

**MAXINE WATERS**

MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
35TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEES:  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND  
COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY  
**CHAIRWOMAN**

JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, TERRORISM  
AND HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION,  
BORDER SECURITY AND CLAIMS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0535**

PLEASE REPLY TO:

**WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE**  
2344 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
 WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0535  
PHONE: (202) 225-2201  
FAX: (202) 225-7854

DISTRICT OFFICES:

**LOS ANGELES OFFICE**  
10124 SOUTH BROADWAY  
SUITE 1  
 LOS ANGELES, CA 90003  
PHONE: (323) 757-8900  
FAX: (323) 757-9606

**WESTCHESTER OFFICE**  
6033 WEST CENTURY BOULEVARD  
SUITE 807  
 LOS ANGELES, CA 90045  
PHONE: (310) 642-4610  
FAX: (310) 642-8160

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

February 26, 2008

**CONTACT:**

Mikael Moore, 202-225-2201

**REP. WATERS INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO HELP THE 4.5  
MILLION IRAQIS DISPLACED BY VIOLENCE**

**Washington, DC** – Today, U.S. Representative Maxine Waters (CA-35), chair and co-founder of the ‘Out of Iraq’ Congressional Caucus, introduced **H.R. 5488, The Recovery and Stability in Iraq Act**. This legislation would address the growing crisis confronting the Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons by:

- Creating an Iraqi Displacement Coordinator in the Executive Office of the President.
- Requiring the Coordinator to create a long-term, durable strategy to address the displacement crisis.
- Requiring a report from the Coordinator on the progress of the strategy and an evaluation of the conditions confronting the displaced.
- Requiring the Coordinator to harmonize international efforts to address the crisis.

Rep. Waters said, “The latest estimates suggest that there are over 4.5 million Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons, and their conditions are growing worse by the day. This humanitarian crisis represents a serious threat to the regional security of the Middle East. Confronting the crisis is a national security interest as well as a profound moral responsibility for the United States.

“It is clear that any solution to the problems in Iraq must include an organized effort to return the displaced Iraqis to a safe and stable environment. The creation of the high-level Iraqi Displacement Coordinator would send a strong signal that the United States is committed to working with the governments of the region to address the humanitarian crisis.

“Both Democrats and Republicans can agree that American diplomatic and humanitarian engagement in the Middle East is necessary for the long term recovery and stability of the war-torn region. It is long past due that someone inside the U.S. government be put in charge of this effort, and my bill will do just that.”