

## **Forced Back to Danger**

### **What is the issue?**

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Recently Amnesty International condemned European nations for forcefully returning Afghan asylum seekers.

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### **What is the situation in Afghanistan?**

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- Afghan security forces struggle to beat back Taliban and Islamic State jihadists in much of the country.
- As a result civilian casualties stayed at record highs in the first half of 2017 as the war enters its 16th year.
- Nearly 11,500 civilians were killed or wounded in 2016, one third of them children.
- United Nations reports that this is the highest number of annual non-combatant casualties since 2009.

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- These Civilians of war torn areas are fleeing to Europe as refugees, some asylum seekers left Afghanistan when they were children and have no memories of the country.

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### **What are the reasons behind European nations move?**

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- Migration is a hot button issue in Europe as hundreds of thousands of

migrants flooded the continent since 2015.

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- European governments are forcing increasing numbers of asylum seekers back to the dangers from which they fled.
- Recently Germany resumed deportations after a huge truck bomb attack in Afghan capital Kabul.
- As Politicians are under pressure to bring down the number of asylum seekers, there are series of repatriations.
- These continued repatriations of Afghans from Germany is under a disputed Afghan-European Union deal aimed at curbing the influx of migrants.

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### **How Asylum seekers are affected by Europe's move?**

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- Europe's move serves severe blow to masses of refugees as they are already being ejected from Pakistan and Iran, as well as hundreds of thousands of others uprooted by war.
- Almost 9,500 Afghans went back to their homeland in 2016 after their applications for asylum in Europe were rejected.
- A surge of failed Afghan asylum seekers "forcibly" returned from Europe are at risk of torture, kidnapping and death in war-torn Afghanistan.
- Returnees also face an uncertain future in Afghanistan which is struggling with high unemployment, a weak economy.

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**Source: Business Line**

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