

Table 11 **Major Returns**
(as of December 31, 2005)

Returns

Hundreds of thousands of refugees returned to their home countries in 2005, not always voluntarily. In some cases, fundamental changes in their home countries ended the dangers that caused them to flee and overtly forcible return remained rare. Many refugees, however, suffered insecurity, threats of *refoulement*, detention, and decades of enforced idleness and restrictions on movement and normal life in countries of asylum, casting doubt on whether their return was truly voluntary. (The overall numbers of Afghan refugees did not decline because a new census in Pakistan and registration in Iran revealed greater populations that were present earlier.)

Host Country	Country of Origin	Total
Pakistan	Afghanistan	450,000
Iran	Afghanistan	289,600
Guinea	Liberia	72,800
Tanzania	Burundi	62,000
China	North Korea	50,000
Iran	Iraq	39,200
Congo-Kinshasa	Sudan	33,500
Côte d'Ivoire	Liberia	30,500
Burundi	Congo-Kinshasa	28,700
Liberia	Côte d'Ivoire	23,000
Zambia	Angola	17,700

Table 12 **New Refugees**
(as of December 31, 2005)

New Refugees

Fresh outflows were much smaller than returns during the year, but USCRI counted as refugees many Iraqis who had fled in recent years. (We had earlier counted many as persons in a "refugee-like" situation.) In September, UNHCR renewed its advisory cautioning against returning Iraqis, noting that the security situation had generally deteriorated. Jordan and Syria, hosts to the largest numbers, were not parties to the 1951 Convention and had no asylum procedures.

Country of Origin	Host Country	Total
Iraq	Jordan	433,000
Iraq	Syria	211,500
Nepal	India	100,000
Sudan	Uganda	35,600
Sudan	Chad	28,200
Togo	Benin	27,000
Togo	Ghana	15,500
Somalia	Yemen	15,200
Central African Republic	Chad	13,000
Congo-Kinshasa	Rwanda	11,400



Photo: An Afghan refugee family in Quetta, Pakistan, preparing to return, September 2005. Many, however, remained due to continuing insecurity in Afghanistan.
Credit: AP/A. Butt