



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

Update on Resettlement statistics for Palestinian and Iranian Refugees At Al Waleed – December 2009

Palestinians (number mainly reflect cases from Al Waleed)

- Currently there are 336 Palestinian cases/**1,149** individuals in the camp.
- A total of 484 cases/1,844 individuals were referred for resettlement of which **382 cases/1,479** individuals were referred to the USA since 2008. Of this **296 cases/1,103** individuals have been provisionally accepted by the US and are waiting security clearance to depart. The rest are pending decisions.
- Since 2007, approximately 500 Palestinian refugees were resettled from Al Waleed and departed for various countries (Europe and USA).
- So far, a total of 63 cases/275 Palestinian refugees have been evacuated to the Emergency Transfer Centres in Romanian and Slovakia.
- Direct departures to the US started since second half of 2009. So far 50 refugees departed directly to the US from Al Waleed (via Baghdad).
- 24 cases/68 persons submitted to France and pending decision.

Iranians (Kurds and Ahwazis)

- Total of Ahwazi case submitted for resettlement is 42 case / 172 persons. 17 cases / 55 persons have departed to various countries from 2007-2009.
- More recently in July 2009, the Ahwazi group was relocated to the Al Waleed refugee camp where UNHCR Iraq will look into resettlement as the primary durable solutions of this small group and other durable solutions, such as local integration, for the bulk of the population in the south of Iraq around Basra.
- UNHCR is exploring durable solution options including follow up on case referred and pending decision from resettlement countries.
- **Iranian Kurds**: There are around 10,000 Iranian Kurdish refugees in Iraq; a longstanding refugee caseload. The vast majority of Iranian Kurds are now located in northern Iraq. Conditions in the Kurdistan Region (KR) area are considered conducive to local integration.

- However, since May 2005, there has been a group of around 40 cases/181 Iranian Kurds sitting in No-Man's Land between Iraq and Jordan, who remained at this location until June 2009. The groups have now been moved to Al Waleed refugee camp where consideration will be given to the most effective durable solutions for this group – including the potential for integration with other Kurds in the KR and resettlement for vulnerable medical cases.