

REPATRIATION OF AFGHAN REFUGEES, FENCING PAK-AFGHAN BORDER FOR NATIONAL SECURITY OF PAKISTAN

Dr. Imrana BEGUM

Assistant Professor

Humanities Department

NED University of Engineering & Technology Karachi, Pakistan.

Abstract

Border security ensures sustainable development of a state. Pakistan has the longest border with Afghanistan known as “Durand Line.” The borderland is rugged, mountainous and porous unable to control the transition of people across the frontier. Both countries are having a history of strained relations but in the past forty years, there were two mass migrations of Afghan people to Pakistan. First in the decade of 1980s during Soviet occupation to Afghanistan about 4 million Afghans crossed their eastern border and entered into Pakistan. The Soviet Union withdrew their forces in 1989 however; Afghan refugees continued their stay in Pakistan owing to the civil war in their country. The second largest influx of immigrants came in Pakistan in October 2001, after the US initiative to begin an “Operation Enduring Freedom” in Afghanistan to eliminate terrorism after September 11 incident. Against whom the operation began, they took the advantage of landscape crossed the border and got refuge in the borderland. The 18 years-long presence of foreign troops did not eradicate terrorism rather it spilled over Pakistan. Islamabad and Kabul accused each other of supporting terrorist groups. After a worst terrorist attack at a school in Pakistan it was decided to repatriate Afghan refugees, erect fence along Pak-Afghan border for the national security of Pakistan.

The paper deals with the insecurity of Pak-Afghan border, focuses on the illegal mass migration of Afghan people to Pakistan. It synthesizes that how refugee crisis increased criminal activities, penetrated drug culture and acts of terrorism in Pakistan's society. It answers why Pakistan decided to repatriate Afghan refugees? The paper also vindicates Pakistan's decision to erect fence on the borderland? It further deals with the significance of fencing Pak-Afghan border for regional peace and stability.

Keywords: Security, Refugees, Repatriation, Migration, Terrorism

Introduction

The Afghans got refugees in Pakistan in the aftermath of Soviet occupation. In Afghanistan, since the past four decades there is a continual war and insecurity due to which the refugees preferred to continue their stay in Pakistan. Although Pakistan is not under any national or international liability i.e. the "UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees", but provided refugee to Afghans on the basis of humanitarian grounds and accommodated the world largest number of refugees during 1980s. Their unexpected prolong stay developed social, political and economic complexities in Pakistan. After the 9/11 incident, the global perception towards refugees was changed. Pakistan did not accept more refugees but the porous border was the main hurdle to prevent their inflow. A tripartite agreement signed in 2003 among UNHCR, Pakistan and Afghanistan for the repatriation of refugees but it remains slow due to the lack of basic facilities in Afghanistan. However, after a worst terrorist attack to a school in Pakistan in 2014, proper planning was made by the government of Pakistan to avoid such incidents in future. It was decided that the refugees would be repatriated and a six months deadline was given to them. The deadlines have been extended after the expiry of the previous one. Another initiative has also been taken by the government of Pakistan to avert the illegal migration and eradicates terrorism. The military of Pakistan decided to erect fence along Durand Line, a security measure that would restore peace in both countries. There are various development projects launched by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank which are associated with the peace in Afghanistan.

National Security

The International encyclopedia of the social sciences describes National security as “the ability of a nation to protect its internal values from external threats.” National security deals with protection from physical assault and in that sense is similar to the term defense. However, national security also denotes protection through a variety of means. It includes the security of the fundamental values and core interests necessary to the continued existence and vitality of the state.¹

National security is connected to the well-being of the people of a nation. It embraces elements of both military and non-military nature. National security is best defined by Charles Maier, a Professor of History at Harvard University as “the capacity to control those domestic and foreign conditions that the public opinion of a given community believes necessary to enjoy its own self-determination or autonomy, prosperity, and well-being.”² Apart from protection against military attack National Security also takes in non-military dimensions including economic security, energy security, environmental security, food security, cyber security, border security, security from terrorism etc.

The National Security of Pakistan has been threatened due to the insecurity of Pak-Afghan border which spilt acts of terrorism on Pakistan’s soil.

Pak-Afghan border insecurity

A country is blessed if it has secured borders. In pursuant of the UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001), border security is vital to the effective implementation of law against illegal migration, counter-terrorism and illegal cross-border movement of goods and cargo.³ The long, mountainous and porous borders impales states against unlawful activates and also attract refugees whenever a crisis or a war is fought in that state. Pakistan’s western border connects it with Afghanistan and the border is called Durand line which is the longest (2.600 km), mountainous, porous and the most insecure border of

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- 1 Amos A. Jordan, William J.Taylor, JR. Michael J.Meese, Suaanne C. Nielsen, American National Security, Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009, pp. 3-4.
 - 2 Charles S. Maier, *The Unmasterable Past: history, holocaust, and German national identity*, 1997, [Harvard University.Press](#),
 - 3 Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee, Border Management, available (online)

Pakistan.⁴ Across the border lives same ethnic, religious and tribal people who speak same language and have kinship relations. This feature made across the border movement easier. Since last forty years Durand Line remained unable to control the migration of Afghan people and huge influx of refugees. The dynamics in the borderland turned after the development of new militant ideological movements. These religious and political movements have threatened peace and security in Pakistan and Afghanistan as these movements introduced new practices of extremism and violent radicalism.

Afghan refugee influx into Pakistan

The “United Nations High Commission for Refugees 1951” and its 1967 Protocol define refugees as a “person who leaves his country owing to the fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, foreign invasion.”⁵ The circumstances that lead people to become refugees are extremely diverse as some refugees’ movements have been the product of great political changes or movements of armies.

In Asia, specifically South Asia, the unprecedented political changes in the region began with the collapse of the old regimes in Afghanistan and Iran in 1978 and 1979, respectively. The old monarchy system was replaced by revolutionary governments with starkly different political ideologies. In Kabul the 1978 coup brought communist party to the office followed by Soviet occupation in 1979.⁶ These developments led to the migration of Afghan people to the neighboring states i.e. Pakistan and Iran.⁷ Owing to the geographic connectivity and across the border same ethnic and tribal groups, made Pakistan most suitable for Afghan refugees. The refugees brought a number of demographic, security and economic challenges to the Pakistani society. During 1980s one third of Afghan population flee from Soviet occupation and Pakistan accom-

4 Imrana Begum, Durand Line: A legacy of Colonial Rule, in *Historic Journal*” by Hamdard Foundation Pakistan Vol:No; 63, Issue No: 4, October-November 2015.p:36.

5 UNHCR: The UN Refugee Agency, Emergency Handbook, Article 1(A)(2) of the 1951 Convention, as amended by its 1967 Protocol, define refugee as someone who:

6 J Denis Derbyshire, Ian Derbyshire, Encyclopedia of World Political Systems, Volume 1, New York: 2016, Routledge, p.142.

7 Afghanistan Migration Profile, Kabul: International Organization for Migration Afghanistan, 2014, p. 22.

modated about 4 million refugees.⁸

The second largest inflow of Afghan people entered in Pakistan in the aftermath of 9/11 incident. Pakistan shifted her policy regarding refugees and closed border to prevent the fresh influx of refugees from Afghanistan; and changed from being a hospitable host to a country now hesitant to allow the remaining refugees.⁹ Following the September 11 attacks, the Taliban regime was ousted by the Bush government, allegedly provided sanctuary to the terrorists. As the whole world was united to fight against terrorism, the government of Pakistan had to seal its frontier with Afghanistan and refused to refugee status to anyone entering Pakistan. Behind the decision there were two reasons one was the cripple economy of Pakistan and the second was inability to differentiate between the terrorist and refugees. However, it was estimated 80,000 more refugees entered into Pakistan after 9/11 incident as a result of the US anti-terrorist military actions and hunger. A refugee out-pouring was not only a humanitarian crisis, it politically destabilizing Pakistan and Iran too. In both states there was perceptible antipathy against the refugees from that was already increasing before 9/11 incident.¹⁰

Afghanistan was again plunged into a prolong war against terrorism. The US Operation Enduring Freedom led to thousands of Afghan destitute into neighboring states. It was estimated that from October 2001 to January 2002 about 50,000 Afghan refugees entered Pakistan officially, while about 150,000 crossed into the country at unofficial border points¹¹ although the government of Pakistan sealed its border with Afghanistan and refused to accept anyone from across the frontier.

8 John R. Weeks, *Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues*, Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1996, p.682.

Refugees, Public Information Section of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, p. 20.

9 Nasreen Ghufuran, *Afghan refugees in Pakistan Current Situation and Future Scenario*, in *Policy Perspectives*, Vol.3, No.2 (July-December 2006), Pluto Journals, p. 83.

10 *America's assistance to the Afghan People: Hearing Before the Committee on International Relations* p. 20

United States Congress House Committee on International Relations: House of Representatives, one hundred seventh Congress First Session, November 1, 2001, Serial No. 107-62. US Government Printing Office, Washington:

11 *The Europa World Year Book 2003*, Volume 1, London: Taylor & Francis, p.54.

Pakistan's National Policy for Refugees

Pakistan has not ratified the “1951 Convention concerning to the Status of Refugees/1967 Protocol” and did not legislate any national legislation for the protection of refugees. There were no established procedures to regulate the refugee status. Therefore, refugees had been treated according to the provisions of the “Foreigners Act, 1946”.¹² Without having any political and legal binding, Pakistan received a great influx of Afghans throughout the Soviet presence in the 1980s and refuge them on only humanitarian grounds.

The UNHCR conducts refugee status on behalf of the Government of Pakistan under the mandate “Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees adopted by the General Assembly Resolution 428 (V) of 14 December 1950.” The Government of Pakistan and the UNHCR accepts refugee status and allow asylum-seekers who are passing through the procedure as well as recognize refugees to continue their stay in Pakistan.

In the beginning two years of the Afghan war Pakistan alone bore the burden of Afghan refugees. Later the USA, EU, China, Saudi Arabia and Islamic countries made significant contributions. The UN refugee agency called UNHCR, mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide initiated its work in Pakistan in 1989. In the same year another international organization “The World Food Program a food assistance branch of the United Nations and the world largest humanitarian organization” addressing hunger and promoting food security,¹³ came forward to share the responsibility of Afghan refugees living in Pakistan. The Soviet withdrawal in 1989 initiated a civil war in Afghanistan. The international community that was deeply involved to defeat communism left Pakistan and Afghanistan in the 1990s. The “UNHCR and WFP (World Food Program)”, decided to end food support to the refugee camps in Pakistan in 1995.¹⁴

Pakistan had to close borders to the newly arriving Afghans from November 2000, arguing that it had not received the support it required from international community and organizations.¹⁵ In the absence of any foreign support

12 Pakistan. <https://www.unhcr.org/3fc7547e0.pdf>

13 World Food Programme. <https://www.wfp.org/>

14 Shiren S. Issa, Gail Desmond, and Fariyal Ross-Sheriff, “Pakistan: Refugees History and Policies of Pakistan: An Afghan Case Study,” in *Immigration Worldwide: Policies Practices and Trends*, Uma A. Segal, Doreen Elliot, Nazneen S. Mayadas (ed.), and New York: Oxford ZUniversity Press, 2010, p.176.

15 James C. Hathaway, *The Rights of Refugees under International Law*, New York: 2005,

and meager local support, the refugees had to work and they moved out of their campgrounds into the cities to earn means of support for themselves and their families. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, there was a drastic change in the global community's perception towards South Asian region and refugees.

Refugees introduce host of ills into society

Refugees do not come alone they bring with themselves number of ills i.e. security threat, diseases, polio viral infection, high unemployment, economic hardships, drugs, crimes, illegal trade, demographic change, environmental degradation, arms proliferation and the acts of terrorism.¹⁶

As per "UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)", Pakistan became a hub to transport narcotics to the rest of the world produced in Afghanistan. About 43% of the opium produced in Afghanistan trafficked via Pakistan.¹⁷ Some hostility among local community and the refugees began over economic competition and refugee contribution to high crime rates.¹⁸ The unmonitored movement of people is considered a main reason of the spread of polio. In 1994, polio eradication programme began in Pakistan. The polio virus cases were consistently reported along Pak-Afghan border. The Afghan refugees in Pakistan threatened efforts to eradicate polio from Pakistan.¹⁹

Afghan refugees Repatriation

It was believed that after the withdrawal of Soviets troops, the refugees would be back to their own state. Since 1980s the government of Pakistan has engaged in random efforts to enroll refugees and provide them some lawful protection. In the beginning of such efforts, the refugees were issued passbooks. The passbooks permitted refugees to get assistance, and they were also used as identity documents.

Cambridge University Press, pp.281,282.

16 Francesco Fasani, Giovanni Mastrobuoni, Emily Owens, and Paolo Pinotti, *Does Immigration Increases Crime?* New York: Cambridge University Press, 2019, p. 131

17 Dawn newspaper, August 24, 2016.

18 Country reports on Human Rights Practices: Practices for 2002, Vol 2, 2003, Washington: p: 2316.

19 The Guardian, February 20, 2019.

Afterwards the “Proof of Registration (PoR)” card were provided as an important protection instrument that was issued by Government of Pakistan for temporary legal stay and freedom of movement for the registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

In 1988 UNHCR decided to provide assistance for the voluntary repatriation of refugees, both in safeguarding the rights of the population going back to their country and in providing substantial assistance such as transport, immunization, and supplies of food and others. In April 1992, following the establishment of new government in Afghanistan, refugees began to repatriate in substantial numbers and about 1.4 million Afghans returned to Afghanistan after mujahidin toppled the regime which was backed by the Soviet in Kabul. In the meantime, large numbers of Afghans continued to flee into Pakistan as a result of persisting insecurity.

Unfortunately, the Soviet withdrawal led to a civil war which ended in 1996 when a warring group known as Taliban established a parallel regime in Afghanistan. During 1996 to 2001 there was relatively calm in Afghanistan.

It was late 1999 when the government of Pakistan denied accepting any other inflow of refugees from Afghanistan.

The UNHCR is liable to search a durable solution of every refugee crisis in the world. The organization developed a plan for durable solution for refugees consist of the following strategies:

- The promotion of Development Assistance for Refugees (DAR)
- The 4Rs programs in post-conflict situation.
- A plan of development through local integration (DLI).²⁰

The 4Rs program was based on four tiers:

Repatriation: voluntary and free return of refugees to their country of origin;

Reintegration: security of political, economic, legal and social conditions to sustain a dignified life.;

Rehabilitation: restoration of social and economic infrastructure.

20 UNHCR, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Handbook for Repatriation and Reintegration Activities, Geneva: May, 2004.

Reconstruction: to establish the basis for sustainable development.²¹

The post-9/11 security mindset has gravely undermined the well-being of refugees all over the world especially the Afghans.

In 2002 there was a transition from conflict to peace in Afghanistan that led to the return of refugees to their country of origin. It has estimated that more than 2.7 million Afghans repatriated to their country where as about 2 million preferred to stay in Pakistan.²² The repatriation process became difficult due to the lack of shelter, employment and basic facilities of life.

An agreement was signed up among the UNHCR, Pakistan and Afghanistan in March 2003 in Brussels to resolve the twenty three years old Afghan refugee problem in Pakistan.²³ The 4Rs process was agreed and as per agreement, UNHCR had to assist the voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees from Pakistan for three more years. The agreement was designed to support a phased, planned and sustainable return of the Afghan refugees. Afterwards the Tri-Partite Agreement was extended to December 2015.

The pullout of NATO forces from Afghanistan in 2014, again deepen the fear of social and political turmoil that could bring more refugees. Evidences have exposed that some Afghan refugees were involved in facilitating the terrorist in Pakistan and refugee's camps were also involved in providing safe havens for these individuals. Terrorism poses a serious threat to the "national security" of a state. The terrorist attack on Army Public School, Peshawar, Pakistan on December 16, 2014²⁴ compelled the Pakistani nation to iterate resolve to fight against terrorism. The APS attack prompted Pakistan to operate against insurgent hideouts along the border with Afghanistan. The resolve led to the devising of an inclusive "national security strategy" known as the National Action Plan (NAP). Consequently, the Prime Minister of Pakistan in his live address to the nation via television on December 24, 2014, announced the "National Action Plan" (NAP).²⁵ It was a twenty points plan and the nineteenth

21 Ibid.

22 Afghan Refugees in Pakistan Current Situation and Future scenario, Institute of Policy Studies, Policy Perspectives, Vlm 3, No.2, July 6, 2006. Islamabad: <http://www.ips.org.pk/afghan-refugees-in-pakistan-current-situation-and-future-scenario/>

23 Afghanistan tripartite agreement with Pakistan, UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency, March 18, 2003.

24 BBC News, Pakistan Taliban: Peshawarschool attack leaves 141 dead, December 16, 2014.

25 Anup Kaphle, Pakistan announces a national plan to fight terrorism, says terrorists' days are

point dealt with preparation of a complete and comprehensive strategy to deal permanently with the issue of Afghan refugees. In the initial step of the planning they have to register themselves in Pakistan. It was estimated that 22,000 undocumented Afghans refugees turned back to Afghanistan in January and about 1,500 were deported in the same month.²⁶

Although the tripartite agreement has been extended till December 2015 since then six months deadline was given to the refugees to leave Pakistan in order to protect national security. The government of Pakistan extended the date for another six months in June and closed the main Afghan-Pakistan border crossings and put ban on Afghan crossing without travel documents.²⁷

The security operations also began in Pakistan against undocumented foreigners. From January 2017 to 2019 different periods were given to Afghan refugees and their PoR cards has been given extensions.²⁸

In Pakistan there are still 54 Afghan refugee camps out of which 43 camps are in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province with about one million population. Apart from these refugees there are millions living in major urban centers of Pakistan.²⁹

Fencing Pak-Afghan border: new criteria for security and development

In 2017, Pakistan assumed new criteria for security and development. In order to overcome terrorism and inflow of refugees the military of Pakistan took unprecedented initiative to maintain national, regional and world security. It decided to fence rugged, porous, mountainous and unpatrolled Pak-Afghan border. The fencing of border is considered an anti-immigration device which stops illegal migration. The fencing of Pak-Afghan border was not a new idea owing to the continuous upsurge in cross-border movement, cross-border assaults and terrorism. Since 2012-13, deliberation began in Pakistan for an active controlling and regulation of the Durand Line the “Pak-Afghan border”. However, the border management plan suffered by Islamabad were

numbered, in *The Washington Post*, December 25, 2014.

26 *The Telegraph* newspaper, February 7, 2015.

27 The reverse exodus of Pakistan’s Afghan refugees, in *BBC News*, August 28, 2016.

28 Zuha Siddiqui, *For Afghan Refugees, Pakistan Is a Nightmare--but Also Home*, in *Foreign Policy*, May 9, 2019.

29 *The News* newspaper, September 4, 2019.

not considered by Kabul. A contradiction was found in the Afghan perspective as the Afghan authorities assert that the Durand Line divides families living on both sides of the border, yet at the same time they continue to allege Pakistan of interference, backing the Afghan Taliban, cross-border terrorism, treating Afghanistan its “backyard,” and another province. The Kabul government also alleged that Islamabad that the latter does not respect the former’s sovereignty. It is also a fact that whenever Pakistan highlighted the issue of “border recognition, management or regulation”, there has been strict opposition from Afghanistan. Thus, it was indispensable that Pakistan and Afghanistan should find a mechanism to manage, stabilize and “control the unregulated border”.

Although in the past Pakistan’s military has launched various operations to secure the border and eradicate terrorism. Such operations began since 2004 and but terrorism was not controlled.

On 25th March 2017, Pakistan’s Chief of Army Staff announced that Pakistan would erect fence along Pak-Afghan border.³⁰ It was decided that “the pair of nine-foot chicken wire fences, with a six-foot gap, and topped with barbed wire along the nearly 2,600 kilometre Afghan border would be installed. The fence would run along rugged terrain and snow-capped mountains as high as 12,000 feet. Additionally, hundreds of new forts and outposts would also be established.”³¹ It is also reported that it would be a “tech-meshed with a state-of-the-art surveillance system, closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras, drone cameras and other gadgets for effective day and night monitoring of the border.” Fenced Pak-Afghan border would avert cross-border infiltration, illegal trade and smuggling. The unprecedented construction effort will cost about \$500 million and this huge unilateral mission will efficiently give advantage to the peaceful people of the two countries while restricting terrorists.³²

The security of Durand Line would also accelerate legal trade as Pakistan is the largest market for Afghan exports. Pakistan imports 90 percent of Afghan fresh fruits and vegetables. The government of Pakistan has turned down regularities duties on fresh fruits from Afghanistan.³³

30 Fencing of Pak-Afghan border has commenced, says army chief, in Dawn newspaper, March 25, 2017.

31 Pak-Afghan border fencing to be completed by end of 2019: DG ISPR, in The Express Tribune, December 15, 2018.

32 Ayaz Gul, Afghan Border Fencing to Be Completed by 2020, Pakistan says, in Voice of America, November 5, 2019

33 The Delhi Times, February 13, 2019.

Pak-Afghan border security: regional peace and prosperity

Armed conflicts and instability do not shadow only the affected state but also adversely impact the region. Pak-Afghan border insecurity has been a challenge for this region. Being prominent in playing a positive role in regional peace, stability, collaboration and connectivity, Pakistan has cognizance of issues, such as renunciation of war, peaceful settlement of disputes and economic development. Pakistan has been playing a vital role in intra-Afghan and inter-Afghan dialogues. Pakistan with regional partners, have been signed numerous agreements and projects. At the moment, their completion is associated with peace and stability in Afghanistan.

China is an emerging power that has great economic interests in South Asian region. Beijing has huge investment plans for the economic growth and development of this region. Among them the mega project that is considered a game changer in this region was signed between China and Pakistan in the beginning of 2015 known as CPEC for construction and connectivity.³⁴ China has been struggling to bring Afghanistan into this project³⁵ that can be a natural partner in CPEC's expansion.

After CPEC many projects backed by the US have been launched for the development of this region. The World Bank and Asian development Bank have initiated an energy project known as TUTAP (Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan),³⁶ it is a 500 kV electricity power project for regional power sharing program.³⁷ It was signed in November 2015.³⁸ Its timely completion would increase urban and rural access to electricity in Pakistan and Afghanistan and also benefit small and medium sized business and households across the region.³⁹

The "Central Asia-South Asia power project, commonly known by the acronym CASA-1000", is a \$1.16 billion project signed in May, 2016⁴⁰ currently under construction that will allow for the export of excess hydroelectricity

34 <http://cpec.gov.pk/>

35 Dawn newspaper, March 26, 2019.

36 World Bank Group, Pakistan @ 100 Regional Connectivity, Policy Note March 2019, p.2.

37 Daily Outlook Afghanistan: The Leading Independent Newspaper, May 14, 2016.

38 Pajhwok Afghan News, Afghanistan's Largest Independent News Agency, May 19, 2016.

39 The Diplomat, July 06, 2016.

40 Dawn newspaper, May 23, 2016.

from “Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to Afghanistan and Pakistan”.⁴¹

A gas pipeline project known as TAPI was signed among four countries including “Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India” in December 2015. It would transport 33bcm of natural gas a year.⁴² TAPI is \$22.5 billion project which crosses through the war-ravaged Afghanistan would be a source of economic development.⁴³

A peaceful and stable Afghanistan would play a crucial role in the timely completion of all the above mentioned projects. Kabul can form a bridge to expand connectivity between “East, South and Central Asian regions”. In South Asian region, people did not avail opportunities for their progress and prosperity because of unsettled conflicts and prolonged wars. It is a responsibility of regional countries to resolve all old issues and cooperate with each other in order to complete all projects on time.

Conclusion

National Security is a top most responsibility of a state. The security of Pakistan was threatened due to the protracted Afghan turmoil which brought large number of refugees in Pakistan. Their overdue stay created great impediments in Pakistan’s society, politics and economy. The Pak-Afghan unpatrolled border was allegedly used for across the border terrorist attacks. Pakistan has been launched new initiatives to architecture the economy and security of Pakistan. The government of Afghanistan is liable to create conducive environment and make certain arrangements to the repatriated community. The UNHCR and the world community have to play a role to enable voluntary return of the refugees from Pakistan. The repatriation of refugees, fencing Pak-Afghan border and an effective border control mechanism would transform the Durand Line which had been contentious border into an aqueduct for collaboration rather than confrontation. An insecure and instable Afghanistan raises security concerns in Pakistan and the region at large.