

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Registration for Classification as Refugee

(Form I-590)

OMB No. 1615-0068

A. JUSTIFICATION:

1. Section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (Act) provides for the admission of refugees into the United States. Procedures for admission of refugees into the United States are contained in 8 CFR 207.2(a). The annual refugee admission ceiling is set by the President in consultation with Congress. A refugee is defined in section 101(a)(42) of the Act.
2. Form I-590 provides a uniform method for applicants to apply for refugee status and contains the information necessary to adjudicate such applications. Without the use of this form, processing of refugees would be delayed and could result in non-compliance with the Act.
3. The use of this form provides the most efficient means for collecting and processing the required data. In this case U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) doesn't employ the use of information technology in collecting and processing information. This form has been scheduled for e-filing as part of the Business Transformation Project.
4. A review of USCIS Forms Inventory Report revealed no duplication of efforts. There is no similar information currently available that can be used for this purpose.

5. This collection of information does not have an impact on small businesses or other small entities.

6. Section 101(a)(42) of the Act defines a refugee as a person having a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. Form I-590 provides the information necessary to determine an applicant's claim as a refugee. If the collection of information is not conducted, USCIS could not identify those refugees eligible for admission to the U.S. pursuant to section 207 of the Act. Furthermore, it could result in non-compliance with the Act.

7. There are no special circumstances applicable to this information collection.

8. On September 4, 2008, USCIS published a 60-day notice in the Federal Register at 73 FR 51644. USCIS did not receive any comments for this information collection.

9. USCIS does not provide payments or gifts to respondents in exchange for a benefit sought.

10. There is no assurance of confidentiality.

11. There are no questions of a sensitive nature.

12. Annual Reporting Burden:

| | | |
|----|------------------------------------|---------|
| a. | Number of Respondents | 140,000 |
| b. | Number of Responses per Respondent | 1 |
| c. | Total Annual Responses | 140,000 |

| | | |
|----|-------------------------------|--------|
| d. | Hours per Response | .583 |
| e. | Total Annual Reporting Burden | 81,620 |

Annual Reporting Burden

The total annual reporting burden hours are **81,620**. This figure was derived by multiplying the number of respondents (140,000) x frequency of response (1) x 35 minutes per response (.583).

13. There are no capital or start-up costs associated with this information collection. Any cost burdens to respondents as a result of this information collection are identified in Item 14. Additionally, there are no fee charges associated with the collection of this information.

14. Annualized Cost Analysis:

| | | |
|----|--------------------------------|--------------|
| a. | Printing Cost | \$ 25,200 |
| b. | Collection and Processing Cost | \$ 4,200,000 |
| c. | Total Cost to Program | \$ 4,225,200 |
| d. | Fee Charge | 0 |
| e. | Total Cost to Government | \$ 4,225,200 |

Government Cost

The estimated cost to the Government is **\$4,225,200**. This figure is calculated by using the estimated number of respondents 140,000 x 45 Minutes (.75) (Time required to collect and process information) x \$40 (suggested average hourly rate for clerical, officer, and supervisory time with benefits). In addition, this figure includes the estimated overhead cost for printing, stocking, and distributing the form, which is \$25,200.

Public Cost

The estimated annual public cost is **\$816,200**. This is based on the number of respondents 140,000 x 35 Minutes (.583) per response x \$10 (Average hourly rate).

15. There has been no increase or decrease in the number of burden hours previously reported for this information collection.
16. USCIS does not intend to employ the use of statistics or the publication thereof for this information collection.
17. USCIS will display the expiration date of OMB approval of this information collection.
18. USCIS does not request an exception to the certification of this information collection.

B. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods.

Not Applicable.

C. Certification and Signature.

PAPERWORK CERTIFICATION

In submitting this request for OMB approval, I certify that the requirements of the Privacy Act and OMB directives have been complied with including paperwork regulations, statistical standards or directives, and any other information policy directives promulgated under 5 CFR 1320.

Sunday Aigbe,
Chief,
Regulatory Management Division,
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services,
Department of Homeland Security.

Date