



The Rijal Family

The Rijal family are ethnic Nepalis (Hindu) who were living in Southern Bhutan. They fled Bhutan in 1992 when thousands of people were forcibly evicted from their own land. This government act of "cultural cleansing" reduced the official population from 1.4 million to 600,000, leaving many families like the Rijals without a home...until now. They arrived in the United States on September 16!

- Father Pitri, age 52, was a farmer, has a hearing impairment and speaks Nepali. He has no documented education.
- Mother Januka is age 37. She too suffers from some deafness and has no employment history. She speaks only Nepali.
- Yadu is their 18 year old son, he has a high school education and speaks both English and Nepali.
- Chandra is 15, and has been attending high school. He speaks English and Nepali.
- 12 year old Tanka is in elementary school and he speaks English and Nepali
- The youngest, Yamuna is 10; she speaks some English and Nepali.