

WASHINGTON *live*

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Rima Al-Sabah

Hot Ticket

Corporations are lining up to pay a minimum of \$25,000 per couple to be part of the exclusive dinner that Rima Al-Sabah, wife of Kuwaiti Ambassador Salem Al-Sabah, and the Kuwait-America Foundation (KAF) are hosting to benefit Iraqi refugees. The benefit dinner, "A Tribute to Friendship," will be held at the Kuwaiti residence on March 9. All proceeds benefit USA for UNHCR, which is the U.S. fund-

raising arm of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees for Iraq. There are 340,000 Iraqi refugees, mainly women and children, living in urban centers and camps in Jordan and Saudi Arabia. These refugees fled Iraq under Saddam Hussein, and proceeds will help them return to their homeland. This is the largest benefit in the U.S. for USA for UNHCR.

Rima Al-Sabah, the driving force behind this hot ticket, stressed the need to "show the Iraqi people that we care." In two months, Mrs. Al-Sabah has raised over \$650,000 and money is still pouring in. With limited seating, already on board are ChevronTexaco, Occidental, Conoco Phillips, Raytheon, General Motors, Boeing, Investcorp, Exxon Mobil, Fluor Corp, Marathon Oil, Qorvis Communications, Shell International, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, Grace and Morton Bender, National Bank of Kuwait, Creative Associates, Patton Boggs LLP, among others. It's also rumored that actress Angelina Jolie and Secretary of State Colin Powell will attend, and that Grammy winner Cyndi Lauper will perform.