

April 15, 2008

Dear Member of Congress,

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing collectively on behalf of your constituents who have come to Washington, DC to address the humanitarian crisis in Iraq. Together, we voice our deep concern about the desperate situation of millions of vulnerable Iraqis both in Iraq and throughout the region. The United States government must lead the international community in providing assistance to these vulnerable Iraqis and countries hosting Iraqi refugees. Without strong U.S. leadership, most of the world will likely continue to ignore this devastating crisis and its consequences for Iraqi civilians, the future of Iraq, and the stability of the region.

From the perspective of our coalition, which includes U.S. non-governmental organizations operational in the region and those helping Iraqi refugees resettle in the United States, far more support is needed. We join with many of your constituents today to urge the United States to:

- ◆ Strengthen humanitarian aid to the region
- ◆ Increase support for development that is essential for long-term peace in Iraq
- ◆ Increase U.S. admissions and expedite resettlement of vulnerable Iraqi refugees

We urge you, as a member of Congress, to take leadership on these critical issues by:

- 1) Working with colleagues to appropriate **at least \$508 million<sup>1</sup>** in the upcoming emergency supplemental to assist vulnerable Iraqi civilians, provide a **significant increase** in aid to host countries in the region, and fund 50 percent of all appeals from international organizations serving Iraqis. Because this crisis is so urgent, the upcoming supplemental is the next best opportunity to provide this vital assistance.
- 2) Actively supporting legislation to improve humanitarian aid for displaced Iraqis, assist host countries in the region, and ensure the United States resettle a substantial number of Iraqi refugees.
- 3) Utilizing Congressional oversight to ensure the implementation of enacted legislation and encourage the United States and international community to immediately respond to the humanitarian crisis in Iraq.
- 4) Urging the President to publicly acknowledge the crisis and increase collaboration with the Government of Iraq and the international community to respond to the urgency of this humanitarian crisis.

Millions of Iraqis cannot wait. Together with your constituents, we ask you to take action now.

Sincerely,

InterAction  
Refugee Council USA  
Education for Peace in Iraq Center  
International Rescue Committee  
3D Security Initiative  
Amnesty International USA  
Chaldean Federation of America  
Chaldean Assyrian Syriac Council of America  
Church World Service  
Center for Victims of Torture  
The Episcopal Church  
Human Rights First

International Medical Corps  
Mandaean Associations Union  
Maryknoll Office of Global Concern  
Mercy Corps  
NETWORK: a National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
North American Dominican Justice and Peace Promoters  
Open Society Policy Center  
Oxfam America  
Refugees International  
Veterans for Common Sense  
Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children  
World Relief



<sup>1</sup> (Note: This includes \$125 million for the MRA account, \$185 million for the IDA account, \$120 million for the ESF account for USAID's CAP program and \$78 million for ORR. In addition, ESF should include up to \$900 million for Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt).