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Violence Against Afghans in Iran's Yazd City After Teenager's Death

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Iranian police allegedly stormed an Afghan immigrant quarter of Yazd city Tuesday night after an Iranian 18-year-old girl was killed in the area, reportedly by two Afghans.

Afghanistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) confirmed the incident saying that a government delegation will head to Yazd after reports that hundreds of Afghans were arrested and scores of homes were set alight.

"Our delegation will do its research in cooperation with the Iranian officials," MOFA Deputy Spokesman Faramarz Tamana said Wednesday. "There were reports of lots of crimes in neighboring countries including Iran, but after investigations they appeared to be false."

The Iranian Embassy in Afghanistan said that two Afghan citizens raped a teenage Iranian girl and then killed her, which incited the violence.

"Two Afghan citizens killed a girl in Yazd city, arousing the anger of people in the region," Iranian Embassy spokesman Mohammad Dehqani said Wednesday.

"We always try to not broadcast some crimes in which Afghan citizens are involved because of such reactions. But now the situation is under control by the police."

Meanwhile, Tamana said that the crime was an act of specific persons and Iran should ensure that other Afghans are not punished as a result.

"Our expectation from Iranian officials is to avoid harming other Afghans, based on international immigrants' rights," he said.

He said the MOFA expected the delegation to report on its findings in the next two days.