



THE
CHECKPOINT ONE
FOUNDATION
Refuge for those who have risked much

P.O. Box 901 Salem, Oregon 97308
(503) 744-0712
cpof@cponefoundation.org
<http://www.cponefoundation.org>

Dear Friends,

As 2008 has come to a close, I want to take a moment to personally thank you for your generous support to The Checkpoint One Foundation. Thanks to your generosity, we have had a great number of successes this year, and I am humbled by your gift. To date, we have had the honor of assisting more than 25 Iraqi interpreters and their families, as well as a growing number of Afghan interpreters and their families, in finding a safe harbor here in America by providing immigration and resettlement assistance.

What we do, and why we do it

As you know, the risks assumed by these courageous men and women in the process of assisting our men and women in uniform in combat are great. Hundreds have paid the ultimate price for their loyalty and bravery. As an Iraq combat veteran, I have been a humble recipient of this loyalty, as well as a witness to the tragedy that has befallen many of those who step forward to serve. *Our mission* at The Checkpoint One Foundation is simple: We endeavor to repay a debt of gratitude and loyalty owed to these bold and faithful friends, whatever it takes. As many interpreters are hunted by a tireless insurgency hell-bent on making tortured examples of those who step forward to rebuild, we are here to provide them with a path to safety and refuge.

(For an extensive look at the plight of Iraqi interpreters, please read *Betrayed: The Iraqis who trusted America the most* (http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2007/03/26/070326fa_fact_packer)).

Recognition of our efforts

Our mission and organization are both unique. We consider ourselves fortunate to have been applauded from Main Street, USA to the floor of the United States Senate:

(http://cponefoundation.org/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/Commending_CPOF_Merged.36310536.pdf). Numerous media organizations have featured Checkpoint One, from national outlets such as *NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, *ABC World News Tonight* and *The New York Times*, to local and regional organizations such as *The Oregonian*, *The Seattle Times* and others (please see links below).

Selected Weblinks:

NewsHour with Jim Lehrer:

Video Link - <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/video/module.html?mod=0&pkg=29042008&seg=2>
Print Link - http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/middle_east/jan-june08/refuge_04-29.html

The Christian Science Monitor:

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/0507/p01s05-usgn.html>

The New York Times:

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/14/world/middleeast/14interpreters.html?_r=1&ref=world&pagewanted=print

The Oregonian:

http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2008/12/salem_native_capt_jason_faler.html

The Seattle Times:

http://cponefoundation.org/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/Seattle_Times_3192008.88173017.pdf

Our work, this year and beyond

In addition to our direct assistance given to a number of Iraqi and Afghan interpreters and their families, we continue to work closely with our nation's policymakers, helping them to understand the issues at hand and to offer our opinions as to changes that might better enable our friends in their pursuit of safety. Additionally, we continue to tell our story,

both to the media and the public, so that understanding of our issues is both broad and well-recognized. Among our accomplishments and endeavors this year are the following:

- **Rescinding the Mask Ban:** The military command in Baghdad this year implemented a policy prohibiting Iraqi interpreters from wearing masks that conceal their identity. While we look forward to a day that the environment is safe for our Iraqi friends, unfortunately that is not the situation today. In our view, this policy was unwise, unfounded, detrimental and extremely dangerous to both Iraqi interpreters and the US forces with whom they work. The Checkpoint One Foundation took a partnership role with Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) about this issue. Our diligence, coupled with input from our esteemed colleagues and Senator Wyden's commendable dedication resulted in a letter from Senator Wyden and twelve other members of Congress to Secretary of Defense Gates on November 20, 2008. We are happy to report that this policy was rescinded the following month. (See:
 - *The New Yorker* <http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/georgepacker/2008/11/military-to-int.html>;
 - *BBC* http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7768041.stm and
 - *Stars & Stripes* <http://www.stripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=59339>)
- **Partnering for Grassroots Support**

People often ask how they can help. In addition to monetary donations, we have begun a partnership pilot program whereby local "chapters" of volunteers can sign up online to assist resettled interpreters and families in their local area. Resettled individuals and/or families can register their location (city only) and needs. The local chapter can contact the interpreter via email or phone and determine how support might best be organized for that particular situation. We are confident that a great amount of success will come from this program, and intend to expand our involvement greatly in the near future.
- **Jobs for Resettled Interpreters**

We have worked tirelessly in an endeavor to find jobs for resettled interpreters in very difficult economy. A number of successes have come by way of placing resettled interpreters in contract employment jobs teaching language and cultural awareness classes to military units and soldiers who are preparing to deploy. We also continue to work with peer organizations and other resources to find long-term career paths.
- **Educating the Public**

In an effort to educate the public about the issues we care so deeply about, we often speak at gatherings, large and small. This year's engagements have included venues from schools to Rotary clubs, to a very well-attended symposium at the Rutgers School of Law in Newark, New Jersey entitled, *Iraq at the Crossroads: Protecting Refugees, Rescuing our Allies, and Empowering Iraqi Law*.
- **Advocating for our forgotten Afghan Friends**

As our nation shifts its focus from Iraq to our operations in Afghanistan, we predict an vastly increasing need to help to our Afghan friends. In contrast to the 5,000 annual visas currently available to our Iraqi allies, Afghan interpreters are now forced to compete with Iraqi interpreters for a mere 50 annual visas available under the "old" SIV program. We do not believe that this is adequate. As such, we have brought the issue to light with select members of Congress. The result has been positive, and a letter introducing this issue has been sent from one honorable Senator to the highest levels of leadership in the new Administration's Department of State. (*The Checkpoint One Foundation offers assistance not only Iraqi interpreters, but also to our Afghan friends. This distinguishes us from our few peer organizations, which do not provide benefits to Afghans*).

The Increased Need

This year, a piece of legislation sponsored by Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA), making available on an annual basis 5,000 Special Immigrant Visas to "US-affiliated Iraqis," went into effect. As a result of this legislation as well as other factors, requests for our assistance and services have increased substantially. We continue to work diligently, with limited resources, to meet the needs of those we mean to serve.

A Holiday Scene, thanks to... you.

I was humbled as I sat this holiday season in a small but cozy apartment with an Iraqi family of five, whose resettlement and safety is entirely attributable to generosity like yours. We ate pastries and drank tea, talking about the snow, reflecting upon the past year and the vast differences between the previous December—in Baghdad—and this one. This year there were no more middle-of-the-night panic attacks, resulting from a certainty that the militia would at any moment burst through the door, exacting a price for “cooperating with the enemy.” No, the only rude awakenings these days come from an early alarm clock, bringing to a discourteous close the peaceful slumber of a school night in America. Time to wake the kids, get them dressed, aboard the bus, and off to school. The beautiful thing, they say, is that in America, the future is what you make of it.

In reply, all I can say is, “Welcome to America. You’re one of us now—you’ve earned it.”

Thank you.

Never did I contemplate that The Checkpoint One Foundation would become what it has. Truthfully, I created this Foundation simply because I am (unfortunately) not independently wealthy, but was nevertheless determined to find a way to bring my Iraqi friends to safety. Thanks to you, we have accomplished that goal together. But because we have been so successful, many more have come forward seeking our help. I’d no sooner turn my back to them than I would my own family, and this is why we still exist today—more determined than ever.

So, thank you. Thank you for believing in this cause. Thank you for your generosity during a difficult time to give. Thank you for your humanity, compassion and goodness. You are that which makes me proud to have worn—and to still wear—that beautiful star-spangled banner on my shoulder... even in harm’s way.

Ever Grateful,

Jason

Jason J. Faler
Founder and Executive Director
The Checkpoint One Foundation
P.O. Box 901 Salem, OR 97308
503.744.0712
<http://www.cponefoundation.org>

Can we count on you in 2009?

As you contemplate your gifts for the coming year, please consider The Checkpoint One Foundation. We are funded solely by private donations from people like you. As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, all donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. Donations can be made by via check, or by credit or debit card online:

Online Donations:

Navigate to the “Donate” page at our website (http://www.cponefoundation.org/donate_contact_us). Once there, click on the “Donate Now” button. You will be directed to a secure website powered by the Network for Good/Groundspring.org.

Credit Cards:

Donations via credit card can be made online (see “Online Donations” above), or by filling out the Credit Card Authorization Form on the following page and mailing it to:

*The Checkpoint One Foundation
P.O. Box 901
Salem, OR 97308*

Checks:

Checks, made payable to “The Checkpoint One Foundation,” can be sent to:

*The Checkpoint One Foundation
P.O. Box 901
Salem, OR 97308*

Thank You!



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CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION FORM

**All donations are tax-deductible to the extent authorized by law*

DONATION AMOUNT:

\$

I WANT TO MAKE (please check ONE)

A one-time donation:

A Recurring Donation:

If you are making a recurring donation

please select frequency:

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Quarterly

Annually

(Once immediately, and once on each January, April, July and October 1st thereafter)

(Once immediately, and on the anniversary of the donation thereafter)

FIRST NAME:	<input type="text"/>	(required)
LAST NAME:	<input type="text"/>	(required)
ADDRESS LINE 1:	<input type="text"/>	(required)
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ZIP/POSTAL CODE:	<input type="text"/>	(required)
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Credit Card Type:	(select one) VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/>	(required)
Credit Card Number:	<input type="text"/>	(required)
Security Code:	<input type="text"/> (usually the last 3 or 4 digits on signature panel; on front for AmEx)	(required)
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Signature:	<input type="text"/>	(required)

Out of respect for our donors, we do NOT give or sell ANY donor information to third parties.