



Australian Government
Refugee Review Tribunal

Country Advice

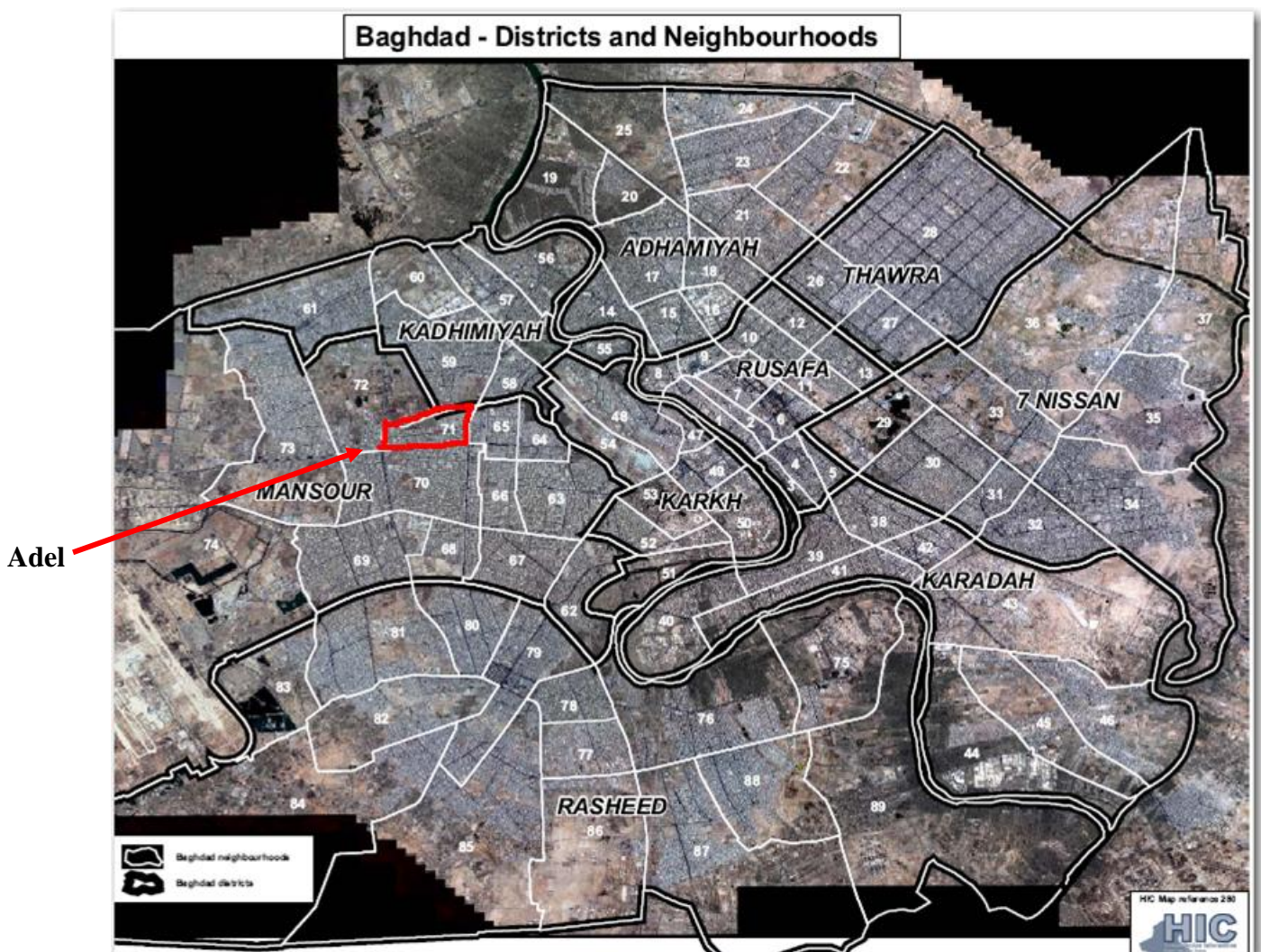
Iraq

Iraq – IRQ39916 – Al Adel – Professionals
– State Protection

02 March 2012

1. Please provide country information on the Shia/Sunni make up of Al Adel city (or district) in Baghdad.

The Adel (also Adil) neighbourhood is located in Mansour district, western Baghdad.



Map. 1 Indicating location of Adel (71) in Baghdad.¹

Precise demographic data was not located, however a number of sources note that Adel has become a Sunni-dominated area. The escalation in sectarian violence from

¹ The Long War Journal (undated), *Baghdad – Districts and Neighbourhoods*, *The Long War Journal* website <http://www.longwarjournal.org/maps/280a%2520A4%2520Baghdad-districts-neighbourhood-sat.pdf> - Accessed 1 March 2012

Several news articles, some published prior to 2006, refer to Adel as having a majority Sunni population.⁵ In March 2007, *The Telegraph* in the United Kingdom reported that whilst Adel had formerly been a mixed area, it had become ‘almost exclusively Sunni Muslim’.⁶ In November 2007, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that those seeking to cleanse their neighbourhoods of rival religious sects had largely succeeded. The article reports that the Mahdi Army had turned the west Baghdad neighbourhood of Hurriya into a haven for Shiites ‘driven out of nearby Sunni areas like Adil during last year’s sectarian cleansing’.⁷

The 2009 UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) *Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers* (hereafter the *Eligibility Guidelines*) reported the demonstration of hundreds of Shi’ite internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Baghdad who claimed that the Sons of Iraq (SoI) were preventing them from returning to their homes in Adel.⁸

Regarding the shifting demographics in Baghdad generally, the 2009 *Eligibility Guidelines* stated that, since the escalation in sectarian violence after the Samarra bombing in February 2006, ‘the demographic structure of Iraq’s mixed areas, and Baghdad in particular, has been altered dramatically’.⁹ As a result, Baghdad reportedly turned from an ‘ethnically mixed city to a patchwork of rival ethnic and religious enclaves whose residents rarely intersect outside their gated communities’.¹⁰

In January 2012 *Associated Press* cited anecdotal accounts and a rise in business at real estate agencies to suggest that Iraqis were again segregating along sectarian lines.¹¹ According to the article, whilst violence and the resulting migrations slowed in 2008, tensions were again on the rise as a result of a power struggle between Shi’ite and Sunni politicians. The article reports that ‘Sunni neighbourhoods of the capital like Adel and Khadra’ have seen rental prices increase, ostensibly resulting from the arrival of Sunnis from other (mixed) neighbourhoods.¹²

⁵ Burns, John. F 2005, ‘The struggle for Iraq: Baghdad; Iraqi forces stage a raid and rescue 2 hostages’, *The New York Times*, 16 June

<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9E06E1D8163BF935A25755C0A9639C8B63&pagewanted=all> - Accessed 1 March 2012; ‘Widespread condemnation of fatal attack on girl’s school’ 2007, *IRIN Middle East*, 29 January;

⁶ McElroy, Damien 2007, ‘Gunfight at Baghdad’s deserted shopping mall’, *The Telegraph*, 6 March <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/1544729/Gunfight-at-Baghdads-deserted-shopping-mall.html> - Accessed 1 March 2012

⁷ Parker, Ned 2007, ‘Iraqi civilian deaths plunge’, *Los Angeles Times*, 1 November

⁸ UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2009, *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers*, April, p.92 <http://www.unhcr.org/4a2640852.pdf> - Accessed 1 March 2012

⁹ UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2009, *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers*, April, p.92 <http://www.unhcr.org/4a2640852.pdf> - Accessed 1 March 2012

¹⁰ Kessler, Glenn in UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2009, *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers*, April, p.92 <http://www.unhcr.org/4a2640852.pdf> - Accessed 1 March 2012

¹¹ Santana, Rebecca 2012, ‘Fearing political crisis will spark violence, Iraqi Sunnis again leaving mixed neighborhoods’, *Associated Press*, 1 January

¹² Santana, Rebecca 2012, ‘Fearing political crisis will spark violence, Iraqi Sunnis again leaving mixed neighborhoods’, *Associated Press*, 1 January

2. Please provide country information on the extent of sectarian violence in Al Adel and surrounding cities. Please also include violence from Al Qaida (if known) in that area.

Adel experienced significant sectarian violence during the war. Sources report that killings have occurred in Adel, targeting journalists, government officials, and religious figures. Additionally, sources report that a prominent Sunni politician was behind efforts to force Shias out of Adel. Sources have reported Al Qaeda activity in Adel and surrounding suburbs.

In January 2007 *IRIN* reported an attack on a girls' school in Adel that left five students dead and more than 20 injured. The attack, which was 'one of the most horrific attacks against Iraq's education system since the US-led occupation of the country began in 2003', was condemned by the Iraqi government, the United Nations and NGOs.¹³ According to the article, the Ministry of Interior was not able to identify who fired the mortars at the school 'but said the area had been the scene of reprisal attacks between Sunni extremists and Shi'ite militias'.¹⁴

Several other sources reported abductions and killings in Adel. Reported targets include journalists on assignment for *The Christian Science Monitor*,¹⁵ an army colonel and his wife,¹⁶ a judge,¹⁷ Sheikh Ahmad Saadon, Imam of Adel neighbourhood's mosque,¹⁸ and most recently Adel's Municipal Councilman (17 January 2012).¹⁹

In August 2008 *Agence France Presse (AFP)* reported that the son of Adnan al-Dulaimi had been charged with attempted murder after he was caught planting a bomb in a house belonging to a Shiite family.²⁰ Security forces reportedly arrested Muthanna Dulaimi after a Baghdad court issued three arrest warrants charging him with multiple killings and displacing people in the Adel neighbourhood. According to the article, Dulaimi's other son, Makki, had also been arrested in November 2007 after troops found a car full of explosives near Dulaimi's house in Adel. Adnan al-Dulaimi himself was reportedly put under house arrest at the time but later released. Dulaimi told *AFP* that he was being targeted by the authorities for demanding the release of prisoners and 'talking against sectarianism'.²¹

Reports of Violence in Surrounding Areas

¹³ 'Widespread condemnation of fatal attack on girl's school' 2007, *IRIN News*, 29 January

¹⁴ 'Widespread condemnation of fatal attack on girl's school' 2007, *IRIN News*, 29 January

¹⁵ Committee to Protect Journalists (undated), *Iraq: Journalists in danger; Media workers killed since March 2003*, CPJ website https://cpj.org/Briefings/Iraq/iraq_media_killed.html - Accessed 1 March 2012

¹⁶ Al-Ansary, Khalid 2008, 'Factbox - Security developments in Iraq, 28 Aug 2008', *Reuters*, 28 August <http://reliefweb.int/node/278453> - Accessed 1 March 2012

¹⁷ Tawfeeq, Mohammed 2011, '3 Iraqi government officials assassinated Thursday', *CNN*, 9 June http://articles.cnn.com/2011-06-09/world/iraq_assassinations_1_al-maliki-iraqi-ministers-al-adil-neighborhood?_s=PM:WORLD - Accessed 1 March 2012

¹⁸ UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2010, *Annex to the Note on the Continued Applicability of the April 2009 UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers: Reports of Attacks and Security Incidents in Iraq since April 2009*, July

¹⁹ 'Municipal councilman killed, 3 persons wounded in western Baghdad' 2012, *National Iraqi News Agency (NINA)*, 17 January

²⁰ 'Detained Iraq Sunni leader son caught planting bombs' 2008, *AFP*, 21 August <http://afp.google.com/article/ALEqM5hRIwyPf1fcDFVw6xMzLZbZf0RDDA> - Accessed 1 March 2012

²¹ 'Detained Iraq Sunni leader son caught planting bombs' 2008, *AFP*, 21 August <http://afp.google.com/article/ALEqM5hRIwyPf1fcDFVw6xMzLZbZf0RDDA> - Accessed 1 March 2012

A *Time Magazine* article from 2007 reported that security had deteriorated and sectarian killings had soared in Adel, as well as Mansour, Amariyah, Ghazaliyah, and Khadra. According to the article, Mansour had become ‘boxed in by bloodshed’:

To the north and south, the Shi'ite death squads of the Jaish al-Mahdi have pushed in block by block over the past year, warning Sunni families to move or be killed. In response, Sunni insurgents have poured in from Anbar province, bringing with them weapons, explosives and suicide bombers. The warring forces have made my old neighborhood [Mansour] one of the most dangerous areas in Baghdad.²²

Other sources similarly reported on the instability and violence in neighbourhoods surrounding Adel, particularly the majority-Shia district of Hurriya which borders Adel to the north. In 2007 *IRIN* reported that Hurriya and Sadr City were said to be two of the worst areas of Baghdad with virtually no police presence.²³ Several sources from 2006 and 2007 report the killing and forced displacement of Sunnis from Hurriya.²⁴ On 17 June 2008 at least 63 people were killed and many more injured in a truck bombing in Hurriya.²⁵ Violence has also affected the Ghazaliyah area, bordering Adel to the west, including the targeted killings of a Sheikh, a member of the Municipal Council of Ghazaliyah and an Interior Ministry training officer.²⁶ Additionally, in December 2011, an employee of the Intelligence Agency was assassinated while driving on the highway between the Ghazaliya and Adel neighbourhoods.²⁷

Regarding sectarian violence in Iraq more broadly, the 2011 US Department of State *International Religious Freedom Report – Iraq* (covering July-December 2010) noted:

Shia in Sunni-dominated neighborhoods, Sunnis in Shia-dominated neighborhoods, and religious minorities in both Sunni- and Shia-dominated neighborhoods reported receiving anonymous death threat letters demanding that they leave their homes, and in many cases individuals either complied or were killed. These incidents continued to occur at lower levels than during the last reporting period.²⁸

Violence Perpetrated by Al Qaeda in Adel

In May 2007 *Time Magazine* reported that the Adel neighbourhood, as well as Mansour, Amariyah, Ghazaliyah, and Khadra, had been ‘overrun by insurgent groups tied to al-Qaeda’. According to the article, ‘the jihadists offer protection to local Sunnis against Shi'ite death

²² Bennett, Brian 2007, ‘Saving Iraq’s Glitziest Neighborhood’, *Time Magazine*, 17 May <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1622576,00.html> - Accessed 2 March 2012

²³ In Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland 2010, *Information regarding differences between the Hourya and Aladle Districts in Baghdad; Reports of people being forced to leave either area (between October 2007 - December 2009) due to their religious affiliation; Levels of religious violence in both districts, during 2010 to date*, 10 June <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/4c1886862.pdf> - Accessed 1 March 2012

²⁴ See multiple press reports in Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland 2010, *Information regarding differences between the Hourya and Aladle Districts in Baghdad; Reports of people being forced to leave either area (between October 2007 - December 2009) due to their religious affiliation; Levels of religious violence in both districts, during 2010 to date*, 10 June <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/4c1886862.pdf> - Accessed 1 March 2012

²⁵ UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2009, *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers*, April, p.14 (footnote) <http://www.unhcr.org/4a2640852.pdf> - Accessed 1 March 2012

²⁶ UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2010, *Annex to the Note on the Continued Applicability of the April 2009 UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers: Reports of Attacks and Security Incidents in Iraq since April 2009*, July

²⁷ ‘Intelligence Agency’s officer assassinated in Baghdad’ 2011, *National Iraqi News Agency (NINA)*, 8 December

²⁸ US Department of State 2011, *2010 International Religious Freedom Report (July-December)*, 13 September

squads in exchange for use of the neighborhoods to launch suicide bombings against Shi'ite civilians'.²⁹ The article states that building trust in 'middle-class Sunni enclaves like Mansour' had become a key component of the military's counterinsurgency strategy. "We're in competition with al-Qaeda... for who can protect the Sunnis better", reportedly stated Lieut. Colonel Dale Kuehl.³⁰

An article published on 25 January 2012 by the University for Peace, an UN-mandated organisation, reported the assassination of Mollah Nadhom, a 30-year old Imam who had previously worked for Al Qaeda but later renounced all ties with the organisation. The University of Peace article states that Mr. Hadhom was killed on 25 January 2012 as he was traveling between the Gazaliyah and Adel districts of Baghdad. According to the report, 'the word on the grapevine is that he [Nadhom] had kept denouncing his former al Qaeda colleagues to the Mailki government, and that he was seriously hampering the preparation of al-Qaeda's next round of suicide operations'.³¹

Regarding Al Qaeda in Iraq, UNHCR reported that, since early 2010, the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) have arrested or killed a large number of senior insurgent leaders, in particular members of Al Qaeda in Iraq. However, according to UNHCR, 'ongoing attacks illustrate that the groups are still intent on, and capable of, attacks'.³²

3. Please provide country information (including latest UNHCR advices) of whether professionals such as engineers are being targeted in Iraq and more particularly in Al Adel city.

Since 2003, professionals such as academics, judges and lawyers, doctors and other medical personnel as well as athletes have been a prime target for various extremist groups. Sources report that persons involved in engineering have also been targeted, particularly academics at engineering faculties. Professionals have reportedly been killed in or near Adel.

The 2009 UNHCR *Eligibility Guidelines* noted that, since 2003, 'professionals such as academics, judges and lawyers, doctors and other medical personnel as well as athletes have been a prime target for various extremist groups'.³³ According to UNHCR, the number of doctors and other medical personnel that have been kidnapped and/or killed since 2003 goes into the thousands.³⁴ Many more left their jobs or fled the country altogether, the agency noted.³⁵ The UNHCR reported that, while overall levels of violence, and particularly sectarian

²⁹ Bennett, Brian 2007, 'Saving Iraq's Glitziest Neighborhood', *Time Magazine*, 17 May <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1622576,00.html> - Accessed 2 March 2012

³⁰ Bennett, Brian 2007, 'Saving Iraq's Glitziest Neighborhood', *Time Magazine*, 17 May <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1622576,00.html> - Accessed 2 March 2012

³¹ Fontan, Victoria 2012, 'The life and death of Mollah Nadhom', *Peace and Conflict Monitor*, University for Peace website http://www.monitor.upeace.org/innerpg.cfm?id_article=865 - Accessed 2 March 2012

³² UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2010, *Note on the Continued Applicability of the April 2009 UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers*, 28 July <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4c4fed282.html> - Accessed 29 February 2012

³³ UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2009, *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers*, April, p.179 <http://www.unhcr.org/4a2640852.pdf> - Accessed 1 March 2012

³⁴ UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2009, *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers*, April, p.181 <http://www.unhcr.org/4a2640852.pdf> - Accessed 1 March 2012

³⁵ UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2009, *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers*, April, p.181 <http://www.unhcr.org/4a2640852.pdf> - Accessed 1 March 2012

killings and high-casualty bombings, had decreased since mid-2007, targeted attacks against professionals was still a very common occurrence.³⁶ According to UNHCR, different sources show that professionals have been and continue to be targeted in significant numbers.³⁷ The majority of the killings that occurred in 2008 reportedly took place in Iraq's three major cities - Baghdad, Mosul and Basrah.³⁸

According to the 2009 *Eligibility Guidelines*, a 'culture of impunity' prevailed and most cases were not investigated, thus it was often impossible to know the perpetrators and establish their motives.³⁹ However, the agency provided the following advice:

Motives for these attacks are multilayered. Professionals have been targeted for their (perceived) political opinion, their religion or ethnic background, their social status as well as for criminal motives. Many attacks appear to be motivated by extremist groups' aim to destroy Iraq's cultural, intellectual and political diversity, frustrate economic recovery and, ultimately, de-legitimize the Iraqi Government by spreading fear and terror. Another reason may be their (perceived) support for the Iraqi Government, the US military intervention or "Western" or "infidel" ideas in general, or their open criticism of extremist groups or groups in power. Previous membership in the Ba'ath Party or (perceived) support for the former regime may be another possible motive. In mainly 2006 and 2007, sectarianism was another motive for targeted attacks on professionals.⁴⁰

Sources indicate that people involved in engineering have been targeted in Iraq, particularly engineering professors and academics. Several hundreds of professors and academics have been killed since 2003 and many others have been kidnapped, arrested or threatened.⁴¹ According to UNHCR, an analysis of the documented cases shows that there is not a particular field of study targeted, rather the killed academics came from a wide spectrum of disciplines, including medicine, engineering, science, art, education and others.⁴² The Brussels Tribunal, an independent network of academics, provides a list of more than 500 professors and academics that have been killed in Iraq since 2003.⁴³ The list, most recently

³⁶ UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2009, *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers*, April, p.181 <http://www.unhcr.org/4a2640852.pdf> - Accessed 1 March 2012

³⁷ UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2009, *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers*, April, p.181 <http://www.unhcr.org/4a2640852.pdf> - Accessed 1 March 2012

³⁸ UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2009, *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers*, April, p.183 <http://www.unhcr.org/4a2640852.pdf> - Accessed 1 March 2012

³⁹ UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2009, *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers*, April, p.181 <http://www.unhcr.org/4a2640852.pdf> - Accessed 1 March 2012

⁴⁰ UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2009, *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers*, April, p.179 <http://www.unhcr.org/4a2640852.pdf> - Accessed 1 March 2012

⁴¹ UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2009, *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers*, April, p.181 <http://www.unhcr.org/4a2640852.pdf> - Accessed 1 March 2012

⁴² UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2009, *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers*, April, p.181 <http://www.unhcr.org/4a2640852.pdf> - Accessed 1 March 2012; See also UK Border Agency 2011, *Iraq: Country of Origin Information (COI) Report*, 30 August, p.161 <http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/coi/iraq/report-08-11.pdf?view=Binary> - Accessed 2 March 2012

⁴³ Brussels Tribunals (undated), *List of killed, threatened or kidnapped Iraqi Academics*, Brussels Tribunal website <http://www.brussellstribunal.org/academicsList.htm> - Accessed 2 March 2012

updated on 20 January 2012, includes at least 35 academics/professors who were involved in some form of engineering or who were associated with engineering colleges.⁴⁴ For example, Youssef Salman, an engineering professor at Basra University was killed in 2006 while driving home after a day's teaching. According to the Brussels Tribunal, 'there is no doubt Salman was targeted... he was driving with three other colleagues. They shot him and the others were spared'.⁴⁵

The 2009 *Eligibility Guidelines* provides a non-exhaustive list of attacks on various specific groups in Iraq from January 2008 to March 2009. Such groups include people associated with the government and professionals, including academics, teachers, doctors, judges and lawyers and athletes. Three engineers are among those listed:

24 August 2008: Armed men kidnapped an engineer working for the Ninewa Sewage Department near his home in Al-Baladiyat in northern Mosul.⁴⁶

23 January 2009: Ali Mahmoud, an engineer working in Basrah Airport, was kidnapped from his house and killed.⁴⁷

11 February 2009: Raad Hussein Abdullah, a senior engineer with the Electricity Ministry, was killed by armed men as he left his home in the Ghadir district of eastern Baghdad.⁴⁸

The 2010 UNHCR *Annex to the Note on the Continued Applicability of the April 2009 UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines* details at least 55 attacks involving professionals, including journalists, academics, teachers, medical health professionals, judges and lawyers, from May 2009 to June 2010.⁴⁹ The report also notes that on 3 August 2009, Mohsin Hussein Zayn Al-Abideen, an engineer and head of the Tal Afar Municipality, survived an assassination attempt.⁵⁰

The Brussels Tribunal does not provide details of the method/location of all the murders; however it does note that two academics were killed in or near Adel (a Professor of Islamic Studies killed in May 2008 and an academic at Baghdad University in August 2011).⁵¹

⁴⁴ Brussels Tribunals (undated), *List of killed, threatened or kidnapped Iraqi Academics*, Brussels Tribunal website <http://www.brusselltribunal.org/academicsList.htm> - Accessed 2 March 2012

⁴⁵ Brussels Tribunals (undated), *List of killed, threatened or kidnapped Iraqi Academics*, Brussels Tribunal website <http://www.brusselltribunal.org/academicsList.htm> - Accessed 2 March 2012

⁴⁶ UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2009, *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers*, April, p.204 <http://www.unhcr.org/4a2640852.pdf> - Accessed 1 March 2012

⁴⁷ UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2009, *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers*, April, p.211 <http://www.unhcr.org/4a2640852.pdf> - Accessed 1 March 2012

⁴⁸ UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2009, *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers*, April, p.198 <http://www.unhcr.org/4a2640852.pdf> - Accessed 1 March 2012

⁴⁹ UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2010, *Annex to the Note on the Continued Applicability of the April 2009 UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers: Reports of Attacks and Security Incidents in Iraq since April 2009*, July, p.23-27

⁵⁰ UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2010, *Annex to the Note on the Continued Applicability of the April 2009 UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers: Reports of Attacks and Security Incidents in Iraq since April 2009*, July, p.12

⁵¹ Case numbers 417 and 464. Brussels Tribunals (undated), *List of killed, threatened or kidnapped Iraqi Academics*, Brussels Tribunal website <http://www.brusselltribunal.org/academicsList.htm> - Accessed 2 March 2012

See Question two for more reports of attacks in Adel and surrounding neighbourhoods, some of which have targeted professionals.

4. Please provide country information of the adequacy of state protection through its police and security forces against sectarian violence and attacks on professionals, in Iraq and in Al Adel.

Although the Iraqi Constitution guaranteed fundamental human rights, national institutions to implement these rights remained weak. Impunity was reported as being widespread, while access to justice was largely absent due to fear of reprisals, lack of capacity among rule of law institutions, corruption and lack of awareness of accountability mechanisms. The government carried out few investigations of alleged sectarian-based crimes; arrests following murder or other crimes were rare.

On 23 February 2012 *Associated Press (AP)* reported the death of 55 people in a spate of bombings across Iraq. According to *AP*, the violence points to ‘a dangerous gap in the abilities of the Iraqi security forces’. *AP* reported that the ISF’s inability to adequately gather intelligence on insurgent groups and prevent attacks had ‘particularly worried the departing U.S. military’. According to *AP*, ‘Iraq’s police are generally considered to be the weakest element of the country’s security forces...’⁵²

A 3 February 2012 *Voice of America (VOA)* report noted that bombings and other attacks had killed at least 270 people across Iraq since late December. Iraq analyst Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington reportedly told *VOA* that the involvement of the ISF in the attacks cannot be ruled out. According to Cordesman, “there are almost 600,000 Iraqi security personnel. Some of them almost certainly are tied to extremist groups”. Analyst Fantappie reportedly told *VOA* that while Iraqi troops and police had improved their ability to prevent attacks with the help of U.S. military training, the effectiveness of Iraq’s security system had been undermined by political rivalries in the government and the armed forces.⁵³

According to the 2012 Human Rights Watch *World Report*, on 10 June 2011 in Baghdad ‘government-backed thugs armed with wooden planks, knives, iron pipes, and other weapons beat and stabbed peaceful protesters and sexually molested female demonstrators as security forces stood by and watched, sometimes laughing at the victims’.⁵⁴

According to the 2011 US Department of State *International Religious Freedom Report* ‘the government carried out few investigations of alleged sectarian-based crimes; arrests following murder or other crimes were rare during the reporting period (July-December 2010).’⁵⁵

The 2011 US Department of State *Country Report on Human Rights Practices - Iraq* which discusses events of 2010 stated that ‘extremist violence, coupled with weak government

⁵² Jakes, Lara and Sinan Salaheddin 2012, ‘Rapid-fire attacks across Iraq kill 55 people’, *Associated Press*, 23 February <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2012/02/23/officials-car-bomb-kills-8-in-baghdad/?test=latestnews> - Accessed 2 March 2012

⁵³ Lipin, Michael 2012, ‘Iraq’s Sectarian Tensions Create Opportunities for Attacks’, *Voice of America*, 3 February <http://www.voanews.com/english/news/middle-east/iraq/Iraqs-Sectarian-Tensions-Create-Opportunities-for-Attacks-138641804.html> – Accessed 6 February 2012

⁵⁴ Human Rights Watch 2012, *World Report 2012 – Iraq*, 23 January. .561
<http://www.hrw.org/reports/2012/01/22/world-report-2012> - Accessed 29 February 2012

⁵⁵ US Department of State 2011, *2010 International Religious Freedom Report (July-December)*, 13 September

performance in upholding the rule of law, resulted in widespread and severe human rights abuses'.⁵⁶ The report listed arbitrary arrests and detention, impunity, denial of fair public trials, insufficient judicial institutional capacity and significant, widespread corruption at all levels of government as some of the significant human rights problems reported in 2010.⁵⁷

The DIAC *Country Guidance Note: Iraq* of September 2011 brings together a number of current sources that provide information regarding state protection in Iraq.⁵⁸ The document notes, *inter alia*, a March 2011 report by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office stating that, 'there were still significant weaknesses, and the absence of the strong rule of law remained an obstacle to a functioning human rights culture in Iraq'.⁵⁹ Additionally, a February 2011 report of the Representative of the UN Secretary-General noted that, although the Iraqi Constitution guaranteed fundamental human rights, national institutions to implement these rights remained weak. It noted that 'impunity was reported as being widespread, while access to justice was largely absent due to fear of reprisals, lack of capacity among rule of law institutions, corruption and lack of awareness of accountability mechanisms'.⁶⁰ Please see the DIAC *Country Guidance Note: Iraq* for more information on state protection.

Question 2 and 3 provide information concerning attacks in Adel. No information was located to suggest that the adequacy of state protection in Adel differed from the country-wide conditions outlined above.

⁵⁶ US Department of State 2011, *2010 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices*, 8 April

⁵⁷ US Department of State 2011, *2010 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices*, 8 April

⁵⁸ DIAC 2011, *Country Guidance Note: Iraq*, 5 September, p.33-37

⁵⁹ DIAC 2011, *Country Guidance Note: Iraq*, 5 September, p.34

⁶⁰ DIAC 2011, *Country Guidance Note: Iraq*, 5 September, p.34

References

'Detained Iraq Sunni leader son caught planting bombs' 2008, *AFP*, 21 August
<http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5hRIwyPf1fcDFVw6xMzLZbZf0RDDA> - Accessed 1 March 2012.

'Intelligence Agency's officer assassinated in Baghdad' 2011, *National Iraqi News Agency (NINA)*, 8 December (CISNET Iraq CX278218)

'Municipal councilman killed, 3 persons wounded in western Baghdad' 2012, *National Iraqi News Agency (NINA)*, 17 January (CISNET Iraq CX279923)

'Widespread condemnation of fatal attack on girl's school' 2007, *IRIN News*, 29 January (CISNET Iraq CX170155)

Al-Ansary, Khalid 2008, 'Factbox - Security developments in Iraq, 28 Aug 2008', *Reuters*, 28 August <http://reliefweb.int/node/278453> - Accessed 1 March 2012.

Bennett, Brian 2007, 'Saving Iraq's Glitziest Neighborhood', *Time Magazine*, 17 May
<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1622576,00.html> - Accessed 2 March 2012

Brussels Tribunals (undated), *List of killed, threatened or kidnapped Iraqi Academics*, Brussels Tribunal website <http://www.brussellstribunal.org/academicsList.htm> - Accessed 2 March 2012

Burns, John. F 2005, 'The struggle for Iraq: Baghdad; Iraqi forces stage a raid and rescue 2 hostages', *The New York Times*, 16 June
<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9E06E1D8163BF935A25755C0A9639C8B63&pagewanted=all> - Accessed 1 March 2012

Committee to Protect Journalists (undated), *Iraq: Journalists in danger; Media workers killed since March 2003*, CPJ website https://cpj.org/Briefings/Iraq/iraq_media_killed.html - Accessed 1 March 2012

DIAC 2011, *Country Guidance Note: Iraq*, 5 September

Fontan, Victoria 2012, 'The life and death of Mollah Nadhom', *Peace and Conflict Monitor*, University for Peace website http://www.monitor.upeace.org/innerpg.cfm?id_article=865 - Accessed 2 March 2012

Human Rights Watch 2012, *World Report 2012 – Iraq*, 23 January
<http://www.hrw.org/reports/2012/01/22/world-report-2012> - Accessed 29 February 2012

Izady, Michael (undated), *Baghdad, Iraq, Ethnic composition in 2006*, Gulf/2000 Project website
http://gulf2000.columbia.edu/images/maps/Baghdad_Ethnic_2006_sm.jpg - Accessed 1 March 2012

Izady, Michael 2010, *Baghdad Ethnic Changes and Resource Comparison*, Gulf/2000 Project website
http://gulf2000.columbia.edu/images/maps/Baghdad_Ethnic_Changes_lg.jpg - Accessed 1 March 2012

Izady, Michael (undated), *Baghdad, Iraq, Ethnic composition by the end of 2009*, Gulf/2000 Project website http://gulf2000.columbia.edu/images/maps/Baghdad_Ethnic_2009_sm.jpg - Accessed 1 March 2012

Jakes, Lara and Sinan Salaheddin 2012, 'Rapid-fire attacks across Iraq kill 55 people', *Associated Press*, 23 February <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2012/02/23/officials-car-bomb-kills-8-in-baghdad/?test=latestnews> - Accessed 2 March 2012

Lipin, Michael 2012, 'Iraq's Sectarian Tensions Create Opportunities for Attacks', *Voice of America*, 3 February <http://www.voanews.com/english/news/middle-east/iraq/Iraqs-Sectarian-Tensions-Create-Opportunities-for-Attacks-138641804.html> – Accessed 6 February 2012

McElroy, Damien 2007, 'Gunfight at Baghdad's deserted shopping mall', *The Telegraph*, 6 March <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/1544729/Gunfight-at-Baghdads-deserted-shopping-mall.html> - Accessed 1 March 2012

Parker, Ned 2007, 'Iraqi civilian deaths plunge', *Los Angeles Times*, 1 November (CISNET Iraq CX187906)

Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland 2010, *Information regarding differences between the Hourya and Aladle Districts in Baghdad; Reports of people being forced to leave either area (between October 2007 - December 2009) due to their religious affiliation; Levels of religious violence in both districts, during 2010 to date*, 10 June <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/4c1886862.pdf> - Accessed 1 March 2012

Santana, Rebecca 2012, 'Fearing political crisis will spark violence, Iraqi Sunnis again leaving mixed neighborhoods', *Associated Press*, 1 January (CISNET Iraq CX279105)

Tawfeeq, Mohammed 2011, '3 Iraqi government officials assassinated Thursday', *CNN*, 9 June http://articles.cnn.com/2011-06-09/world/iraq.assassinations_1_al-maliki-iraqi-ministers-al-adil-neighborhood?_s=PM:WORLD - Accessed 1 March 2012

The Long War Journal (undated), *Baghdad – Districts and Neighbourhoods*, *The Long War Journal* website <http://www.longwarjournal.org/maps/280a%2520A4%2520Baghdad-districts-neighborhood-sat.pdf> - Accessed 1 March 2012

UK Border Agency 2011, *Iraq: Country of Origin Information (COI) Report*, 30 August, p.161 <http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/coi/iraq/report-08-11.pdf?view=Binary> - Accessed 2 March 2012

UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2010, *Note on the Continued Applicability of the April 2009 UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers*, 28 July <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4c4fed282.html> - Accessed 29 February 2012

UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2010, *Annex to the Note on the Continued Applicability of the April 2009 UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers: Reports of Attacks and Security Incidents in Iraq since April 2009*, July (CISNET Iraq)

UN High Commissioner for Refugees 2009, *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers*, April, p.92
<http://www.unhcr.org/4a2640852.pdf> - Accessed 1 March 2012

US Department of State 2011, *2010 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices*, 8 April

US Department of State 2011, *2010 International Religious Freedom Report (July-December)*, 13 September