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## 176 Afghans arrested in Balochistan

By Hijratullah Kharotai

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QUETTA - More than 170 Afghan citizens have been arrested by the Pakistani security personnel in southwestern Balochistan province, a government official said on Thursday.

As many as 176 Afghans have been detained since last night in the Kogak mountains and on the Quetta-Chaman road, police officer Shah Nawaz Khan told Pajhwok Afghan News.

Mostly members of Hazara, Uzbeks and Tajik communities, the men wanted to travel through Quetta to Iran and other countries without valid documents, Khan said.

Some of the detainees were sent to the Chaman prison, while others are still being held at a border police checkpoint in the city. The Afghan consulate could not be contacted for comments.

A Chaman-based journalist, Niamatullah Sarhadi, security had been stepped up on the Quetta-Chaman road over the past few days. As a result, he added, Afghan nationals were face problems at the hands of police.