

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2486

To keep faith with the thousands of Iraqi nationals who have risked everything by assisting and working for the United States Government and United States Armed Forces in Iraq, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 24, 2007

Mr. ACKERMAN 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 keep faith with the thousands of Iraqi nationals who have risked everything by assisting and working for the United States Government and United States Armed Forces in Iraq, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. LONG TITLE AND SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be referred to as the “President Gerald
5 R. Ford Iraqi Ally and Refugee Responsibility Memorial
6 Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS REGARDING IRAQI REF-**
2 **UGEES.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

4 (1) President George W. Bush, asserting a
5 grave and immediate threat to the United States
6 from Iraqi weapons of mass destruction (WMD),
7 asked Congress to provide an authorization for the
8 use of military force against Iraq if Iraq did not
9 comply with international disarmament require-
10 ments.

11 (2) Passed by Congress, President Bush signed
12 H.J. Res. 114, To Authorize the Use of United
13 States Armed Forces Against Iraq, into law on Oc-
14 tober 16, 2002, becoming Public Law 107–243.

15 (3) On March 20, 2003, at the direction of
16 President Bush, United States Armed Forces, to-
17 gether with Coalition partners, initiated Operation
18 Iraqi Freedom pursuant to Public Law 107–243,
19 and within 30 days the government of Saddam Hus-
20 sein was removed from power.

21 (4) In keeping with United States obligations
22 under the Geneva Conventions, customary inter-
23 national law, and a subsequent mandate by the
24 United Nations Security Council, as the principle oc-
25 cupying power, the United States took temporary re-
26 sponsibility for Iraq, establishing first the Office for

1 Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance, and
2 subsequently, the Coalition Provisional Authority.

3 (5) As the principle occupying power, the
4 United States enacted a broad institutional trans-
5 formation in Iraq in order to establish a new and
6 democratic Iraqi Government.

7 (6) Under United States direction and control,
8 Iraqis adopted a transitional national assembly,
9 adopted a new constitution, conducted parliamentary
10 elections, and established a new government that re-
11 mains incapable of establishing and maintaining law
12 and order.

13 (7) During the United States occupation and
14 subsequent to the return of sovereignty to Iraq,
15 “[s]everal thousand” Iraqis in Iraq have come to
16 work for the United States Government and Armed
17 Forces, according to Ellen Sauerbrey, Assistant Sec-
18 retary of State for Population, Refugees and Migra-
19 tion.

20 (8) The ongoing instability and chaos, violence,
21 and ethnic, religious, and sectarian conflict in Iraq
22 have prompted nearly 4,000,000 Iraqis to become
23 refugees or internally displaced persons.

24 (9) Iraqis who have assisted or worked for the
25 United States are widely considered to be “collabo-

1 rators” by other Iraqis, and they face a real and
2 persistent fear of persecution, physical harm, or
3 death, to themselves and their families.

4 (10) There is currently no facility within Iraq
5 where refugees or displaced persons can register
6 with either the United States Government or with
7 the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

8 (11) The internally displaced Iraqi population is
9 estimated by the United Nations High Commissioner
10 for Refugees (UNHCR) to be 1,900,000, with that
11 number growing by 50,000 each month.

12 (12) The Iraqi refugee population of approxi-
13 mately 2,000,000 has imposed tremendous costs on
14 countries neighboring Iraq, many of which are poor
15 and struggling with other large refugee populations
16 within their borders.

17 (13) The United States has admitted only 692
18 Iraqi refugees since 2003.

19 (14) The special immigrant visa program for
20 Iraqi and Afghan translators working for the United
21 States Armed Forces established under section 1059
22 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
23 Year 2006 has a six year waiting list.

24 (15) Paula Dobriansky, Undersecretary of
25 State for Democracy and Global Affairs, announced

1 on February 14, 2007, that the United States in-
2 tended to process 7,000 refugee referrals from
3 UNHCR “in the near term”.

4 (16) Subsequently, Assistant Secretary
5 Sauerbrey acknowledged that, because of security
6 screening issues, “under the best of circumstances
7 ... perhaps half of the number that we actually are
8 addressing in the fiscal year that we’ll be ready—
9 travel ready before the end of September.”.

10 (17) Between May 1, 1975, and December 20,
11 1975, at the direction of President Gerald Ford, the
12 United States Government and United States Armed
13 Forces facilitated the movement to the United
14 States of over 131,000 South Vietnamese political
15 refugees.

16 **SEC. 3. UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD IRAQI REFUGEES.**

17 (1) The United States accepts responsibility for
18 the welfare and safety of Iraqis, and their immediate
19 family members, who, as a consequence of working
20 for or assisting the United States Government or
21 United States Armed Forces, have become internally
22 displaced or refugees, or have developed a well-
23 grounded fear of persecution or physical harm.

24 (2) The United States will assist all Iraq refu-
25 gees, including internally displaced Iraqis, to an ex-

1 tent commensurate with the overall level of United
2 States expenditures and effort in Iraq, and acknowl-
3 edges that actions by the United States contributed
4 to the refugee problem that developed subsequent to
5 the United States-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

6 (3) The United States will assist all Iraq refu-
7 gees, including internally displaced Iraqis, inde-
8 pendent of United States efforts to pacify Iraq and
9 assist Iraq with its redevelopment and reconstruc-
10 tion.

11 **SEC. 4. PRESIDENTIAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

12 Not later than 60 days after the date of the enact-
13 ment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appro-
14 priate congressional committees an unclassified report
15 on—

16 (1) the number of Iraqis (including immediate
17 family members), who, since March 20, 2003, have
18 been employed in Iraq by the United States Govern-
19 ment or United States Armed Forces, and in par-
20 ticular—

21 (A) the number of whom have become in-
22 ternally displaced within Iraq or have become
23 refugees in another country, or have sought to
24 enter, or resettle in, the United States; and

1 (B) the number of whom have been killed
2 as a direct or indirect consequence of their em-
3 ployment by or assistance to the United States
4 Government or United States Armed Forces;

5 (2) the number of Iraqis (including immediate
6 family members), who, since March 20, 2003, have
7 been employed in Iraq by countries participating in
8 coalition efforts in Iraq, and in particular—

9 (A) the number of whom have become in-
10 ternally displaced within Iraq or have become
11 refugees in another country, or have sought to
12 enter, or resettle in, the United States; and

13 (B) the number of whom have been killed
14 as a direct or indirect consequence of their em-
15 ployment by or assistance to countries partici-
16 pating in coalition efforts in Iraq;

17 (3) the number of Iraqis (including immediate
18 family members), who, since March 20, 2003, have
19 been employed by United States-hired or coalition-
20 hired contractors supporting coalition efforts in Iraq,
21 and in particular—

22 (A) the number of whom have become in-
23 ternally displaced within Iraq or have become
24 refugees in another country, or have sought to
25 enter, or resettle in, the United States; and

1 (B) the number of whom have been killed
2 as a direct or indirect consequence of their em-
3 ployment by or assistance to contractors partici-
4 pating in coalition efforts in Iraq; and

5 (4) the number of Iraqis (including immediate
6 family members) who, since March 20, 2003, have
7 been employed by United States or international
8 nongovernmental organizations working in Iraq, and
9 in particular—

10 (A) the number of whom have become in-
11 ternally displaced within Iraq or have become
12 refugees in another country, or have sought to
13 enter, or resettle in, the United States; and

14 (B) the number of whom have been killed
15 as a direct or indirect consequence of their em-
16 ployment by or assistance to nongovernmental
17 organizations participating in reconstruction ef-
18 forts in Iraq.

19 **SEC. 5. PLANS TO ACCELERATE UNITED STATES ASSIST-**
20 **ANCE TO IRAQI REFUGEES.**

21 Not later than 60 days after the date of the enact-
22 ment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appro-
23 priate congressional committees an unclassified report on
24 options and plans to accelerate—

1 (1) the review by the United States Government
2 of UNHCR referrals of Iraqis seeking refugee sta-
3 tus;

4 (2) the operation of the special immigrant visa
5 program for Iraq and Afghan translators established
6 under section 1059 of the National Defense Author-
7 ization Act for Fiscal Year 2006;

8 (3) the review process by the Department of
9 Homeland Security of pending applications for ref-
10 ugee status by Iraqi refugees; and

11 (4) the use of existing Department of State fa-
12 cilities within Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East
13 to process visa and refugee applications from Iraqis.

14 **SEC. 6. PRESIDENTIAL PROPOSALS TO CONGRESS.**

15 Not later than 120 days after the date of the enact-
16 ment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress—

17 (1) legislative proposals to facilitate the accept-
18 ance by the United States of each Iraqi seeking
19 entry into the United States or resettlement in the
20 United States due to a well-founded fear of persecu-
21 tion on account of employment by or assistance to
22 the United States or a coalition country in Iraq;

23 (2) legislative proposals to amend the definition
24 of terrorist activity in the Immigration and Nation-

1 ality Act to capture only those groups that truly
2 threaten the security of the United States;

3 (3) legislative proposals to amend the definition
4 of material support under the Immigration and Na-
5 tionality Act to account for actions that may have
6 been taken under duress;

7 (4) an estimate of the personnel and financial
8 resources necessary to facilitate, not later than one
9 year after the date on which the legislative proposals
10 required under paragraph (1) are submitted, the ac-
11 ceptance by the United States of each Iraqi seeking
12 entry into the United States or resettlement in the
13 United States because of a well-founded fear of per-
14 secution as a consequence of employment or assist-
15 ance to the United States or a coalition country in
16 Iraq; and

17 (5) a plan for the relocation, or absorption into
18 the United States, of each Iraqi seeking entry into
19 the United States or resettlement in the United
20 States because of a well-founded fear of persecution
21 as a consequence of employment or assistance to the
22 United States or a coalition country in Iraq.

23 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

24 (a) SECRETARY OF STATE.—There is authorized to
25 be appropriated \$100,000,000 to the Secretary of State

1 for each of fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010, for the re-
2 lief and resettlement in the United States of Iraqi refu-
3 gees, including internally displaced Iraqis.

4 (b) SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—There is
5 authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 to the Sec-
6 retary of Homeland Security for each of fiscal years 2008,
7 2009, 2010, for the purposes of reviewing pending applica-
8 tions for refugee status by Iraqi refugees, including inter-
9 nally displaced Iraqis.

10 **SEC. 8. REPORT ON REGIONAL IMPACT OF REFUGEE CRI-**
11 **SIS.**

12 Not later than 60 days after the date of the enact-
13 ment of this Act and not later than 60 days after the con-
14 clusion of each of the fiscal years specified in section 7,
15 the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate con-
16 gressional committees a report specifying—

17 (1) the burdens that Iraqi refugee populations
18 are placing on their host countries;

19 (2) the abilities of such host countries to cope
20 with such burdens;

21 (3) the security challenges that Iraqi refugee
22 flows pose for countries in the region and the United
23 States; and

1 (4) the steps taken by the United States, such
2 countries in the region, and the international com-
3 munity to address such challenges.

4 **SEC. 9. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-**
5 **FINED.**

6 In this Act, the term “appropriate congressional com-
7 mittees” means—

8 (1) with respect to sections 4 and 5—

9 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
10 Committee on the Judiciary, and the Com-
11 mittee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
12 resentatives; and

13 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations,
14 the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Com-
15 mittee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

16 (2) with respect to section 8—

17 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
18 the Committee on Appropriations of the House
19 of Representatives; and

20 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
21 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
22 Senate.

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