



United States Department of State

*Bureau of Population, Refugees,
and Migration*

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 1, 2012

Ms. Sarah Bashadi
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget

Dear Ms. Bashadi:

The Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) requests that OMB provide an emergency extension allowing for the use of the Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) Biodata form. Such an extension will enable the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP), as part of the refugee and SIV reception and placement process, to continue to obtain important biodata information from Iraqi and Afghan SIV recipients in order to place them in the most appropriate locations upon admission to the United States.

PRM is responsible for managing the USRAP, which provides refugee reception and placement benefits for Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) recipients as mandated by Congress. These SIV recipients are foreign nationals who have worked for the U.S. Government or contractor in Iraq and Afghanistan and face threats due to that association. In an attempt to expeditiously provide refugee benefits to SIV recipients when initially mandated in 2008, PRM attached an SIV biodata form to an existing Consular Affairs (CA) form. With CA now discontinuing use of that form, PRM/A has made some changes to the form and is requesting approval of the new version of the form.

The primary reason for the request to OMB for emergency review of the SIV Biodata form is the extraordinary review of the refugee and SIV programs as a result of new interagency security checks implemented in February 2011, resulting in significant disruptions to refugee and SIV case processing. With our attention focused on fixing the refugee program and restoring refugee arrivals, PRM's Admissions office missed the deadline for submitting the SIV biodata form for regular review and public comment sufficiently in advance of CA's discontinuation of the form. Therefore, emergency review is required if we are to continue to request biodata from SIV applicants without delaying their travel to the United States.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DMR', written over a large, stylized, light-colored scribble or watermark.

David M. Robinson
Acting Assistant Secretary