

FACT SHEET FOR IRAQI ASYLUM SEEKERS

The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) is currently expanding processing for Iraqi refugees. In general, a refugee is a person who has crossed an international border and is unwilling or unable to return home because of past persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

All Iraqi asylum seekers located in third countries should register with the nearest United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office. Individuals who have left Iraq and believe they have been persecuted or have a well-founded fear of persecution (who fear or have experienced serious harm in Iraq) should approach the nearest UNHCR office for protection and assistance. UNHCR offices register asylum seekers and may refer for third country resettlement consideration those who are found to be particularly vulnerable and in need of resettlement. Refugees and asylum seekers should comply with all legal requirements of the country in which they are located, including registration with host governments if required.

Iraqi asylum seekers who have previously worked for organizations associated with the United States Government's effort in Iraq can provide us information about their employment. Individuals who believe they are at risk or have experienced serious harm as a result of association with MNF-I, a U.S. Mission in Iraq, or other U.S.-government funded program should register with UNHCR, as indicated above. In addition, such individuals may forward the following information to refquestions@wrapsnet.org:

- 1) Full name (exactly as reflected on Iraqi ID cards, citizenship certificates, and badges issued by employers; if more than one name has been used, all should be provided) and date of birth of individual claiming association with the U.S. Government;
- 2) Full names and dates of birth of spouse and minor children and any other dependent members of his/her household;
- 3) USG association: Employer's name (company name or U.S. Government agency), job title, name of immediate supervisor, and dates and location(s) of service;
- 4) Current location and contact information;
- 5) A brief description of his/her situation – status with UNHCR (including UNHCR registration number if available) and reasons for leaving Iraq.

It should be understood that forwarding such information to this address is not an application for resettlement in the United States and will not guarantee that the individual will have access to an interview for resettlement consideration. The information provided may lead the USG to seek confirmation of those individuals' association.

Reminder: **ALL Iraqi asylum seekers should register with UNHCR.** Submission of information to refquestions@wrapsnet.org should be considered an additional step in making individual circumstances known and is not a replacement for registration with UNHCR.