

Refugee Reports

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2003 STATISTICAL ISSUE

This is our special year-end statistical issue, compiled by Alyson Springer. In addition to tables and graphs on domestic and international refugee programs, this issue includes the index for Refugee Reports, Volume 24. The issue begins with recent developments on refugee news.

ADVOCATES SEEK TO ELIMINATE CAPS ON ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS FOR ASYLEES AND OTHERS

In recent months, advocates have intensified efforts to eliminate several provisions of law that limit asylee and public interest parolee access to permanent resident status in the United States. Organizations in Washington D.C. and throughout the country have made repealing the caps on adjustment of status during this legislative session a priority. While several legislative proposals, notably the Refugee Protection Act (introduced in the Senate in 2001 and in the House of Representatives in 2002), have contained provisions to eliminate the asylee adjustment cap in recent years, none has had the elimination of the caps as its exclusive purpose.

While a grant of asylum status allows a law-abiding asylee to remain in the United States, three provisions of law restrict the ability of asylees and public interest parolees

(PIPs) to apply for adjustment to permanent resident status ("green cards"), the first step towards citizenship in the United States. According to a recent statement signed by some 90 immigrant and refugee organizations, the three caps, which were enacted at different times during the past two decades, "serve no public policy purpose and create needless hardship for thousands of individuals who legally reside in the U.S. and are eager to start on the path towards full integration and citizenship. These caps do not limit the number of individuals who can enter the United States but create barriers for immigrants with legal status in the United States."

Since the enactment of the Immigration Act of 1990, a total of 10,000 visas have been available each year for asylees applying for permanent resident status. In order to apply for adjustment of status, an asylee 1) must be physically present in the United States for one year after being granted asylum, 2) must be admissible, 3) must continue to meet the definition of a "refugee," and 4) must not be firmly resettled in another country. In addition, a visa must be available for the asylee; if none is available (if all 10,000 visas have been used), the asylee must wait to become a permanent resident.

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Because more than 10,000 individuals are granted asylum each year—some 25,000 were granted asylum in 2003—the 10,000 annual cap on asylee adjustment has created a waiting list of approximately 150,000 asylees. Asylees who apply in 2004 to become permanent residents face at least a 15-year wait. Because of the cap and other waiting and processing periods, an individual granted asylum in 2004 will not become a U.S. citizen for at least 20 years.

The second cap that advocates seek to abolish is the limit on the number of Chinese asylum seekers who can be granted asylum on the basis of coercive population control (CPC). Since the enactment of “The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996” (IIRIRA), an asylum seeker “who has been forced to abort a pregnancy or to undergo involuntary sterilization, or who has been persecuted for failure or refusal to undergo such a procedure or for other resistance to a coercive population control program” has qualified as a refugee.

The law limits the number of individuals who may be granted asylum on the basis of CPC to a maximum of 1,000 each year. Because at least 7,000 individuals have already been granted asylum on this basis, individuals fleeing CPC are granted conditional asylum status and must wait seven years before becoming eligible for asylum.

After receiving unconditional asylum status, due to the asylum adjustment cap, they will wait 20 years to become legal permanent residents and up to 27 years from the date they are granted asylum to become U.S. citizens.

The third cap involves the number of Public Interest Parolees who may apply for permanent resident status. The Foreign Operations Appropriations Act of 2001, which was enacted in November 2000, provided for the adjustment of status of individuals from Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam who were paroled into the United States before October 1, 1997, either from Vietnam under the Orderly Departure Program, from a refugee camp in East Asia, or from a displaced persons camp administered by the United Nations in Thailand.

Regulations to implement the law were promulgated in January 2003. Because a total of 5,000 parolees may apply for residency under this provision of law, and there are an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 parolees eligible for adjustment of status, thousands of parolees may never have the chance to obtain permanent residency unless the cap is eliminated.

The benefits of permanent residency include the ability to sponsor family members to live in the United States and to travel without first obtaining permission from the

Temporary Protected Status (TPS): Eligible Groups and Registration Dates

TPS Country	Entered U.S. by	Regular Initial Registration Ending	Current TPS Expiration
Angola	03-29-00	03-29-01	Terminated
Burundi	11-04-97	11-03-98	11-02-04
El Salvador	02-13-01	09-09-02	03-09-05
Honduras	12-30-98	07-05-99	01-05-05
Liberia*	10-01-02	03-31-03	10-01-04
Montserrat	08-22-97	08-27-98	08-27-04
Nicaragua	12-30-98	07-05-99	01-05-05
Sierra Leone	11-04-97	11-03-98	05-03-04
Somalia	09-16-91	09-16-92	09-17-04
Sudan	11-04-97	11-03-98	11-02-04

* TPS for Liberians was reinstated on October 1, 2002, after expiring on September 28, 1999. TPS replaced deferred enforced departure (DED) for more than 15,000 Liberians living in the United States.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Citizenship and Immigration Services

U.S. government (which can take about a year for U.S. immigration authorities to issue). According to Traci Hong, staff attorney with the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, “The caps should be rescinded in the interest of family reunification. Because of the caps, asylees and public interest parolees will be separated from close family members, relatives left behind may continue to endure persecution, and asylees and parolees may not even be able to visit family members who have found refuge in countries other than the United States.”

In addition, certain employment, educational, housing, and financial opportunities, such as teaching certification, professional licenses, and mortgage applications, as well as the opportunity to serve in the military, are not available to asylees or parolees until they become permanent residents. According to Cory Smith, Legislative Counsel of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, “It is in our national interest to facilitate the integration of asylees into society so they can contribute more fully to the economic and social fabric of our nation.”

According to Gideon Aronoff, Vice President for Government Relations and Public Policy for the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, there are no security implications of repealing the caps, because they apply only to individuals who have already demonstrated that they were persecuted in their countries and have already been offered protection by the United States. Aronoff said, “As a prerequisite to being granted asylum, asylees have been subject to fingerprinting and rigorous security checks. Repeal of the caps would in no way diminish reviews that are currently undertaken both in the granting of asylum or parole status, or in adjusting their status to lawful permanent resident. In fact, if the caps were removed, those applying would again be subject to security checks as required to grant a green card or approve an application for citizenship.”

The caps also effect the U.S. government’s resources. Coordinating information for the purpose of administering the caps involves an expenditure of time, money, and other resources that could be used elsewhere. Recently, immigration and State Department authorities have indicated that they would support the repeal of the cap on asylee adjustment.

(Editor’s note: Melanie Nezer of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society—HIAS—contributed this article.)

PRESIDENT BUSH PROPOSES NEW TEMPORARY WORKER PROGRAM

On January 7, President Bush proposed a new temporary worker program designed to match foreign workers with U.S. employers when no Americans can be found to fill the jobs. The program would be open to new foreign workers and—at least initially—to undocumented men and women currently employed in the United States. According to the Administration, the new program would allow workers who currently hold jobs to come out of hiding and participate legally in America’s economy “while not encouraging further illegal behavior.”

Speaking from the White House, the president said the program is part of a larger effort to achieve immigration reform. That reform, he said, will be designed to: 1) protect the homeland by controlling U.S. borders; 2) serve America’s economy by matching workers and employers; 3) promote compassion for undocumented workers; 4) provide incentives for temporary workers to return to their home countries; and 5) protect legal immigrants’ rights “while not unfairly rewarding those who came here unlawfully or hope to do so.”

Under the proposal, participants would receive a legal status that would “last three years, be renewable, and would have an end.” All temporary workers would receive a temporary worker card that enables them to travel back and forth between their home country and the United States. However, the program will require them to return to their home country after their period of work has ended. As an incentive to return, the United States will work with other countries to allow temporary workers to receive credit in their nations’ retirement systems and will support the creation of tax-preferred savings accounts they can collect when they return.

As proposed, the program would not be linked to permanent residence status—green cards, which permit holders to apply for citizenship after five years—or citizenship but would not preclude participants from obtaining green card status or citizenship through existing processes. Temporary workers who wish to pursue citizenship, the president said, will “be placed in line for citizenship behind those who are already in line.”

Benefits or Caveats?

According to the White House, temporary workers would

be able to live and work legally and openly, “which brings improved working conditions,” to travel to their home countries, to negotiate salary and benefits, and to move to another employer participating in the program.

Under the plan, family members could join participants, as long as workers prove that they can support their family members in the United States. Family members wishing to work, however, would have to join the program in order to do so.

According to the president, the United States will increase enforcement against companies that do not “make every reasonable effort” to find an American to fill a job before extending job offers to foreign workers. The U.S. Border Patrol—which increased from 9,800 in September 2001 to 10,800 in December 2003—will continue its intensified work, including installing monitoring devices along the borders and increasing patrols at ports of entry.

Finally, the program would—in the future—be limited to foreign workers outside the United States. “In the future, only people outside the U.S. may join the temporary worker program, and there will be an orderly system in place to address the needs of workers and companies,” the announcement said.

According to the White House, “While the details of the program will be worked out during discussions with Congress, we envision that the temporary worker program will simplify employers’ hiring of foreign workers and contain sufficient protections to protect the American workforce.” They anticipate that the program will include: a website listing available jobs and authorized workers; a process for employers to establish that they have been unable to find American workers; a requirement that the employer report when foreign workers enter and leave their employ; and “strong audit and penalty provisions to ensure that both employers and workers are following the rules.”

(Editor’s note: Refugee Reports will provide detailed information on the president’s proposal and advocates’ reactions and concerns in future issues.)

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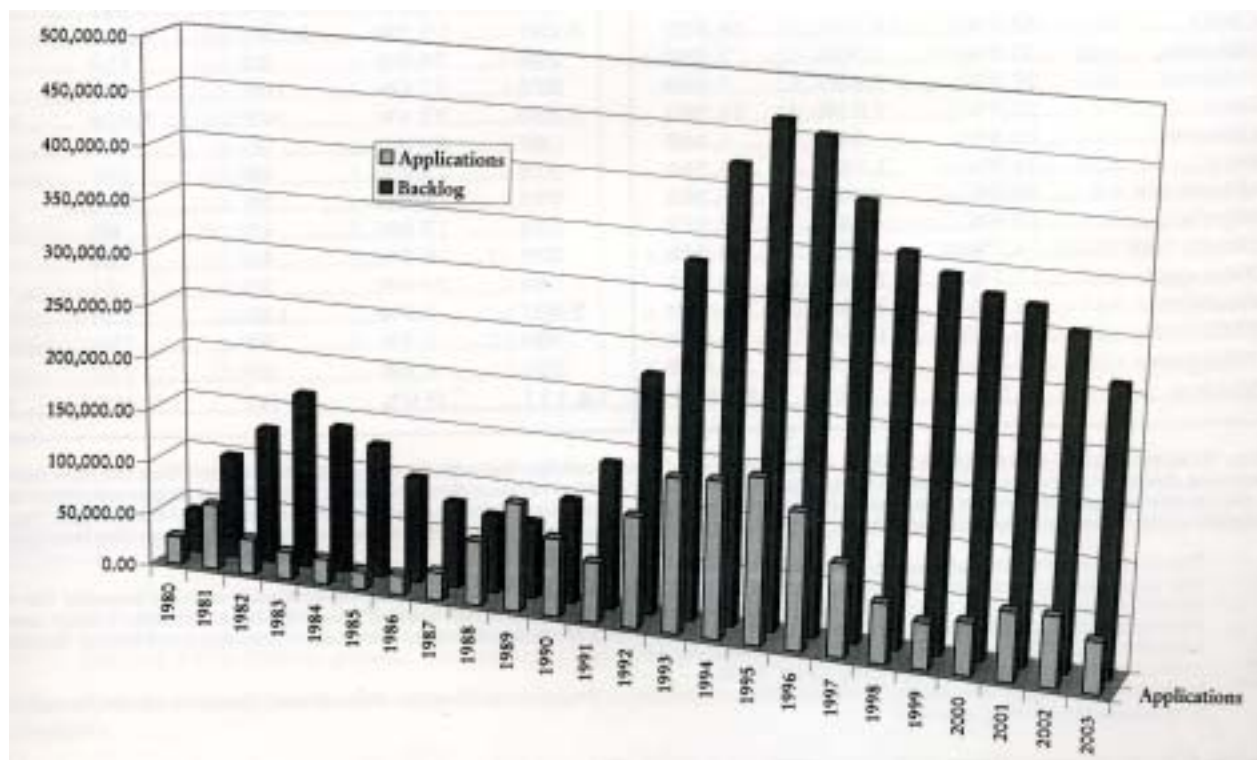
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Shannon Dennett, Managing Editor

ASYLUM CASES FILED WITH THE U.S. CIS (former INS) APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AND BACKLOG, FY 1980-2003

Year	Applications Received*	Applications Pending at End of Year
1980	26,512	40,011
1981**	61,568	97,459
1982**	33,296	128,387
1983	26,091	165,998
1984	24,295	138,601
1985	16,622	126,311
1986	18,889	99,408
1987	26,107	80,730
1988	60,736	73,109
1989	101,679	71,993
1990	73,637	97,288
1991	56,310	137,046
1992	103,964	223,709
1993	144,166	331,389
1994	146,468	422,105
1995	154,464	464,121
1996	128,190	453,580
1997	85,866	399,826
1998	54,952	358,376
1999	42,207	342,485
2000	48,054	328,820
2001	63,230	323,251
2002	64,644	303,810
2003***	46,945	262,118



* Applications received in FY 2003 include 43,339 newly filed and 3,606 reopened cases.

** Data have been estimated due to changes in reporting procedures.

*** Data are preliminary.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Citizenship and Immigration Services; Compiled by USCR.

**ASYLUM CASES FILED WITH CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICE ASYLUM OFFICERS
APPROVED, DENIED, OR REFERRED AFTER INTERVIEW, BY SELECTED COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
April 1991 - September 2003**

Cumulative April 1991-Sept. 2003				FY 2003 (Preliminary)				
Country	Approval Rate for Cases Decided	Cases Granted	Cases Denied or Referred After Interview	Cases Received	Approval Rate for Cases Decided	Cases Granted	Cases Denied or Referred After Interview	Cases Pending as of 9/30/03
TOTAL**	30.5%	144,631	328,931	46,945	29.2%	11,657	28,242	262,118
Iraq	79.5%	3,954	1,016	304	52.7%	201	180	131
Burma	74.2%	3,315	1,150	385	52.5%	184	166	181
Sudan	71.1%	3,018	1,226	155	50.8%	94	91	118
Bosnia	70.3%	617	260	34	29.4%	10	24	23
Afghanistan	70.0%	1,541	659	57	38.3%	18	29	69
Somalia	69.3%	8,220	3,625	216	45.2%	106	128	655
Syria	65.1%	1,213	648	43	18.6%	8	35	34
Ethiopia	63.7%	8,338	4,748	915	58.9%	515	361	639
Iran	63.0%	5,039	2,954	535	48.0%	251	272	358
Cuba	61.4%	2,531	1,590	98	52.4%	33	30	1,381
Congo (Braz.)****	55.7%	949	754	286	38.1%	103	167	202
Congo (DRC)****	54.5%	868	724	218	31.4%	73	159	84
Yugoslavia*****	54.5%	5,088	4,248	331	23.7%	73	235	405
Liberia	51.9%	4,867	4,507	612	54.8%	299	247	803
Colombia	46.1%	8,358	9,770	4,757	36.1%	1,661	2,935	4,370
Egypt	43.0%	1,722	2,283	417	35.7%	152	274	173
Russia	40.5%	3,211	4,717	792	33.4%	224	447	899
Indonesia****	36.7%	2,693	4,646	2,856	6.7%	150	2,079	958
Sri Lanka	35.9%	402	719	85	17.7%	11	51	77
India	34.0%	7,437	14,431	1,485	34.3%	283	541	1,725
China	32.9%	17,101	34,812	5,297	59.7%	2,037	3,595	3,351
Ukraine	30.9%	1,002	2,232	196	28.9%	52	128	242
Pakistan	26.9%	2,435	6,615	573	37.1%	169	286	393
Haiti	25.5%	7,614	22,293	3,530	32.4%	897	1,874	12,788
Lebanon	25.4%	444	1,302	97	33.8%	25	49	167
Peru	24.9%	1,760	5,314	218	23.8%	49	157	261
Mauritania	20.8%	1,362	5,175	793	6.3%	58	856	900
Nigeria	19.9%	546	2,197	114	17.9%	15	69	162
Bangladesh	14.7%	907	5,249	239	25.7%	43	124	220
Nicaragua	13.7%	1,466	9,261	84	29.4%	10	24	6,565
Guatemala	8.7%	3,664	38,029	2,837	8.7%	120	1,258	85,237
El Salvador	5.8%	1,657	26,681	929	7.8%	63	749	126,418
Philippines	3.9%	244	5,927	121	6.4%	10	146	259
Mexico	0.9%	300	30,502	4,111	0.9%	30	3,422	1,395

Note: In April 1991, a new corps of asylum officers assumed responsibility for adjudicating asylum claims. This chart is based on decisions made by asylum officers only. Since January 4, 1995, asylum officers generally have not been authorized to deny asylum to deportable aliens. Since that date, such cases not granted have been referred to immigration judges (IJs). Many other applications for asylum are filed directly with immigration judges, particularly in the context of deportation proceedings (see next page).

* The total includes all nationalities, not just those listed here.

** The total approval rate for FY 2003 includes 11,288 cases referred to IJs after an asylum interview for missing the one-year filing deadline. In the past, *Refugee Reports* has not included these cases ("filing deadline referrals") when calculating approval rates, and as such, reported higher approval rates for some nationalities than those reported by the former INS.

*** Includes 43,339 newly filed and 3,606 reopened cases.

**** Includes cumulative data beginning in FY 1998.

***** Includes applicants who identify their country of origin as Yugoslavia, Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia, or the former Yugoslavia (excluding Bosnia).

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS). Tabulated by USCR.

**ASYLUM CASES DECIDED BY IMMIGRATION JUDGES
APPROVED OR DENIED, BY SELECTED COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, FY 1989-2003**

Country	Cumulative FY 1989-2003			FY 2003*				
	Approval Rate for Cases Decided	Cases Granted	Cases Denied	Cases Received	Approval Rate for Cases Decided	Cases Granted	Cases Denied	Cases Pending as of 9/30/03
TOTAL**	26.5%	78,819	217,705	64,176	37.4%	13,219	22,103	72,745
Burma	68.9%	653	294	205	62.0%	114	70	207
Bosnia	66.6%	120	60	45	20.0%	3	12	58
Afghanistan	66.1%	2,829	1,449	129	58.8%	67	47	77
Egypt	58.7%	1,350	948	592	63.2%	276	161	601
Russia	58.1%	2,762	1,992	995	61.3%	379	239	1,073
Iraq	57.9%	1,091	793	550	49.2%	195	201	460
Sri Lanka	56.1%	1,313	1,026	209	29.8%	54	127	72
Sudan	55.4%	656	526	193	45.4%	94	113	106
Congo (DRC & Braz.)	53.6%	926	802	433	44.8%	125	154	429
Iran	52.5%	2,258	2,040	719	53.0%	211	187	645
Somalia	51.6%	2,575	2,420	414	47.2%	143	160	90
Liberia	51.1%	1,332	1,273	416	60.1%	146	97	186
Ethiopia	49.5%	2,367	2,413	579	47.0%	239	269	352
Yugoslavia***	47.2%	2,420	2,710	440	36.8%	176	302	363
Ukraine	46.2%	1,043	1,214	312	49.3%	106	109	289
Indonesia	37.2%	1,040	1,754	3,677	31.1%	365	809	5,717
China****	35.9%	18,445	32,872	9,174	43.9%	3,592	4,594	5,620
Mauritania	35.5%	1,307	2,373	1,164	43.3%	180	236	1,781
Colombia	34.3%	3,487	6,694	6,774	34.2%	1,590	3,060	9,537
Peru	32.9%	1,714	3,500	473	34.7%	115	216	604
Lebanon	32.2%	457	921	234	40.8%	38	55	335
India	31.4%	4,127	9,026	1,668	38.4%	595	951	885
Cuba	30.3%	1,783	4,104	640	18.3%	37	165	241
Syria	30.3%	171	393	139	39.6%	19	29	188
Nigeria	28.4%	893	2,253	280	22.3%	49	171	132
Pakistan	28.0%	1,699	4,374	1,058	45.6%	227	270	1,165
Bangladesh	22.7%	983	3,338	428	53.5%	107	93	554
Nicaragua	21.2%	3,159	11,772	217	6.5%	7	101	163
Haiti	12.7%	2,914	19,955	4,395	18.9%	566	2,436	4,914
Philippines	9.8%	291	2,671	493	17.1%	26	126	537
El Salvador	9.5%	2,510	24,059	2,195	5.8%	30	484	1,477
Guatemala	9.0%	2,114	21,321	2,352	17.5%	162	762	2,663
Mexico	3.8%	392	10,046	7,638	9.5%	64	612	14,944

Note: This chart shows asylum decisions in proceedings before immigration judges. CIS asylum officers refer cases not granted to immigration judges, who examine the claim in deportation proceedings. Other asylum claims may arise in deportation or exclusion proceedings for cases coming directly before immigration courts without an asylum officer referral. FY 89 is the first year for which complete data are available under the Executive Office for Immigration Review's automated data system.

* Data are preliminary.

** Includes all nationalities, not just those listed here.

*** Includes applicants who identify their country of origin as Yugoslavia or Serbia/Montenegro.

**** Includes 7,012 Chinese granted "conditional" asylum from FY 1989-2003, including 838 in FY 2003.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS). Tabulated by the U.S. Committee for Refugees.

**REFUGEE, AMERASIAN, AND ENTRANT ARRIVALS
BY STATE OF INITIAL RESETTLEMENT, FY 1998-2003**

STATE	FY 98	FY 99	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002*	FY 2003*
Alabama	201	245	154	116	44	49
Alaska	50	52	13	55	19	28
Arizona	2,749	3,083	2,422	2,402	1,034	1,041
Arkansas	22	31	17	14	--	5
California	10,316	9,676	9,646	10,143	4,293	4,205
Colorado	1,018	1,115	955	1,027	449	476
Connecticut	849	1,292	1,028	990	456	214
Delaware	28	22	46	63	36	40
District of Columbia	675	455	233	116	33	107
Florida	16,100	21,784	20,424	16,775	17,162	8,795
Georgia	3,255	4,412	3,298	2,522	912	1,100
Hawaii	34	51	28	19	4	15
Idaho	633	809	671	675	280	257
Illinois	4,022	4,052	3,207	2,701	918	953
Indiana	611	657	647	528	182	262
Iowa	1,673	1,768	1,342	1,054	411	227
Kansas	259	236	167	162	49	99
Kentucky	1,781	1,802	1,450	1,321	711	553
Louisiana	648	733	522	397	150	108
Maine	210	208	241	224	92	106
Maryland	688	853	975	1,354	418	793
Massachusetts	2,352	2,308	1,966	1,969	761	833
Michigan	2,400	3,502	2,924	2,634	690	542
Minnesota	1,712	3,484	3,492	3,232	701	1,750
Mississippi	25	49	47	107	11	3
Missouri	2,523	2,820	2,489	2,269	769	444
Montana	6	0	15	10	4	34
Nebraska	594	665	552	661	199	212
Nevada	623	722	731	552	333	387
New Hampshire	511	631	606	538	255	240
New Jersey	1,414	2,527	1,607	1,608	593	660
New Mexico	266	355	287	282	191	96
New York	8,141	10,417	6,945	6,984	2,798	2,497
North Carolina	1,305	1,358	1,064	1,064	1,388	596
North Dakota	537	614	636	367	52	105
Ohio	1,535	1,484	1,780	1,368	561	658
Oklahoma	152	192	102	126	52	61
Oregon	2,096	1,777	1,631	1,496	1,072	866
Pennsylvania	2,405	2,923	2,605	2,689	1,115	1,321
Rhode Island	133	182	310	313	40	130
South Carolina	50	76	82	85	81	116
South Dakota	377	446	378	301	107	159
Tennessee	1,215	1,211	1,080	924	357	458
Texas	5,022	5,544	4,354	3,798	1,697	1,808
Utah	1,306	1,114	1,137	927	251	400
Vermont	380	394	275	261	89	78
Virginia	1,362	2,139	2,167	1,824	687	850
Washington	6,137	5,084	4,378	4,300	2,615	2,751
West Virginia	9	5	11	11	1	2
Wisconsin	268	651	599	585	187	236
Wyoming	5	0	2	0	0	1
Guam	1	0	0	0	0	0
Puerto Rico	15	87	63	49	43	25
Unknown	0	1	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	90,699	106,098	91,801	83,992	45,353	37,752

* Data are preliminary.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement. Compiled by the U.S. Committee for Refugees.

REGIONAL REFUGEE CEILINGS AND ADMISSIONS TO THE UNITED STATES, FY 1991-2004

	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY2000	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	TOTAL
AFRICA (Actual Admissions)	4,434	5,491	6,969	5,856	4,779	7,512	6,069	6,662	13,036	17,549	18,979	2,548	10,717		110,593
(Ceiling)	4,900	6,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,700	7,000	7,000	12,000	19,000	21,000	22,000	20,000	25,000	
EAST ASIA *	53,486	51,849	49,859	43,561	36,926	19,235	8,590	10,849	10,204	4,561	3,725	3,525	1,724		298,111
	53,500	51,850	51,000	45,000	40,000	25,000	10,000	14,000	9,000	8,000	8,000	4,000	4,000		
EASTERN EUROPE ^b	6,855	2,888	2,651	7,477	9,987	12,081	21,378	30,911	38,654	22,551	15,776	5,439	2,525		179,171
	7,000	2,900	2,725	(7,000)	(2,900)	(2,725)			38,000	27,000	20,000	9,000	2,500		
USSR/FORMER USSR ^b	38,661	61,298	48,627	43,470	35,716	29,536	27,072	23,349	16,922	14,542	14,888	9,963	8,744		372,788
	46,500	61,400	49,775	58,000	48,000	45,000	48,000	51,000	23,000	20,000	17,000	17,000	14,000		
LATIN AMERICA	2,237	2,924	4,126	6,437	7,618	3,541	2,966	1,587	2,110	3,233	2,972	1,933	472		42,156
	3,100	3,000	4,500	9,000	8,000	6,000	4,000	4,000	3,000	3,000	3,500	3,000	2,500		
NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIA	5,359	6,844	7,000	5,861	4,464	3,788	3,890	3,197	4,076	10,079	12,086	3,702	4,260		74,708
	6,000	6,550	7,000	6,000	5,000	4,300	4,000	4,000	4,000	8,000	12,500	15,000	7,000		
UNALLOCATED RESERVE ^c		(1,000)	(1,000)	(3,000)	2,000	2,000	5,000	3,000	2,000	**6,000	0	0	20,000		20,000
PRIVATELY FUNDED (UNALLOCATED)	1,789	882	251	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		2,922
	10,000	10,000	10,000	1,000	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
TOTAL	112,611	132,179	119,482	112,682	99,490	75,693	70,085	76,554	85,006	72,515	68,426	*27,110	28,422		*1,080,449
	131,000	142,000	132,000	121,000	112,000	90,000	79,000	83,000	91,000	**90,000	90,000	70,000	70,000		

Note: During the period FY 75-FY 90, the United States admitted 1,436,778 refugees from the following regions: Africa-24,061; East Asia-981,763; Eastern Europe-105,504; Soviet Union-218,568; Latin America-37,146; and the Near East and South Asia-65,625. These persons do not appear in this table. This chart shows the adjusted regional ceilings that were established at mid-year consultations in FY 87, FY 88, FY 89, FY 90, FY 91, FY 92, FY 93, FY 94, FY 95, FY 96, FY 99, and FY 2001. The worldwide annual ceilings did not change, except in FY 88, FY 89, FY 92, and FY 99.

- * Ceilings and actual admissions figures for East Asia include both first-asylum resettlement and the Orderly Departure Program (ODP) from Vietnam. ODP figures include Amerasian immigrants.
- ** In FY 91, FY 92, and FY 93, Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union had separate ceilings. In all other years, the regions have a combined ceiling. (The FY 1999 - 2003 sub-regional ceilings are represented.) In FY 2004, the State Department changed the name of the combined region to Europe/South Asia with a ceiling of 13,000.
- * In FYs 92 - 94, admissions numbers included an unallocated reserve. These unallocated places were incorporated into the adjusted regional ceilings, maintaining the overall admissions ceiling.
- ** FY 2002 and FY 2003 data are preliminary.
- ** Due to a funding shortfall in its Migration and Refugee Assistance account, PRM reduced the FY 2000 unallocated reserve from 6,000 to 1,000. The "unofficial" ceiling became 85,000.

Source: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. Tabulated by the U.S. Committee for Refugees.

REFUGEES ADMITTED TO THE UNITED

	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
EAST ASIA	51,611	53,486	51,848	49,858	43,581	36,926	19,235
Burmese	3	14	55	94	75	36	11
Chinese	52	4	1	0	0	0	0
Indonesians	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Khmer	2,166	38	141	22	6	1	0
Lao: Highlanders	5,207	6,369	6,833	6,741	6,253	3,658	1,737
Lao: Lowlanders	3,564	2,881	482	226	19	17	464
Vietnamese	**40,619	44,180	44,336	42,775	37,288	33,214	17,021
Other/unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
NEAR EAST/S. ASIA	4,991	5,539	6,844	7,000	5,861	4,464	3,788
Afghans	1,594	1,480	1,452	1,233	21	4	0
Iranians	3,329	2,692	1,949	1,161	851	978	1,256
Iraqi	67	842	3,442	4,605	4,984	3,482	2,528
Libyans	1	344	1	0	3	0	0
Other	0	1	0	1	2	0	4
USSR & E. EUROPE	56,912	45,516	64,184	51,278	50,947	45,703	41,617
Soviets/Former Soviets	50,716	38,661	61,298	48,627	43,470	35,716	29,536
Albanians	98	1,363	1,108	458	171	51	23
Bosnians	--	--	0	1,887	7,197	9,870	12,030
Bulgarians	332	585	126	34	5	3	0
Croatians	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Czechs	345	158	18	3	5	0	1
Hungarians	274	7	1	0	1	0	0
Poles	1,491	290	134	54	31	39	11
Romanians	3,650	4,452	1,499	215	67	24	16
Yugoslavs	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AFRICA	3,494	4,424	5,491	6,969	5,856	4,779	7,512
Angolans	59	21	4	0	6	1	2
Burundians	3	0	0	3	0	8	8
Chadians	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congolese/Zairians	79	73	76	199	92	85	38
Ethiopians	3,229	3,948	2,972	2,765	328	239	194
Liberians	3	1	637	961	610	52	46
Mozambicans	3	12	8	0	1	0	0
Namibians	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nigerians	0	0	0	0	0	0	34
Rwandans	0	2	3	7	31	88	118
Sierra Leoneans	0	0	0	0	0	48	13
Somalis	25	192	1,570	2,753	3,555	2,506	6,436
South Africans	34	19	15	8	0	0	1
Sudanese	7	24	113	244	1,220	1,705	575
Togolese	0	0	0	0	0	25	1
Ugandans	27	125	93	24	2	10	10
Other/unknown	24	7	0	5	11	12	36
LATIN AMERICA	2,309	2,237	2,924	4,126	6,437	7,618	3,541
Cubans	**1,750	**2,144	**2,867	**2,814	2,670	6,133	3,498
Haitians	0	0	54	1,307	3,766	1,485	39
Nicaraguans	532	87	1	1	1	0	2
Salvadorans	22	6	2	1	0	0	0
Other	5	0	0	3	0	0	2
	119,317	111,022	131,291	119,231	112,682	99,490	75,693

* FY 2002 and FY 2003 data are preliminary. The FY 2002 data by nationality differs from the regional data in the chart on page 9. The FY 2002 total includes 1,098 persons of unreported nationality who do not appear in this chart.

** Private Sector Initiative admissions not included: FY 89—1,512 Cubans, 38 Iranians; FY 90—3,003 Cubans, 6 Vietnamese; FY 91—1,789 Cubans; FY 92—882 Cubans; FY 93—251 Cubans.

STATES, BY NATIONALITY, FY 1990-2003

FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	*FY 02	*FY 03	CUMULATIVE FY 1990-2003
8,590	10,848	10,204	4,561	3,725	3,036	1,724	349,233
182	186	295	637	543	125	203	2,459
1	0	1	1	12	11	9	92
--	--	--	14	5	18	17	54
0	0	0	0	23	0	0	2,397
770	0	19	64	22	18	13	37,704
169	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,822
7,469	10,661	9,863	3,845	3,109	2,855	1,472	298,647
0	1	26	0	11	9	10	58
3,990	3,197	4,078	10,079	12,086	3,554	4,260	79,551
0	88	364	1,710	2,964	1,649	1,453	14,012
1,305	1,699	1,739	5,100	6,582	1,430	2,471	32,542
2,679	1,407	1,955	3,152	2,473	457	298	32,371
0	0	0	0	5	0	0	354
6	3	20	117	62	18	38	272
48,450	54,260	55,576	37,093	30,664	15,143	11,269	608,612
27,072	23,349	16,922	14,542	14,888	9,757	***8,744	423,298
9	3	8	1	3	5	2	3,303
21,357	30,906	22,697	19,027	14,594	4,865	525	144,955
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,085
--	--	1,660	2,995	1,020	408	144	6,227
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	531
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	283
6	2	2	1	4	0	0	2,065
3	0	2	4	0	1	0	9,933
3	0	14,280	520	151	43	38	15,041
0	0	5	2	4	64	****1,816	1,891
6,069	6,662	13,038	17,549	18,979	2,367	10,717	113,906
0	0	0	2	34	16	21	166
33	0	223	165	109	62	16	630
45	0	22	2	2	1	1	74
45	52	69	1,352	262	106	292	2,820
197	152	1,879	1,346	1,429	311	1,704	20,693
231	1,494	2,495	2,613	3,415	520	2,957	16,035
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
0	0	0	5	1	0	0	6
7	0	625	50	81	26	57	880
100	86	153	345	94	36	47	1,110
57	0	675	1,128	1,999	101	1,378	5,399
4,974	2,951	4,317	6,026	4,939	295	1,993	42,532
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	78
277	1,252	2,392	3,833	5,958	815	2,140	20,555
30	0	93	510	279	14	39	991
9	2	12	18	12	2	1	347
63	673	83	154	365	62	71	1,566
2,986	1,587	2,110	3,233	2,972	1,912	452	44,444
2,911	1,587	2,018	3,184	2,944	1,901	303	36,724
75	0	91	49	23	4	0	6,893
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	624
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31
0	0	1	0	5	7	149	172
70,085	76,554	85,006	72,515	68,426	*27,110	*28,422	*1,196,051

*** Includes nationals of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

**** Includes 1,801 nationals of Serbia, 13 nationals of Macedonia, and 2 nationals of other countries.

Source: Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, U.S. Department of State. Compiled by USCR.

ELIGIBILITY FOR REFUGEE PROCESSING PRIORITIES — FY 2004

P-1*		P-2⁽¹⁾	P-3⁽²⁾	P-4	P-5
All Nationalities Eligible	Burmese		x		
	Burundians		x		
	Colombians		x		
	Congolese (Brazzaville)		x		
	Congolese (DROC)		x		
	Cubans	x			
	Former Soviet Union ⁽³⁾	x			
	Iranians	x	x		
	Liberians		x		
	Somali	x	x		
	Sudanese		x		
	Vietnamese ⁽⁴⁾	x			

*Members of any nationality group—not only those listed in this table—may apply for admission to the United States under Priority One (P-1) if referred by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees or U.S. Embassies. Groups of individuals who share a common background and history and can be identified by name can also be referred to the program on a P-1 list based on UNHCR registration information.

¹ See explanation of those eligible as groups of special humanitarian concern under Priority Two (P-2). (Next page.) In addition to the P-2 groups listed, the State Department is considering other groups, including Meskhetian Turks in Russia, Vietnamese in the Philippines, Bhutanese in Nepal, and certain Liberians in West Africa.

² The U.S. State Department extended eligibility for a refugee status determination interview under Priority Three (P-3) to nationals of nine countries, listed above, who are the spouses, unmarried children under 21, or parents of persons initially admitted to the United States as refugees or granted asylum (see next page). The program will operate on a pilot basis in FY 2004.

³ While all persons who were nationals of the Soviet Union as of September 2, 1991 are eligible to be considered for refugee processing by establishing a well-founded fear of persecution, Jews, Evangelical Christians, and Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox religious activists may establish refugee status for U.S. admission by asserting a fear of persecution and asserting a credible basis of concern about the possibility of such persecution.

⁴ Vietnamese who were members of certain category groups identified in 1983 may establish refugee status for U.S. admission by asserting a fear of persecution and asserting a credible basis of concern about the possibility of such persecution.

Source: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. Compiled by USCR.

DESCRIPTION OF U.S. REFUGEE PROCESSING PRIORITIES — FY 2004

PRIORITY ONE: Priority one (P-1) is reserved for compelling protection cases or refugees for whom no other durable solution exists who are referred for U.S. resettlement by the UNHCR or a U.S. embassy. Historically, these have included: persons facing compelling security concerns in countries of first asylum; persons in need of legal protection because of the danger of *refoulement*; those in danger due to threats of armed attack in areas where they are located; persons who have experienced persecution because of their political, religious, or human rights activities; women-at-risk; victims of torture or violence; physically or mentally disabled persons; persons in urgent need of medical attention not available in the first-asylum country; and persons for whom other durable solutions are not feasible and whose status in the place of asylum does not present a satisfactory long-term solution. P-1 referrals must still establish a credible fear of persecution or history of persecution in the country from which they fled. In addition, groups of individuals who share a common background and can be identified by name can also be referred on a P-1 list based on UNHCR registration information.

PRIORITY TWO: Priority Two (P-2) is reserved for groups of special humanitarian concern and includes specific groups (within certain nationalities, clans, or ethnic groups) identified by the U.S. State Department in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security/Citizenship and Immigration Services (DHS/CIS), NGOs, UNHCR, and other experts. Some P-2 groups are processed in their country of origin.

Africa: Persons belonging to U.S. State Department-identified refugee groups (within specific nationalities) in consultation with NGOs, UNHCR, the DHS/CIS, and other area experts. Groups are selected based on their individual circumstances. In FY 2004, a P-2 designation is being implemented for about 12,000 Somali Bantu in Kenya.

Cuba: In-country, emphasis given to former political prisoners, members of persecuted religious minorities, human rights activists, forced-labor conscripts, persons deprived of their professional credentials or subjected to other disproportionately harsh or discriminatory treatment resulting from their perceived or actual political or religious beliefs or activities, and others who appear to have a credible claim that they face persecution. (A review of eligibility criteria for the Cuba program is underway and may result in adjustments during 2004.)

Iran: Members of Iranian religious minorities, primarily in Austria.

Former Soviet Union: In-country, Jews, Evangelical Christians, and certain members of the Ukrainian Catholic or Orthodox Churches. Preference among these groups is accorded to those with close family in the United States. In addition, a P-2 designation is being implemented for a group of Armenians from Baku, Azerbaijan, living in Russia.

Vietnam: In country, residual cases resulting from established programs: former reeducation camp detainees who spent more than three years in detention camps subsequent to April 1975 because of pre-1975 association with the U.S. government or the former South Vietnamese government; certain former U.S. government employees and other specified individuals or groups of concern; and persons who returned from first-asylum camps on or after October 1, 1995 who qualify for consideration under the Resettlement Opportunities for Vietnamese Returnees (ROVR) criteria. In addition, residual Orderly Departure Program (ODP) cases registered and previously determined eligible for consideration may be processed. The designation also includes Amerasian immigrants, whose admissions are counted in the regional ceiling.

PRIORITY THREE: Spouses, unmarried children under 21, and parents of persons admitted to the United States as refugees or granted asylum, or persons who are lawful permanent residents or U.S. citizens who were initially admitted as refugees or granted asylum. Eligibility will be established on the basis of an Affidavit of Relationship (AOR) filed by the relative in the United States and processed through DHS/CIS. All applicants must be located outside of their countries of nationality or habitual residence.

PRIORITY FOUR: Grandparents, grandchildren, married sons and daughters, and siblings of U.S. citizens and persons lawfully admitted to the United States as permanent resident aliens, refugees, asylees, conditional residents, and certain parolees. (Not available for any nationality in FY 2004.)

PRIORITY FIVE: Uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, and first cousins of U.S. citizens and persons lawfully admitted to the United States as permanent resident aliens, refugees, asylees, conditional residents, and certain parolees. (Not available for any nationality in FY 2004.)

Source: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. Compiled by USCR.

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