

JULY VISA AVAILABILITY

The bulletin issued by the Bureau of Consular Affairs of the U.S. Department of State gives the following availability position for issuance of immigrant visas during July 2008:

Persons Chargeable to India

Family-Sponsored Preferences

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1st Preference | Mar 15, 2002 |
| 2nd Preference | |
| 2A | Aug 01, 2003 |
| 2B | Sep 15, 1999 |
| 3rd Preference | Jun 08, 2000 |
| 4th Preference | Feb 15, 1997 |

Employment-Based Preferences

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| 1st Preference | Current |
| 2nd Preference | Apr 01, 2004 |
| 3rd Preference | Unavailable |
| Other Workers | Jan 01, 2003 |
| 4 th Preference | Current |
| Certain Religious Workers | Current |
| 5 th Preference | Current |
| Targeted Emp Areas | Current |

Persons Chargeable to Other Countries

For other chargeability areas, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, and the nations of Africa, the cut-off dates for July 2008 are:

Family-Sponsored Preferences

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1st Preference | Mar 15, 2002 |
| 2nd Preference | |
| 2A | Aug 01, 2003 |
| 2B | Sep 15, 1999 |
| 3rd Preference | Jun 08, 2000 |
| 4th Preference | Sep 01, 1997 |

Employment-Based Preferences

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| 1st Preference | Current |
| 2nd Preference | Current |
| 3rd Preference | Unavailable |
| Other Workers | Jan 01, 2003 |
| 4th Preference | Current |
| Certain Religious Workers | Current |
| 5th Preference | Current |
| Targeted Emp Areas | Current |

Woodstock Family Indicted

A Woodstock, Georgia family, who allegedly submitted an immigrant from India to a form of modern slavery, was indicted here last week by a federal grand jury on charges of human trafficking, alien harboring, witness tampering and making false statements.

The charging documents allege that Russell Garrett and D. William Garrett made false statements to the Department of State to obtain a visa for the victim in which they attached documents showing that they were in law enforcement, namely, for Russell Garrett, a photocopy of his Forsyth County Sheriff's Office Badge, and, for D. William Garrett, a photocopy of his Certificate of Training from the Georgia Magistrate Courts Training Council.

It was further alleged that Malika Garrett made false statements to the Department of Homeland Security to obtain a visa extension for the victim; and that she made false statements to the Department of Homeland Security and to the Department of Justice, *claiming that the female victim should be investigated for possible terrorism.*

Kenneth Smith, special agent in charge of ICE's office of investigations in Atlanta stated: "ICE will continue to aggressively identify and assist victims

of human trafficking and apprehend and prosecute those engaged in trafficking offenses.

David E. Nahmias, United States Attorney issued this statement: "Not paying someone for their hard work, and then threatening them with deportation if they report such abuse, is a violation of federal civil rights laws. The Department of Justice will vigorously prosecute this form of modern day slavery."