



Refugee
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Talking Points on S. 1651: The Refugee Crisis In Iraq Act

- The United States has been a long-time leader in saving lives and protecting vulnerable refugees through its Refugee Resettlement Program. The resettlement of Iraqi refugees is historically consistent with U.S. humanitarian and foreign policy commitments.
- Every individual refugee has to undergo rigorous security, background, and health checks before they can benefit from participation in the U.S. Refugee Program. The law prohibits anyone who has provided support to a terrorist organization from entry into the United States. In fact, the current U.S. law is so strict that it sometimes bars from protection refugees who have suffered at the hands of terrorists. Iraqis must undergo **additional** security checks above and beyond those required for all other refugees.
- Many of the Iraqi refugees worked closely with and helped the U.S. military, U.S. contractors, and American humanitarian organizations. The fact that refugees worked with the U.S. is the very reason why they were targeted for persecution and had to flee Iraq. These Iraqis have risked their lives to help rebuild Iraq.
- The humanitarian and security situation in Iraq is deteriorating. Civilians suffer from targeted persecution, attacks by insurgent groups, kidnappings, assassinations, military offenses, criminal activity, and rape. The neighboring countries are closing their borders to Iraqi refugees; thus, thousands are currently living without access to security and basic provisions. Resettlement to the U.S. will provide many refugees the protection they deserve.
- Many Iraqis who will be resettled in the U.S. have suffered psychological and often physical trauma, including torture. Removing them from danger is critical to their healing and resumption of normal lives.
- Like all refugees, Iraqis are looking for a community that will welcome them and help begin to regain their sense of security and human dignity.