



Congressional Human Rights Caucus  
Members' Briefing:

## The Plight of Iraqi Refugees

Thursday, March 29, 2007  
2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Room 2255 Rayburn HOB

Thank you, Ms. Chairperson, for inviting the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants to testify before the Congressional Human Rights Caucus this afternoon. USCRI has been protecting refugees, serving immigrants, and upholding freedom since 1911.

For the past several years we have been reporting on the plight of Iraqi refugees in our annual publication, the World Refugee Survey and in other published reports and press releases. We had been impatiently waiting for the world's attention to focus on this unfolding disaster. We are pleased that the Congressional Human Rights Caucus is holding this briefing and sincerely hope it inspires urgent action.

I will not elaborate on the statistics, depiction, and scope of this crisis which has been ably described in previous testimony. Rather I would like to make several observations and recommendations.

**The United States must acknowledge our special obligation to Iraqi refugees.** Americans may have supported the invasion of Iraq four years ago or opposed military action. Americans may believe we should continue our military efforts until we win or support an immediate withdrawal of all troops. This debate and its outcome, as important as it is, will not change the fact that there are two million people who have fled from violence, terror, persecution, and insecurity. The sad fact is that America has been unable to protect these people while they were in Iraq. We have been unable

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