

IRAQI REFUGEES AROUND THE WORLD

At the beginning of 2002 (the most recent date for which complete statistics are available), a total of some 400,000 Iraqi refugees were spread across 90 asylum countries around the world, including ones as distant and diverse as South Africa, Sri Lanka, Argentina and Nepal. However, more than half were located in just one country -- the Islamic Republic of Iran. The number of Iraqi refugees in industrialized countries at the end of 2001 was around 183,000. This includes some 130,000 recognized under the 1951 Refugee Convention and around 52,000 who had received some form of humanitarian status.

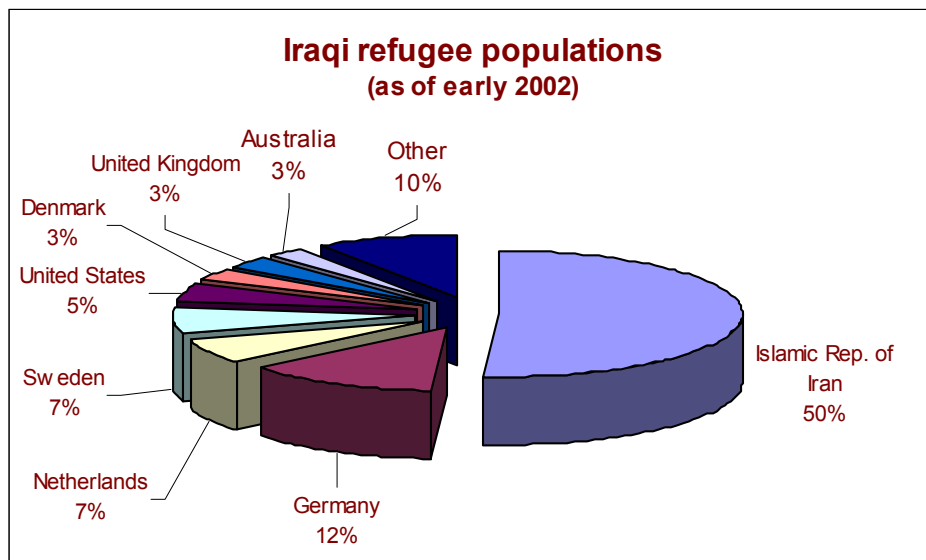
Iraqi Refugee Populations

Iran [†]	202,100	Norway	8,200	France	1,600	Romania	380
Germany	50,900	Canada	6,000	Italy	1,100	Spain	330
Netherlands	26,100	Saudi Arabia	5,100	Jordan	940	Kuwait	300
Sweden	25,900	Switzerland	2,600	New Zealand	830	Hungary	260
U.S.	19,100	Finland	1,900	Greece	620	Belgium	230
Denmark	12,600	Lebanon	1,800	Turkey	590	Pakistan	210
U.K	12,000	Austria	1,800	Bulgaria	510	Yemen	200
Australia	10,000	Syria	1,700	Indonesia	430	Ireland	130

[†] Government estimate as of September 2002. All other estimates are based on data from early 2002.

For European countries, UNHCR estimates are based on asylum-seeker recognition and resettlement arrivals since 1992

For U.S. Canada, Australia and New Zealand, UNHCR estimates are based on asylum-seeker recognition and resettlement arrivals since 1997



A total of around 70,000 Iraqi refugees have been resettled from their first countries of asylum since the end of the 1991 Gulf War. The great majority were resettled from asylum countries in the region, such as Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon and Syria. A total of more than 25,000 have been resettled from Rafha, a closed camp set up for Iraqis who fled to Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War. 5,100 Iraqis still remain in Rafha, without a solution, 12 years later.

Resettlement of Iraqi refugees 1991-2001

Resettlement country	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
United States	840	3,440	4,610	4,980	3,480	2,530	2,680	1,410	1,960	3,150	2,470	31,550
Canada	270	1,170	2,230	1,340	1,160	1,140	1,150	780	690	1,160	1,130	12,220
Australia	-	-	1,330	950	2,250	1,520	1,440	1,500	1,390	1,100	550	12,030
Sweden	440	1,580	110	650	540	-	330	270	150	340	250	4,660
Netherlands	-	230	220	460	470	390	120	30	10	10	110	2,050
Denmark	40	160	250	170	330	250	290	200	130	60	70	1,950
New Zealand	200	100	10	220	320	140	270	240	170	50	80	1,800
Norway	-	-	200	20	-	-	620	220	180	90	130	1,460
Finland	-	-	-	-	-	-	340	-	120	150	90	700

IRAQI ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES

In 2002, provisional statistics for a group of 37 industrialized countries show Iraqis to be by far the largest group of asylum-seekers with 51,900 applications – more than a third higher than the next group (33,100 asylum-seekers from FR Yugoslavia). The largest recipient countries in 2002 were the U.K. with 14,900, followed by Germany with 10,400, Sweden with 5,400, Austria with 4,600, Greece with 2,600 and Hungary with 2,000. Provisional figures for January 2003 (for a smaller grouping of 26 industrialized countries) show the number of Iraqi asylum-seekers rose by 37 percent compared to the previous month.

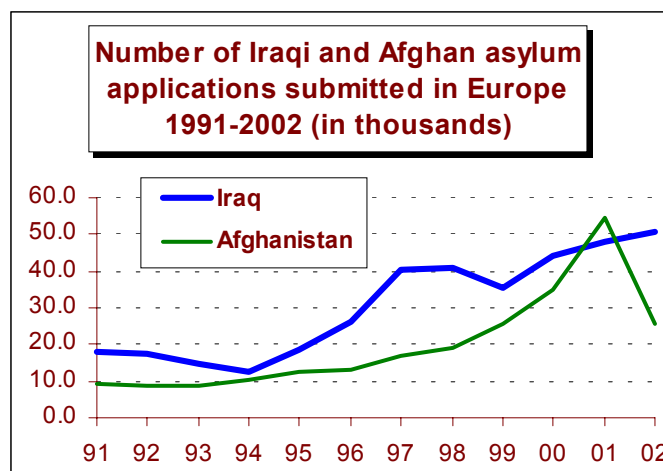
Numbers of Iraqi Asylum Applications in Industrialized Countries, 1991-2002

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Total
Industrialized States (x 37)*	18,500	17,700	15,200	12,900	18,700	27,100	43,200	41,500	36,600	47,200	50,700	51,900	381,100
European States (x 31)**	17,900	17,200	14,800	12,500	18,300	26,200	40,400	40,800	35,200	44,400	47,900	50,900	366,400
EU States (15)	10,500	11,100	9,900	9,800	14,800	22,300	35,200	31,200	25,300	38,900	40,500	42,000	291,400

* Australia, Canada, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, United States, plus European countries listed in footnote below

** European Union members plus Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey

The number of Iraqi asylum-seekers spreading outside the immediate region has risen steadily over the past eight years, after a brief dip in the early 1990s. Since 1994, the annual arrival rate has quadrupled both within the EU and the wider group of 37 industrialized countries. In 2002, the Iraqis took over from the Afghans as the top group of asylum-seekers. The Afghans had followed a similar upward trajectory over the previous decade as conditions grew ever worse in their home country. However after the Taliban were removed from power in December 2001, the number of Afghans seeking asylum plummeted by 51 percent over the following 12 months.



Iraqi Asylum Applications and Decisions in Major Industrialized Countries, 1997-2001

Asylum country	New Asylum Applications	Decisions			
		1951 Refugee Convention	Humanitarian Status	Total Recognized	Percentage Recognized*
Germany	59,100	33,520	150	33,670	57%
Netherlands	25,700	3,380	8,930	12,310	48%
Sweden	20,200	600	11,740	12,340	61%
United Kingdom	18,400	2,730	5,390	8,120	44%
Italy	13,600	850	120	970	7%
Switzerland	13,000	1,420	980	2,400	18%
Greece	10,200	250	530	780	8%
Denmark	9,500	380	7,270	7,650	81%
Norway	7,500	60	3,200	3,260	43%
Australia	5,300	4,040	-	4,040	76%
United States	3,600	3,040	-	3,040	84%
Canada	1,600	1,030	-	1,030	64%
Bulgaria	1,500	200	300	500	33%
France	1,400	730	-	730	52%

*Persons granted 1951 Refugee Convention refugee status and humanitarian status divided by the number of new applications.