



EMAIL BULLETIN

**ATTORNEY GENERAL REOPENS SPECIAL REGISTRATION PERIOD FOR
CITIZENS AND NATIONALS OF 18 COUNTRIES: REGISTRATION PERIOD:
JANUARY 27, 2003-FEBRUARY 7, 2003**

16 January 2003

**Special Registration Period Reopened for Members of Special Registration Groups
#1 and #2 Who Failed to Register Prior to Original Deadline for Groups #1 and #2**

Attorney General John Ashcroft reopened special registration for male citizens and/or nationals age 16 and over of **Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Eritrea, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, North Korea, Oman, Qatar, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen**. Beginning January 27, 2003, citizens and/or nationals of the above-listed countries who failed to register during the initial registration period applicable to these groups have been given the opportunity to register U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service between January 27, 2003 and February 7, 2003.

Group #1: Male citizens and nationals age 16 and over of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, and Syria who last entered the United States as a nonimmigrant on or before September 10, 2002 and who failed to register during the initial registration period for Group #1 must register between January 27, 2003 and February 7, 2003.

Group #2: Male citizens and nationals age 16 and over of Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Eritrea, Lebanon, Morocco, North Korea, Oman, Qatar, Somalia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen who last entered the United States as a nonimmigrant on or before September 30, 2002 and who failed to register during the initial registration period for Group #2 must register between January 27, 2003 and February 7, 2003.

The registration period for citizens and nationals of these designated countries was reopened after a barrage of complaints regarding the lack of notice and publicity of the requirement in the immigrant community and the fear within the community of registering given the widely-publicized arrest of persons attempting to register at various INS District Offices.

The special registration requirement applies to individuals who are citizens or nationals of the designated countries, whether or not they have dual nationality or citizenship in another country. Special registration of individuals already present in the United States does not apply to U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents, U.S. Asylees, or diplomats.

Compliance requires: fingerprinting; answering certain questions under oath, before an INS officer; presenting all travel documents, passport, Form I-94, and any other forms of government-issued identification for inspection by the INS officer; and providing proof of residence including, when applicable, title to land, lease agreement, proof of matriculation at an educational institution, and proof of employment. Other information and documentation which may be requested by the INS Officer must be provided in order to be in full compliance with the registration requirement. Special Registrants have reported being required to provide their bank account and credit card numbers. After initial registration, individuals must register annually (within 10 days of each anniversary of their initial registration date) and upon departure from the United States and must notify the INS of any change of address within 10 days of such change. Special Registrants are required to use Form AR-11SR when notifying the INS of address changes.

A willful failure to comply with the special registration requirement constitutes failure to maintain nonimmigrant status and can subject the non-complying alien to removal from the United States. Further, individuals subject to special registration who fail, without good cause, to report to an INS inspecting officer upon departure from the United States will thereafter be presumed inadmissible. Because of the harsh consequences which may result from failure to register initially, annually, or upon departure, individuals who are in doubt as to the applicability of the special registration requirement should consult their immigration attorney and should report to an INS inspecting officer upon departure from the United States.

For a list of designated INS Interviewing Offices for Special Registration, **please check the INS web site**. Because procedures for registration will vary among the designated offices, it is recommended that persons subject to the special registration requirement contact their respective designated offices prior to going to the office to complete the special registration requirements.