

According to the U.S. Department of State, 115,826 Iraqis are employed by U.S. government programs.<sup>1</sup>

The U.S. has granted 1,409 Special Immigrant Visas to Iraqi translators and their families as of the end of March 2008.<sup>2</sup>

***“We are committed to honoring our moral debt to those Iraqis who have provided assistance to the United States military and embassy.”***

Under Secretary of State Paula Dobriansky, May 2007



The badges and medal belong to an engineer and translator who worked with the U.S. troops in Anbar province. His family was attacked and threatened as a result of his cooperation. One of his brothers was kidnapped and presumably murdered. His head was grazed by a bullet. He fled to Amman, Jordan, seeking safety.

## Who is at risk?

Iraqis working for Department of Defense and its contractors, according to Senior Coordinator for Iraqi Refugee Issues Amb. James Foley	<b>Tens of thousands<sup>3</sup></b>
Iraqis working for the Department of State and USAID, according to Amb. Foley	<b>Thousands<sup>4</sup></b>
Iraqis employed by a single contractor, Bechtel Corporation	<b>More than 40,000<sup>5</sup></b>
Iraqi Bechtel employees potentially at risk due to their U.S. affiliation, according to the company	<b>All<sup>6</sup></b>
Translators working for a single contractor, Titan Corporation, killed between 2003 and January 2007	<b>257<sup>7</sup></b>
Iraqi media workers killed since 2003 (working for either a foreign or a local agency)	<b>154<sup>8</sup></b>

## How has the U.S. responded?

Iraqi refugees UNHCR referred to the U.S. from January 2007 through April 2008	<b>24,174<sup>9</sup></b>
Iraqis the United States admitted as refugees from January 2007 through April 2008	<b>5,175<sup>10</sup></b>
Percentage of UNHCR referrals who are Iraqis who have worked for the United States	<b>5%<sup>11</sup></b>
Iraqi translators and their family members granted Special Immigrant Visas as of the end of March 2008	<b>1,409<sup>12</sup></b>
Number of U.S.-affiliated Iraqis whose cases have been documented and submitted to the State Department by Kirk Johnson, former USAID employee in Iraq and refugee advocate	<b>About 1,000<sup>13</sup></b>
Number from Kirk Johnson's list who have made it to the United States	<b>40 (including family members)</b>

<sup>1</sup> Department of State (<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/104604.pdf>)

<sup>2</sup> Department of State (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2008/apr/103623.htm>) The U.S. Government does not track how many individuals granted Special Immigrant Visas actually enter the U.S.

<sup>3</sup> Ambassador James Foley, House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight and Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, Hearing on Iraqi Refugees, March 11, 2008.

<sup>4</sup> Id.

<sup>5</sup> Bechtel Corporation (<http://www.bechtel.com/milestones2.html>)

<sup>6</sup> Conversation with a Bechtel spokesperson.

<sup>7</sup> Joel Millman and Gina Chon, *Lost in Translation*, Wall Street Journal, January 18, 2007.

<sup>8</sup> Committee to Protect Journalists ([http://www.cpj.org/Briefings/Iraq/Iraq\\_danger.html](http://www.cpj.org/Briefings/Iraq/Iraq_danger.html))

<sup>9</sup> UNHCR, Iraq Situation Update, March 2008; UNHCR, Iraq Situation Update, April-May 2008.

<sup>10</sup> Department of State (<http://www.wrapsnet.org/Reports/AdmissionsArrivals/tabid/211/language/en-US/Default.aspx>)

<sup>11</sup> Based on the more than 9,000 UNHCR referrals as of August, 2007 ([http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/29/world/middleeast/29refugees.html?\\_r=1&oref=login](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/29/world/middleeast/29refugees.html?_r=1&oref=login))

<sup>12</sup> Department of State (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2008/apr/103623.htm>)

<sup>13</sup> E-mail correspondence with Kirk Johnson.