



EMAIL BULLETIN

ATTORNEY GENERAL EXPANDS SPECIAL REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT TO INCLUDE CITIZENS AND NATIONALS OF 13 ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES: DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: JANUARY 10, 2003

Expanded Registration Requirement Applies to Nationals or Citizens of Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Eritrea, Lebanon, Morocco, North Korea, Oman, Qatar, Somalia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen Present in the United States Prior to September 30, 2002

26 November 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft has expanded the special registration requirement to include the male citizens and/or nationals age 16 and over of **Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Eritrea, Lebanon, Morocco, North Korea, Oman, Qatar, Somalia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen**. Beginning December 5, 2002, citizens and/or nationals of the above-listed countries must register with the U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service by January 10, 2003.

As initially promulgated, the special registration rule applied only to citizens and/or nationals of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, and Syria upon entry into the United States and did not apply to individuals already present in the United States prior to September 11, 2002. The Attorney General, effective November 15, 2002 expanded the special registration requirement to include all male citizens and/or nationals of **Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, and Syria** who are at least 16 years old and **who last entered the United States on or before September 10, 2002**. The deadline for registration of citizens and/or nationals of these previously identified five countries remains December 16, 2002.

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. 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.

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 at www.ins.gov/graphics/lawenfor/specialreg/index.htm#reg. 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.