

Refugee*e-news*

UNHCR International reports on how we're helping refugees around the world



Abducted UNHCR staff member free at last

A special message from UN High Commissioner for

Refugees António Guterres:

"I was ecstatic earlier this month to receive the news that

John Solecki, who was abducted in Quetta in Pakistan in

February, had been released.

It was one of the best days of my life when I was able to speak to him on the phone. This probably wouldn't have been possible without the extraordinary commitment and

April 2009

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UNHCR in the press

> [No Man's Land](#)

The British actress Romola Garai recently travelled to Al-Tanf refugee camp in Syria

courage of our teams in Pakistan and Geneva.

However, we are still mourning the loss of Syed Hashim, who had worked as a driver for UNHCR for 17 years, and was killed in the attack. It is also important that we don't forget other aid workers in similar circumstances – according to a new report from the Overseas Development Institute, 2008 was the most dangerous year on record for aid workers."

[> Full story](#)

[> Overseas Development Institute report](#)

with UNHCR to film our work with Iraqi and Palestinian refugees. Romola's trip was reported in *The Guardian*.

UNHCR online



World Refugee Day 2009

World Refugee Day is the day we draw attention to the lives of refugees around the world – the resilient, courageous survivors of war, persecution and conflict. This year, the theme will be "Real People, Real Needs", reminding the world that refugees are not just numbers but individuals, each with their own story to tell – and all with needs, just like you and me.

During the week preceding 20 June we will highlight the unmet needs of refugees and tell the stories of those who are falling



through the gaps.

[> More on the Global Needs Assessment](#)

Top business partners pledge their support

After seeing for themselves conditions for displaced people in Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa, members of UNHCR's Council of Business Leaders pledged to continue supporting our work, despite the economic crisis. The council is formed of five multinational corporations applying their resources and expertise to enhance our operations.



[> More on the Council](#)

[> More on this story](#)

Conflicts in Afghanistan and Somalia fuel increase in asylum-seekers

The number of people seeking asylum worldwide rose last in 2008 for the second year running. The top country of origin of those seeking asylum was Iraq, followed by Somalia, the Russian Federation, Afghanistan and China.



[> Download the full report: Asylum Levels and Trends in](#)

[Industrialized Countries 2008 \(PDF\)](#)

The long road to safety: photo gallery special

Most refugees flee to safety on foot. Others take tractors, cars, trucks, planes and in one famous case in Tanzania, they used a former World War I German gunboat. Often they only have time to collect a few possessions. Then they find many different and sometimes surprising ways to transport them.



[> Photo gallery](#)

UNHCR remains in Sudan

You probably heard the unsettling news last month that humanitarian staff were expelled by the government of Sudan. While UNHCR remains, at least five of our NGO partners have been forced to leave, so we are very concerned about the impact this will have on our programmes.

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