

## **Urgent Alert**

### **Iraqi Refugees**

An estimated 100,000 Iraqis leave their country each month, including many of Iraq's best educated professionals. Approximately two million Iraqis have fled their country since the 2003 U.S. led invasion. The neighboring countries are feeling the burden of Iraqi refugees by opening their doors. Estimates are that Syria has taken in 800,000 Iraqis, Jordan has about 700,000, Egypt has about 100,000, Iran, 54, 000, Lebanon, 20,000, with tens of thousands who have moved within Iraq. According to the U. S. State Department there is approval for 500 Iraqi refugees in the U.S. each year, only 466 have been admitted since the war began in 2003..

### **Send Postcard to:**

Condoleeza Rice  
Secretary of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Ellen Sauerbrey  
Assistant Secretary for Population, Refugees and Migration  
State Department  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Your Congressional Senator and Representative

Use the Congressional Directories at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) or [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) to find biographical information, committee and subcommittee assignments and key issues of concern for your member of Congress.

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Dear \_\_\_\_\_

The humanitarian needs of the Iraqi refugees are urgent. Basic security, food, clothing and shelter are greatly needed by those fleeing their homeland. While the U.S. and the allies are spending billions of dollars per month on the war effort, the people of Iraq are being driven out their homes seeking safety. I urge you to respond to the needs of the people who have been displaced from Iraq with a concentrated effort to assist them by opening our doors in the U.S. and please encourage other Western countries to accept Iraqi refugees.

Sincerely,

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## **Background Information for Letters:**

There is an overwhelming need for temporary relief and permanent resettlement. Last year, the U.S. accepted less than 500 Iraqi refugees. Thousands of these refugees are fleeing because they have been affiliated in some way with the U.S. Cooks, drivers and translators have been called traitors for cooperating with the U.S.

The U.S. is spending \$8 billion a month to wage the war in Iraq. The State Department plans to spend only \$20 million in the current fiscal year to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of the refugees.

One in eight Iraqis have left their homes in what is the largest long-term population movement in the Middle East since the displacement of the Palestinians in 1948.

It is estimated that a total Iraqi population of 26 million, around 1.7 million Iraqis are internally displaced and up to two million have fled to nearby countries.

The civilian population of Iraq remains the main victim of the prevailing security situation characterized by terrorist acts, action by armed groups, criminal gangs, religious extremists, militias and security and military forces.

Growing unemployment, poverty, various forms of discrimination and increasingly limited access to basic services, prevent most citizens from realizing their economic, social and cultural rights.

Law enforcement agencies do not provide effective protection to the population of Iraq and increasingly militias and criminal gangs act in collusion with groups who have infiltrated.

For more information:

[www.un.org](http://www.un.org)

[www.unohchr.org](http://www.unohchr.org)

[www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)

[www.refugeesinternational.org](http://www.refugeesinternational.org)

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