

**Almost 700 foreign citizens are the beneficiaries
of the Romanian authorities protection
- over half of them are coming from Irak and Iran -**

Almost 700 foreign citizens are the beneficiaries of the Romanian authorities protection for the time being, according to a report presented to Mr. Vasile Blaga, Minister of Administration and Interior, by the National Refugees Office.

According to the above-mentioned document, at the end of June, 2006, 671 foreign citizens were registered as protected persons in Romania – 468 adults and 203 children.

Over 95% of these refugees live in Bucharest.

From the point of view of their origin country, the majority is coming from Irak (49.7%), followed by the ones from Iran (10.7%), Palestine (7.6%) and Congo (7%).

75% of the adult refugees, aged up to 45; 26.5% of the refugees are married to Romanian citizens; 145 children of these mixed families have Romanian citizenship.

As for their religion, over 60% of the refugees are Moslem, while the rest of them are Christian, in their majority.

On the date when the report was set up, 65% of the adults who benefited by protection in Romania had a job. Out of these, almost 35% stated that they worked without having a work contract. Many of the refugees have obtained a work qualification during their stay in Romania. Therefore, out of the 90 foreign citizens who took courses in our country, 18 of them became physicians, 17 engineers, 11 computer specialists, 6 jurists, and 6 architects.

5.8% of the refugees have no knowledge of Romanian language, while 12.8% of them have a beginner's level. 33.1% know Romanian at an intermediate level, while 48.3% have advanced knowledge of Romanian.

Out of the 700 refugees, 72 got protection in Romania, between June 2005 – July 2006.

The National refugees Office is carrying out programs of integrating and adapting the refugees to the Romanian society, including 18 foreign citizens who came to Romania during the last 12 months, as well as 33 foreign citizens who came to Romanian during the recent years, continuing their special participation in these programs as persons with special needs, old persons, unaccompanied minors, single parent families, and torture victims

Oficiul Național pentru Refugiați derulează de asemenea programe de măsuri în vederea facilitării accesului refugiaților pe piața forței de muncă, educație, asistență medicală și socială.

15,328 asylum applicants have been registered in Romania, since 1991, out of which 2,635 have got protection.

Mr. Vasile Blaga, Minister of Administration and Interior, states that it is Romania's duty to offer the necessary protection to the foreign citizens being under difficult circumstances, in accordance with the law provisions and the international given tasks. **“Romania will never say “no” to those foreign citizens who really need protection, as a consequence to the existing situation in their origin countries. At the same time, we'll firmly combat illegal migration”**, states minister Vasile Blaga who also says that the number of foreign citizens who intend to settle down in Romania is expected to grow after the moment of our country accession to the European Union.

On the 21st and 22nd of August 2006, workers within the **International Police Cooperation Center** will carry out the transfer of four Romanian citizens to Romania, through “Henri Coandă” Bucharest International Airport, as follows:

- from Rome, at 14.25 hrs.:
 - **VARVARA MARINICĂ**, aged 33, from Focșani, Vrancea County, against whom Vrancea Court has disposed the execution of a 1 year and 2 month prison sentence, on charge of abuse and assault against good morals and disturbing public order and peace;

- from Vienna, at 21.55 hrs.:
 - **VELICHE SÂNDEL**, aged 38, from Galați, against whom Galați Court has disposed the execution of a 3 year and 2 month prison sentence, on charge of deceit;

- from Milan, on the 22nd of August, 2006, at 00.10 hrs.:
 - **PAVEL PETRE CĂTĂLIN**, aged 20, from Băilești, Dolj County, against whom Dolj Court has disposed the execution of a 4 year prison sentence, on charge of robbery;

 - **IVAZ GHEORGHE**, aged 48, from Bârlad, Vaslui County, against whom Bârlad Court has disposed the execution of a 4 year prison sentence, on charge of deceit.