



IN THIS ISSUE

UN welcomes successful recount of ballots by Iraq election commission ...	1
Positive discussions mark the third round of talks between the Hadba and the Ninewa Fraternal Lists.....	1
Endorsing the UNDAF - A historic moment for Iraq	2
World Press Freedom Day in Iraq hits its mark.....	3
UNHCR Iraq's shelter programme: The gift of a shiny key:	4
Iraqi lawyers get familiar with international criminal justice	4
Preparations underway for Iraq's public sector modernization	5
National Anti-Corruption Strategy rolled out for Iraq	5
UNESCO discusses assistance in support of Najaf's important cultural role	6
UN in Action	6

UN welcomes successful recount of ballots by Iraq election commission



IHEC Spokesperson, Qasem Al-Abudi, on the right, at a press conference announcing the recount results. Photo: UNAMI/2010

Ordered by the Electoral Judicial Panel, the recount of more than 2.5 million ballots cast in Baghdad governorate was successfully completed by the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) on 14 May, less than two weeks after it had started.

By 16 May, IHEC was able to announce the results of the recount, which did not affect the distribution of seats among the winning political entities in Baghdad governorate.

Mr. Ad Melkert, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) for Iraq, welcomed the proper conduct of the

recount and commended the manner in which IHEC ensured integrity of the entire process. SRSG Melkert also expressed UNAMI's pride in having supported these efforts.

Throughout this process, UNAMI provided technical advice and support to the IHEC as part of the mission's mandate. This assistance included the deployment of a team of international staff to the recount center to follow the recount and to help ensure credibility of the process.

UNAMI continues to provide assistance to the IHEC as it addresses any remaining issues from this election, and as it begins to plan for future electoral events that may take place later this year. ■

Positive discussions mark the third round of talks between the Hadba and the Ninewa Fraternal Lists

Following Iraq's Provincial Elections of January 2009, complications resulting from the formation of the provincial government led to the Ninewa Fraternal List's boycott of the Provincial Council. Numerous local governing authorities also took part in the boycott, which further complicated the situation. However, more than a year later, the situation has improved particularly following a series of talks held under the auspices of UNAMI.

Talks between the Hadba and the Ninewa

Fraternal Lists were convened in Erbil on 15 May as a continuation of an initiative undertaken by Deputy Prime Minister Rafae al-Issawi.

Focusing on concrete measures to end the current boycott, the meeting was chaired by the SRSG for Iraq, Ad Melkert, and attended by delegations led by Kurdistan Regional Government's (KRG) Minister of



Positive discussions mark the third round of the Hadba-Ninewa Fraternal talks. Photo: UNAMI/2010

Interior, Kareem Sinjari, and Ninewa's Governor, Atheel al-Nujaifi, in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister, Rafae al-Issawi, and KRG President's ►

Chief of Staff, Fuad Hussein. "We came to Erbil with all the possible solutions and this time it is apparent that we are close to reaching a consensus", Governor Nujeifi said. KRG Minister of Interior Sinjari expressed similar sentiments noting that "through constructive discussion, consensus could be generated and we are close to it". Both sides shared a common vision of serving the citizens of Ninewa and contributing to the stability of the governorate through specific confidence building measures.

"This meeting proved that both the Hadba and the Fraternal Lists aim at agreements that would serve the interests of all inhabitants of Ninewa", SRSRG Melkert said. "I am optimistic that in the foreseeable future specific steps can be announced, based on the expression of constructive engagement by all parties".

Regarding the process of confidence building, several issues of mutual concern were discussed including the situation of detainees from Ninewa currently held in the

Kurdistan Region, security arrangements and the establishment of a committee on the protection of minorities. Representatives from both the Hadba and the Fraternal Lists will continue the talks for the return of the Fraternal List to the provincial administration and council.

To support national reconciliation in general and to restore effective and inclusive governance within Ninewa in particular, UNAMI will continue to facilitate talks between both sides. ■

Endorsing the UNDAF - A historic moment for Iraq



DSRSG McNab (left) and Dr. Metti (right) sign the UNDAF . Photo: UNAMI/2010

The 11th of May this year marked a historic day for the United Nations and the Government of Iraq, with the signing of the first United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Iraq for the period 2011-2014. This endorsement solidifies a strong foundation of partnership and cooperation between the United Nations Country Team, the Government of Iraq and national partners, and sets the tone for a new framework of development for the country.

Endorsing the UNDAF marks "in many ways a new beginning but also a continuity because the United Nations works with governments to ensure they have the capacity to look after their people and generate socio-economic growth for all citizens; to ensure that citizens get essential services - health, education, water - that they need for their everyday lives and for the lives of their children", said Ms. Christine McNab, UN Resident

and Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq, who signed the UNDAF on behalf of the United Nations in Iraq.

The UNDAF required over two years of work involving discussion, collaboration and planning with representatives from the Government of Iraq, the United Nations, civil society, academia, and the private sector. In line with Iraq's five year National Development Plan, the UNDAF for Iraq reflects the country's priorities. It aims to contribute towards state and peace building through programme interventions in five key areas: promoting good governance and protection of human rights; economic growth; environmental protection and management; ensuring access to improved basic services for all; and special investment in the capacities of women, youth and children to enable full participation in all aspects of life in Iraq.

Signing the UNDAF on behalf of the Government of Iraq, Dr. Sami Metti,

Deputy Minister of Planning and Development Cooperation, acknowledged "that the priorities set out in this programme are highly compatible and consistent with the Iraqi National Development Plan. The Government of Iraq will work closely with the United Nations and its partners to ensure that Iraqis enjoy living in peace and prosperity, and dignity".

The UNDAF will ensure that the United Nations and the international community will continue to support the government and people of Iraq. Development programmes under the UNDAF will be funded by UN agencies, the international donor community, and co-financed by the Government of Iraq in line with commitments under the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. The private sector will also be mobilized to participate in the national development process. ■

World Press Freedom Day in Iraq hits its mark

By George PapaGiannis, UNESCO Iraq

A call for a Freedom of Information Law was supported by a chorus of over 1,000 journalists, reporters and bloggers from all over Iraq, in observance of UNESCO World Press Freedom Day celebrated each year on May 3rd. Attendees included Mr. Mufid Al-Jazairy, former MP and former Chairman of the Media and Culture Commission on the Council of Representatives, Dr. Burhan Al-Shawi, Chief Executive Officer of the Communication and Media Commission, Mr. Muayad Al-Lami, Chairman of the Iraqi Journalist Syndicate, and Major General Qassim Atta, Spokesperson for Baghdad Operational Command.

A full day of activities centered on an open letter to the government requesting passage of a freedom of information law that meets international standards guaranteeing access to public documents. "Without this law there is no freedom for journalists in Iraq; this law gives the legal basis for the press to be the fourth estate, a true watchdog", said Ziyad al-Ajili, the Head of the Journalism Freedoms Observatory, a leading press freedom advocacy group and one of the local organizers

for the event.

Journalist Nadjha Kadhim, a member of Temkin - a coalition of press advocacy groups that has been working on a draft law for several months - read the open letter to the audience highlighting the five minimum standards for a quality freedom of information law which include: maximum and facilitated disclosure; protection of whistleblowers; limited scope of exceptions; independent appeals mechanisms; and strong proactive disclosure rules.

In a recorded address, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) for Iraq, Ad Melkert, was unequivocal in stating the UN's support for a law meeting international standards. "The United Nations would be very happy to support the Iraqi Parliament and Iraqi organizations to make this freedom of information law come true. This would be my wish for the year ahead," said SRSG Melkert.



From left to right: Muayad Al-Lami, chairman of the Iraqi Journalist Syndicate, Mufid al-Jazairy, MP and head of the Media and Culture commission on the Council of Representatives, and Major General Qassim Atta, spokesperson for Baghdad Operational Command, view the cartoon section at the event. Photo: UNDP Iraq/2010

Participants observed a minute of silence in remembrance of journalists and media workers who lost their lives while performing their duties.

For the first time in Baghdad, bloggers were invited to blog from the event thereby providing a near real-time report of the day's activities. "As a blogger and new media professional, this was an important day because we met and connected as bloggers and I created a blog for this international day, and introduced the event of my country to the global community", said Qais, a blogger from Kirkuk.

Celebrating the World Press Freedom Day in Baghdad was made possible through a joint effort of the UNESCO-Iraq Office, UNAMI, UNDP Iraq, international NGOs IREX and the Institute for War and Peace Reporting, and the Journalism Freedoms Observatory, a local NGO. ■

In addition to a number of speakers and two panel discussions, par-

For more information, visit: <http://freepressday.wordpress.com/>



SRSG Ad Melkert addresses the Journalism community of Iraq on the importance of Freedom of Information. Photo: UNDP Iraq/2010

Photo Gallery



Bloggers corner. Photo: UNDP Iraq/2010



Photojournalism exhibition. Photo: UNDP Iraq/2010



Access to Information Panel. Photo: UNDP Iraq/2010

UNHCR Iraq's shelter programme: The gift of a shiny key

In a remarkable shelter programme, funded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Iraq and implemented by the Danish Refugee Council, 180 Iraqi families in the southern Iraqi province of Missan are now proud homeowners. At a hand-over ceremony this past April, beneficiaries received a set of keys to their sturdy new homes with many expressing "how a dream has finally come true".

Following the fall of the Saddam regime in 2003, several hundred families returned to Iraq from neighbouring Iran where they had sought refuge during the turbulent years. The Government of Iraq allocated land to the returning families, but lack of material and financial resources hampered further development. UNHCR Iraq could not assist this particular group of former refugees until last year when additional staff were deployed in Basra amid the improved security situation. Tasked with identifying several vulnerable pre-2003 refugees, UNHCR Iraq staff enrolled individuals in the shelter programme, which resulted in the agency funding the construction or rehabilitation of more than 10,000 houses country-wide.

UNHCR Iraq's work in Missan complements the Iraqi government's land allocation



Workers busy on the construction of a house in Al Kahla district. Photo: UNHCR/2010

programme for pre-2003 refugees, under which the Ministry of Displacement and Migration has distributed some 2,000 plots of land to returnees in the south. The refugee agency intends to continue its valuable shelter programme, "subject to availability of funds", noted Daniel Endres, the refugee agency's representative in Iraq. Mr. Endres further remarked that "UNHCR plans to complete some 50,000 units this year for formerly displaced populations", thus helping to ease the reintegration of about 300,000 Iraqis.

Funding and implementing such important development programmes is a challenge that cannot be achieved without

the continuing financial and technical assistance of the donor and international community. This year, UNHCR is appealing for more than USD500 million for its operations helping forcibly displaced Iraqis inside and outside the country. This includes some USD264 million for operations in Iraq, much of which will be used to fund shelter projects to benefit internally displaced populations and returnees. ■

Source: [UNHCR Iraq](#)
For more information, contact:
Maha Sidky: sidky@unhcr.org

Iraqi lawyers get familiar with international criminal justice

By: Maria Soledad Pazo, UNAMI Human Rights Office

To help Iraqi lawyers develop a broad and deeper understanding of what qualifies as international crimes along with the procedural and the evidence-based aspects of international criminal justice including the principles of a fair trial, the UNAMI Human Rights Office, in partnership with UK-based NGO Aegis Trust, offered its first international criminal justice training programme for Iraqi lawyers.

On 13 May, eight Iraqi criminal lawyers completed the five-day training on international

criminal law and fair trial principles in Erbil. The training focused particularly on the principles of international humanitarian law, the enforcement of international criminal law, the elements of core international crimes, standards of fair trial and guidelines for monitoring criminal trials.

A senior trial judge of the Iraqi High Tribunal and the Head Prosecutor of the Halabja case were invited to the training session to share their experiences and the challenges they faced at various stages of cases they handled.

All participants viewed this training as an excellent opportunity for their exposure to international law and human rights. "This training gave us the opportunity to learn and hear of experiences from other tribunals on accountability for serious crimes", said a female participant.

The first of its kind, both the UNAMI Human Rights Office and Aegis Trust plan to conduct similar training programmes in other parts of the country. ■

Preparations underway for Iraq's public sector modernization

By Sylvia Fletcher, UNDP Iraq

Three decades of conflict and sanctions have severely affected the capacity of the public sector in Iraq to deliver social services to the people. To meet the population's needs, Iraqi Government officials, in collaboration with international partners, have formulated a comprehensive public sector modernisation programme aligned with the National Development Plan and the UN Development Assistance Framework for Iraq (UNDAF).

On 19-20 May, a technical meeting was held in Baghdad under the leadership of the Secretary General of the Council of Ministers, with senior Iraqi officials and UN representatives to review five studies: Health Sector

Scoping; Education Sector Scoping; Water and Sanitation Sector Scoping; and Managing the Tigris-Euphrates Watershed: The Challenge facing Iraq. Undertaken by UNDP's *Support to Decentralisation and Local Governance* programme, the studies were funded by the Government of Spain under the UN Development Group-Iraq Trust Fund.

These five studies provide a broad assessment of the current legal, policy and strategy framework; sector priorities for health, education, water and sanitation, service delivery; and existing functional, civil service and expenditure management processes. The purpose of the studies is to provide a "road map" with all the broad issues and options for

enabling a comprehensive reform and modernisation. Similarly, the study on the Tigris and Euphrates Watershed is intended to spell out the issues and options for a holistic approach to water management in Iraq.

The scoping studies are part of the preparatory phase for the Public Sector Modernisation Programme, a newly approved Government-led programme, which in partnership with international partners, seeks to undertake a comprehensive reform and modernisation process of the public sector. The USD55 million multi-donor Iraq Trust Fund programme is a joint initiative of several UN entities including UNDP (lead agency), WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, together with UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNESCWA and UNOPS.

Conducted by the firm Geopolicity, in coordination with UN agencies, and in consultation with other international assistance partners in Iraq, the studies are the outcome of a field-based effort by a group of experts, building on the existing work of Iraqi ministries and government institutions, the World Bank, USAID and UK-DFID.

Next steps include finalising the drafts for further consultations with the government of Iraq and international partners. Ultimately, these efforts are aimed at improving the provision of better services to the people of Iraq and a step towards achieving the vision of the National Development Plan. ■

For more information, contact Areej Al-Mustaf, UNDP Iraq, Reporting Associate: areej.al-mustaf@undp.org



Technical review meeting of the five Scoping Studies. Photo: UNDP/2010

National Anti-Corruption Strategy kicks-off

By Sylvia Fletcher, UNDP Iraq

The Government of Iraq, in coordination with the Commission on Integrity (Col), has completed the training of 260 expert trainers. The training, a step towards promoting good governance, was conducted on 11 May by a team of 18 "master trainers" who are from a larger group of 42 professionals from the Col, the Board of Supreme Audit (BSA), the Inspector General (IG), the Judiciary, Council of Representatives, the *Shura* Council, the Central Bank, academia, the media and NGOs.

Following the training, the Col, BSA, IGs and government ministries, including 40 trainers from NGOs, assigned the 260 experts to introduce the National Anti-Corruption Strategy to thousands of government, civil society and the private sector representatives in all 18 governorates of Iraq, starting in June through December 2010. The 260 trainers will be split into three groups: the first

includes governors, provincial council members, high judiciary in the governorates and services sections within governorate municipalities. The second group includes all Iraqi ministries, while the third group is comprised of civil society representatives including tribal leaders, heads of religious groups, the private sector, media and NGOs.

The implementation of the Anti-Corruption Strategy follows the March 2010 launch of Iraq's first National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS). The Strategy sets out 201 concrete action items to combat corruption, including administrative reform; application of the principles of the rule of law; improvement of the delivery of services; improved management of financial affairs and public assets; promotion of integrity, transparency and a human rights culture; and adoption of oversight and accountability procedures. It also emphasizes the importance of building an

anti-corruption culture across all governmental institutions.

Iraq ratified the UN Convention Against Corruption (UN-CAC) in March 2008. This ratification created a solid framework for Iraq's commitment to combat corruption. In this context, the Government of Iraq is training its officials in preparation for the future implementation of the strategy. The Anti-Corruption Strategy is framed in Iraq's compliance with the UN-CAC.

UNDP and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime both provided technical assistance over the past two years to the Iraqi Government for the formulation of the Strategy. ■

For more information on the anti-corruption measures in Iraq, please visit the bilingual website of the [Commission of Integrity, Government of Iraq](http://www.col.gov.iq), or contact: areej.al-mustaf@undp.org.

UNESCO discusses assistance in support of Najaf's important cultural role

By Michael Croft, UNESCO Iraq



Authorities of Najaf Governorate, staff of the Imam Ali Shrine and UNESCO representatives at the entrance to the Shrine.
Photo: UNESCO/2010

On 14 October 2009, the Conference of Islamic Cultural Ministers meeting in Baku designated the Iraqi city of Najaf as the "Capital of Islamic Culture for 2012". As this is the first time an Iraqi City has been designated as such, it represents an important occasion to showcase the city and highlight a side of Iraq that is too often forgotten amidst stories of political turmoil and violence.

Having been approached by the Ministry of Culture and the Governorate of Najaf to see how best the Organization could support local authorities to host the event, on 26-27

May a UNESCO team undertook a mission to Najaf to meet with the Governor of Najaf, Mr. Adana Al-Zurfi, the Director-General of the Ministry of Culture, Mr. Aqeel Al-Mindalawi and other officials to review current planning and discuss the means and areas of joint collaboration.

In doing so, the team visited key sites in both cities of Najaf and Kufa, such as the Imam Ali Shrine, Wadi Al-Salam cemetery in Najaf City and Muslim Bin Aqeel Shrine, the House of Imam Ali and the archeological historical site of Qasaer Al-Imara. It was a welcome opportunity for the UNESCO team members who

were greatly impressed with the commitment and enthusiasm of all those they met.

This visit was undertaken within the framework of UNESCO Iraq's role to assist with the preservation and rehabilitation of major Iraqi cultural sites and providing technical assistance to Iraqi counterparts. From the Organization's perspective, this visit was doubly important as the Organization fully supports the vision of Iraq which Najaf 2012 represents; a vision which is representative of both the cooperative spirit of Iraqis and one that highlights the wealth of the country's cultural heritage. ■

UN in Action

UNHCR

- UNHCR organized a joint mission to Diyala to follow up on the "Diyala initiative" aimed to encourage displaced families to return and develop their communities. Representatives from UNHCR, FAO, IOM, UNDP, UNU, UNICEF, WFP, WHO and US Government officials met with Iraqi officials and discussed obstacles preventing people from returning to Diyala. They urged the local authorities to find a solution to the problem of land ownership.
- UNHCR's six Return Integration Community Centers in Baghdad finalized the assessment of 116 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) squatter settlements in Baghdad where some 260,000 vulnerable IDPs reside.
- To respond to the Basra attacks in which 27 people were killed and 220 were wounded, the UNAMI Development and Humanitarian section coordinated the humanitarian response provided by a number of UN agencies. UNHCR provided emergency relief items to the affected families while UNICEF and IOM provided assistance to hospitals. ►

UNICEF

- UNICEF organized a Child-Friendly School Training of Trainers workshop in cooperation with the Ministry of Education in Erbil with participants from UN agencies, government officials, local NGOs. The training aimed to provide the participants with information on this initiative in 21 selected schools in eight governorates. UNESCO, ESCWA, UNFPA and the UNAMI Human Rights Office held the first Task Force meeting on "Promoting civic values and life skills through education for adolescents" project.
- UNICEF supported the replacement of 300 water tanks in Suleimaniyah within the vicinity of rehabilitated schools thereby completing the replacement of a total of 900 water tanks. The project is aimed at improving water quality and quantity at the selected schools. About 150,000 children will benefit from the project.
- UNICEF conducted a technical mission to Kirkuk to discuss child protection issues in the governorate and explore prospects of creating a protective environment for children in Kirkuk. During this visit, the delegation met with the Governor of Kirkuk and Chairman of Kirkuk's Provincial Council. UNICEF reiterated its support to make Kirkuk a child-friendly city, a model that can be replicated in cities throughout the country.

WFP

- WFP launched a Cash-for-Work pilot activity in Diyala governorate to facilitate the return process and improve food security as part of the inter-agency response to support the resettlement of returnees in this region.
- To improve access to primary health care services and reduce and stabilize chronic and acute malnutrition among pregnant and lactating women and malnourished children under five, WFP provided food assistance to 2,580 pregnant and lactating women, 76,190 malnourished children and their families and 236 TB patients.

WHO

- WHO, in coordination with the Ministry of Health, statistics offices and UN partner agencies (UNICEF, WFP and FAO) held the first consultation meeting of the steering committee to launch the implementation of the UN Development Group-Iraq Trust Fund "Addressing Micronutrient Deficiencies in Iraq: Assessment and Response". Members of the steering committee agreed on a detailed budget and work plan as well as on the role of partners and stakeholders and tools required for programme implementation.

UNDP

- UNDP took the lead in organizing the Al-Anbar Reconstruction and Development Workshop which was attended by the Deputy Minister of Planning and Development Cooperation, the Al-Anbar Governor and the Chairman of Al-Anbar Governorate Council. The workshop included a presentation on the Al-Anbar Development Agenda and the launch of the Private Sector Development Programme - a joint programme of seven UN Agencies which will offer assistance within the Economic COMPACT for an Al-Anbar Framework to establish business development services, review infrastructure rehabilitation, support business expansion and training as well as provide micro-lending. The other initiative was the Water and Sanitation Master Plan in Al-Anbar where UN agencies will assist the governorate to address access to potable water and a response for waste water and solid waste. ■

UNAMI Newsletter is published monthly by the UNAMI Public Information Office. Contents do not necessarily reflect the official position of the UN or that of UNAMI. Articles may be freely reproduced, with credit to *UNAMI Newsletter*.

For comments and suggestions, contact unami-information@un.org.

Chief PIO / Spokesperson: Radhia Achouri
Deputy Chief PIO / Spokesperson: Eliana Nabaa
Head of Publications: Aicha Elbasri
Editor: Randa Jamal
Editor: Laila Shamji
Graphic Designer: Salar A. Brifkani



Local and International press covering the World Press Freedom Day in Baghdad.
Photo: UNDP/2010