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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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**PROCLAMATION**

California is home to more than one million refugees who have contributed much to our state's prosperity and diversity. Refugees flee persecution and danger in their homelands and resettle in California with hopes of a brighter future. They have each made great sacrifices to come to the United States and their courage, strength and determination are an inspiration to all Californians.

Our state is proud to be a destination for individuals searching for freedom and opportunity, and we are working hard to welcome refugees and meet their needs through many outreach programs. By providing education, health care and other essential social services, we are strengthening families and helping refugees become more self-sufficient.

This month, I ask all Californians to join me in reflecting on the freedoms that we share and to acknowledge the fantastic contributions that refugees are making to our state. Also, my deepest appreciation goes to the people welcoming and assisting refugees. I encourage all Californians to follow their example and embrace these brave individuals who have journeyed to our state.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim June 2008, as "Refugee Awareness Month."

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 3rd day of June 2008.

Handwritten signature of Arnold Schwarzenegger in black ink.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

Handwritten signature of Debra Bowen in black ink.

DEBRA BOWEN  
Secretary of State

