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For further information
 Contact: Sarah Petrin
 Phone: 202-347-3507
 E-mail: pressrelease@uscrdc.org

USCRI Appeals to Congress: \$250 million for Iraq's Refugees

WASHINGTON DC, January 29, 2007—The U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) welcomes recent calls from Senator Kennedy to resettle Iraqi refugees in the United States and urges Congress to provide \$250 million for refugees in the Iraq supplemental appropriations bill.

Since the *World Refugee Survey 2006* was released, an additional 500,000 Iraqis have been internally displaced and more than a million have sought refuge in Jordan. "In the past year alone, we have seen the displacement of Iraqis double," says USCRI President & CEO Lavinia Limón. Now, Iraqis are the fastest growing refugee crisis in the world with nearly 2 million people outside the country and 1.7 million internally displaced people (IDPs). "Iraq is literally hemorrhaging inside and out," says Limón.

The President is expected to ask for \$100 billion to advance the war. A proportion of these funds should go toward assisting Iraqis who have been persecuted due to sectarian divisions and ties to the United States. "For a mere \$250 million, we can make sure that those who support us and have paid a price are not left defenseless," says Limón.

USCRI urges \$110 million be provided for the resettlement of refugees to the United States; \$90 million to assist Iraqis in Jordan and Syria with access to local social services, housing, and income-generating activity; and \$50 million to assist communities inside Iraq overwhelmed with an influx of displaced people.

Population	Need	USD
Refugee Resettlement to the United States	Admission for refugees with special protection concerns	\$110,000,000
Refugee Assistance in the Middle East	Improve social services in refugee hosting countries, health, education, housing, income generating activity	\$90,000,000
Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Iraq	Infrastructure of receiving communities, water, sanitation, health, housing, employment	\$50,000,000
Total		\$250,000,000

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