Tajikistan. Most of the refugees live in cities. Recent movements of refugees within the region were caused by the Andijan incident in 2005 in Uzbekistan and cruel conflict on the South of Kyrgyzstan in June 2010. These conflicts made thousands of people to move within the country, and 75 thousand people ran to Uzbekistan. Most of these refugees returned to Kyrgyzstan during several weeks after the conflict.

Concerning the human trafficking, in our region villagers are sold to cities, where cheap labor is highly demanded. However, human trafficking can be oriented to seasonal job on cotton and tobacco plantation or on construction, where job is active only in warm seasons. Also all countries of Central Asian region are considered to be countries of origin of transboundary human trafficking. Main states of destination out of region are Russia, Turkey, and UAE, also the region of Western Europe, Middle East, and South Eastern Asia. Human trafficking for sexual exploitation and traffic for labor exploitation are still growing and often crosses with drug trafficking, -noted the analysts of UNHCR. Conference participants and authors of research underline that the lack of regular updated and centralized electronic data base, which collects all information about migrants is seriously hampers exchange of information between countries. Meanwhile as it was informed 29 citizens of Uzbekistan applying refugee status in Kazakhstan, according to court decision have to return home. During conference Kazakhstan and foreign experts carefully commented this case, underlining that Kazakhstan follows laws and only court should make decision on this case. Earlier Mass Media and social organizations informed about these citizens of Uzbekistan that they are threatened to torture in their country.

***Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration is taking place in KAZINFORM:
15.03.2011***

Author: Ekaterina Ionova

Today in Almaty started the Regional Conference on Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration in Central Asia. Five Central Asian countries and guests from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Iran, Russia and Turkey are participating in the conference and they are discussing current migration flows in the region, refugee and migrant issues, managing borders while ensuring refugee protection; addressing the different needs of people on the move; strengthening the integration of refugees, migrants, stateless people and minorities; developing legal migration opportunities, and preventing trafficking and protecting the victims, especially children. Ms Erika Feller, UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection said that Central Asia has a broad experience of interaction with mixed flows – hundred thousand migrants move from Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to Kazakhstan and Russia and other countries. “Most of them are labor migrants, who is seeking job. Despite the opportunity to earn is significant factor of migration, forced migration is also actual” she said. Conflicts, non-observance of human rights, unfavorable climatic conditions, and ecological problems are the key drivers of today's movements. Also she mentioned that all countries have enormous experience in assistance to forced displaced people. And this experience is very important for delegates of today's conference.

“The recently adopted Border Management Strategy in Tajikistan is a local example of good practice which includes refugee protection considerations within a broader migration strategy – including important safeguards for human rights and the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers,” Feller said. Kazakhstan experience can be underlined where government accepted legal frameworks guarantee the material aid to oralmans and provision of medical aid and secondary education. This example can be taken into consideration by countries, stated Ms. Feller.

The participating countries adopted the "Almaty Declaration". The conference was organized by UNHCR and International Organization for Migration (IOM) in cooperation with the United Nations Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) and supported by OSCE and by the Government of Kazakhstan and organized with the financial support of the European Commission and Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, U.S. Department of State.

There are 230 refugee families living in Kazakhstan – Abdykalikova

Kazinform 15.03.2011

By Ekaterina Ionova

For January 1, 2011 there are 603 refugees in Kazakhstan and 230 families who are registered in Almaty, Almaty and South – Kazakhstan oblasts. This was said on the Regional Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration by Ms. Gulshara Abdikalykova, Minister of Labor and Social Protection.

According to her, the migration policy in the world is being characterized by using a complex approach and close cooperation of different trends. In particular, organization of emigration control and receiving the migrants are closely connected with accommodation, adaptation, integration and maintaining the appropriate relationships in the society. “Labor migration is a normal and even positive phenomenon, allowing filling in the gap in the number of labor able population. The analysis of the last migration processes in the world illustrated that migration for the last decades was the main source of the population growth. At the same time, overwhelmed and non- controlled migration is dangerous because can negatively influence the situation in the country” said the Minister.

According to her, the Government is conducting a big work aimed at realization of the main trends of the migration policy which is one of the perspective directions of humanitarian cooperation of Kazakhstan and international organizations. “A series of positive tendencies of migration flows are being marked in the country, negative consequences were predicted and minimized, a legal basis was created in order to ensure and protect rights and interests of migrants. The positive level of migration which was reached in 2004 is being reserved and labor migration becomes an important process, which is an evidence of social sustainability and liberal policy of the country – said Ms. Abdykalikova.

As a member of the world community, Kazakhstan is taking an active part in solving the problems of refugees and asylum – seekers. It is a logical continuation of the taking course of commitment to the aims and principles of UN, which are secured in the UN Statute, 1951 Convention on Refugee Status, and “Migration policy of Kazakhstan is ready for looking for new search and realization of new approaches for solving the refugee problems” – said the Minister.

Majority of refugees registered in Kazakhstan reside in Almaty

Lenta.kz: March 15, 2011

Majority of refugees, granted an official status in Kazakhstan, reside in Almaty. It was announced by the Minister of Labor and Social Protection, Ms. Gulshara Abdykalikova, as Interfax – Kazakhstan informs. “As of January 1, there are 603 refugees, 230 refugee families in the Republic. In general refugees are registered in three regions – in Almaty – 507 people, in South Kazakhstan region and Almaty oblasts – 83 and 13 people accordingly” – said Ms. Abdykalikova in her speech at the Regional Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration on Tuesday in Almaty.

The minister also said that the Kazakhstan legislation ensures rights of refugees, who are on the territory of Kazakhstan “before changes on conditions which made them leave their countries”.

“Migration policy of Kazakhstan is looking forward to searching and realization of new approaches to solving the refugee problems”, - added Abdykalikova. Almaty with population about 1,5 mln people is one of the largest cities of Kazakhstan.

There are 603 refugees in Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan Today: 15.03.2011

As Ms. Abdykalikova, Minister of Labor and Social Protection informed at the Regional Conference on refugee protection and international migration there are 603 refugees or 230 families in Kazakhstan, who are registered in Almaty, Almaty oblast and South – Kazakhstan oblasts, Kazakhstan Today informs.

“Labor migration is a normal and even positive phenomenon, allowing filling in the gap in the number of labor able population. The analysis of the last migration processes in the world illustrated that migration for the last decades was the main source of the population growth. At the same time, overwhelmed and non- controlled migration is dangerous because can negatively influence the situation in the country” said the Minister, as Kazinform informs.

“A series of positive tendencies of migration flows are being marked in the country, negative consequences were predicted and minimized, a legal basis was created in order to ensure and protect rights and interests of migrants. The positive level of migration which was reached in 2004 is being reserved and labor migration becomes important processes, which are an evidence of social sustainability and liberal policy of the country – said Ms. Abdykalikova.

A Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration is being conducted in Almaty

i-news.kz: 16.03.2011

Today in Almaty a regional conference on refugee protections and international migration started in Almaty.

Within the conference in which representatives of five governments, international agencies, and civil society discussed topics such as: managing borders while ensuring refugee protection; addressing the different needs of people on the move; strengthening the integration of refugees, migrants, stateless people and minorities; developing legal migration opportunities, and preventing trafficking and protecting the victims, especially children.

As Ms. Erika Feller, Assitant to High Commissioner said that Central Asia has a considerable experience in dealing with the mixed flows – hundreds thousands of migrants are moving from Afghanistan,

Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan to Kazakhstan, Russia in searching of the job. While the key drivers of today's movements are economic benefits, forced displacement also continues to be a reality. According to her conflicts, violation of human rights and environmental problems remain the main factors of migration.

Also she noted that almost all countries in Central Asia ratified the Refugee Convention and that they had significant experience in helping people to overcome the traumatizing consequences of forced displacement, and that there were examples of good practice within the region for the conference delegates to build upon. "The recently adopted Border Management Strategy in Tajikistan is a local example of good practice which includes refugee protection considerations within a broader migration strategy – including important safeguards for human rights and the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers," Feller said.

As a result of the conference, Almaty Declaration will be developed. The conference organized by UNHCR and International Organization for Migration (IOM) in cooperation with the United Nations Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) and supported by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). It is being hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan.

Source: KazInform

Opportunities for legal migration were discussed in Central Asia

tjknews.ru: 20.03.2011

Regional Conference on refugee protection and international migration in Central Asia was conducted in Almaty (Kazakhstan) on March 15-16, 2011. As "Avesta" was informed by the information department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, the conference was initiated by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and International Organization for Migration (IOM). According to the source, delegations from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Russia, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey and representatives of UNHCR, MOI, OSCE, CIS and EurAsEC.

"Participants of the conference discussed a complex of issues related to complicate and multiply migration flows in Central Asian region, marked the importance of finding the solutions of the mixed migration flows of the population" – said the source.

According to his words, such issues as possibilities for legal migration as a measure to mitigate illegal migration, stabilization of population, reintegration of labor migrants and finding durable solutions for refugees and statelessness people.

"Mr. Zokhidov, Deputy of the Head of Tajikistan MFA, paid the attention of the participants to the measures taken by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan aimed at regulating and developing of labor migration, protection of rights and interested of labor migrants from Tajikistan" – said in the MFA.

According to the source, in the declaration the participants of the conference underlined the necessity of creating a framework for regional cooperation on the mixed migration issues.

"Within the conference framework Mr. Zokhidov meet with the Deputy of General Director of IOM Ms. Laura Thompson and Mr. Djamakhir Anvari, Minister on Refugees and Repatriates from Afghanistan" - concluded the source.

There are 230 refugee families in Kazakhstan according Abdykalikova.

Zakon.kz:15.03.2011

As of January 1, 2011, there are 603 refugees or 230 families in Kazakhstan, who are registered in Almaty, Almaty oblast and South – Kazakhstan oblasts. It was announced at the Conference at the

Regional Conference on refugee protection and international migration by Ms. Abdykalikova, Minister of Labor and Social Protection.

According to her, in the last time the migration policy in the world is characterized by a complex approach and close coordination of different trends. In particular the organization of emigration control and reception of migrants are related to the maintenance, adaptation, integration and support of the appropriate level of interethnic relationships in the society.

“Labor migration is a normal and even positive phenomenon, allowing filling in the gap in the number of labor able population. The analysis of the last migration processes in the world illustrated that migration for the last decades was the main source of the population growth. At the same time, overwhelmed and non- controlled migration is dangerous because can negatively influence the situation in the country” said the Minister.

According to her, the Government is conducting a big work aimed at realization of the main trends of the realization of the main trends of migration policy which is one of the perspective trends of humanitarian cooperation with international organizations.

“A series of positive tendencies of migration flows are being marked in the country, negative consequences were predicted and minimized, a legal basis was created in order to ensure and protect rights and interests of migrants. The positive level of migration which was reached in 2004 is being reserved and labor migration becomes an important process, which are an evidence of social sustainability and liberal policy of the country – said Ms. Abdykalikova.

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Geonews.kz:15.03.2011

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According to her, the migration policy in the world is being characterized by using a complex approach and close cooperation of different trends. In particular, organization of emigration control and receiving the migrants are closely connected with accommodation, adaptation, integration and maintaining the appropriate relationships in the society. “Labor migration is a normal and even positive phenomenon, allowing filling in the gap in the number of labor able population. The analysis of the last migration processes in the world illustrated that migration for the last decades was the main source of the population growth. At the same time, overwhelmed and non- controlled migration is dangerous because can negatively influence the situation in the country” said the Minister.

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As a member of the world community, Kazakhstan is taking an active part in solving the problems of refugees and asylum – seekers. It is a logical continuation of the taking course of commitment to the aims and principles of UN, which are secured in the UN Statute, 1951 Convention on Refugee Status, and “Migration policy of Kazakhstan is ready for looking for new search and realization of new approaches for solving the refugee problems” – said the Minister.

In Almaty Ms. Abdykalikova, Minister of Labor and Social Protection of Population made a speech at the Regional Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration

Government.kz: 15.03.2011

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For January 1, 2011 the number of refugees in Kazakhstan equals to 603 people or 230 families which are registered in Almaty, Almaty oblast and South – Kazakhstan oblasts.

It was said by Ms. Gulshara Abdykalikova, Minister of Labor and Social Protection of Population at the Regional Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration in Central Asia.

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The majority of refugees registered in Kazakhstan are living in Almaty

Interfax: 15.03.2011

The majority of refugees, who were granted a refugee status in Kazakhstan are living in Almaty. This was announced by Ms. Gulshara Abdykalikova, the Minister of Labor and Social Protection of Population of the Republic, as it is being informed by Interfax Kazakhstan.

"As of January 1 the number of refugees in Kazakhstan is 603 individuals or 230 families. In general in the Republic the refugees are registered in three regions: in Almaty – 507 people, in South – Kazakhstan oblast and Almaty oblast – 83 and 13 people respectively” – said Abdykalikova in her speech at the

regional conference on refugee protection and international migration on Tuesday in Almaty. Minister also said that Kazakhstan legislation ensures the freedom of rights of refugees who are on the territory of the Republic “before the circumstances which forced them to live their country change”.

“Migration policy of Kazakhstan is opened for new decisions and approaches in solving refugee problems” – added Ms. Abdykalikova.

Almaty is one of the largest city in Kazakhstan with population of 1,5 million people.

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gazeta.kz: 15.03.2011

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Almaty is one of the largest city in Kazakhstan with population of 1,5 million people.

Source: Interfax Kazakhstan

Central Asian countries approved the Almaty Declaration on the refugee issues

Nur.kz: 20.03.2011

The participants of the Almaty Regional Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration in Central Asia adopted the Almaty Declaration, as it was informed the press service of the Committee of Police of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

According to the press service the conference was the last in a series of the regional conferences, organized by UNHCR in the world in cooperation with OIM and other partners.

“At the regional conference were discussed such issues as: main characteristics of population migration, and problems in the protection area which appear as the consequences of migration, and development of strategy based on the 10-point Plan on refugee protection and mixed migration, developed by UNHCR in 2006” – is said in the announcement.

Source: Bnews.kz

The problems of international migration in Central Asia were discussed in Almaty

Pressa.tj: 19.03.2011

Dushanbe, on March 15- 16 in Almaty (Kazakhstan) a Regional Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration in Central Asia was conducted in Almaty. As it was informed by Pressa.tj agency in the Department of information of the Ministry of Information of Tajikistan, in addition to the delegations from Central Asian states – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, the representatives of Russia, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, international and regional organization, including UNHCR, OIM, OSCE, CIS and CICA and EurAsEc. According to the source, on behalf of Tajikistan, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Nizomiddin Zokhidov made a speech and pointed the attention of the participants at the measures of the Government of Tajikistan aimed at regulation and development of labor migration, protection of rights and interests of labor migrants of the republic.

As the source informs, the participants of the conference discussed a wide range of the issues which are related to complicated and multiply migration flows in Central Asian region, marked the importance of finding the solutions of the mixed migration flows of the population, creating possibilities for legal migration as a measure to mitigate illegal migration, stabilization of population, reintegration of labor migrants and finding durable solutions for refugees and statelessness people.

“Mr. Zokhidov, Deputy of the Head of Tajikistan MFA, paid the attention of the participants to the measures taken by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan aimed at regulating and developing of labor migration, protection of rights and interested of labor migrants from Tajikistan” – said in the MFA.

According to the source, in the declaration the participants of the conference underlined the necessity of creating a framework for regional cooperation on the mixed migration issues.

“Within the conference framework Mr. Zokhidov meet with the Deputy of General Director of IOM Ms. Laura Thompson and Mr. Djamakhir Anvari, Minister on Refugees and Repatriates from Afghanistan” - concluded the source.

In the final declaration the participants of the conference marked the necessary of creating a regional framework for regional cooperation on the issues of mixed migration.

“Within the conference framework the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Mr. Zokhidov had meetings with the Deputy General Director of IOM Ms. Laura Thompson and Mr. Dzhahahir Anvari, Minister of refugee and repatriates of the Islamic Republic of Iran issues which are mutually interested to the refugees and regulating the migration flows in the region” - informs the source.

There are 230 migrant families living in Kazakhstan

Nur.kz: 15.03.2011

For January 1, 2011 there are 603 refugees in Kazakhstan and 230 families who are registered in Almaty, Almaty and South – Kazakhstan oblasts. This was said on the Regional Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration by Ms. Gulshara Abdikalykova, Minister of Labor and Social Protection.

According to her, the migration policy in the world is being characterized by using a complex approach and close cooperation of different trends. In particular, organization of emigration control and receiving the migrants are closely connected with accommodation, adaptation, integration and maintaining the appropriate relationships in the society.

“Labor migration is a normal and even positive phenomenon, allowing filling in the gap in the number of labor able population. The analysis of the last migration processes in the world illustrated that migration for the last decades was the main source of the population growth. At the same time, overwhelmed and non- controlled migration is dangerous because can negatively influence the situation in the country” said the Minister.

“A series of positive tendencies of migration flows are being marked in the country, negative consequences were predicted and minimized, a legal basis was created in order to ensure and protect rights and interests of migrants. The positive level of migration which was reached in 2004 is being reserved and labor migration becomes an important process, which is an evidence of social sustainability and liberal policy of the country – said Ms. Abdykalikova.

“Migration policy of Kazakhstan is ready for looking for new search and realization of new approaches for solving the refugee problems” – said the Minister.

Source: KazInform

Migrant vs. Migrant /by Alexander Kaminskiy. № 52 (17167), 30.03.2011r.

Don't mix refugees with labor migrants. Ms. Erika Feller, Assistant High Commissioner calls to see the boundary between migrants who are looking for a better life and people who are trying to save their lives. Of course, in comparison with the million flows to Kazakhstan and through our territory the number of

refugees is not so high. It was registered 603 people or 230 families, and 570 of them are living in Almaty. Sure there are happy people, who had a chance to go through a tough bureaucracy fire and officially register their status. In fact, according to Ms. Feller, dozens thousands of people can be called refugees. Migration is a complex and long process and for state it can be a disaster or a benefit. High principles of humanism and international obligations of the country can be in contradiction with the necessity to protect the borders and ensure the state security. It should be put in a certain balance of the interests – this was the conclusion at the Regional Conference which was conducted in Almaty under the financial support of European Commission. The forum was organized by UNHCR, IOM, and UNRCCA. The Central Asian region is under the special attention of the United Nation, since here start the migration processes, beginning from trafficking and to the state programs if repatriation which are intensively conducted. They are promoted by geographic proximity of the countries, which are different in the level of life, transparency of the borders and widely spread corruption in the controlled bodies. The cost of migration is not so high, and psychologically people due to the historical connections do not perceive crossing the border as something extraordinary. But the moving does not guarantee automatic solving of the problems and absence of an official status cut off the way of refugees to medical services, education and legal job. They are vulnerable in their social conditions, and the most vulnerable are women and children. Refugees are faced with the problem of xenophobia, bribes from state authorities and pressing of the criminal world.

Despair makes many of them to overstep the law, and the mechanisms of social security protection start to work. “People who violated the legislation and have been involved in serious crimes will be put into an appropriate response process” – thinks Erika Feller. But mass deportations do not solve the problem, making the migrants to go even deeper to criminal side of society. Thus big migrations for the country were of a benefit than disadvantage and efficient migration policy and thoroughly regulated controlling mechanisms. As an example of successful staff management international experts marked the resettlement of Oralman program to historical Motherland.