

[ABOUT REFUGEES](#)[GET INVOLVED](#)[ABOUT USCRI](#)[TAKE ACTION](#)[GET EMAIL UPDATES](#)[SIGN UP](#)

**Donate
now** ▶

About Refugees

[End Warehousing](#)[Resettlement](#)[World Refugee Survey](#)[USCRI Network](#)[Immigration](#)[Newsroom](#)[USCRI Headlines](#)[Local Stories](#)[TV and Radio Coverage](#)[Press Releases](#)[Publications & Archives](#)

[About Refugees](#) > [Newsroom](#) > [USCRI Headlines](#)

For immediate release: October 22, 2009

Contact USCRI: (703) 310-1130 , uscric@uscrdc.org

Stop the Human Warehousing of Refugees: Actor/Advocate, Diplomat, & International Refugee NGO to Capitol Hill for Rights of Forgotten Refugees

WHAT:

"LOST" cast member and international advocate Jeff Fahey, the U.S. Committee for Refugees & Immigrants (USCRI), and former U.S. Ambassador Michael Ussery will host a press conference appealing for respect and action to enforce the basic rights on millions of refugees warehoused around the world -- from Thailand to Tindouf, Algeria. The 1951 Refugee Convention spells out the rights of refugees to live normal lives -- including the rights to work, practice professions, run businesses, own property, move about freely, and choose their place of residence. But more than 8 million of nearly 14 million refugees in the world are denied these rights in situations lasting 10 years or more. Instead, they are "warehoused" -- confined to camps or segregated settlements, or struggling in urban areas without legal rights and forced to subsist on international humanitarian aid, often for generations.

It doesn't have to be this way.

WHEN:

11:30 AM, Tuesday, October 27, 2009

WHERE:

Cannon House Office Building, Room 441
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WHO:

USCRI President and CEO Lavinia Limón will show how pioneering solidarity work in Thailand has produced a broad coalition of support for community hosting alternatives to forced encampment. She will release an Open Letter to Donors from endorsed by hundreds of Thai civil society and provincial community leaders and ordinary citizens calling on the international community to give them a chance with more rights-based approaches.

"LOST" cast member and international advocate Jeff Fahey and former US Ambassador Michael Ussery will present findings of their two recent trips to the Western Sahara where they interviewed dozens of Sahrawi refugees who recently fled the camps in nearby Algeria. Merrill Smith will present USCRI's new report "**Stonewalling on Refugee Rights: Algeria and the Sahrawi**" based on a recent trip to the Western Sahara and Algeria, including the refugee camps outside Tindouf. Two recent refugees will be available at the press briefing for questions.

Participants will also discuss the movement for alternatives, ranging from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) recent multilateral Dialogue on protracted refugee situations, the U.S. State Department's FY2010 pledge of \$400 million to address them, UNHCR's new policy on refugee protection in urban areas, and steps Congress can take.

CONTACT:

For media interested in covering the event or arranging interviews

USCRI
(703) 310-1130
uscric@uscrdc.org

About USCRI

[GET EMAIL UPDATES](#)

SEARCH:

[GO](#)

For nearly 100 years the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants has acted to address the needs and rights of persons in forced or voluntary migration worldwide by advancing fair and humane public policy, facilitating and providing direct professional services, and promoting the full participation of migrants in community life.

t

© 2010 USCRI | [contact](#) | [support](#) | [privacy](#) | [feedback](#) | [jobs](#) | [store](#) | [login](#) | [network login](#)