

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3674

To address the impending humanitarian crisis and security breakdown as a result of the mass influx of Iraqi refugees into neighboring countries, and the growing internally displaced population in Iraq, by increasing directed accountable assistance to these populations and their host countries, increasing border security, and facilitating the resettlement of Iraqis at risk.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. MCGOVERN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To address the impending humanitarian crisis and security breakdown as a result of the mass influx of Iraqi refugees into neighboring countries, and the growing internally displaced population in Iraq, by increasing directed accountable assistance to these populations and their host countries, increasing border security, and facilitating the resettlement of Iraqis at risk.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Iraqi Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement, and Security Act of
4 2007”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Sense of Congress.
- Sec. 4. Statements of policy.
- Sec. 5. Humanitarian assistance for Iraqi refugees and IDPs.
- Sec. 6. Improved border security.
- Sec. 7. Special immigrant status.
- Sec. 8. Expedited processing of Iraqi refugees.
- Sec. 9. International cooperation.
- Sec. 10. Report to Congress.

8 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

9 Congress finds the following:

10 (1) Since the beginning of the war in Iraq, according to the Office of the United Nations High
11 Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), more than
12 2,000,000 Iraqis have fled their homes for neighboring countries to avoid sectarian and other violence.
13
14
15

16 (2) According to the UNHCR, there are
17 2,200,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in
18 Iraq, many lacking adequate food, shelter, and other
19 basic services;

20 (3) The security situation within Iraq reduces
21 access to the Iraqi population by Iraqi Government

1 agencies and humanitarian aid providers and greatly
2 limits the provision of aid.

3 (4) The dispersion of Iraqi refugees in poor
4 urban areas of host countries makes it exceedingly
5 difficult for humanitarian agencies to identify and
6 reach these populations.

7 (5) Iraq itself hosts more than 43,000 refugees
8 from other countries, many of whom were refugees
9 prior to 2003 and have been displaced in Iraq for a
10 second time, including many Palestinians.

11 (6) Palestinian refugee camps in Iraq near the
12 Syrian and Jordanian borders remain in dire need of
13 humanitarian assistance.

14 (7) Many Iraqis have put their lives and those
15 of their families at risk by working for the United
16 States Government, United States companies, and
17 nongovernmental organizations.

18 (8) Since March 2003, the United States Gov-
19 ernment has admitted 1,459 Iraqi refugees, while
20 Jordan, a resource-poor country, has accepted an es-
21 timated 750,000, Syria an estimated 1,500,000, and
22 other countries neighboring Iraq have received hun-
23 dreds of thousands more.

24 (9) Current United States policies governing
25 the processing of refugees constrain the Department

1 of Homeland Security from expediting the screening
2 procedures and increasing the number of Iraqi refu-
3 gees accepted into the United States.

4 (10) The massive flow of Iraqi refugees into
5 neighboring host countries has overwhelmed existing
6 social, economic, and security capacities of such
7 countries.

8 (11) The Government of Jordan and the Gov-
9 ernment of Syria require immediate assistance to
10 adequately assist Iraqi refugee populations, to en-
11 sure an effective degree of security within their re-
12 spective countries, and safeguard their borders.

13 (12) Increasing destitution and poverty among
14 displaced populations provide fertile ground for ex-
15 tremist ideologies to take root.

16 (13) The Iraq Study group predicted that “[a]
17 humanitarian catastrophe could follow as more refu-
18 gees are forced to relocate across the country and
19 the region.”.

20 (14) The humanitarian crisis in Iraq threatens
21 to destabilize the entire region and other areas as
22 well, including Central Asia and Europe.

23 (15) Jordan estimates that it needs more than
24 \$1,000,000,000 in emergency assistance and Syria
25 estimates it needs more than \$250,000,000 in simi-

1 lar assistance to adequately provide for the refugee
2 populations they are hosting, ensure an effective de-
3 gree of security within their respective countries,
4 and safeguard their borders.

5 (16) The United States policy is to admit at
6 least half of the refugees referred by the UNHCR.
7 In 2007, UNHCR referred more than 9,500 cases to
8 the United States. The United States pledged to re-
9 settle 7,000 Iraqi refugees in 2007, later reduced to
10 2,000, a commitment which has yet to be met.

11 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

12 It is the sense of Congress that—

13 (1) Iraqi refugees and IDPs will have an impact
14 on the security of the region and the short and long-
15 term effects of their displacement must be consid-
16 ered within overall United States Iraq policy;

17 (2) the United States must demonstrate its
18 commitment to resettle Iraqi refugees and to work
19 with other governments, including the member states
20 of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in
21 Europe, to encourage them to do the same; and

22 (3) the United States should express its grati-
23 tude and support to host countries for providing hu-
24 manitarian assistance to Iraqi refugees, as well as to

1 those countries that have already resettled Iraqi ref-
2 ugees.

3 **SEC. 4. STATEMENTS OF POLICY.**

4 The following shall be the policies of the United
5 States:

6 (1) To spearhead efforts to provide for the re-
7 lief of Iraqi refugees and IDPs, to take the lead in
8 funding assistance requests from the UNHCR and
9 other humanitarian agencies, and to assist in the re-
10 settlement of Iraqi refugees, particularly those who
11 have risked their lives and the lives of their families
12 to assist the United States in Iraq.

13 (2) To develop immediately a comprehensive
14 program to support the host countries and meet the
15 needs of the growing Iraqi refugee and IDP popu-
16 lations, and appoint a high-level coordinator to en-
17 sure expeditious and effective implementation of
18 such a program.

19 (3) To work with the Government of Iraq to
20 help it improve its capacity and ability to provide re-
21 lief for internally displaced persons in all commu-
22 nities throughout the country and to provide assist-
23 ance to Iraqi refugees in neighboring countries.

24 (4) To commit to working with international
25 partners, including the United Nations, donor coun-

1 (2) contributions to the International Federa-
2 tion of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and other
3 nongovernmental organizations working in such
4 countries to provide aid to Iraqi refugees; and

5 (3) contributions and technical assistance to
6 relevant ministries of the Government of Iraq, con-
7 tingent on matching Government of Iraq funding of
8 assistance programs for IDPs and Iraqi refugees in
9 neighboring countries, together with appropriate
10 monitoring mechanisms.

11 (c) SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO IDPs.—The
12 Secretary of State shall make every effort to ensure that
13 the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable IDP popu-
14 lations, including women, children, and religious and other
15 minorities, are met, including increased resources to im-
16 prove the registration capabilities of nongovernmental or-
17 ganizations for such IDPs, adequate food, shelter, clean
18 drinking water, sanitation, health care, education, and se-
19 curity .

20 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
21 authorized to be appropriated \$700,000,000 for each of
22 fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010 to carry out this sec-
23 tion. Amounts appropriated pursuant to this authorization
24 shall be in addition to amounts otherwise available for
25 such purposes.

1 **SEC. 6. IMPROVED BORDER SECURITY.**

2 (a) SECURITY SCREENING OF REFUGEES.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable but
4 not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
5 ment of this Act, the Secretary of the Department
6 of Homeland Security, in cooperation with the Sec-
7 retary of State, shall establish a program to assist
8 in improving the capacity of Jordanian border police,
9 immigration officers, and other individuals who are
10 responsible for Jordanian border security functions
11 in the security screening of Iraqi refugees to deter-
12 mine the eligibility of such refugees for acceptance
13 in Jordan.

14 (2) SCOPE OF ASSISTANCE.—The program de-
15 scribed in paragraph (1) shall be extended to ports
16 of entry at Jordanian land, sea, and air borders and
17 may include the following subject matter areas:

18 (A) Police and border guard training, in
19 order to conduct threat assessments of each ref-
20 ugee, detect threat items and contraband in the
21 possession or on the person of a refugee, and
22 identify any linkages of a refugee to terrorists
23 or terrorist organizations.

24 (B) Travel documentation authentication,
25 including equipment and training, in order to
26 aid in the verification of the authenticity of

1 passports and other travel documents presented
2 by refugees.

3 (C) Technology, including biometric equip-
4 ment for capturing a unique biometric of each
5 refugee to be matched with their biographic
6 data, and the establishment of a database for
7 such information, and remotely-piloted aircraft,
8 cameras, and sensors for border surveillance,
9 including the collection of intelligence to
10 counter smuggling and other criminal activities
11 along the borders.

12 (D) Personnel, for the purpose of inter-
13 dicting the illegal movement of people, weapons,
14 and other contraband across the border, includ-
15 ing an increase in the number of border police
16 and officers providing investigative support to
17 border security functions.

18 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 are authorized to be appropriated \$500,000,000 to carry
20 out this section.

21 **SEC. 7. SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
23 sion of law, for purposes of the Immigration and Nation-
24 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), the Secretary of Home-
25 land Security may provide an alien described in subsection

1 (b) with the status of a special immigrant under section
2 101(a)(27) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)), if the
3 alien—

4 (1) is otherwise eligible to receive an immigrant
5 visa; and

6 (2) is otherwise admissible to the United States
7 for permanent residence.

8 (b) ALIENS DESCRIBED.—

9 (1) PRINCIPAL ALIENS.—An alien is described
10 in this subsection if the alien—

11 (A) is a national of Iraq;

12 (B) was employed by, or worked for or
13 with, the United States Government, United
14 States companies, or nongovernmental organi-
15 zations in Iraq on or after March 19, 2003, for
16 a period of not less than one year; and

17 (C) fears reprisal, persecution, injury, or
18 death to the alien or the alien's family due to
19 the employment or work of the alien referred to
20 in subparagraph (B).

21 (2) SPOUSES AND CHILDREN.—An alien is de-
22 scribed in this subsection if the alien is—

23 (A) the spouse or child of a principal alien
24 described in paragraph (1); and

1 (B) is following or accompanying to join
2 the principal alien in the United States.

3 (c) BENEFITS.—Aliens provided special immigrant
4 status under this section shall be eligible for the same re-
5 settlement assistance, entitlement programs, and other
6 benefits as refugees admitted under section 207 of the Im-
7 migration and Naturalization Act (8 U.S.C. 1157).

8 (d) PROTECTION OF ALIENS.—The Secretary of
9 State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant
10 Federal agencies, shall provide an alien described in this
11 section who is applying for a special immigrant visa with
12 protection or the immediate removal from Iraq if the Sec-
13 retary determines that such alien fears reprisal, persecu-
14 tion, injury, or death to the alien or the alien's family due
15 to the employment or work of the alien referred to in para-
16 graph (1)(B).

17 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
18 authorized to be appropriated \$500,000,000 for each of
19 fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010 to carry out this sec-
20 tion. Amounts appropriated pursuant to this authorization
21 shall be in addition to amounts otherwise available for
22 such purposes.

23 **SEC. 8. EXPEDITED PROCESSING OF IRAQI REFUGEES.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
25 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Home-

1 land Security, in cooperation with the Secretary of State,
2 shall make every effort to streamline the screening and
3 security investigations processes for assessing the eligi-
4 bility of Iraqi applicants for refugee status in the United
5 States.

6 (b) PRIORITIZATION.—In carrying out subsection (a),
7 the Secretary shall—

8 (1) give priority to Iraqis who—

9 (A) were employed by the United States
10 Government, United States companies, and
11 nongovernmental organizations; or

12 (B) are members of particularly vulnerable
13 refugee populations, including Iraqis from eth-
14 nically mixed families and Iraqis who are mem-
15 bers of religious or other minority groups; and

16 (2) increase by 100 percent the number of per-
17 sonnel of the Department of Homeland Security who
18 conduct security reviews of Iraqi applicants for ref-
19 ugee status in the United States.

20 (c) NUMBERS.—For each of fiscal years 2008, 2009,
21 and 2010, up to 20,000 Iraqis may be accepted into the
22 United States as refugees under this section.

23 **SEC. 9. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.**

24 The Secretary of State, in cooperation with the Sec-
25 retary of Homeland Security, shall work with the inter-

1 national community, including the United Nations, the
2 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the
3 European Union, the Organization of American States,
4 the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and others
5 to establish mechanisms to provide—

6 (1) financial assistance to Iraqi refugee and
7 IDP populations through bilateral assistance to host
8 governments or through international organizations
9 that are working directly with such refugee and in-
10 ternally displaced populations;

11 (2) technical and financial assistance to inter-
12 national organizations in order to process refugees;
13 and

14 (3) increased attention to and advocacy on be-
15 half of Iraqi refugees and IDPs by continuing to
16 strongly support the work of the UNHCR and its
17 donor conferences.

18 **SEC. 10. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

19 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
20 ment of this Act and every six months thereafter, the Sec-
21 retary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign
22 Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House
23 of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Rela-
24 tions and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate
25 a report regarding implementation of this Act, including—

1 (1) assistance and funding to host countries
2 and international aid organizations and nongovern-
3 mental organizations pursuant to section 5, and ac-
4 countability reports regarding how such funds are
5 being expended;

6 (2) measures taken by the United States to in-
7 crease its capabilities to process Iraqi refugees for
8 resettlement and the number of Iraqi refugees reset-
9 tled under sections 7 and 8; and

10 (3) an evaluation of the effectiveness of meas-
11 ures implemented by agencies of the Government of
12 Iraq to provide direct assistance to IDPs and Iraqi
13 refugees in neighboring countries.

○