

## **Palestinians From Kuwait Allowed to Stay in U.S.;** **4-Year Permit Eases Fears of Deportation**

The Washington Post

November 16, 1991, Saturday, Final Edition

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**Section:** FIRST SECTION; PAGE A23; FOREIGN NEWS, NATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 477 words

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**Series:** Occasional

### **Body**

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President Bush has ended rising **fears** of imminent **deportation** for hundreds of Palestinian families airlifted to the **United States** from **Kuwait** during the Persian Gulf War. He issued an order that **allows** them to remain and work in the **United States** for four years.

The order, issued late Thursday to the Justice Department, resolved an unusual immigration problem facing many of the 2,000 former **Kuwait** residents brought here after Iraq invaded **Kuwait**.

The State Department, anxious to get all **U.S.** citizens out of **Kuwait**, bent the rules and **allowed** entire families to come here if one person, most often a child, was a **U.S.** citizen.

But the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) told the new arrivals that it did not have the authority to **allow** them to **stay**. Under the law, Americans under age 21, although citizens because they were born here, cannot ask that their foreign-born parents be admitted.

The INS **allowed** the emigres to **stay** here and gave them temporary work authorization until the end of this year. The INS said they would then face **deportation**.

But the vast majority of the non-citizens coming on the "freedom flights" from **Kuwait** were **Palestinians** whose **U.S.**-citizen children were born here when the parents were attending universities. They had no home country to return to, and Kuwaiti officials said they would not be **allowed** to return to **Kuwait**.

The emigres, many of them business people, engineers and other professionals, scattered after arriving here, with a large number going to California and about 60 families settling in North Carolina. In interviews last month, several of those in Raleigh, N.C., expressed growing anxiety as the Dec. 31 deadline approached.

Many of them said their tenuous immigration status here, with work **permits** issued on a six-month basis, made it difficult to get decent jobs. A representative of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, which coordinated the lobbying effort to **allow** the **Palestinians** to **stay**, said the four-year residency period would be enough for the **Palestinians** to resolve their immigration status.

The committee's president, Albert Mokhiber, yesterday hailed Bush's decision and said he was "confident the evacuated families, which consist in large part of skilled professionals, will make contributions to the **United States** at least as significant as the contributions they made to **Kuwait**."

## Palestinians From Kuwait Allowed to Stay in U.S.; 4-Year Permit Eases Fears of Deportation

Sen. Terry Sanford (D-N.C.) and 20 other senators had written Bush Thursday urging him to grant a four-year extension to the **Palestinians**. Sanford, in a prepared statement, said yesterday he was "very pleased" with Bush's response. "There was no good reason to force families we invited here in the first place to return to uncertain or even dangerous conditions -- quite possibly making them choose to leave their American-born children behind," Sanford said.

### Classification

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**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** IMMIGRATION (90%); **DEPORTATION** (90%); CITIZENSHIP (90%); EMIGRATION (90%); CHILDREN (89%); FAMILY (89%); IMMIGRATION LAW (89%); PROFESSIONAL WORKERS (88%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (79%); US PRESIDENTS (79%); PASSPORTS & VISAS (78%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (78%); MIGRATION ISSUES (78%); DISCRIMINATION (77%); INTERVIEWS (74%); LOBBYING (73%); DESERT STORM (73%); JUSTICE DEPARTMENTS (73%); TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT (72%); LAW ENFORCEMENT (72%); ARAB AMERICANS (71%)

**Company:** AL MUDON INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE CO KSCC (90%); IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE; PALESTINE AL MUDON INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE CO KSCC (90%); PALESTINE AL MUDON INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE CO KSCC (90%); US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (58%); US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (58%)

**Organization:** US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (58%); US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (58%); IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE; PALESTINE US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (58%); PALESTINE US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (58%); US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (58%)

**Ticker:** ALMUDON (KUW) (90%)

**Person:** GEORGE W BUSH (59%)

**Geographic:** RALEIGH, NC, USA (79%); NORTH CAROLINA, USA (93%); CALIFORNIA, USA (79%); **UNITED STATES** (96%); **KUWAIT** (95%); IRAQ (79%); GULF STATES (73%)