

**FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION
OF THE UNITED STATES
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20579**

In the Matter of the Claim of	}	
	}	
	}	
5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6)	}	Claim No. IRQ-II-396
	}	
	}	Decision No. IRQ-II-324
	}	
Against the Republic of Iraq	}	
	}	

Counsel for Claimant:

S. Ricardo Narvaiz, Esq.

PROPOSED DECISION

Claimant brings this claim against the Republic of Iraq (“Iraq”) alleging that Iraq held him hostage in violation of international law between August 1990 and October 1990. Because he has established that Iraq held him hostage for 27 days, he is entitled to an award of \$285,000.

BACKGROUND AND BASIS OF THE PRESENT CLAIM

Claimant alleges that he was a four-year-old U.S. citizen living in Kuwait with his family when Iraq invaded the country on August 2, 1990. He asserts that, beginning with the invasion and for ten weeks thereafter, he was forced to hide in constant fear of being captured by Iraqi authorities. Claimant traveled to Basra, Iraq on October 10, 1990, and boarded an evacuation flight that left for London (via Baghdad, Iraq) on the same date.

Although Claimant was not among them, many of the U.S. nationals in Iraq and Kuwait at the time of the 1990-91 Iraqi occupation of Kuwait sued Iraq (and others) in

federal court for, among other things, hostage-taking.¹ Those cases were pending when, in September 2010, the United States and Iraq concluded an *en bloc* (lump-sum) settlement agreement.² The Agreement, which entered into force in May 2011, covered a number of personal injury claims of U.S. nationals arising from acts of the former Iraqi regime occurring prior to October 7, 2004, including claims of personal injury caused by hostage-taking.³ Exercising its authority to distribute money from the settlement funds, the U.S. Department of State provided compensation to numerous individuals whose claims were covered by the Agreement, including some whom Iraq had allegedly taken hostage or unlawfully detained following Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Under the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949 ("ICSA"), the Secretary of State has statutory authority to refer "a category of claims against a foreign government" to this Commission.⁴ The Secretary has delegated that authority to the State Department's Legal Adviser, who, by letter dated October 7, 2014, referred three categories of claims to this Commission for adjudication and certification.⁵ This was the State Department's second referral of claims to the Commission under the Claims Settlement Agreement, the first having been by letter dated November 14, 2012 ("2012 Referral" or "November 2012 Referral").⁶

¹ See, e.g., *Hill v. Republic of Iraq*, 175 F. Supp. 2d 36 (D.D.C. 2001); *Vine v. Republic of Iraq*, 459 F. Supp. 2d 10 (D.D.C. 2006).

² See *Claims Settlement Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Iraq*, Sept. 2, 2010, T.I.A.S. No. 11-522 ("Claims Settlement Agreement" or "Agreement").

³ See *id.* Art. III(1)(a)(ii).

⁴ See 22 U.S.C. § 1623(a)(1)(C) (2012).

⁵ See *Letter dated October 7, 2014, from the Honorable Mary E. McLeod, Acting Legal Adviser, Department of State, to the Honorable Anuj C. Desai and Sylvia M. Becker, Foreign Claims Settlement Commission* ("2014 Referral" or "October 2014 Referral").

⁶ Although the November 2012 Referral involved claims of U.S. nationals who were held hostage or unlawfully detained by Iraq, it did not involve hostage-taking claims *per se*. Rather, it consisted of certain claimants who had *already received* compensation under the Claims Settlement Agreement from the State Department for their hostage-taking claims, and it authorized the Commission to award additional

One category of claims from the 2014 Referral is applicable here. That category, known as Category A, consists of

claims by U.S. nationals for hostage-taking¹ by Iraq² in violation of international law prior to October 7, 2004, provided that the claimant was not a plaintiff in pending litigation against Iraq for hostage taking³ at the time of the entry into force of the Claims Settlement Agreement and has not received compensation under the Claims Settlement Agreement from the U.S. Department of State. . . .

¹ For purposes of this referral, hostage-taking would include unlawful detention by Iraq that resulted in an inability to leave Iraq or Kuwait after Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2, 1990.

² For purposes of this referral, “Iraq” shall mean the Republic of Iraq, the Government of the Republic of Iraq, any agency or instrumentality of the Republic of Iraq, and any official, employee or agent of the Republic of Iraq acting within the scope of his or her office, employment or agency.

³ For purposes of this category, pending litigation against Iraq for hostage taking refers to the following matters: *Acree v. Iraq*, D.D.C. 02-cv-00632 and 06-cv-00723, *Hill v. Iraq*, D.D.C. 99-cv-03346, *Vine v. Iraq*, D.D.C. 01-cv-02674; *Seyam (Islamic Society of Wichita) v. Iraq*, D.D.C. 03-cv-00888; *Simon v. Iraq*, D.D.C. 03-cv-00691.

2014 Referral at ¶ 3.

On October 23, 2014, the Commission published notice in the *Federal Register* announcing the commencement of the second Iraq Claims Program pursuant to the ICSA and the 2014 Referral.⁷

compensation to those claimants, provided they could show, among other things, that they suffered a “serious personal injury” during their detention. The 2012 Referral expressly noted that the “payment already received by the claimant under the Claims Settlement Agreement compensated the claimant for his or her experience for the entire duration of the period in which the claimant was held hostage or was subject to unlawful detention and encompassed physical, mental, and emotional injuries generally associated with such captivity or detention.” *Letter dated November 14, 2012, from the Honorable Harold Hongju Koh, Legal Adviser, Department of State, to the Honorable Timothy J. Feighery, Chairman, Foreign Claims Settlement Commission*, at ¶3 n.3.

⁷ *Program for Adjudication: Commencement of Claims Program*, 79 Fed. Reg. 63,439 (Oct. 23, 2014).

On December 12, 2017, the Commission received from Claimant a completed Statement of Claim seeking compensation under Category A of the 2014 Referral, together with exhibits supporting the elements of his claim.

DISCUSSION

Jurisdiction

This Commission's authority to hear claims is limited to the category of claims referred to it by the United States Department of State.⁸ The Commission's jurisdiction under the "Category A" paragraph of the 2014 Referral is limited to claims for hostage-taking of (1) "U.S. nationals," provided that the claimant (2) was not a plaintiff in any litigation against Iraq for hostage taking pending on May 22, 2011 (the "Pending Litigation"), and (3) has not received compensation under the Claims Settlement Agreement from the Department of State. 2014 Referral at ¶ 3.

Nationality

This claims program is limited to claims of "U.S. nationals." Here, that means a claimant must have been a national of the United States when the claim arose and continuously thereafter until May 22, 2011, the date the Agreement entered into force.⁹ Claimant satisfies the nationality requirement. Claimant has provided a copy of his U.S. passport valid in 1990, which shows that he was a U.S. national at the time of the alleged hostage-taking (August 1990). He has also provided a copy of his current U.S. passport, which expires in 2021 and establishes that he remained a U.S. national through the effective date of the Claims Settlement Agreement.

⁸ See 22 U.S.C. § 1623(a)(1)(C) (2012).

⁹ See Claim No. IRQ-II-161, Decision No. IRQ-II-003, at 4-5.

No Pending Litigation

Additionally, Category A states that the claimant may not have been a plaintiff in any of the so-called Pending Litigation cases at the time of the entry into force of the Claims Settlement Agreement.¹⁰ Footnote 3 of the 2014 Referral specifically lists the Pending Litigation cases for purposes of the Referral. Claimant has averred, and the pleadings in the cases cited in footnote 3 confirm, that he was not a plaintiff in any of those Pending Litigation cases. The Commission thus finds that Claimant has also satisfied this element of his claim.

*No Compensation under the Claims Settlement Agreement
from the Department of State*

The Claimant also satisfies the final jurisdictional requirement. Claimant has stated that he has “not received compensation under the Claims Settlement Agreement from the U.S. Department of State.” Further, we have no evidence that the State Department has provided him any compensation under the Claims Settlement Agreement. Therefore, Claimant meets this element of his claim.

In summary, this claim is within the Commission’s jurisdiction pursuant to the 2014 Referral and is entitled to adjudication on the merits.

Merits

Factual Allegations

Claimant states that Iraq held him hostage from August 2, 1990, until October 10, 1990, a total of 70 days. Claimant asserts that, on August 2, 1990, he was four years old and living with his family in Kuwait when Iraq invaded the country. Claimant asserts that he and his family hid in Kuwait until October 10, 1990, when they traveled to Basra, Iraq

¹⁰ The Agreement entered into force on May 22, 2011. See Claims Settlement Agreement, art. IX.

to board an evacuation flight chartered by the U.S. government.¹¹

Supporting Evidence

Claimant has supported his claim with a copy of his U.S. passport that contains an Iraqi exit stamp dated October 10, 1990, and declarations from him and his parents that provide more details about his detention and ultimate departure from Kuwait.

The Commission also takes notice of Federal News Service transcriptions of press briefings by U.S. government officials, news articles, and publically available unclassified State Department documents that provide further information about Iraq's treatment of women and minors of foreign nationality after it authorized them to leave Iraq and Kuwait on August 28, 1990.

Legal Standard

To make out a substantive claim under Category A of the 2014 Referral, a claimant must show that (1) Iraq was engaged in an armed conflict and (2) during that conflict, Iraq took the claimant hostage.¹² The Commission has previously held that, to establish a hostage-taking claim, a claimant must show that Iraq (a) seized or detained the claimant and (b) threatened the claimant with death, injury, or continued detention (c) in order to compel a third party, such as the United States government, to do or abstain from doing any act as an explicit or implicit condition for the claimant's release.¹³ A claimant can establish the first element of this standard by showing that the Iraqi government confined

¹¹ For further factual background regarding the State Department efforts to evacuate U.S. women and minors from Iraq and Kuwait following Iraq's August 28 announcement, see Claim No. IRQ-II-143, Decision No. IRQ-II-314 (Proposed Decision), at 5-9.

¹² See Claim No. IRQ-II-161, Decision No. IRQ-II-003, at 16. An estate claimant would of course need to make this showing as to its decedent.

¹³ See *id.* at 17-20.

the claimant to a particular location or locations within Iraq or Kuwait, or prohibited the claimant from leaving Iraq and/or Kuwait.¹⁴

Application of Standard to this Claim

(1) Armed Conflict: Claimant alleges that Iraq took him hostage in Kuwait on August 2, 1990, and held him hostage for 70 days, until October 10, 1990. In its first decision awarding compensation for hostage-taking under the 2014 Referral, the Commission held that during this entire period, Iraq was engaged in an armed conflict with Kuwait.¹⁵ Thus, Claimant satisfies this element of the standard.

(2) Hostage-taking: To satisfy the hostage-taking requirement of Category A of the 2014 Referral, Claimant must show that Iraq (a) seized or detained him and (b) threatened him with death, injury, or continued detention (c) in order to compel a third party, such as the United States government, to do or abstain from doing any act as an explicit or implicit condition for his release. Although he alleges that Iraq held him hostage from August 2, 1990, until October 10, 1990, a total of 70 days, Claimant satisfies this standard only for the 27-day period from August 2, 1990, to August 28, 1990.

(a) Detention/deprivation of freedom: For purposes of analyzing Claimant's allegations of having been detained, his time in Kuwait following the Iraqi invasion can be divided into three periods: (i) between the Iraqi invasion on August 2, 1990 and the Iraqi government's formal closing of the borders on August 9, 1990; (ii) from that August 9th formal closing of the borders until the August 28, 1990 announcement that

¹⁴ See *id.* at 17.

¹⁵ See *id.* at 16-17.

women and minors could leave Iraq and Kuwait; and (iii) from that August 28th announcement until Claimant's departure on October 10, 1990.¹⁶

From August 2, 1990, until Iraq formally closed its borders to foreign nationals on August 9, 1990, Iraq confined Claimant in Kuwait by threatening all U.S. nationals with immediate seizure and forcible detention.¹⁷ Although some foreign nationals did manage to leave Kuwait and/or Iraq during this period, Claimant could not reasonably be expected to have escaped.¹⁸ Iraqi authorities were forcibly detaining foreign nationals (including U.S. nationals) in Kuwait, relocating many to Baghdad against their will.¹⁹ Claimant had, as the United Nations Compensation Commission has put it, a "manifestly well-founded fear" of being killed or forcibly detained if he had left his residence.²⁰ The Commission has previously recognized that for the purposes of the legal standard applicable here, putting Claimant in this situation in effect amounts to detention.²¹ Iraq thus detained Claimant from August 2, 1990, to August 9, 1990.

From August 9, 1990, until August 28, 1990, the Iraqi government confined Claimant to Kuwait, preventing him from leaving the country by the threat of force. Starting on August 9, 1990, the Iraqi government formally closed Kuwait's borders, forcibly prohibiting U.S. nationals from leaving.²² As the Commission has previously held, as of that date, Iraq prohibited Claimant from leaving the country, effectively

¹⁶ *See id.* at 20-21.

¹⁷ *See id.* at 21.

¹⁸ *See id.*

¹⁹ *See id.*

²⁰ Report and Recommendations Made by the Panel of Commissioners Concerning the First Instalment of Individual Claims for Damages up to US \$100,000 (Category "C" Claims), UN Doc. S/AC.26/1994/3 (1994), at 93.

²¹ *See* Claim No. IRQ-II-161, Decision No. IRQ-II-003, at 21.

²² *See id.* at 21-22.

detaining him within the borders of Kuwait and Iraq.²³ For Claimant, this formal policy of prohibiting U.S. nationals from leaving Iraq and Kuwait lasted until August 28, 1990, when the Iraqi government announced that all female and minor U.S. nationals could leave.²⁴

Although Claimant may have been legally permitted to leave Kuwait on August 28, 1990, his detention did not necessarily end on that date. As the Commission has previously recognized, a claimant's detention ends only on the date that he is released from the control of the person or entity that detained him.²⁵ In this regard, any attempt by Iraq "to restrict [the] movements" of a claimant establishes control,²⁶ whereas a claimant who has a reasonable opportunity to leave the site of his or her captivity is deemed no longer to be under [Iraq's] control.²⁷

Here, while Claimant advances multiple reasons why he remained under Iraq's control after August 28, 1990, only one of these reasons concerns acts allegedly committed by the Iraqi government: Claimant argues that, notwithstanding the August 28, 1990 announcement, "an environment of extreme military hostility created by . . . the government and army of Iraq in Kuwait" persisted and, thus, he reasonably feared that Iraq would have seized or detained him had he attempted to leave after that date, or at least prior to October 10, 1990.²⁸ Under the international law applicable to armed conflict, however, the mere presence of an occupying or belligerent force is not sufficient to establish the

²³ See *id.* at 22.

²⁴ See *id.*

²⁵ See Claim No. IRQ-II-161, Decision No. IRQ-II-003, at 22; see also Claim No. LIB-II-183, Decision No. LIB-II-178 (Proposed Decision), at 13 (2012).

²⁶ See Claim No. IRQ-II-161, Decision No. IRQ-II-003, at 22 (citing Claim No. LIB-II-183, Decision No. LIB-II-178 (Proposed Decision), at 12 (2012)).

²⁷ See *id.*

²⁸ Claimant also argues that his parents did not learn about the evacuation flights until shortly before October 10, 1990. This argument, however, does not address an attempt *by Iraq* to restrict Claimant's movements after August 28, 1990. We thus make no finding on this issue.

injury of detention. We thus reject Claimant's contention that Iraq acted to restrict his movements because its hostile occupation of Kuwait continued after August 28, 1990, and conclude that he has failed to establish that Iraq detained him after that date.²⁹

In sum, Iraq thus detained Claimant from August 2, 1990, to August 28, 1990.

(b) Threat: In its first decision awarding compensation for hostage-taking under the 2014 Referral, the Commission determined that the Iraqi government threatened U.S. nationals in Kuwait and Iraq numerous times with continued detention.³⁰ Both Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and the Speaker of Iraq's National Assembly Saadi Mahdi made clear that American nationals (as well as those from numerous other countries) would not have been permitted to leave Kuwait and/or Iraq at that time.³¹ Claimant has thus established that Iraq threatened to continue to detain him.

(c) Third party coercion: The Commission has previously held that Iraq detained all U.S. nationals in Kuwait or Iraq at the time and threatened them with continued detention in order to compel the United States government to act in certain ways as an explicit and/or implicit condition for their release.³² Iraq itself stated that it sought three things from the United States government before it would release the detained U.S. nationals; it wanted the United States (i) not to attack Iraq, (ii) to withdraw its troops from

²⁹ None of the other evidence in the record suggests that Iraq placed restrictions on Claimant's movements. Statements made by State Department officials indicate that women and children of U.S. nationality who remained in Kuwait after September 22, 1990, chose to stay in the country. *See* Claim No. IRQ-II-143, Decision No. IRQ-II-314 (Proposed Decision), at 7, 16. These communications also establish that the State Department chartered Claimant's flight, which departed on October 10, 1990, and another flight that left on November 18, 1990, to evacuate women and children who initially chose to stay in Kuwait during the mass evacuation in September 1990 but subsequently decided to leave. *See id.* at 7-8.

³⁰ *See id.* at 23.

³¹ *See id.*

³² *See* Claim No. IRQ-II-161, Decision No. IRQ-II-003, at 23.

Saudi Arabia; and/or (iii) to end the economic embargo imposed on Iraq.³³ Indeed, the U.S. government itself understood Iraq's actions to be hostage-taking.³⁴

In sum, this claim meets the standard for hostage-taking within the meaning of the 2014 Referral. Iraq held Claimant hostage in violation of international law for a period of 27 days, and Claimant is thus entitled to compensation.

COMPENSATION

Having concluded that the present claim is compensable, the Commission must next determine the appropriate amount of compensation.

In its first decision awarding compensation for hostage-taking under the 2014 Referral, the Commission held that successful claimants should be awarded compensation in the amount of \$150,000 plus an additional \$5,000 for each day the claimant was in captivity.³⁵ Therefore, for the 27 days Iraq held Claimant hostage, he is entitled to an award of \$285,000, which is \$150,000 plus (27 x \$5,000). This amount constitutes the entirety of the compensation to which Claimant is entitled under the Claims Settlement Agreement.

The Commission hereby enters the following award, which will be certified to the Secretary of the Treasury for payment under sections 7 and 8 of the ICOSA.³⁶

³³ See *id.* at 23-24.

³⁴ See George H. W. Bush, "These Innocent People . . . Are, In Fact, Hostages" in U.S. Dep't of State, *American Foreign Policy Current Documents 1990* 484 (Sherrill Brown Wells ed. 1991); see also 2014 Referral at ¶ 3; cf. United Nations S.C. Res. 674 (Oct. 29, 1990) (noting "actions by ... Iraq authorities and occupying forces to take third-State nationals hostage" and demanding that Iraq "cease and desist" this practice).

³⁵ See Claim No. IRQ-II-161, Decision No. IRQ-II-003, at 24-26.

³⁶ 22 U.S.C. §§ 1626-1627 (2012).

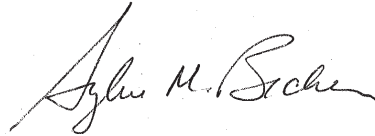
AWARD

Claimant is entitled to an award in the amount of \$285,000.

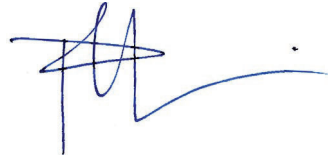
Dated at Washington, DC, December 13, 2018
and entered as the Proposed Decision
of the Commission.

**This decision was entered as the
Commission's Final Decision on**

March, 4 2019



Sylvia M. Becker, Commissioner



Patrick Hovakimian, Commissioner

NOTICE: Pursuant to the Regulations of the Commission, any objections must be filed within 15 days of delivery of this Proposed Decision. Absent objection, this decision will be entered as the Final Decision of the Commission upon the expiration of 30 days after delivery, unless the Commission otherwise orders. FCSC Regulations, 45 C.F.R. § 509.5 (e), (g) (2018).

**FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION
OF THE UNITED STATES
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20579**

In the Matter of the Claim of	}	
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5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6)	}	Claim No. IRQ-II-396
	}	
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Against the Republic of Iraq	}	
	}	

Counsel for Claimant: S. Ricardo Narvaiz, Esq.

FINAL DECISION

Claimant objects to the Commission’s Proposed Decision concluding that Iraq held him hostage in Kuwait from August 2, 1990, to August 28, 1990, and awarding him \$285,000 for the 27 days that he was detained. On objection, Claimant contends that Iraq also held him hostage in Kuwait from August 29, 1990, to October 10, 1990. After considering Claimant’s arguments, we again conclude that he has failed to establish that Iraq detained him, and thus held him hostage, after August 28, 1990. We therefore affirm the conclusion in the Proposed Decision that Claimant is entitled to an award of \$285,000.

BACKGROUND AND BASIS OF THE PRESENT CLAIM

Claimant brought this claim against Iraq alleging that Iraq held him hostage in Kuwait from August 2, 1990, to October 10, 1990. Claimant sought compensation for his hostage experience under Category A of the State Department’s letter to the Commission establishing this program, which consists of “claims by U.S. nationals for hostage-taking[]

by Iraq[] in violation of international law prior to October 7, 2004”¹ On December 13, 2018, the Commission issued a proposed decision (“Proposed Decision”) concluding that Iraq held Claimant hostage from August 2, 1990, to August, 28, 1990, the date that Iraq authorized women and children to leave Iraq and/or Kuwait.² The Commission further concluded that his claim did not satisfy the standard for hostage-taking between August 29, 1990, and October 10, 1990, because he failed to establish that Iraqi authorities detained him during this period.³ Thus, the Commission awarded Claimant \$285,000 for the 27 days that he was held in Kuwait by Iraq.⁴

On January 5, 2019, Claimant filed a notice of objection arguing that the Commission erred in concluding that Iraq did not detain him between August 29, 1990, and October 10, 1990. Because he did not request an oral hearing, the Commission advised him by letter dated April 15, 2019, that his claim would be decided on the written record and requested that he submit any additional evidence in support of his objection no later than May 9, 2019. Claimant did not submit evidence or take other action to supplement the record pursuant to the Commission’s letter.

DISCUSSION

To establish a hostage-taking claim under Category A of the 2014 Referral, a claimant must show that Iraq (a) seized or detained the claimant and (b) threatened the claimant with death, injury, or continued detention (c) in order to compel a third party, such as the United States government, to do or abstain from doing any act as an explicit or

¹ See Letter dated October 7, 2014, from the Honorable Mary E. McLeod, Acting Legal Adviser, Department of State, to the Honorable Anuj C. Desai and Sylvia M. Becker, Foreign Claims Settlement Commission ¶ 3 (“2014 Referral” or “October 2014 Referral”).

² See Proposed Decision, *supra*, at 9-10.

³ See *id.* at 10.

⁴ See *id.* at 11-12.

implicit condition for the claimant's release.⁵ Thus, to prevail on objection, Claimant must show that he was seized or detained by Iraq from August 29, 1990, to October 10, 1990. Because Claimant was a minor covered by Iraq's August 28, 1990 announcement that authorized women and children of U.S. nationality to depart, he must show that he remained under Iraq's control to establish that he was detained by Iraq after that announcement.⁶ In this regard, any attempt by Iraq "to restrict [the] movements" of a claimant establishes control,⁷ whereas a claimant who has a reasonable opportunity to leave the site of his or her captivity is deemed no longer to be under [Iraq's] control.⁸

Claimant has not shown that he remained in Kuwait due to actions taken by Iraqi authorities to restrict his movements or to otherwise prevent him from leaving Kuwait.⁹ On objection, he "requests that the Commission award him compensation through October 10, 1990, on the basis that his parents subjectively believed . . . they could not leave Kuwait or even come out of hiding" and "thus did not 'choose' to stay" until October 10, 1990.¹⁰ Claimant contends that they either "were simply ill-informed and did not know about the U.S. sponsored evacuation flights out of Kuwait [in] September or they were so extremely skeptical that they believed that they could not go to the U.S. Embassy without risking arrest or harm to their family, until just before October 10, 1990."¹¹ Claimant points to his

⁵ See Claim No. IRQ-II-161, Decision No. IRQ-II-003, at 17-20. The Commission has previously determined that a claimant can establish the first element of this standard by showing that the Iraqi government confined the claimant to a particular location or locations within Iraq or Kuwait, or prohibited the claimant from leaving Iraq and/or Kuwait. *See id.* at 17.

⁶ See Claim No. IRQ-II-161, Decision No. IRQ-II-003, at 22.

⁷ *Id.* (citing Claim No. LIB-II-183, Decision No. LIB-II-178 (Proposed Decision), at 12 (2012)).

⁸ *See id.*

⁹ In the Proposed Decision, the Commission determined that except for his contention that he feared being seized or detained due to "an environment of extreme military hostility . . . created by the government and army of Iraq in Kuwait," Claimant did not advance any reasons for his detention that "concerned acts . . . committed by the Iraqi government." Proposed Decision, at 9.

¹⁰ Claimant's Notice of Objection to Proposed Decision, at 5 ¶ 13.

¹¹ Claimant's Notice of Objection to Proposed Decision, at 4 ¶ 10. While the Commission did not make any specific finding about Claimants' parents professed lack of knowledge of the September 1990 evacuation flights, it noted that their unawareness did "not address an attempt by Iraq to restrict [his] movements after

parents' testimony regarding their state of mind and their subjective belief that they did not have "a true opportunity to evacuate" until October 10, 1990,¹² but has not provided any objective evidence of any action on Iraq's part to prevent his departure after August 28. Moreover, his claim is not consistent with statements made by senior State Department officials in September 1990 that establish that, as a result of the August 28, 1990 announcement, the vast majority of women and children of U.S. nationality in Kuwait—including several hundred women and children and their non-U.S. national family members—left on evacuation flights between September 1, 1990, and September 22, 1990.¹³ Claimant has thus failed to establish that Iraq restricted his movements, and thus detained him, after August 28, 1990.

Claimant argues that he is at least entitled to compensation for hostage-taking from August 29, 1990, to September 22, 1990, because he would have been eligible for compensation if he had left Kuwait during this period.¹⁴ To support this claim, Claimant points to the Commission's practice in other claims in this program and its finding in the Proposed Decision that State Department officials indicated that women and children who remained in Kuwait after September 22, 1990, had chosen to stay. Claimant's reliance on the Commission's previous decisions for this argument is unavailing. The decisions merely show that the Commission determined that minor claimants who attempted to leave immediately after the August 28, 1990 announcement were subject to limits on air travel

August 28, 1990." Proposed Decision, at 9 n.28. Claimant similarly fails to explain why his parents' inability to go to the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait would have prevented him (or them) from leaving the country. Because the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait was under siege, the State Department urged U.S. nationals not to go to the Embassy compound. Employees from the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad traveled to Kuwait to assist individuals seeking to depart. *See CB Message from U.S. State Department to American Citizens in Kuwait as Broadcast Via Voice of America*, FEDERAL NEWS SERVICE, Sep. 6, 1990, Lexis; *CB State Department Regular Briefing Briefer: Richard Boucher*, FEDERAL NEWS SERVICE, Sep. 11, 1990, at Lexis.

¹² Claimant's Notice of Objection to Proposed Decision, at 4 ¶ 10.

¹³ *See* Claim No. IRQ-II-143, Decision No. IRQ-II-314, at 6-7.

¹⁴ *See* Claimant's Notice of Objection to Proposed Decision, at 2-3, ¶¶ 4-7.

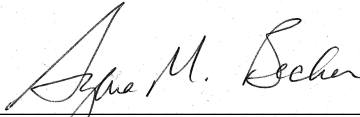
imposed by the Iraqi government that constituted restrictions on their movements sufficient to establish detention.¹⁵ Claimant has not alleged that he attempted to leave Kuwait at that time and thus has not established that Iraq detained him as a result of the limits it imposed on air travel in August and September 1990. He therefore has failed to show that Iraq held him hostage after August 28, 1990, and that he is entitled to additional compensation beyond the \$285,000 he was awarded in the Proposed Decision.

The award entered in the Proposed Decision is hereby affirmed and will be certified to the Secretary of the Treasury for payment under sections 7 and 8 of the ICSA.¹⁶ This constitutes the Commission's final determination in this claim.

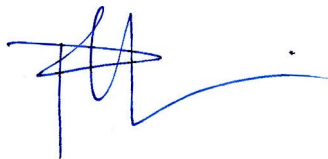
AWARD

Claimant is entitled to an award in the amount of \$285,000.

Dated at Washington, DC, March 30, 2020
and entered as the Final Decision
of the Commission.



Sylvia M. Becker, Commissioner



Patrick Hovakimian, Commissioner

¹⁵ See, e.g., Claim No. IRQ-II-161, Decision No. IRQ-II-003, at 22; Claim No. IRQ-II-162, Decision No. IRQ-II-005, at 10.

¹⁶ 22 U.S.C. §§ 1626-1627 (2012).