

Thank you to Chairman Menchaca, and Council Members Levin and Ferreras-Copeland, for this opportunity to provide testimony before the Immigration Committee.

My name is Matthew Kennis and I am the Program Director with the Libertas Center for Human Rights, located at NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst in Queens, New York. The Libertas Center helps address the multifaceted needs of immigrants in Queens and throughout New York City who have survived torture and persecution in their home countries.

I'd like to tell you about our Center's work, some of the challenges we face, as well as some concrete areas where additional help would be welcome.

Our program serves about 130 torture survivors each year, who come from 60 countries and speak 57 languages. About 75% of our clients are between the ages of 19-44. The largest number of our clients by county of origin come from Bangladesh, El Salvador, Russia, Colombia, and Honduras. Our clients are roughly half women and half men. Nearly 20% of our clients identify as LGBT. 90% of clients are currently seeking asylum in the US.

We aid survivor's rehabilitation by providing a combination of medical, mental health, case management, and legal services.

75% of our clients have reported beatings and other physical torture and 40% of our clients report being a victim of rape or sexual violence. Many survivors first present with somatic symptoms, such as lower back pain, severe headaches, and neck pain. Medical challenges range from orthopedic and neurological injuries, to gynecological and other issues secondary to sexual violence. We ensure that survivors can access the primary and subspecialty medical care they need, through evening clinic hours with a dedicated primary care provider and through relationships with providers across Elmhurst Hospital.

90% of our clients have experienced psychological torture or threats, leading to high levels of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Major Depression. Symptoms often include intrusive nightmares, insomnia, poor appetite, frequent crying spells, and recurring distressing thoughts. Survivors often have feelings of shame, damaged self-image, difficulty initiating and maintaining relationships and a pervasive fearful view of the world. Our role is to support them on their path to recovery, independence, and confidence. We ensure that torture survivors can access mental health care, including individual and group therapy, and psychotropic medications, as needed.

Since 2014, 73% of Libertas Center clients have reported either having low-income or an income insufficient to meet their basic needs. To help client's to meet their needs, we provide case management support and referrals to access food, shelter, and clothing, as well as job placement, ESL resources, and enrollment in government benefit programs for which they may be eligible. We work with social service agencies and provide care coordination and follow up with providers about client's cases. We help clients to build social support networks and reduce isolation.

About 90% of our clients are currently seeking asylum and preparing for their asylum interviews or hearings. In many cases, we conduct forensic medical and psychological evaluations and provide affidavits to support clients' asylum cases. We also help clients to find pro bono legal services and work closely with lawyers to support their cases.

Our program serves as a safe space where new immigrants can redefine their identity and build a new life. We believe that the care we provide and facilitate measurably improves our clients' lives. According to Libertas Center follow up data, 89% of clients report improved quality of life.

Obstacles faced

According to a recent study conducted by the Center for Victims of Torture (2015), there are an estimated 1.3 million torture survivors living in the US. In New York City, there may be well over 75,000 survivors. It will be no surprise to hear that one of the main challenges facing our work is a shortage of funding, which leads to

a limitation in our current capacity or ability to expand our program. But I would like to focus on a few concrete challenges our client's face and areas where additional help would be welcome.

Whereas refugees and asylees have access to certain benefits, such as food stamps, there is a general exclusion of asylum seekers from most government benefits, which adds to the layers of difficulty facing most of our clients.

Asylum seekers must wait at least 150 days after filing for asylum before they can apply for a work permit, access health benefits, and receive a SSN. This means in practice that many clients face significant obstacles earning an income which leads to difficulty maintaining stable housing, attending medical appointments and prioritizing mental health treatment, paying for transportation, or affording childcare or English classes, and learning other important skills such as working on a computer.

Furthermore, most asylum seekers have escaped their home country persecution on their own, and were forced to leave family, friends and other social support systems at home, typically arriving to the US with few or no connections on which to rely.

The medical, mental health, legal and social service needs of survivors are tightly interwoven, with success in each area dependent on the others. This interplay is demonstrated by a case example: a client who fled persecution due to his sexual orientation is currently in a living situation where he is forced to continue concealing his sexual orientation, which is a barrier to the progression of his coming out process. This negatively impacts his mental health, complicates his ability to document and discuss his persecution with his attorneys and may ultimately interfere with his ability to effectively testify at his asylum hearing. The intersection of mental health, legal, social and medical needs, highlights the importance of comprehensive services for survivors' successful healing.

Areas where more help is needed

Unstable or poor housing options is a consistent challenge many of our client's face. They may live in overcrowded apartments with too much noise and little privacy, or they may be in situations where landlords take advantage or withhold basic services, such as running water or functioning toilets. Additional support to educate about tenant's rights or provide further housing protections to vulnerable groups would be very beneficial.

The need for subsidized transportation. Many clients survive on very little income, and struggle to afford the cost of transportation. This creates challenges for accessing work opportunities and consistently attending doctor's appointments.

Access to free or subsidized childcare options. Our clients, especially women, regularly face challenges in securing affordable childcare, especially in the summer months when children are out of school. This makes it harder to attend doctor's appointments and find work. Women in particular have also expressed interest in participating in alternative therapy projects to aid their recovery but rarely attend without child care support.

More ESL classes at libraries or community centers and shorter waiting lists. Learning English is a high priority for most of our clients in order to find work, gain independence, and reduce social isolation, but paid courses can be expensive and out of reach.

I would like to thank Chairman Menchaca and distinguished City Council Members for your time today and for your interest, and would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you very much.

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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

Monday, June 27, 2016

**TESTIMONY BY KELLY AGNEW-BARAJAS, DIRECTOR OF REFUGEE
RESETTLEMENT**

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COMMUNITY SERVICES, ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Good Morning Councilman Menchaca, Councilman Eugene, Councilman Dromm, Councilman Koo, and Councilman Espinal, Councilman Levin, and other members on the panel. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony before you today. I am Kelly Agnew-Barajas, Director of Refugee Resettlement with Catholic Charities Community Services, Archdiocese of New York. I am pleased to speak about the work and experience of Catholic Charities with respect to the services we provide to immigrants and refugees. Catholic Charities wishes to voice its support of designating Temporary Protected Status for Ecuadorian nationals living in the U.S. following the devastating April earthquake. In addition, we support the call for the President and State Department to make an ongoing commitment to continue resettling Syrian refugees in the United States through fiscal year 2017.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES BACKGROUND

Catholic Charities Community Services seeks to provide high quality human services to New Yorkers of all religions who are in need. The newcomer, the family in danger of becoming homeless, the hungry child, the emotionally challenged and developing youth are among those for whom we have a particular concern. Our work is grounded in the belief in the dignity of each person as made in the image of God and the building of a just and compassionate society – especially for the most vulnerable among us.

Welcoming and Integrating Immigrants and Refugees

Catholic Charities Community Services' Immigrant and Refugee Services Division works with immigrants to meet their legal, social service, and education needs. Catholic Charities provides accurate information, protects immigrants from exploitation and abuse, reunites families, offers education and employment assistance, and welcomes and integrates newcomers into our communities. Last year over 8,000 immigrants were provided legal representation; 324 immigrants were reunited with their families; Catholic Charities staff answered over 28,000 calls for help; and nearly 7,000 immigrants received instruction in English and civics.

Syrian Refugee Admissions

There are currently 21.3 million refugees worldwide – 22% are Syrians. Over the past five years, as the conflict in Syria has raged on, 4.8 million Syrians have fled and are now refugees. While the vast majority of Syrian refugees remain in the Middle East – in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt – a tiny fraction are identified as being eligible for the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. It is important to reiterate that the U.S. Refugee Program admits refugees who have gone step by step through a rigorous security and vetting process which typically lasts about two

years. The most vulnerable refugee cases are prioritized – women with children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and families.

Of the 85,000 refugees that are to be resettled to the U.S. this year, at least 10,000 are to be from Syria. However, the arrivals of Syrians to date have fallen far short of this goal. In 2017, President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry have indicated that the refugee arrival target will be 100,000 — an increase of 15,000 over FY 2016’s ceiling. The number of Syrians who would be included in the overall arrivals has not yet been determined. Today, Resolution 1105-2016 is calling for at least 65,000 Syrians to be included in the refugee arrivals for 2017.

We stand ready to do more. Catholic Charities and local, state and federal partners – along with our robust network of parishes and volunteers – already welcome and integrate refugees and asylees from all over the world. Refugees become the newest New Yorkers – our neighbors, our co-workers, and friends. Catholic Charities is in full support of increasing the resettlement of Syrians and is committed to providing holistic resettlement services.

Temporary Protected Status for Ecuadorian Nationals

More than two months ago, a disastrous earthquake struck Ecuador. 661 people were killed, and more than 8,000 people were injured. Countless buildings and communities were destroyed, and the country is struggling to deal with the aftermath even as aftershocks continue to rock the country. In keeping with the core belief that all people be treated with compassion, and protected in their time of need, we believe it is important that the U.S. consider extending Temporary Protected Status to Ecuadorian nationals residing in the U.S. Temporary Protected Status is an immigration benefit granted to nationals of foreign countries that have experienced a disaster or conflict that makes it too dangerous for a safe return home.

Since the April 16 earthquake, the Ecuadorian community has come together to spearhead relief efforts throughout the United States. If TPS is granted, Ecuadorian immigrants present in the United States will be able apply for permission to stay in the U.S., work legally, and support the important work of rebuilding their country.

Conclusion

Let me close by acknowledging the Council members who continue to fight with us for just and humane immigration policies, and for appropriate community supports for immigrants here in our city. We value your partnership and thank you for your support over the years.

Catholic Charities has long worked to welcome and integrate immigrants and refugees. Today we face considerable challenges, but we will continue to serve those who need our help, non-Catholic and Catholic alike. Catholic Charities remains undeterred in our commitment to serve newcomers to the United States and to advocating for fair and humane immigration policies that continue the welcoming attitude that has made this country strong, vibrant and innovative.

"Thou shalt not stand idly by the blood of thy neighbor."—Leviticus 19:16



Testimony of Georgette F. Bennett, Ph.D.

Founder, Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees, a project of the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding in cooperation with JDC

Before the New York City Council Committee on Immigration

June 27, 2016

I'm Georgette Bennett, Founder of the Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees and the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding, of which MFA is a part. I'm a Jew, a child of Holocaust survivors and a refugee. My parents and I arrived in this country with the designation "stateless" written on the passenger manifest of the ship that brought us to New York. For all these reasons, I've felt compelled to act in the face of the immense suffering of the Syrian people.

Resolution 1105 is consistent with the Administration's commitment to admit at least 10,000 Syrian refugees in the current fiscal year as well the America's historical commitment to take in half of the worldwide number called for by UNHCR. But, those of us who are sympathetic to the cause of Syrian refugees are operating in a hostile political climate. So, I want to spend my few minutes before this Committee to provide you with information that will help you counter the religious prejudice that underlies so much of the anti-refugee rhetoric we hear today.

Myth: Syrian refugees are welfare dependent and will be a drain on the economy.

Facts:

- Median income for Syrian families is \$62,000
- 49% of Syrian men in the U.S. work in high-skilled occupations – e.g. managerial, business, science
- 39% of Syrians are highly educated vs. 30% U.S. born.

"Thou shalt not stand idly by the blood of thy neighbor."—Leviticus 19:16



- Countries, such as Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, bearing the greatest burden of the Syrian refugee crisis, are experiencing growth in their GDP.

Myth: Syrian refugees (code for Muslims) will overrun the U.S.

Facts:

- There are 86,000 Syrian immigrants in the U.S., most from earlier waves of immigration.
- The Syrian refugees accepted in the U.S. between 2011 and to 2016, make up roughly 0.0007% of the total U.S. population. 10,000 additional Syrians would constitute approximately 0.004% of the total U.S. population.

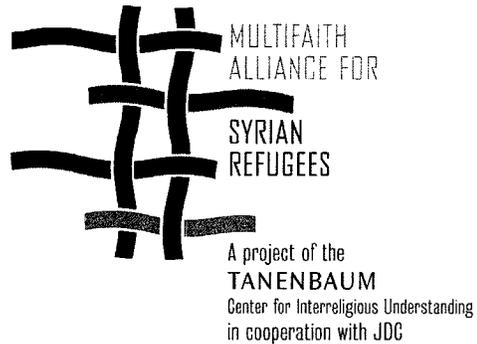
Myth: By bringing in Syrian refugees, we will be importing terrorists. If we bring in *any* refugees, they should be Christians.

Facts:

- Of 2,174 Syrian refugees admitted between 2011 and 2015, 2.4% are Christians; 96% are Muslims.
- Less than 10% of the Syrian population is Christian, and they have fled at lower rates than Muslims. Focusing only on Christians fails to address the needs of the majority of refugees.
- Of 750,000 refugees resettled in the U.S. since 9/11, fewer than 10 have been implicated in planning terrorist activities. ***None of them were Syrian.***
- Two-thirds 2/3 of applicants referred for resettlement in the U.S. are women and male children under 11. They are themselves escaping terrorists. ISIS has, at times, condemned them for leaving Syria and rejecting its extremist ideology.

Myth: If we allow Syrian refugees to come to the U.S., we will import the same chaos and terrorism that Europe is experiencing.

"Thou shalt not stand idly by the blood of thy neighbor."—Leviticus 19:16



Facts:

- The U.S. process for resettling refugees is different from Europe's. Europe processes refugees after they arrive on European soil. The U.S. lets Syrian refugees into the country after an enhanced screening process, and before they come to America.
- Historically, Muslim immigrants have been better integrated into U.S. society than in many Western European countries, where many report feeling marginalized and alienated.

Myth: Most Americans don't want to accept any Syrian refugees at all, and there's no changing their minds.

Facts:

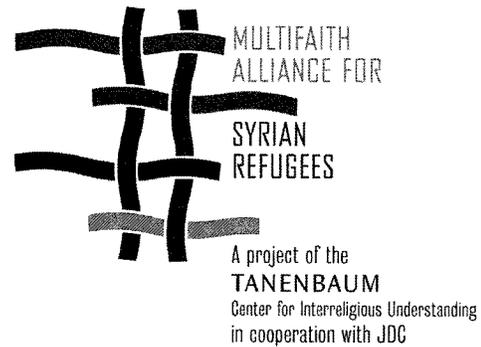
- According to a Bloomberg Politics poll, 53% of Americans reject admitting any Syrian refugees. In contrast, a recent TENT Survey of 11 countries, including the U.S., shows that the messages that they hear affects their attitudes.

The single greatest source of resistance to admitting Syrian refugees is the fear of bringing in terrorists. But, unless we rescue these displaced people – especially children, who have been deprived of years of education – we are contributing to the thing that we most fear. The longer these refugees are left in limbo, the more vulnerable they are to radicalization.

On the scale of religiosity, the US ranks highest in the developed world. Religious piety has become a litmus test for elected office. But, one cannot lay claim to being a pious person if one ignores the basic tenets of our faiths: to care for the stranger and take action in the face of human suffering.

When religions unite to speak in one voice, they are a powerful antidote to the hateful speech and misinformation that prevails today. MFA brings moral authority to what has deteriorated into a partisan debate. But, religious leaders and institutions can mobilize vast constituencies and communication networks on behalf of Syrian war victims.

"Thou shalt not stand idly by the blood of thy neighbor."—Leviticus 19:16



The multifaith community is in a unique position to counter the rejectionist arguments that feed the current hostile environment. But, this crisis also provides huge opportunities for building bridges of understanding and respect between religions as well as enhancing our security by supporting our allies and reducing the conditions for radicalization.

Thank you.

Georgette F. Bennett, Ph.D.

Founder

Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees

A project of the TANENBAUM Center for Interreligious Understanding in Cooperation with JDC

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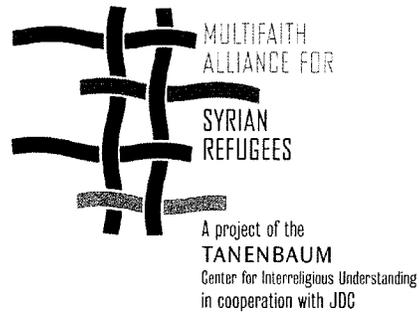
georgette.bennett@multifaithalliance.org | www.multifaithalliance.org

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The Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees (MFA), a project of the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding in cooperation with JDC, is a coalition of more than 60 faith-based and secular organizations. Our mission is to mobilize global support to alleviate the Syrian humanitarian crisis, heighten awareness of its growing dangers, and advance future stability in the region. MFA conducts crisis-related briefings in the U.S. and abroad, facilitates relationships between complementary partner organizations working to help Syrian war victims, and nurtures transformative people-to-people diplomacy in the region.

**Attached: Common Myths and Startling Facts About Syrian Refugees
Syrian Displacement and Resettlement**

"Thou shalt not stand idly by the blood of thy neighbor."—Leviticus 19:16



Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees Common Myths & Startling Facts Syrian Refugees in the U.S.

Myth: Syrian refugees are welfare dependent and will be a drain on economy.

Facts:

- Median income for Syrian families is \$62,000 – \$9,000 higher than other foreign born households; \$6,000 lower than U.S. born households (Migration Policy Institute [MPI] Fact Sheet).
- While there is relatively low workforce participation by Syrian women, 49% of Syrian men in the U.S. work in high-skilled occupations – e.g. managerial, business, science (MPI Fact Sheet).
- There are approximately 4,000 Syrian doctors in the U.S. – an affluent and philanthropic community (National Arab American Medical Association).
- Syrians are highly educated, as a group (MPI Fact Sheet).
 - 39% are college graduates (vs. 30% U.S. born).
 - Those arriving after 2012 have higher education attainment than previous waves of immigrants.
- Several countries bearing the greatest burden of the refugee crisis, and in which Syrian refugees make up a large percent of the population, are experiencing growth in their GDP.
 - Turkey – GDP will grow 3.5% this year and continue at that rate next year (World Bank).
 - Lebanon – GDP has averaged 2% growth per year in recent years and is expected to reach 3% growth by 2018 (World Bank).
 - Jordan – GDP will rise by 3.5% in 2016 and attain growth of 3.8% in 2017 (World Bank).

Myth: Syrian refugees (code for Muslims) will overrun the U.S.

Facts:

- There are 86,000 Syrian immigrants in the U.S., most from earlier waves of immigration (MPI Fact Sheet).
- There were 2,174 Syrian refugees accepted since the start of the Syrian war to through 2015, making up roughly 0.0007% of the total U.S. population.
- 10,000 additional Syrians would constitute approximately 0.004% of the total U.S. population.
- Perceptions of Muslim penetration into different societies are often at odds with the facts:
 - European publics overestimate the percent of Muslims in their nation's populations—e.g. French respondents to a poll thought 31% of their population is Muslim. The actual percentage is closer to 8%. (Ipsos MORI poll, UK).
 - The Muslim share of the European population is steadily increasing – approx. 1%/decade, with only 8.6% projected in 2030 (less than 3% of the world's Muslims) (Pew).

MFA activities are a project of Tanenbaum, except funding for humanitarian aid, which is distributed through JDC.

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Myth: By bringing in Syrian refugees, we will be importing terrorists. If we bring in *any* refugees, they should be Christians.

Facts:

- To date, the U.S. has not met its declared targets for resettling Syrian refugees. 28% of the 10,000 committed for FY 2016 have been resettled 7 months into the current fiscal year.
- Of 2,174 Syrian refugees admitted between 2011 and 2015, 53 (2.4%) are Christians; 2,098 (96%) are Muslims.
- Less than 10% of the Syrian population is Christian, and they have fled at lower rates than Muslims. Focusing only on Christians fails to address the needs of the majority of refugees.
- Of 750,000 refugees resettled in the U.S. since 9/11, fewer than 10 have been implicated in planning terrorist activities. ***None of them were Syrian.***
- Two-thirds 2/3 of applicants referred for resettlement in the U.S. are women and male children under 11; 25% are men; the rest are female children and teen-age males. They are themselves escaping terrorists; on a number of occasions, ISIS condemned them for leaving Syria and rejecting its extremist ideology.

Myth: If we allow Syrian refugees to come to the U.S., we will import the same chaos and terrorism that Europe is experiencing.

Facts:

- The U.S. process for resettling refugees is different from Europe's. Europe processes refugees after they arrive on European soil. The U.S. lets Syrian refugees into the country after an enhanced screening process, and before they come to America.
- Historically, Muslim immigrants have been better integrated into U.S. society than in many Western European countries, where many report feeling marginalized and alienated.

Myth: Most Americans don't want to accept any Syrian refugees at all, and there's no changing their minds.

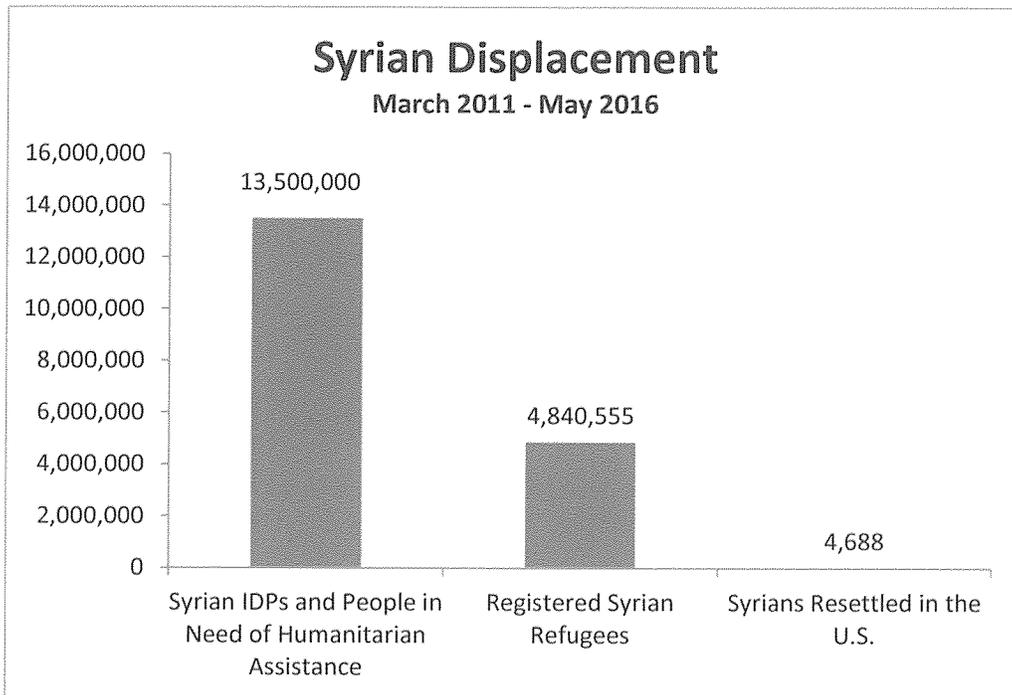
Facts:

- According to a Bloomberg Politics poll, 53% of Americans reject admitting any Syrian refugees. In contrast, a recent TENT Survey of 11 countries, including the U.S., shows that the messages that they hear affects their attitudes.
 - 57% of U.S. respondents hold mixed or positive views of Syrian refugees.
 - The more people know about the Syrian refugees' experiences, the more positive they feel about admitting them.
 - Nearly half of respondents were open to changing their opinions, in particular after learning that most refugees hope to return home.
 - 34% responded positively to stories of refugees assimilating well.
 - 47% said that better knowledge of what is happening in the refugees' home countries would make them more sympathetic to admitting Syrian refugees. A large majority of respondents felt responsible and want to help, but don't know how.
 - The majority oppose discriminating on the basis of religion.
 - Key opinion drivers are: feeling a responsibility to help, economic considerations, security, and the need to provide financial assistance.
- A poll conducted in the UK, revealed that 25% of the population is insistently anti-immigrant; 25% wants to let everyone in; and 50% are in "the anxious middle." The middle had humanitarian impulses, but were fearful. This 50% can be moved to shift their views, with the right narrative. When combined with the liberal 25%, this the poll reveals a potentially large majority in favor to refugee resettlement.

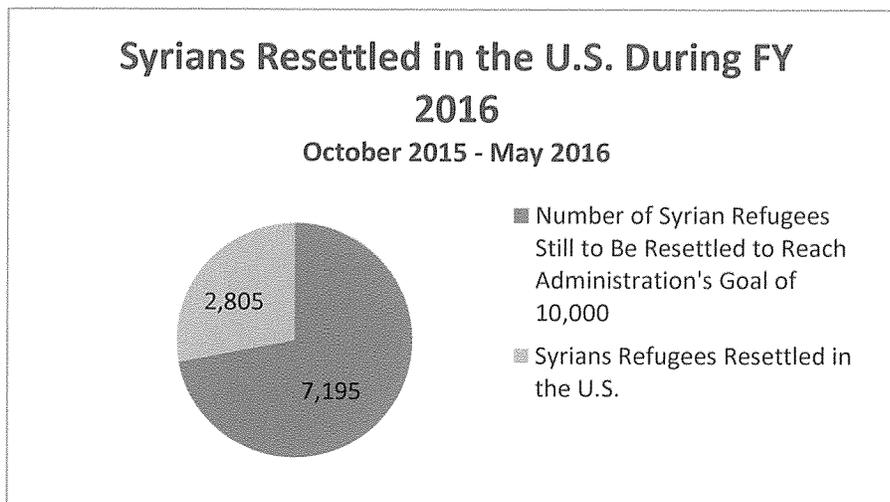
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MULTIFAITH
ALLIANCE FOR
SYRIAN
REFUGEES
A project of the
TANENBAUM
Center for Interreligious Understanding
in cooperation with JDC



Sources: <http://www.unocha.org/syria>, <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>, <http://www.state.gov/i/prm/releases/statistics/index.htm>, <http://www.wrapsnet.org/Reports/AdmissionsArrivals/tabid/211/Default.aspx>



Source: <http://www.wrapsnet.org/Reports/AdmissionsArrivals/tabid/211/Default.aspx>

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TESTIMONY OF PROFESSOR LENNI B. BENSON

Professor of Law, New York Law School and
Executive Director, Safe Passage Project
Presented to the Immigration Committee
of the
New York City Council

June 27, 2016



<http://www.safeassageproject.org>

Dear Councilmember Carlos Menchaca and Members of the Immigration Committee:

I thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of the two resolutions pending before the committee this day: Resolution 1105 (seeking to expand support for the admission of Syrian Refugees) and Resolution 1097 (seeking Congressional improvements to the “U Visa Status”). I offer these remarks based on my over thirty years of experience in the field of U.S. immigration and nationality law and in my capacity as the Executive Director of the Safe Passage Project, a nonprofit that is serving immigrant youth in New York State.

Resolution 1105—Admission of Syrian Refugees

The United States is a generous country in granting refugee status to thousands of people each year and aiding in their resettlement to the United States. Yet while, our President has designated that the United States would accept an estimated 12,000 Syrian refugees this fiscal year (ending September 30, 2016), the government has not been able to complete the processing and admission of that number of refugees from the region. The City Council is a welcome leader, representing one of the most diverse cities in the world and leaders of a city where immigrant integration is a central commitment of our government and our communities. We can do better and we can do more.

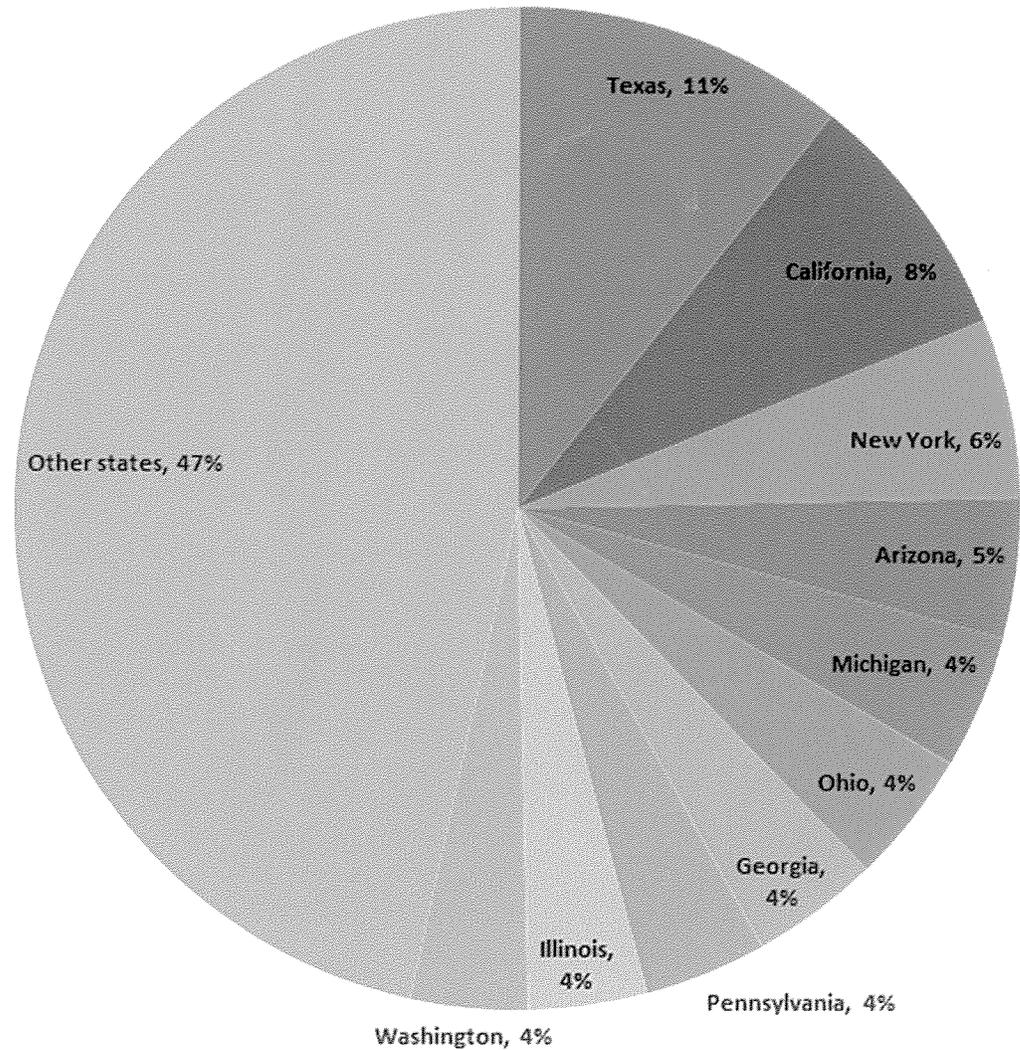
Unlike the chorus of fearful, ill-informed politicians in some states who are frightened of refugees this resolution today sends a positive message of welcome. It is wrong to politicize the admission of refugees and to generate fear amongst the U.S. population. All refugees go through a lengthy and rigorous assessment of their claims for protection and our government investigates their backgrounds and all available evidence of their character. The significant delays in admitting refugees are largely due to these security measures.

Furthermore, this resolution is important because our state and local communities are able to offer coordinated support and services when people are admitted through the formal refugee process. Unlike other immigrants or those who seek asylum, when Refugees are admitted, the Refugee Resettlement Agencies are able to plan for their arrival, welcome them with plans for temporary housing and aid in securing education or employment opportunities. Many communities throughout our state have been enriched by the arrival of refugee communities both economically and culturally. In 2015, New York State accepted 4,502 of the

69,933 total refugees resettled in the United States. The Migration Policy Institute has calculated that New York State received 6% of the total 2015 refugee population.

Here is a graph showing the top receiving states from the MPI website:

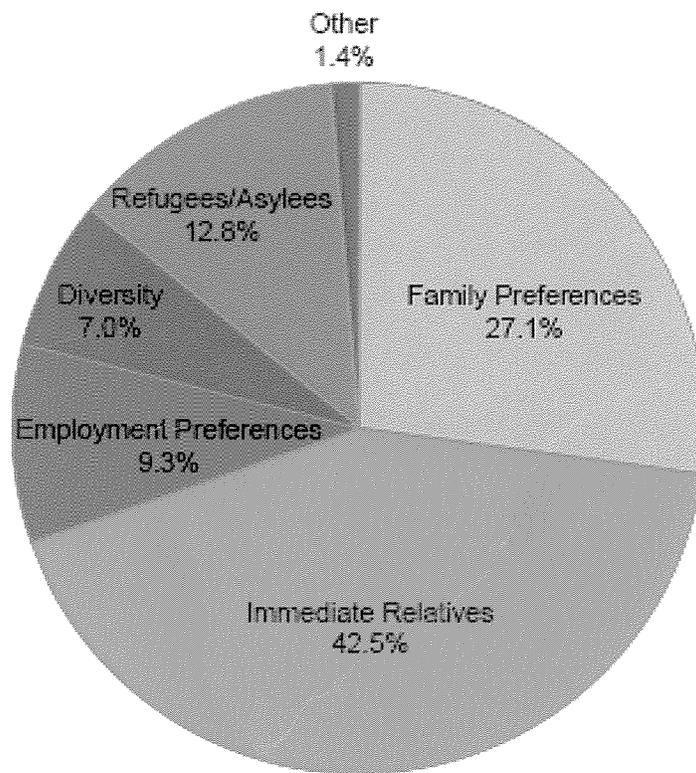
FY 2015 total of nearly 70,000 refugee admissions:



Source: [http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/refugees-and-asylees-united-states#Refugee Admission Ceiling](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/refugees-and-asylees-united-states#Refugee%20Admission%20Ceiling)

Undoubtedly many of the council members can point to local community organizations, successful entrepreneurs, and diverse educational institutions strengthened by past refugee admissions. The City's own Department of City Planning has gathered data about our immigrant population and using federal data shares that nearly 13% of our all immigrants settling in our city are people who were admitted as refugees or later granted asylum.

Immigrants Admitted by Class of Admission New York City, 2002-2011



Sources: U.S. Department of Homeland Security Office of Immigration Statistics;
Special Tabulations for New York City, Fiscal Years 2002-2011
Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning

Under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), the President and Congress consult and the President selects a target admissions number for refugees. For many years the target has been approximately 70,000 but actual admissions have varied based on processing delays and security clearances. This allocation is further subdivided by regions. For fiscal year 2016 the President announced an increase in refugee admissions to help address the refugee crisis in Syria. President Obama stated that he would increase the annual limit to 85,000 and seek admission of at least 10,000 Syrians. While this is a positive step, it is insufficient to meet the resettlement needs generated by this and other crisis. The U.S. has done more during other periods of crisis. For example in the early 1990's the United States raised the refugee admissions to a record high of 142,000. The vast majority of people resettled in 1993 were fleeing the crisis in the Balkans. Below is a chart of actual total refugee admissions.

Table 13. REFUGEE ARRIVALS: FISCAL YEARS 1980 TO 2013

Year	Number	Year	Number	Year	Number
1980	207,116	1992	115,548	2004	52,840
1981	159,252	1993	114,181	2005	53,738
1982	98,096	1994	111,680	2006	41,094
1983	61,218	1995	98,973	2007	48,218
1984	70,393	1996	75,421	2008	60,107
1985	67,704	1997	69,653	2009	74,602
1986	62,146	1998	76,712	2010	73,293
1987	64,528	1999	85,285	2011	56,384
1988	76,483	2000	72,143	2012	58,179
1989	107,070	2001	68,925	2013	69,909
1990	122,066	2002	26,788	2014	69,975*
1991	113,389	2003	28,286		

Note: Data series began following the Refugee Act of 1980. Excludes Amerasian immigrants except in Fiscal Years 1989 to 1991. Source: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), Worldwide Refugee Admissions Processing System (WRAPS), Fiscal Years 1980 to 2013. *updated from 2014 USCIS data.

https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/ois_yb_2013_o.pdf

The Resolution before you is an appropriate and thoughtful response to the current demands of a world with a growing population of displaced people and refugees. The UNHCR announced that over 50% of this population is women and children and that the world has nearly 60 million people who are not able to remain safely at home.

Other Refugee Needs

Officially, the legal definition of a refugee is a person seeking help outside their country of origin and who is facing a well-founded fear of persecution on account of a protected ground. As the City Council is well aware, the INA also allows people to seek protection inside the United States by applying for asylum. The council and city government have been leaders in funding the work of nonprofits, including funding for the Safe Passage Project to aid unaccompanied minors seeking protection. We very much appreciate this needed support. On this occasion of the resolution supporting Syrian admissions, we note a third population that is betwixt and between the support found here in New York and the overseas refugee resettlement program. Listed in the top five most dangerous countries in the world are: El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras and each of these nations has thousands of people fleeing each month seeking protection from endemic violence and a lack of governmental protection or failed government due to corruption and control by criminal syndicates.

In October of 2014 the federal government announced the creation of the overseas Central American Minors Program that authorizes the grant of refugee status inside Guatemala, Honduras, or El Salvador for children who have a parent residing with a form of legal status within the United States. This program authorized the adjudication of refugee claims within the country of residence, a very rare exception to the normal requirement that people must seek protection from *outside* their country of origin. The main rationale of this program was to deter children from fleeing the violence in the region to secure reunification with a parent or parents in the United States. The program was also necessary for a significant number of Central Americans who reside lawfully in the United States in Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or another category such as deferred action but are unable to sponsor their children to join them. The federal government asked the Refugee Resettlement Agencies to process the preliminary applications of the parents for the children. To my knowledge these agencies were not given any additional funding to handle the processing of the documents which must both establish the genetic parentage of the child and prove the lawful status of the

parent before the child can be interviewed in Central America. While the program's objective is empathetic, the overall operation of the program has been troublingly slow and cumbersome.

In a soon to be released report the USCIS Ombudsman will report that despite thousands of applications by parents, only a small number of children have been admitted.

As of March 28, 2016, only 144 individual beneficiaries—46 refugees and 98 parolees—had arrived in the United States through the CAM program. Of those, 93 arrived from El Salvador, 46 from Honduras and 5 from Guatemala.

The Customs and Border Protection website reports more optimistic data, but approvals are not admissions to the United States:

To date, the Central American Minors Program has received applications for 8,948 individuals, and we have approved more than 1,448 individuals for refugee status or parole in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. Source:
<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-border-unaccompanied-children/fy-2016>

It is sad to say, but children facing immediate danger and families worried for their safety apparently have continued to have to face the great dangers of the journey to the United States because the processing of claims is so slow.

Just as children and families are suffering in fleeing the violence in Syria, I urge the City Council to amend its current resolution or to consider adopting an additional resolution calling for robust funding of the Central American refugee processing and to dramatically increase the admission of refugees from the region. These admissions through the refugee system will allow our state and local government to better prepare for the resettlement of the populations and to receive small amounts of federal assistance to help face potential special funding demands on schools or communities of resettlement.

Quota Delays for Central American Special Immigrant Juveniles

Soon the Immigrant Children's Advocates Relief Effort, a coalition of several nonprofit immigrant services providers will update this committee on the ongoing needs of serving city immigrant children who are seeking protection from the Central American region. The federal government continues to apprehend children at record rates. In May, the most recent month of data available, the Border and Customs Protection reported that another 5,669 children had

been apprehended and an additional 6,788 number of young women and small children. This rate of apprehension is higher than all but one prior year. The United States could easily see over 60,000 youth in fiscal year 2016 alone. We hope that the City Council will continue to support our efforts to assist these children by helping to fund legal services and by coordinating other city agencies to provide integration support. All of these factors, of increasing violence in the region, the quota delays, and the government lack of action on pending cases will conflate to place enormous demands on those trying to protect immigrant youth in our city.

A Call for Temporary Protected Status

Finally, I note that Congress has given the President authority to certify Temporary Protected Status for people inside the United States who cannot return safely to their country of origin due to unrest or natural disaster. The President made such a designation for Syrians in 2014. There have been continuing designations for some people from El Salvador and Honduras for many years due to natural disasters that occurred in many years ago. Today there is a national effort to have the President once again designate TPS and to expand it to include Guatemala. There are many good reasons to support this temporary protected status and to allow for family reunification. Especially in times of great turmoil and government instability, this solution may be both legal necessary and essential to humanitarian protection.

The hearings today on similar resolutions calling for federal government action, set a good example and I urge this committee and the entire City Council to consider similar resolutions in support of Temporary Protection Status for the Northern Triangle of Central America. I have signed such a request with a group of immigration law professors and the full petition can be found here:

http://immigrantjustice.org/sites/immigrantjustice.org/files/2016_02_26_ProfessorTPSLetter.PDF

Conclusion

In conclusion, I write to support the City Council's support for expanding protections for Syrian refugees and for improving the adjudication and protection of victims of crimes under the "U" visa status. I also urge the Council to go further to call for expanded support for the processing of refugee protection in the region for Central American Minors, to call upon the federal government to protect children who have special immigrant juvenile findings and are stuck in quota delays, and to join me in calling for Temporary Protected Status for people in the United States who are from El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the council.

Respectfully submitted,

Lenni B. Benson

Unaccompanied Children Apprehended at the Southern Border
by Fiscal Year through May 31, 2016.

Country	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
El Salvador	1,221	1,910	1,394	3,314	5,990	16,404	9,389	11,404
Guatemala	1,115	1,517	1,565	3,835	8,068	17,057	13,589	12,337
Honduras	968	1,017	974	2,997	6,747	18,244	5,409	6,152
Mexico	16,114	13,724	11,768	13,974	17,240	15,634	11,012	8,052

One of the important changes to note in the representation of these youth is that the country cap quota has been reached for the yearly allocation of special immigrant juvenile status visas (SIJS). SIJS is a status for children who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned by one or both parents and who cannot return to their country of origin. While it is a form of protection similar to refugee status, it is a category that Congress limits by an annual quota (very much like the U visa quota discussed in Resolution 1097). The annual visa allocation is charged to the Employment Based 4th Preference for Special Immigrants. That is a total allocation of approximately 9,600 or 7.1% of the employment based visas. This number is further restricted by country caps where no nation can receive more than 7% of the total visas or approximately 695 children per country. In May the quota was reached for nationals from El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras. In July, the quota will be reached for children from Mexico and in August it is likely to be reached for children from India. Only Congress can raise these allocations, there is no discretionary pool of visas for the administration to distribute.

Given these restrictions, many more children are now likely to need assistance to also seek protection under the refugee convention by filing for asylum. In FY 2014, 14,000 children filed for asylum protection and the DHS reported they expected a similar number of applications this fiscal year. However, advocates have advised the agencies to expect more asylum applications for children fleeing Central American due to the queues and delays that will be expected in the SIJS categories.

The City Council might consider future resolutions calling for greater protections for these immigrant youth. For all SIJS cases, a New York state family court has already made a finding that the care of custody of the child is to be found in New York and that it is not in the

best interests of the child to be returned to his or country of origin. While quota delays may mean long waits, the DHS should stop the deportation of these children and recognize and respect the sovereign findings of the state courts of New York. We have asked the DHS to consider various interim forms of relief for these youth such as deferred action or a form of “parole” to protect the children from removal and to allow them to seek federally issued employment authorization documents. To date the DHS has not yet developed a formal policy and it may be that like the U status applicants discussed in Resolution 1097, these youth will continue to be stressed and vulnerable to exploitation and removal due to the unfortunate complexities of the immigration system.

When our state courts have ruled that a child’s best interests are found here in New York, that determination should be respected by the federal authorities and an efficient, low cost, path to stability and inclusion must be found.



CAMBA
Testimony Before the New York City Council
Committee on Immigration
June 27, 2016
Eileen Reilly

Mr. Chairman, Council Members Levin and Menchaca, and Members of the Committee, my name is Eileen Reilly and I am a Vice President at CAMBA with oversight of our Refugee Services. CAMBA is one of New York City's largest and most trusted community-based organizations and is unique among peer agencies in scale, quality, and responsiveness. Founded in 1977 as a merchants' block association, the agency has grown in direct response to the needs of the communities we serve. Today, CAMBA provides services to 45,000 individuals and families annually throughout the 5 boroughs with an integrated set of six program areas: Economic Development, Education and Youth Development, Family Support, Health, Housing, and Legal Services. Through our comprehensive continuum of care, CAMBA provides services which connect people with opportunities to enhance their quality of life.

CAMBA began with a mission to provide economic development services to refugees and immigrants in Central Brooklyn in the late 1970s. Since 1994, we have been an affiliate of the United States Committee on Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI). As an USCRI affiliate, we have settled over 10,000 refugees from 52 countries in the past 22 years. We have a strong track record as a refugee resettlement agency. Each year, 90% of about 350 newly arriving refugees and asylees that we serve are placed in jobs and achieve self-sufficiency within three months of their arrival in New York City. More broadly speaking, refugee resettlement in New York has been an overwhelming success by any measure. Whether we look at job placements, college attendance, business starts or homeownership, the five refugee resettlement agencies in the City have helped new arrivals to become independent and contributing members of their communities.

Today, I would like to talk to you about Resolution No. 1105-A, which calls upon the President and the State Department to resettle at least 10,000 Syrian refugees in the United States of America by the end of fiscal year 2016 and to increase that number to 65,000 by the end of fiscal year 2017. Recent changes in the refugee resettlement process have brought the inflow of new refugees to a near standstill. This has happened while the Syrian civil war, now in its sixth year, has caused almost five million Syrians to flee their homeland as refugees. This number is only expected to grow as the conflict grinds on.

Syrian refugees are the victims, not the perpetrators, of terrorism. They do not pose a meaningful risk to our national security. Moreover, refugees are vetted more intensively than any other

category of traveler, and this vetting takes place while they are still overseas. Those seeking resettlement are screened by national and international intelligence agencies, their fingerprints and other biometric data are checked against terrorist and criminal databases, and they are interviewed several times over the course of a vetting process that takes at least 18 to 24 months and often longer.

A blanket ban on Syrian refugees only feeds the narrative of ISIS that there is a war between Islam and the West, and that Muslims are not welcome in the United States or Europe. In fact, the United States has been built on successful immigration from its inception. While we must remain vigilant to keep our nation safe from terrorists foreign or domestic, we must also remain true to our values as a pluralistic nation that welcomes vulnerable populations fleeing conflict and seeking peace. Our goal as a country should remain combating religious, ethnic, and gender-based persecution. Furthermore, we should remember that resettlement initiatives help to advance U.S. national security interests by supporting the stability of our allies and partners who are themselves struggling to host large numbers of refugees.

Since the start of the Syrian civil war in 2011, the United States has admitted only about 4,100 Syrian refugees. That is a grossly inadequate response to this humanitarian crisis. CAMBA therefore joins in the call for the President and the Department of State to resettle at least 10,000 Syrian refugees in the United States by the end of fiscal year 2016 and to increase that number to 65,000 by the end of fiscal year 2017.

Thank you for allowing us to testify. I hope that the information we have provided about the needs of the refugee community will be helpful to your deliberations.



**Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.**

Statement submitted to the New York City Council Committee on Immigration

Hearing on Resolution 1105

June 27, 2016

Throughout our history, America has been defined by our generosity toward those who seek safe haven from oppression. Welcoming refugees honors both our country's history and reflects the deeply-held American and Jewish tradition of offering a chance at a new beginning to those who seek safety and freedom. Once given that opportunity, refugees and asylees become active and productive members of American communities.

HIAS, the global Jewish nonprofit that protects refugees, is deeply committed to preserving refugee resettlement in the United States. HIAS's work is rooted in the Torah's mandate to welcome the stranger. We have been disheartened by attempts by national, state and local governments to pause or shut down refugee resettlement in the name of national security.

National security and assistance of refugees from Syria are not incompatible. Syrian refugees are subject to rigorous security screening processes already in place. Many of those seeking asylum are victims of terrorism and are trying to find safety from extremism. Refugee applicants undergo multiple security screenings at almost every step of the process of resettlement to the United States. The Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security share in the responsibility of screening refugee applicants. An applicant's biographic information and biometric information are vetted against multiple law enforcement and intelligence databases. This is in addition to the in-person interview conducted by DHS staff to ascertain the validity of the claim for refugee status. The U.S. refugee program can offer refugees safety and still protect the U.S. from possible threats.

The mentality of exclusion is not only wholly inconsistent with American and Jewish values, but also reinforces the propaganda of those that seek to cause harm making us less safe.

In the aftermath of World War II, when the price for keeping doors closed to refugees was made starkly clear, the international community adopted the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. To this day, the Convention defines who a refugee is and what legal protection a refugee is entitled to receive. It is the basis for the U.S. refugee and asylum law.

There are some Syrian refugees who will never be able to return home or live safely in Lebanon, Jordan, or another country of first asylum. The United States can help these and the other countries of first asylum that have shouldered the responsibility for so many Syrians fleeing the crisis by providing assistance and resettling some of the most vulnerable refugees who are unable to live in these countries in safety. By doing so, the United States will proudly honor its tradition of providing safe haven for refugees and ensure that the most vulnerable can rebuild their shattered lives free of fear.

Testimony on Resolution 1105 and 1103 to the New York City Council

Delivered by Murad Awawdeh,
Senior Manager of Political Engagement,
New York Immigration Coalition

Good afternoon,

Thank you for holding this hearing today to discuss critical issues facing immigrants. The New York Immigration Coalition is an umbrella organization of over 200 groups across the State fighting for immigrant justice. The NYCIC strongly supports Resolution 1105, calling upon the President and the State Department to increase resettlement of Syrian refugees from 10,000 to 65,000 by the end of FY2017 and Resolution 1103 calling upon the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to designate Ecuador for Temporary Protected Status to provide relief to eligible Ecuadorian nationals in the wake of the devastating recent earthquake.

Welcoming those who choose to make our city their home is at the core of our city, and the NYCIC works to ensure that no matter why you must leave your home, you have a new home that is supportive and inclusive in New York City. This is true for refugees -- not only Syrian but others. Since the start of the Syrian Civil War, 13.5 million Syrians have become displaced and in need of humanitarian relief. Over 4.8 million Syrians have become refugees. Countries from around the world have pledged to take in Syrians. The vast majority of these refugees have been taken in by surrounding countries such as Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, and Turkey. Western Nations have also stepped up and pledged and have taken in Syrian refugees. The United States, has to do more to assist refugees fleeing war. The mere 10,000 pledge is not enough.

Victims of conflict should be welcomed within this nation of immigrants. Central American children and families are fleeing open warfare waged by gangs and cartels. In 2014, we hit record numbers with almost 6,000 unaccompanied children reuniting with family in New York. Based on recent numbers, we are on track to match that record high again this year, if not exceed it. In addition, the number of mothers and children for 2016 so far is more than double what it was in 2014.

But it is also true for those that are survivors of forced migration no matter what, no one leaves their home because it is simple or easy, but because they want to make the best of their life and the lives of their families and future generations. New York City, with the Statue of Liberty standing as a beacon in our harbor, has a proud history of welcoming all and offering shelter to those in need.

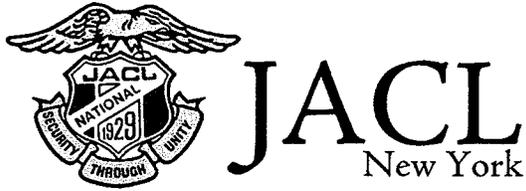
The Ecuadorian community is rich and thriving in NYC, and this community has felt that the ongoing aftershocks of the devastating earthquakes that hit the beautiful nation on April 16, 2016. Since then, 26 aftershocks have rocked Ecuador, hampering, and in

many instances, postponing, efforts to rebuild. Since the earthquake, the community has come together to spearhead relief efforts throughout the United States; especially in the wake of the aftershocks. If TPS is granted to Ecuador, Ecuadorian immigrants present in the United States will be able apply for permission to stay in the U.S, work legally, and when necessary, travel to Ecuador as they begin the work to rebuild their country.

Ecuadorian TPS is critical to ensure that the community living in the US can support their families, communities, and home country to return to its previous state.

We also call on an expansion of TPS for El Salvador and Honduras that would also include Guatemala. While El Salvador and Honduras have been designated for TPS for the last fifteen years, the program's strict requirements mean that no one who has arrived in that time period will qualify to apply. This despite the fact that crime rates have dramatically risen in these three countries, so much so that foreign policy experts have found that the conditions there are virtually the same as within countries engaged in open warfare. El Salvador has the highest rate of murder of women in the world, and Honduras and Guatemala are within the world's top five most violent countries, with Honduras earning the nickname "murder capital of the world." Designating these three countries for TPS would help bring relief to the hundreds of thousands of individuals who have been forced to flee over the last ten years.

In this effort we are tremendously thankful to City Council and know they will make sure that any new programs created in NYC will be as inclusive as possible.



06/27/16

To the New York City Council - Immigration Committee,

The Japanese American Citizens League New York Chapter also known as JACL NY, would like to go on record as being in full support of Resolution 1097 and 1105. We agree that the current laws governing the granting of U-Visas and the established quotas for allowing the resettlement of Syrian refugees in our country is inadequate and unfair in light of the extreme and life threatening circumstances that they are facing.

The JACL is America's oldest Asian civil rights organization founded in 1927. The Japanese American community has endured some of the most extreme examples of prejudice and exclusion in this country's history. The incarceration of 120,000 people of Japanese heritage during WW2 was preceded by Exclusion Act of 1924, and a xenophobia against immigrants which fostered the type of hostile hate mongering that is currently being experienced by those of Muslim and Arab descent. JACL NY is very concerned that we do not repeat the mistakes of the past.

As a free society, the values of this country are based on racial equality and tolerance. The people that are applying for U-Visas and for asylum in this country are in desperate need and are looking towards America to show compassion and live up to our ideals.

JACL NY believes it is extremely important that both Resolution 1097 and 1105 are submitted for consideration by the United States Congress.

Thank you,

George Hirose JACL NY, Co-President
David Okada JACL NY, Co-President

Statement for NYC Council Committee on Immigration Hearing and Open Arms Press
Conference, June 27, 2016

Mojúbàolú Olufúnké Okome, founder, #BringBackOurGirlsNYC
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Editor: Ìrìnkèrindò: a Journal of African Migration

I stand here today as an African immigrant who came to the US 35 years ago to give unequivocal support to the statement by the New York City Council Committee on Immigration that “In New York City, we reject anti-immigrant sentiments and welcome displaced people with compassion, respect, and generosity.”

I also support the two resolutions before the Council:

- Resolution 1105, calling upon the President and the State Department to resettle at least 10,000 Syrian refugees in the United States of America by the end of fiscal year 2016 and to increase such number to 65,000 by the end of fiscal year 2017.
- Resolution 1103, calling upon the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to designate Ecuador for Temporary Protected Status to provide temporary immigration relief to eligible Ecuadorian nationals in the wake of a devastating earthquake.

As is evident from statistics, wars, conflict, and persecution worldwide caused 59.5 million people to be displaced. Only 1.2 million of them are asylum seekers, 7.6 million Syrians are internally displaced and 4.1 million are refugees. According to the Migration Policy Institute,

In response to this humanitarian crisis, the Obama administration proposed to significantly increase the number of refugees the United States accepts each year—from 70,000 in FY 2015 to 85,000 in FY 2016 and 100,000 in FY 2017—and scale up the number of Syrian refugees admitted to at least 10,000 for the current fiscal year, which began October 1.

I support this decision and applaud the Obama administration for continuing to make the US a place of refuge, because:

For people living in repressive, autocratic, or conflict-embroiled nations, or those who are members of vulnerable social groups in countries around the world, migration is often a means of survival and—for those most at risk—resettlement is key to safety. In fiscal year (FY) 2015, the United States resettled 69,933

refugees and in FY 2013 (the most recent data available) granted asylum status to 25,199 people (Zong and Batalova 2015).

According to the Bureau of Census, there were 1.6 million foreign born Africans in the US in 2012. Majority are in NYS, which has 164,000 people. The NY Metropolitan area also has the largest African-born population, with 212,000 people (US Bureau of the Census 2014). However, “nearly a quarter of all immigrants from Africa to the United States in 2010 entered as refugees or received asylum as a result of ethnic conflict or civil war, particularly in countries such as Somalia, Liberia, and Sudan” (Gambino, Trevelyan and Fitzwater 2014, 2). 32% of refugees in the US are African (Anderson 2015).

Like Syrian refugees and asylum seekers, African refugees and asylum seekers are also fleeing genocidal violence, as is evident in places like Darfur, Sudan, from where we have fellow New Yorkers who have sought refuge in the United States along with their brothers and sisters from South Sudan, the Nuba Mountains, and Blue Nile.

Among the Syrian refugees, there are also the Yazidi women, subjected to abduction, brutality and sexual servitude by ISIS, just like thousands of Nigerian women and girls, including our Chibok Girls, 276 of whom were abducted by Boko Haram, the violent insurgent group, from their school in Borno State on April 14 2014. 218 of these girls remain in the hands of their brutal abductors, who like ISIS (to whom they have declared allegiance), keep them in sexual and domestic servitude under appalling and horrendous conditions where sex is used as a "weapon of war". When such women escape and seek refuge, it is only right that they are allowed into the US and welcomed.

On April 16, 2016 when the 7.8 magnitude earthquake killed ~~about~~ hundreds of people and injured over 2,600, Secretary of State Kerry promised that the US would help and support the affected population and the country (US Department of State 2016). According to the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), at least 350,000 people, including Colombian refugees in Ecuador, need urgent help (Sonia and Gaynor 2016). The US has done some work on the ground. It should also designate Ecuador for Temporary Protected Status to provide temporary immigration relief to eligible Ecuadorian nationals in the wake of this devastating earthquake

Like the Ecuadorian refugees, many Africans are forced to flee from their countries of origin and communities by natural disasters. Some are fleeing from dreadful pandemics. The 2014 Ebola crisis devastated Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. While it is gratifying that the US government granted Temporary Protective Status (TPS) to West Africans from these countries, given that the 2014 Ebola epidemic destroyed the already weak healthcare systems. Instead of giving only a 6-month extension to the TPS offered, the regular 18-month extension offered other refugees should be given.

When devastating and cataclysmic conditions push people out of their countries and cause them to ask for American help, they should be helped, welcomed and offered refuge, not rebuffed. They should be given humanitarian help, and urgently too. For all these reasons, the NYC Council should pass Resolution 1105 and 1103. Thank you.

K N O W L E D G E

L E A D E R S H I P

C O M M U N I T Y



THE

BLACK

INSTITUTE

Testimony before the Committee on Immigration

**Resolution calling upon the President and the State
Department to resettle at least 10,000 Syrian refugees in the
United States of America by the end of 2016 and to increase
such number to 65,000 by the end of 2017.**

Council Chambers, City Hall, New York, June 27th, 2016

Nabeela Latif, Immigration and Research Associate

The Black Institute

Introduction

My name is Nabeela Latif and I am the Research and Immigration Associate at The Black Institute. The Black Institute is an action and think-tank that address economic, environmental, educational, and immigration policies through the lens of the impact on communities of color and other minority and women groups.

I would like to start off by thanking the Committee on Immigration for having us here today. Immigration is the foundation on which our country was built on and it is important that we continue the tradition of immigration into our country. We are all immigrants. As a leading country in the world we need to help those who are caught in war-torn countries, those who have suffered due to corrupt and violent governments, and those who want to come to a nation so that they can live the “American Dream” and help their children have a more prosperous future. It is important that we help others who are in positions that our families could easily be in had we not had the opportunity to immigrate to the United States of America. It is our duty as the leader of the world to ensure that fewer people are killed through violations of their human rights.

Syrians have been immigrants in our country for many years now. They have helped to build our economy helped to educate our children, helped to build our technology sector, and have helped to form our policies. They are athletes and they are entertainers. Some examples of these immigrants are as follows:

Paula Abdul is a Canadian and American citizen who was born in California in 1962¹. She is a singer, songwriter, choreographer, and dancer². Paula Abdul has won a Grammy and seven MTV Video Awards, two Emmy Awards, and two People’s Choice Awards³. She has sold over 60 million records worldwide⁴. Her father, Harry Abdul is a Syrian Jew from Aleppo, Syria who had immigrated to Brazil and then the United States of America⁵.

Steve Jobs, who was the co-founder and former CEO of Apple was half Syrian⁶. He was born to a Syrian father named Abdulfattah “John” Jandali, who had grown up in

¹ Elizabeth Whitman, “Famous Syrian Americans: Amid Refugee Fearmongering, Remember Steve Jobs, Jerry Seinfeld, Other of Syrian Descent,” November 18, 2015, International Business Times, 16 June. 2016 <http://www.ibtimes.com/famous-syrian-americans-amid-refugee-fearmongering-remember-steve-jobs-jerry-seinfeld-2190439>

² “Paula Abdul Bio” 16 June. 2016 <http://paulaabdul.com/bio/>

³ “Paula Abdul Bio” <http://paulaabdul.com/bio/>

⁴ “Paula Abdul Bio” <http://paulaabdul.com/bio/>

⁵ “Famous Syrian Americans: Amid Refugee Fearmongering, Remember Steve Jobs, Jerry Seinfeld, Other of Syrian Descent,” <http://www.ibtimes.com/famous-syrian-americans-amid-refugee-fearmongering-remember-steve-jobs-jerry-seinfeld-2190439>

⁶ “Long Bio, All About Steve Jobs,” 17 June.2016 http://allaboutstevejobs.com/bio/longbio/longbio_01.php

Homs, Syria⁷ and an American mother Joanne Simpson⁸. His biological parents had given him up for adoption because Joanne Simpson's parents did not want her to keep a child out of wedlock⁹. Today Apple is the eight biggest public company in the world with \$53.7 billion dollars in profits¹⁰.

Rosemary Barkett who was the first woman to serve as a Justice for the Florida Supreme Court and is the first female Chief Justice, is Syrian¹¹. Her parents had moved from Syria to Mexico, where she was born and later to the United States of America¹².

Jerry Seinfeld, the star of the *Seinfeld Show*, is of Syrian origin from his mother's side of his family¹³. His father is of Hungarian descent and his maternal grandparents Salha and Selim Hosni were Syrian Jewish immigrants from Aleppo, Syria¹⁴.

Kelly Slater is a surfer of Irish and Syrian origin¹⁵ who has a historic 11- time win that broke surfer Mark Richard's record¹⁶.

Kinda Hibrawi is a Syrian American artist whose artwork is in different exhibitions across the USA and at shows such as the Venice Biennial in 2015¹⁷. She has worked on art projects with the US State Department, UNICEF, Children's Hospital of Orange County and many other places¹⁸. She has been invited to speak at Harvard, MIT, Chapman, and UCLA on her work with Syrian refugees¹⁹. Kinda was named the 2012

⁷ Edward C. Baig, "Steve Jobs' Biological Father Was Syrian Migrant Some Note," November 17, 2015, USA Today, 17 June. 2016
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/columnist/baig/2015/11/16/steve-jobs-biological-father-syrian-migrant-some-note/75899450/>

⁸ "Long Bio, Steve Jobs," 17 June. 2016

http://allaboutstevejobs.com/bio/longbio/longbio_01.php

⁹ "Long Bio, Steve Jobs," http://allaboutstevejobs.com/bio/longbio/longbio_01.php

¹⁰ <http://www.forbes.com/global2000/list/#tab:overall>

¹¹ "Famous Syrian Americans: Amid Refugee Fearmongering, Remember Steve Jobs, Jerry Seinfeld, Other of Syrian Descent," <http://www.ibtimes.com/famous-syrian-americans-amid-refugee-fearmongering-remember-steve-jobs-jerry-seinfeld-2190439>

¹² "Famous Syrian Americans: Amid Refugee Fearmongering, Remember Steve Jobs, Jerry Seinfeld, Other of Syrian Descent," <http://www.ibtimes.com/famous-syrian-americans-amid-refugee-fearmongering-remember-steve-jobs-jerry-seinfeld-2190439>

¹³ "Jerry Seinfeld –Biography," 23 June. 2016

http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000632/bio?ref_=nm_ov_bio_sm

¹⁴ "Jerry Seinfeld –Biography,"

http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000632/bio?ref_=nm_ov_bio_sm

¹⁵ "Jerry Seinfeld –Biography," <http://www.surfermag.com/blogs/why-kelly-slater-is-so-good/#MULqudw3SGG79I0Q.97>

¹⁶ "Kelly Slater Biography," 23 June. 2016

<http://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/kelly-slater-6142.php>

¹⁷ "About- Kinda Hibrawi," 23 June. 2016 <http://www.kindahibrawi.com/intro>

¹⁸ "About- Kinda Hibrawi," <http://www.kindahibrawi.com/intro>

¹⁹ "About- Kinda Hibrawi," <http://www.kindahibrawi.com/intro>

Global Thinker and Influencer at the Rio 20+ Conference on Sustainable Development by the United Nations²⁰. Her Arabic Calligraphy work has been used towards helping charities working with children with cancer²¹.

Many are fearful that if we let Syrian refugees into our country it will be a burden on our economy, however, we can see from the past that there are ways to get around this.

1. In 1990, 8,000 Jewish refugees who fled the Soviet Union were brought here on a pilot program set up by the Council of Jewish Federations as well as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. Both ensured that they did not take taxpayers money, but at the same time allowed for them to come to a safer country where they were not persecuted and had the opportunity to get jobs and contribute to the American economy²².
2. Looking at our circumstances today, there are currently more than 150,000 Americans of Syrian descent who earn over \$65,000 annually²³.
3. Furthermore, Syrian refugees have many skills that do not compete with Americans for their jobs but help to bring more labor into areas where there is a shortage of low- skilled workers²⁴.
4. In Canada, a country that has committed to taking in 25,000 Syrian refugees, the refugees are taking low-skilled jobs that are not taking jobs away from Canadians and this system has been working for them²⁵. Countries that have less developed economies such as Lebanon, Jordan and Brazil have accepted more refugees individually than the United States of America, which is a leader globally²⁶.

It is time that we step up and take responsibility for the consequences of watching hundreds and thousands of Syrians be murdered and starved by corrupt governments and

²⁰ "About- Kinda Hibrawi," <http://www.kindahibrawi.com/intro>

²¹ "About- Kinda Hibrawi," <http://www.kindahibrawi.com/intro>

²² Alex Nowrasteh "Syrian Refugees Could Help America. We Should Welcome Them," September 9, 2015, The Washington Post 23 June. 2016
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2015/09/09/syrian-refugees-could-help-america-we-should-welcome-them/>

²³ Alex Nowrasteh "Syrian Refugees Could Help America. We Should Welcome Them,"
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2015/09/09/syrian-refugees-could-help-america-we-should-welcome-them/>

²⁴ Alex Nowrasteh "Syrian Refugees Could Help America. We Should Welcome Them,"
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2015/09/09/syrian-refugees-could-help-america-we-should-welcome-them/>

²⁵ Leah Eichler "Syrian Refugees Are Arriving: Where Will They Work?," December 18, 2015, The Globe and Mail, 23 June. 2016 <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/careers/career-advice/life-at-work/syrian-refugees-are-arriving-where-will-they-work/article27858492/>

²⁶ Alex Nowrasteh "Syrian Refugees Could Help America. We Should Welcome Them,"
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2015/09/09/syrian-refugees-could-help-america-we-should-welcome-them/>

radical groups, none of which they agree with. Refugees are more people who will help build our economy not harm it. By taking these refugees into the United States of America, as so many countries have already done, we will be showing to radical groups and corrupt governments that we do not support violence. We will show them that we will help those in need as any leading nation globally should do. It is imperative that we help them to prove that we are a strong nation that sticks by the values in our Constitution of the right to liberty, freedom, and the pursuit of happiness.

Buenas Tardes

Mi nombre es Judas Orellona. Vivo en Corona Queens y estoy 9 años aquí en los Estados Unidos.

Me gustaría que se apruebe el TPS para no andar con miedo o temor por las calles o manejar un carro tranquilo. El TPS me daría muchas oportunidades de una mejor vida poder viajar al Ecuador a ver a la familia que tanto quiero por la situación de los papeles no lo puedo hacer. Pero con el TPS tendría muchas oportunidades poder viajar, reconectarme con seres queridos y vivir con dignidad.

Buenas tardes,

Mi nombre es Cinthia Borja. Vivo en Queens y 14 años en los Estados Unidos con mis 2 hijos nacidos aca, de 8 y de 10 años.

Yo vivía en Manta, en la provincia Manabí en el Ecuador, unas de las regiones más devastadas por el terremoto en el país.

La casa de mis abuelos, en cual yo vivía se derrumbó y fue demolido como resultado del temblor y toda mi familia en Manta se encuentra desplazada y sin hogar, se perdió casi todo.

Necesitamos urgentemente que se implementa el Estatus de Protección Temporal (TPS) para los Ecuatorianos como Yo en los Estados Unidos para poder regresar al país y ayudar a nuestras familias sin tener que perder a mi familia aca en Nueva York. Soy una madre soltera y tengo miedo, Temor de ser deportada por mi estatus. Tengo miedo de que tenga que llevar a mis hijos al Ecuador especialmente en la condición que se encuentra ahora.

Le quiero dar gracias a la Concejal Julissa Ferreras-Copeland por introducir esta Resolución, urgiendo que se apruebe el TPS para los Ecuatorianos.

Doy gracias al Concejal Carlos Menchaca y Levin también por todo su apoyo a la comunidad inmigrante.

MI NOMBRE ES MIGUEL A. MALO, SOY RESIDENTE DE BROOKLYN. HE VIVIDO AQUI EN NUEVA YORK POR 20 ANOS. ESTOY AQUI HOY PARA OFRECER MI APOYO PARA LA RESOLUCION A FAVOR DEL T.P.S. PARA LOS ECUATORIANOS. TAMBIEN QUIERO OFRECER EL APOYO DE FAIH IN NEW YORK Y ECUATORIANOS UNIDOS EN AMERICA-ECUA.

EL TERREMO QUE SUCEDIO EL 16 DE ABRIL DEL 2016, EN ECUADOR DEJO MAS DE 700 MUERTOS ENTRE ELLOS TUVE ALGUNOS AMIGOS QUE PERDIERON LA VIDA. Y MAS 25.000 DESPLAZADOS QUE PERDIERON SUS CASAS Y SU NEGOCIOS EN UN MINUTO; QUE CONSTRUYERON CON MUCHO SACRIFICIO TODA SU VIDA.

PARA MI EL TPS ES IMPORTANTE, PORQUE TENGO MIEMBROS DE MI FAMILIA Y AMIGOS QUE TIENEN MIEDO SALIR DE SUS CASAS A LOS TRABAJOS Y NO REGRESAR A SUS CASAS AL FINAL DEL DIA PARA VER A SUS HIJOS Y OTROS FAMILIARES. MIS AMIGOS EN ECUADOR TIENE TITULOS UNIVERSITARIOS DE MEDICOS, PROFESORES Y INGENIEROS; QUE POR NO TENER PERMISOS DE TRABAJO Y SEGURO SOCIAL, TIENEN QUE TRABAJAR EN CONSTRUCCIONES, MESEROS DE RESTAURANTES Y EN MANTENIMIENTO DE EDIFICIOS. SI SE APRUEBA EL TPS PODRA REVALIDAR SUS TITULOS PROFESIONALES AQUI EN LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DE NORTE AMERICA Y CONTRIBUIR MAS A ESTE PAIS Y PODER VIAJAR AL ECUADOR PARA VER A SUS HIJOS, PADRES, HERMANOS Y PADRES.

POR LAS ANTERIORES RAZONES, ES IMPORTANTE QUE NUESTROS CONSEJALES ESTAN APOYANDO A ESTA RESOLUCION. AGRADEZCO A LA CONSEJAL FERRERAS, EL CONSEJAL MENCHACA Y A TODOS LOS CONSEJALES QUE ESTAN EMPUJANDO EL TPS PARA LOS ECUATORIANOS.

ORAMOS QUE ESTE MENSAJE TAN FUERTE DE LA CIUDAD DE NUEVA YORK SEA ESCUCHADOA POR LOS OIDOS DE PRESIDENTE OBAMA.

NUESTA COMUNIDAD NO PUEDE ESPERAR MAS POR ESTE ALIVIO TAN IMPORTANTE. GRACIAS DE NUEVO.



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126-02 82ND Avenue
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June 27, 2016

City Council Testimony for Resolution 1105-2016 by Lena Alhusseini:

My name is Lena Alhusseini, and I am the Executive Director of the Arab-American Family Support Center. Established in 1994, AAFSC is the oldest and largest Arabic-speaking social service agency in New York City. As a settlement house, we provide culturally and linguistically competent services to Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim and South Asian immigrant communities.

This year, we have received countless questions regarding the influx of Syrian refugees seeking services from our organization...and I cannot begin to tell you how disappointed it makes me to report that this influx is nonexistent. Since 2011, only 140 Syrian refugees have been admitted to the entire state of New York. The United States has only admitted 9% of the suggested 26,000 referrals made by UNHCR.

This is truly disgraceful and obviously quite disappointing.

The United States is a nation built upon the bravery and drive of refugees and immigrants, and the noble willingness of those who welcome and take them in. Indeed, New York is the epicenter of these values. It is in our harbor, no more than three miles from where we stand, where following words are etched: "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me."

Embracing our role as the nation's melting-pot is what cultivated the New York we're so proud of. Accepting Syrian Refugees to our five boroughs would have one major consequence and that is, ultimately--a more diverse, creative, healthy and vibrant city. They are hard-working, educated people who, understandably, believe the world has given up on them. Indeed, just last week we celebrated the opening of an exhibit on Little Syria – **which** is roughly in present-day Tribeca. That community gave us Khalil Gibran, Amin Rihani and many other Arab Americans that have contributed to New York and our nation.

An integral first step for the government of New York City would be to commit to cultural and linguistic sensitivity, ensuring that all New Yorkers are able to access the same resources and information. We need much more funding on adult literacy. The NYC Commission on Human Rights is moving in the right direction with its Language Access Policy and Implementation plan, and I hope to see it fully implemented throughout New York City's agencies. Another essential development is to increase funding for community based organizations and settlement houses that directly serve communities in need. These CBOs fill in where our government cannot. Initiatives such as the Non-profit Stabilization Fund are incredibly important, as they help bolster our organizational infrastructure, and therefore ensure that we are able provide more support to our clients and continue building the programs that so many rely on.

As a city, we must push ourselves to evolve with an eye towards compassion and justice. We must take our own steps for our fellow New Yorkers, and we must stand by Resolution 1105-2016 to significantly increase the number of Syrian refugees admitted to our nation. The only fear we should allow ourselves to be compelled by at this moment of our nation's history, is the fear that we forget our moral duty to fellow human-beings. Thank you.



International Rescue Committee

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Co-Chairs, Overseers

Good afternoon. My name is Parbat Chapagai. My family is Bhutanese and I was born and raised in a refugee camp in Nepal. At the age of 15, my family and I got resettled in New York City by the International Rescue Committee. About 80,000 Bhutanese refugees have been resettled in the United States. No longer safe to live in our home country, my parents came to the United States seeking a better life for themselves and for me.

Coming to the United States, and making a home in New York City for me and my family, has provided the most incredible opportunities, but it has not been without its challenges. This city can be vast with possibilities and choices, but at the same time it can be incredibly overwhelming. At the same time, my family and I have been lucky to be embraced by an incredible community that has shown us great respect and welcoming. Their generosity and spirit has been essential in helping us to transition to our new life here.

It's been 8 years since my family and I resettled in New York. Since then, I have graduated from high school as valedictorian, received a Gates Millennium Scholarship and am now a senior at New York University majoring in Film and TV and minoring in Global Education. I love to tell stories through the lens of camera; this is my passion and I hope to one day be able to tell the stories of people around the world whose stories are so often hidden and unknown -- people like me and my family.

During these past 8 years I have also thought a lot about the refugee experience, our identity and what it takes to unleash the potential of young people like myself. What support do they need to succeed in school, and prepare successful academic and professional careers after high school graduation? I am still trying to answer those questions, but have seen the value of structured programs that can help to build community. The IRC offered these to me and my peers, including their Refugee Youth Summer Academy and Leaders in Training program. With both of these programs I experienced a reciprocation of ideas and support--it was the give and take between me, the other participants in these programs, and the IRC that really provided me with the value I needed from these programs and to in turn feel valued as well.

I hope the City Council continues to embrace refugees and other immigrants making their home here, and provides support for programs and organizations that can help pave the way for these new arrivals to New York City to be successful.

I hope and I believe that the more we can all do more to support and understand the lives of refugees and asylum seekers, the more we can ensure that families like mine can be successful in starting their new lives. Thank you to the City Council for this opportunity to testify.

Parbat Chapagai
Student

City Council Hearing on TPS for Ecuadorians and Syrian Refugees

Monday June 17, 2016

Testimony of Melissa C.

My name is Melissa, and I am from Haiti. On January 12, 2010, a devastating earthquake struck Haiti, killing more than 150,000 people and leaving 1.5 million people displaced. 3 days later, the Department of Homeland Security announced that they would grant Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian nationals who were present in the United States. This affected many lives in my community, including me, and my family. It allowed us to get work authorization, and get jobs to support ourselves, and our families.

I later graduated from my high school. I was salutatorian of my class and the captain of the soccer team, but wasn't sure how I could pay for college. My mother was in an ESL class at Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees, where she learned that I could apply for a Dream US scholarship. I did, and I got the scholarship. I have just completed my second year at a CUNY College, as a Nursing major, and today I work at Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees, helping other immigrants in my community, and this year, I am the proud recipient of a *Fellowship at the UCLA Dream Summer* program.

I support TPS for the people of Ecuador.

Thank you!





International Rescue Committee

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Good afternoon, my name is Avigail Ziv and I am the Executive Director for the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in New York. I would like to thank Committee Chair Menchaca, members of the New York City Council, and Committee members present today for giving us the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

The IRC is a global organization that responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises and is at work in over 40 countries around the world, while also working in 29 U.S. cities to oversee refugee resettlement and provide services to asylees and other immigrants. The IRC in New York is the oldest office in IRC's network and has been resettling refugees here for over 80 years, and resettles more than any other agency in New York City. Today, the IRC in New York assists over 3,000 refugees, asylees and other immigrants each year to help them rebuild their lives.

We are currently experiencing a refugee crisis worldwide. 65 million, or every 1 in 113, people are displaced – the greatest number since World War II. There have never been more refugees — 20 million last year alone. March marked the fifth anniversary of the Syrian conflict, a conflict that has driven half the country's population from their homes. Almost five million Syrian refugees have fled their country, losing everything they have. In the face of utter diplomatic failure to broker a solution and end the violence, innocent families continue to flee to escape the indiscriminate impacts of a brutal conflict as well as targeted violence -- rape, torture and other atrocities; forcible recruitment; shelling, rockets and barrel bombs. Syria constitutes the single most urgent humanitarian situation of our time, yet around the world so many other conflicts continue to produce human suffering as well, with civil wars like those in Afghanistan and Somalia and religious and political persecution in countries like Eritrea.

In New York City, the International Rescue Committee has helped resettle thousands of refugees over the years, including those from Burma, Iraq, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Eritrea and Syria. We help ensure families have the tools and support they need to successfully start their lives here, helping them set up their first new home, providing English classes and support for their children in schools and guidance to find jobs. Our Immigration Department serves approximately 800 individuals from across the City each year with citizenship, green cards and family reunification applications. These family reunifications includes our Central American Minors program whereby parents can be reunited with their children from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, as they come through the refugee resettlement program.

As you know, refugees are the most thoroughly vetted group of people amongst all immigrants and non-immigrants who come to this country. The refugee resettlement program is the most difficult way to enter the U.S. Refugees do not self-select to be resettled; they are identified by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) on the basis of specific needs or vulnerabilities. They are meticulously screened before even being referred to one of a dozen countries. If among the fortunate few to be referred to the U.S. resettlement program, U.S. security screenings are extremely rigorous, involving the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Defense and multiple intelligence agencies. The entire

process typically takes more than two years – and often much more – before a refugee family arrives in the U.S.

Maintaining the integrity of the U.S. refugee program is of paramount importance, and the IRC supports efforts by the U.S. government to ensure that program integrity is preserved and constantly improved. Our response to the proliferation of global humanitarian crises matters for the tens of thousands of refugees whose lives we save each and every year by welcoming them with open arms into our communities like New York City. New York City has a long and proud history of welcoming refugees and immigrants from all over the world and integrating them into the fabric of our City and we must continue this tradition. In return, refugees and other immigrants have become patriotic and productive citizens. From rescue services to small business, from education to eldercare, our city would be so much poorer without their contributions.

The IRC in New York will continue to work with these individuals and families and we believe that the New York City Council can continue to play a pivotal role and support as they have been with this population. New York City is built on its identity as a diverse, multi-cultural city, more than any other in the country. Communities nationwide, and those in New York City, have shown overwhelming support for resettling refugees and opening their arms to immigrants and recognize that it is the differences that make this city great and so special. We have been disappointed to see some voices in the country call for an end to refugee resettlement, perpetuating false information about who refugees are and the process they undergo to get here. Such calls, as we all as the recent Supreme Court ruling on the President's immigration actions, are not aligned with our country's foundational identity and values of being a nation of welcome and a beacon of freedom for the persecuted. We are therefore particularly grateful for this show of solidarity from the New York Council. We thank the New York City Council Immigration Committee for this opportunity to testify.

The International Rescue Committee of New York
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Buenas Tardes

Mi nombre es Cesar. Yo vivo en Queens , vivo 15 anos en los EEUU. El TPS me ayudaria a poder movilarsme mejor y tener una mejor movilsacion en este pais. Si se aprovaria el TPS podria tener la oportunidad de poder viajar al Ecuador para visitar a mi familia y tener una major estabilidad economica.

Testimony before New York City Council Committee on Immigration
June 27, 2016

My name is Javier David Flores and I am a member of the Ecuadorian community here in New York City. I have lived in Queens for 21 years but remain very connected to my home country, since my parents and three brothers live there. I am proud to serve as Secretary of the New York Chapter of CREO, a political movement in Ecuador.

I thank the Immigration Committee for holding this hearing today on Resolution 1103, which calls on the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to designate Ecuador for Temporary Protected Status to eligible Ecuadorian nationals in the wake of a devastating earthquake.

Thank you to Chair Carlos Menchaca, and to the sponsors of the resolution Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland and of course Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, who is our defender of all immigrants in New York City.

On April 16, 2016, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit coastal Ecuador. My native city of Portoviejo was one of the hardest hit cities. Hundreds of people died and thousands were injured.

Those of us here in New York City scrambled to check in on our relatives. Thankfully, I did not lose any family members in this tragedy but we have all still felt the impact.

The center of my city is completely devastated. The earthquake completely leveled buildings including hospitals, clinics, schools and many businesses. If it has been a weekday, my brother might have been in one of those buildings. My mother who is a school teacher lost some of her students that night.

Everyone is experiencing a feeling of pain and loss. After April 16th, Ecuador continued to experience after shocks and earthquakes, which only added to the trauma and anxiety.

The Ecuadorian community here in New York City is one of the fastest growing immigrant communities. While many of us are legal residents and citizens, many others are undocumented and live in constant fear of deportation.

Most of us came to New York City and to the United States in search of a better life. Even before the earthquake, Ecuador had been a country with limited opportunities. Now, in cities like Portoviejo, the economy is even slower and many jobs have been lost. It would now be even harder for Ecuadorians to return home than before.

Giving the Ecuadorian community TPS would mean that tens of thousands of families living here in New York could avoid deportation and get access to legal work permits. That means they can continue to support their families both here and in Ecuador during the recovery. This would all be temporary but it is better than no relief at all.

After last week's Supreme Court decision, immigrants are feeling a lot of fear. TPS would offer some hope to Ecuadorians during this difficult time for our home country.

Thank you for accepting my testimony and I ask that you approve this resolution and continue fighting for TPS for Ecuador.

Public Comments
to the
New York City Council
Committee on Immigration,
Council Member Ferreras-Copeland,
and Council Member Levin
regarding Council Resolutions 1103-2016 and 1105-2016

submitted by
Mohamed Haroun Ebead, President
Darfur People's Association of New York

June 30, 2016

My name is Mohamed Haroun Ebead, elected president of the 501(c)3 organization Darfur People's Association of New York (DPANY), based in Brooklyn. I am writing to offer to NYC officials the support of approximately 450 DPANY members for Resolutions 1103-2016 and 1105-2016, and for any other legitimate mechanisms for quickly bringing to this country refugees from State terror and natural disaster whose lives literally may depend on their finding and retaining refuge and treatment in the United States.

Darfuris are obliged to address the Council directly regarding besieged Syrians because, *without our* seeking Council help, past Council Members (such as current Public Advocate Letitia James and current Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer) helped enact several Council Resolutions beneficial to victims of State terror in Darfur and, earlier, in southern Sudan. Additionally, we cannot forget that both ladies and other Members, as well as current Council Member Laurie Cumbo, enabled Darfuri refugees to advocate for their cause respectively through their Council District Offices and the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts. Throughout NYC and the United States, Jewish organizations and some other religious groups long have provided immigration and humanitarian support for Darfuris and, similarly, are standing up for Syrian refugees.

Thus far, at least 500,000 Darfuri civilians have been killed, 3 million displaced internally, 300,000 chased into refugee camps in Chad and many thousands more into other countries surrounding Sudan. For those of you who are not aware, these numbers continue to rise rapidly as Sudan's government continues to intensify the genocidal activity against specific Darfuri tribes, and endangered Darfuris continue to seek and receive refuge in America.

We cannot ignore the fact that, during a much shorter time period, internal displacement, refugee status, and death have been inflicted on Syrian civilians *at a higher rate* due to daily violent attacks and bombing *throughout* Syria. It is believed that as many as 500,000 Syrians already have been killed, approximately 6 million displaced from their hometowns within Syria, and 4.8 million forced into refugee status in countries that border Syria.

Darfuris are morally compelled to speak because elements of the Syrian refugee dilemma resemble our own plight as Sudanese refugees and, thus far, we have not faced the same rejection by the United States. We know with certainty that many of us would not be alive today if America did not provide refuge and treatment for us, and we know just as well that many Darfuris *now* under attack in Sudan will not survive if they cannot flee to the U.S. We are obliged to plead for Americans to provide quickly to endangered Syrian refugees the same safe haven given to Darfuris since Year-2003.

Please note that, while some U.S. government agencies appear authorized to delay and limit American response to atrocities in Syria, the U.S. Senate is responding to the increase in mass atrocities worldwide by considering the Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act (GAPA), which seeks to strengthen the US government's ability to prevent and respond to genocide and mass atrocities everywhere. GAPA does not exclude response to atrocities in countries that primarily are Muslim. To reveal his support for GAPA, and to add teeth to the Atrocities Prevention Board (APB) that GAPA would create, President Obama issued on 5/18/2016 Executive Order "Prevention of Mass Atrocities", publicly articulating the importance of atrocities' prevention as well as APB's structure and functions.

Historically, even more atrocities are committed when victims are not saved *after* barbarous acts are committed *with impunity*, such as by Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir who has not been arrested pursuant to Year-2009 International Criminal Court warrants for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, and such as Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's chemical-weapon attack on Syrian civilians (similar to Saddam Hussein's chemical attack on Iraqi civilians). Humanitarian crises, such as massive displacement due to bombing or to natural disasters

such as earthquakes, lead logically to death and permanent illness or permanent disability if humanitarian aid and refuge is not provided quickly.

In distant lands, we learn little about American politics beyond that there are only two political parties, and that the Democratic Party is more compassionate than the Republican Party. We also learn that all American people are caring and protective toward victims and press their elected officials to act accordingly. This view of America runs contrary to Darfuris' actual experience with America. It was a Democratic President Clinton who we saw turn a blind eye to the impending and then existing genocide in Rwanda. It was a Republican President Bush who said "not on my watch" and declared that Sudan's government was committing "genocide" against Muslim Darfuris, thereby enabling the U.S. to respond protectively including by easing immigration paths to America and by forcing the United Nations to intervene protectively; President Bush also intervened in a variety of strenuous ways to stop the Sudan government's war on its southern Sudanese Christian people. We saw the American people and government respond compassionately to the well-advertised call to "Save Darfur" but now see them responding with callousness to Syrians' desperation due to a well-publicized fear campaign against *all* apparent Muslims.

Similar to our Syrian counterparts, Darfuri refugees escape from a country that long has been on America's Terrorist Watch List. Sudan makes the list for harboring Al Qaeda leader Osama bin-Laden (permitting him to use Sudan as an organizing base) and continuing to harbor and help terrorists from countries such as Libya, Mali, Somalia, and the Central African Republic, and to provide weapons to ISIL. Syria is a base of operations for Muslim, anti-Western ISIL. The fact that terrorism runs rampant in our homelands does not automatically make us terrorists, or terrorist supporters – Syrians and Darfuris seeking refuge in America *are fleeing* terrorism.

Darfuris throughout the U.S. have not been found to commit terrorist or hate-filled acts here, and Americans have no rational basis to expect that Syrian refugees will *not* be as grateful to find a safe home here. Another incentive for refugees from violence to behave properly here is that we do not want to cause problems for our families and friends who still are seeking refuge from attacks at home. Our understanding is that the 85,000 Syrian-Americans now residing here are admirable citizens who contribute to this country just as do Darfuris and other Sudanese refugees.

Also similar to our Syrian counterparts, almost all Darfur refugees are Muslim and speak Arabic. There is widely-reported fear-mongering about the terrorist threat posed by all Syrians because they are Muslim and because, as Arabic-speakers, they all could speak publicly about terrorist plots without Americans realizing. Such ideas are making Darfuris fear for our own safety in the U.S., and for the possibility that Americans will want to impede Darfuris' future admission to the U.S. even though the genocide in Darfur is known to continue unabated. The media reports increasingly about incidents such as airline officials approving passengers being put off planes because other passengers feared their speaking Arabic, and even bus drivers evicting Arabic-speaking passengers. Such fear of Arabic-speaking Syrians is causing anxious Americans to go so far as to lump into the *potentially-dangerous pool* of Syrian immigration-applicants even Christian Syrians who are represent approximately 13% of the Syrian census and who are reported as being targeted for death by ISIL along with other minority groups such as Yazidis. Significantly, the U.S. government classified Yazidis as targeted for genocide in Syria and Iraq, similar to the U.S. government's Year-2005 classification as targeted for genocide in Sudan three ethnic-African tribes from Darfur (Fur, Massalleit, and Zaghawa) and their ethnic-African, non-Arab tribal allies.

We do not convey this information to suggest that the U.S. grant swift immigration approval to Syria's Christian and Yazidi refugees *over* Muslim refugees. Rather, we use this information to exemplify the folly of 'painting with a broad brush' any one national group, such as Syrians, simply because, for example, they all speak Arabic, the same language as many terrorist organizations. The media certainly has been reporting on the excesses of ISIL's indiscriminate bombing and military attacks in Syria, causing death and injury to civilians from *every* group and forcing all to flee their home towns. Again, similar to

Darfuri refugees, Syrian refugees seeking refuge in America are fleeing terrorist attacks so should not be expected to cause them here.

The Media increasingly reports speaking on public businesses refusing admission to people who appear to be Muslim and/or who are speaking Arabic, about attacks on mosques by means of physical-plant damage and/or hateful graffiti. Just days after presidential candidate Trump called for Muslims to be banned from U.S. admission, Darfuri leaders joined elected officials and religious leaders on the steps of Brooklyn Borough Hall for a Saturday night interfaith prayer vigil to demand traditional American religious tolerance and freedom. We were shocked to see anti-Muslim protestors waving hateful signs parading loudly up and down Joralemon Street. We were even more dismayed when, after the event, a young Muslim woman removed her non-conservative-appearing head scarf and asked us to escort her home in Brooklyn Heights: she feared that protestors might recognize her as having participated in the event and might attack her for being Muslim even though, with no head covering, her religion was not visible. Until that evening, it had not occurred to us that, home in NYC, we and our family members could be endangered due to our religion.

This persecution of people due to their appearance and language and religion is *not* the America that we heard about in distant lands, and where we dream of living.

Unlike the millions of Syrians fleeing for their lives from their homes and homeland, the number of Darfuris seeking safe haven outside Sudan has not been as numerous, and certainly not as numerous on a daily basis, because bombing occurs at a much slower pace and over smaller areas. For these reasons, United Nations staff have been able to erect camps inside Darfur to which Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) can flee for UN protection: approximately 3 million IDPs. Again unlike Syria, many women and children who survive bombings are able to reach IDP camps although most surviving men must try to escape Sudan. Again unlike Syrians, Darfuri, particularly women and children able to reach Darfur's western border with Chad, have been saved by Refugee Camps that the United Nations has been able to erect and operate in that neighboring country (whose President, again fortuitously, is from the same ethnic-African tribe as many targeted Darfuri). We have been blessed in that, once the world acknowledged the death and destruction being rained down on our towns, there was support for the UN to be able to erect, maintain and protect IDP and refugee camps for the huge number of fleeing Darfuri seeking safety. This movement enabled smaller Darfuri numbers to flee into surrounding countries over a period of time, thereby not appearing to cause a drain on the economy and physical plant of the countries to which we fled.

For example, over a period of years while many Darfuri refugees were approved for immigration to America and other countries directly from Jordan, the Darfuri refugee community there has grown to 15,000, with most caught in the complex, lengthy process of awaiting security classification by the UNHCR as refugees if not legitimate asylum seekers and then immigration processing by targeted countries such as the U.S. Unfortunately, the Syrian influx into Jordan slowed UN refugee processing even more. Consequently, in December, 2015, after 800 Darfuri asylum seekers sat-in outside the Jordan offices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to express their frustration at years-long immigration delays and more recent service reductions, the Jordanian government arrested all and returned them to Sudan despite world leaders and officials strongly protesting on the grounds that the refugees' lives would be at risk upon return to their homeland.

In recent years, the pace and size of the Syrian-refugee influx is overwhelming certain regions, including Jordan (as noted above), with the essential safety valve of visible departures to America all but ending. That is, priority reasonably shifted to *Syrian* applicants **but** many countries already accepted as many as 4.8 million Syrian refugees flooding their borders without any legal processing.

The media reports that some of these countries have begun to prohibit new Syrian admissions, and to push out Syrian refugees who already crossed their borders. Many such countries are relatively small,

and reports are that their citizens have “had enough” and are pressing officials to place their countries’ economies and community stability above the plight of the refugees. We hear demands for armed forces to prevent fleeing Syrians from crossing borders, and to develop Internally Displaced Person camps inside Syrian borders in which to keep an already 6 million IDPs and their growing numbers – similar to the IDP camps the United Nations operates for 3 million Darfuri IDPs.

These demands are impractical in Syria. That is, unlike in Syria, warfare has not been taking place *throughout* Darfur or Sudan, so there has been land unhampered by bombs and fights, and therefore available for the building and maintenance of safe IDP camps. In Syria, unfortunately, civilians throughout the country are caught in attacks from the air and from all sides – by government forces and Russian bombers, by Syrian rebels against the government, and by ISIL. To create safe havens *within* Syria to which endangered civilians could flee, world leaders would have to unite to send armed forces into Syria to “carve out” a large area to which all IDPs could flee instead of crossing outside borders.: those armed forces and/or United Nations’ forces would have to commit to maintain the safety of these areas by force until the civil war and the ISIL war ends in Syria.

America staff abroad and here are giving snail-level attention to processing Syrian applications. American Federal officials, and their state-based partners, who seek to limit Syrian refugees to a relative trickle, do not cite cost or space as reasons to limit, if not deny, Syrian admissions to the U.S. They know that America would not suffer financial or geographic calamity, or even palpable impact, if at least 65,000 Syrian refugees are given refuge throughout the United States each year.

Instead, alarmists cite two dangers allegedly posed by all Syrian refugees: their expected Muslim religion, and the fact that terrorists are based in Syria who are anti-West and who claim allegedly Islamic philosophy (such as conquering specific countries to merge them into one Islamic country/caliphate). The advertised threat is that some of these terrorists, using Syrian passports and legal documents, will not be discovered during the lengthy, complex immigration investigation process that occurs outside the U.S., and then will not be discovered during the investigatory detention process in the U.S., and, having sneaked into America with legitimate Syrian refugees, later will violently terrorize and kill Americans. Americans should believe in the successful track record of an immigration system that became even more security-specific after September 11, 2001.

The following are among the legal mechanisms used by American officials to arrange Darfuris expedited admission and/or retention in the United States: UNHCR Refugee Resettlement Program, US Green Card Lottery Program, US B1/B2 Visitor’s Visa program (particularly B2 for medical treatment of victims of torture and warfare), USCIS Asylum process, USCIS Humanitarian Parole (for “urgent, compelling humanitarian emergencies”). We pray that America will continue to expedite approval for Darfuri refugees.

If U.S. officials are hesitant to assign Temporary Protected Status to Ecuador so as to be able to quickly process visa extensions for Ecuadorans already in America who cannot return home until the earthquake impact ends, or to grant speedy entry to earthquake victims needing treatment here, another path might be the type of Humanitarian Parole granted to some Darfuris.

USCIS Humanitarian Parole seems an appropriate mechanism to quickly help victims of natural disasters, such as those from Ecuador. In Sudan and the new nation South Sudan, we are familiar with nature causing droughts and floods, but it is government forces that prevent delivery of food, medicine and clean water to such regions and to those that have been bombed. In places such as Ecuador, where nature now in the form of earthquakes prevents humanitarian aid from reaching everyone in need, and prevents their speedy treatment, a reasonable step would be to airlift them to the U.S. temporarily until the emergency is deemed over. Similarly, if Ecuadorans entered the United States legally before the earthquakes, it would seem reasonable, and pose no security risk, to quickly use Protected or Parole

status to permit those people to remain here until the earthquake situation no longer poses an impediment to their returning home safely.

We pray that American elected officials and their constituents, and all Americans, will open their hearts and minds to America's historic humanitarian underpinning, and to the high level of security inherent in the complex, lengthy U.S. processing system for refugee applicants to America. Again, we compare Syrians' plight to our own and hope that you will show them the great compassion that you have shown to us.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: XIMENA HIDALGO-AYALA

Address: 345 West 86th St. 10024 NY, NY 10024

I represent: GAO PLAZA International

Address: Same as above Committee

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 103

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/27/11

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rosita Cal

Address: 33-27 111st 10100 NY 11368

I represent: Pacheco en Accion

Address: 95-51 Roosevelt Ave

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1103

in favor in opposition

Date: 06-27-16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: WALTER SANCHEZ

Address: 219-44 94 Ave Queens Village NY

I represent: INTERNATIONAL ECUADORIAN ALLIANCE

Address: 95-51 Roosevelt Ave NY 11368

public

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/27/16

Name: Murad Ananch (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 131 W 33 ST. NY NY

I represent: NYIC

Address: _____

public

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

2

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1097 + 405

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/27/2016

Name: GEORGE HIROSE (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 20 STUYVESANT OVAL #12H NY NY 10009

I represent: JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

Address: 49 E. 45th St, NY, NY 11th floor NY CHAPTER

Public

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

1

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. ~~1008~~ Res. No. 1103

in favor in opposition

Date: 06/27/2016

Name: Heba Al RAHAWAN (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 8402 4th Avenue, Borooklyn, NY 11209

I represent: Arab American Association (Refugees)

Address: 7115th Avenue, Borooklyn, NY, 11209.

Public

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1097

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mathe Goolatuno

Address: 102-05-46 Ab

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Public

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1105

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/27/2016

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Prof. MOJUBADLU OLUFUNKE OKOME

Address: Brooklyn College, Dept. of Political Science

I represent: Bring Back Our Girls NYC

Address: 3413 James Hall, 2900 Bedford Ave.
Brooklyn NY 11210

Public

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

~~1097~~

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1097

in favor in opposition

Date: 6-27-16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Judas Orellana

Address: 33 19 101 St. Corona NY

I represent: Ecuador

Address: _____

public

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Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Javier Trivino

Address: 37-23 68 ST

I represent: Mambitas Residentes en USA

Address: 3

public

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1097

in favor in opposition

Date: 6-27-16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: CESAR LOJANO

Address: 33-19-101 ST BRONA NY

I represent: ECUADOR

Address: _____

public

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MIGUEL A. MALU

Address: 68 CUMBERLAND WALK BROOKLYN

I represent: FAITH IN NY - ECUATORIANOS UNIDOS EN

Address: AMERICA-ECVA



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public

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Cynthia Borja

Address: 33-33-96th St

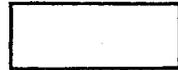
I represent: Make the Road at New York

Address: _____

public

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1105 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/27/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Parbet Chapagai

Address: 263 W. 38th St.

I represent: Refugees - International Rescue Committee

Address: 263 W. 38th St.

public

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1105 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/27/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Avigail Ziv

Address: 263 W. 38th St.

I represent: International Rescue Committee

Address: _____

public

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1097

in favor in opposition

Date: 06/27/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Melissa Cejoute

Address: 85 Clarkson Av Apt. 6C Brooklyn NY 11206

I represent: Haitian Women For Haitian Refugees

Address: 208 Parkside Av. 2nd Floor Brooklyn NY 11226

public

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1105 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: EILEEN KEILLY

Address: 2104 ALBEMARLE TERRACE

I represent: CAMBA

Address: 1720 CHURCH AVE BKLYN NY 11226

public

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1105

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/27/2016

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rebecca Kirzner

Address: 411 5th Ave Ste 1006 NY NY 10016

I represent: HIAS

Address: 411 5th Ave Ste 1006 NY NY 10016

public

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1105

in favor in opposition

Date: June 27

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MATTHEW KENNIS

Address: _____

I represent: LIBERTAS CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Address: 79-01 Broadway, ELMHURST 11373

public

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/27/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kelly Agnew-Barajas, Catholic Charities

Address: 80 Maiden Lane, 13th Fl. NY, NY 10038

I represent: Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement

Address: same

public

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1105

in favor in opposition

Date: Thurs June 27, 2016

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Nabeela Latif

Address: 39 Broadway Suite 1740 New York, NY

I represent: The Black Institute

Address: 39 Broadway Suite 1740 New York, NY 10006

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PUBLIC

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1105

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lenni B Benson
Address: c/o New York Law School
185 W. Broadway NY 10013
I represent: Safe Passage Project
Address: same

public

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/27/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lena Alkhussein
Address: 150 Court St Brooklyn NY
I represent: The Arab American Family Support
Address: 150 Court St Brooklyn NY 11201 Center

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1105

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/27/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DR. GEORGETTE BENNETT
Address: _____
I represent: MULTIFAITH ALLIANCE FOR
SYRIAN REFUGEES
Address: 254 W. 31st NYC 10001

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**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1097

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/27/16

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: RODRIGO SANLUEZ-CANAS
Address: 55 NALS AVE. #6A NY NY 10040

I represent: NMIC
Address: 45 WADSWORTH AVE. NY NY 10033

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1097

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/27/16

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Roxana Bernal
Address: 45 Wadsworth Ave, NY, NY 10033

I represent: NMIC
Address: 45 Wadsworth Ave, NY, NY 10033

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