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## **PROPOSED LEGISLATION SOLUTION MARCH 5, 2007**

The USA PATRIOT Act and the REAL ID Act were meant to protect America from genuine terrorist threats. These Acts were not meant to exclude refugees and asylum seekers who have been victims of terrorism or oppressed by brutal regimes. To rectify this situation we need Congress to act:

- A legislative solution must be pursued that ensures that refugees and asylum seekers in need of protection and who pose no threat to the security of the U.S. are not barred from entry on account of the “material support” and related grounds of inadmissibility.
- A duress exception should be made explicit in the law and should not discriminate on the basis of which organization victimized the refugee.
- There must be a systematic process by which asylum seekers and refugees can apply for a waiver.

There are steps the Administration can take immediately that will effectively help refugees who are unfairly being excluded from admission by the United States. At the same time, Congress can enact legislation that can ameliorate many of the unintended consequences of the USA PATRIOT Act by ensuring that officials in this and future Administrations do not use the material support bar to exclude victims of terror.