

Lifeline for Iraqi Refugees



FACT SHEET U.S. Affiliated Iraqis

Iraqis Who Have Worked with the United States

“We are committed to honoring our moral debt to those Iraqis who have provided assistance to the United States military and embassy.”

Under Secretary of State Paula Dobriansky, May 2007

Who is at risk?

Total number of Iraqis who have worked long-term with the United States government, military, media, and contractors since 2003	Unknown
Iraqis currently working under Defense Department contracts and subcontracts	65,000
Number of Iraqis currently employed by U.S.A.I.D. reconstruction projects	81,000
Iraqis employed by a single contractor, Bechtel, at its peak	40,000
Iraqi Bechtel employees who could have been “at risk” due to their U.S. affiliation, according to the company	All
Iraqi translators killed since 2003 <small>*Most of these translators were “assassinated at home or on their way home from work,” according to L-3 Communications, the contractor that provided most translators for the U.S. military in Iraq.</small>	At least* 257
Iraqi media workers killed since 2003 (working for either a foreign or local agency)	122

How has the U.S. responded?

Iraqi and Afghan military translators granted special visas to enter the U.S.	69
Iraqi and Afghan translators with approved special immigrant visa petitions from DHS	609
Iraqis the United States has admitted as refugees since 2003, including those who had fled during Saddam Hussein’s regime	794
Iraqis the United States has admitted as refugees who fled after the U.S. invasion in 2003	Fewer than 100
Number of U.S.-affiliated Iraqis whose cases have been documented and submitted to the State Department by Kirk Johnson, former USAID employee in Iraq and refugee advocate	500+
Number from Johnson’s list who have made it to the United States	0

Sources include the State Department Iraq Weekly Status Report, a letter from Secretary of Defense Robert Gates to Senator Edward Kennedy, conversations with spokespeople at L-3 Communications and Bechtel, the Committee to Protect Journalists, the US Refugee Processing Center website, and reporting in the Washington Post, LA Times, and Wall Street Journal.