

JANUARY 2007 VISA AVAILABILITY

The bulletin issued by the Visa Office of the Bureau of Consular Affairs of the U.S. Department of State gives the following availability position for issuance of immigrant visas during January 2007:

Persons Chargeable to India

Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Apr 22, 2001
2nd Preference	
2A	Mar 15, 2002
2B	Apr 08, 1997
3rd Preference	Jan 01, 1999
4th Preference	Oct 01, 1995

Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Current
2nd Preference	Jan 08, 2003
3rd Preference	May 08, 2001
Schedule A Workers	Jun 15, 2004
Other Workers	Oct 01, 2001
4 th Preference	Current
Certain Religious Workers	Current
Iraqi & Afghani Translators	Sep 18, 2006
5th Preference Targeted Emp Areas	Current

Persons Chargeable to Other Countries

For other chargeability areas, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, and the nations of Africa, the cut-off dates for January 2007 are:

Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference	Apr 22, 2001
2nd Preference	
2A	Mar 15, 2002
2B	Apr 08, 1997
3rd Preference	Jan 01, 1999
4th Preference	Jan 08, 1996

Employment-Based Preferences

1st Preference	Current
2nd Preference	Current
3rd Preference	Aug 01, 2002
Schedule A Workers	Jun 15, 2004
Other Workers	Oct 01, 2001
4th Preference	Current
Certain Religious Workers	Current
Iraqi & Afghani Translators	Sep 18, 2006
5th Preference Targeted Emp Areas	Current

Senator Tom Harkin writes to Michael Chertoff

In the wake of the recent ICE raids on Swift & Co., Senator Tom Harkin sent on December 19 a letter to Homeland Security Secretary to express concern about alleged humanitarian and civil rights abuses against detainees. Here are excerpts from said letter:

“I am appalled by the process that has apparently been used to detain and deport the workers. First, ... the hotline by which family members and others were supposed to obtain information has at times been unanswered by ICE officials, and at other times provided no information of any use.

Second, your Department has apparently made it almost impossible for lawyers and even clergy to obtain access to those detained.

Third, although assurances were provided to my staff that any individuals with small children who would otherwise go without care would be released to make alternative arrangements, there continue to be reports of numerous single mothers remaining in custody.

Finally, this incident highlights the need for comprehensive reform to our antiquated immigration system. Only when we bring the 12 million illegal workers out of the shadows and into the legal system will both industry and employees benefit. These improvements must include increased security at our borders and a means to legal citizenship for immigrants already in the country, which would include fines, learning English, passing a background check and paying back taxes. I hope that your agency will pledge to work with Congress next year to bring about this change.”