

# Timeline: Iraqi refugee flows 1998-2009

16-19 December - After UN staff are evacuated from Baghdad, the US and UK launch a bombing campaign, Operation Desert Fox, to destroy Iraq's nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programmes.

17 December - UNSC Resolution 1294 creates the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (Umnovic) to replace Unsmoc. Iraq rejects the resolution.

February - Britain, US carry out bombing raids to try to disable Iraq's air defence network. The bombings have little international support.

November - UN weapons inspectors return to Iraq backed by a UN resolution which threatens serious consequences if Iraq is in "material breach" of its terms.

20 March - American missiles hit targets in Baghdad, marking the start of a US-led campaign to topple Saddam Hussein. In the following days, US and British ground troops enter Iraq from the south.

30 January - An estimated eight million people vote in elections for a Transitional National Assembly. The Shia United Iraqi Alliance wins a majority of assembly seats. Kurdish parties come second.

Secularian violence

Saddam executed

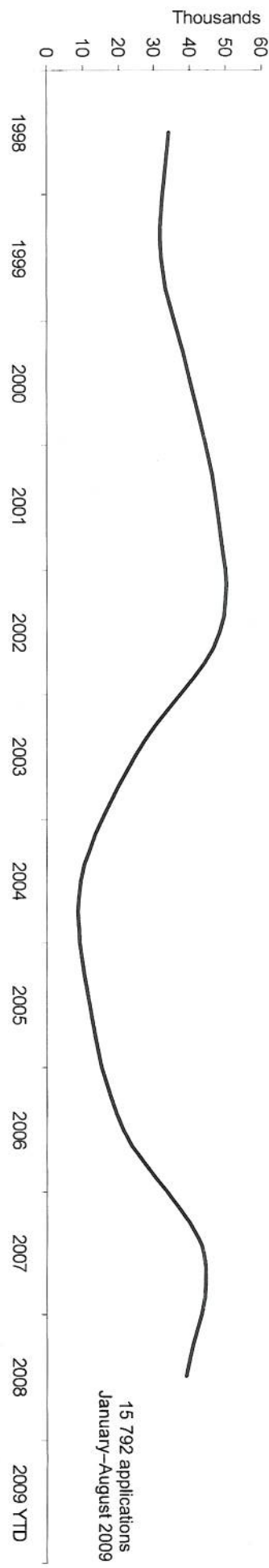
UN says more than 34,000 civilians were killed in violence during 2006; the figure surpasses official Iraqi estimates threefold.

January - US President Bush announces a new Iraq strategy; thousands more US troops will be dispatched to shore up security in Baghdad.

November - The Iraqi parliament approves a security pact with the United States under which all US troops are due to leave the country by the end of 2011.

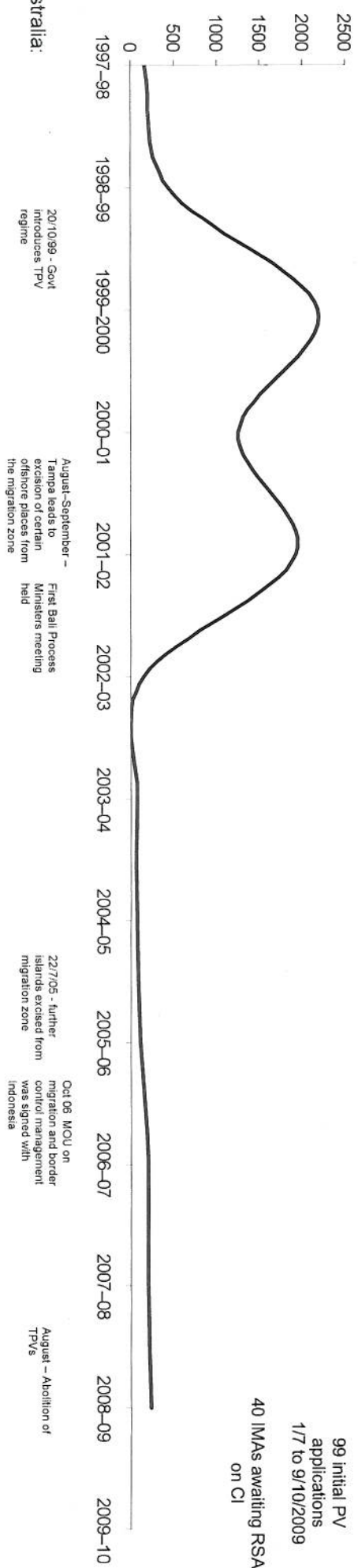
US troops withdraw from towns and cities in Iraq, six years after the invasion, handing formally over security duties to new Iraqi forces.

Asylum claims in Europe (including the UK)<sup>1</sup>



15 792 applications  
January-August 2009

Asylum claims in Australia<sup>2</sup>



99 initial PV applications  
1/7 to 9/10/2009  
40 IMAs awaiting RSA on CI

NOT TO SAME SCALE

<sup>1</sup> Europe (including the UK) data sourced from UNHCR Asylum Trends in Industrialized Countries reports; defines Europe as the 27 Member States of the European Union plus Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

<sup>2</sup> Includes Initial Protection Visa lodgements (data as at 9 October 2009), as well as IMAs processed offshore under the Pacific Strategy (655 persons in 2001-02).