

EDITORIAL

[Issue 134 – November 6, 2008](#)

OECD calls for Aid Pledge from donor countries

Paris, 30 October 2008

The Secretary-General of OECD, Angel Gurría, and the Chair of OECD's Development Assistance Committee, Eckhard Deutscher, have issued a call to the world's main aid donor countries to stand by their development pledges despite the economic slowdown.

In a letter (see below) to heads of state and government of the countries that are members of the Development Assistance Committee, OECD invites these nations to join an "Aid Pledge" that would confirm existing aid promises and avert cuts in budgets for development aid.

"Unless we act decisively now, we may not be able to prevent the financial crisis from generating an aid crisis," Mr Gurría and Mr Deutscher warn.

"Let us not repeat the mistakes we made following the recession of the early 1990s when many OECD governments let aid efforts decline, with the consequent impacts on developing countries in such areas as agricultural production, infrastructure, social welfare and political stability."

The proposed Aid Pledge would be modeled on the OECD Trade Pledge of 1974, under which OECD countries agreed not to introduce trade restrictions in the face of a recession provoked by sharply higher oil prices, on the grounds that a return to past protectionism would only make economic conditions worse. Regularly renewed in the years that followed, the Trade Pledge was credited with helping to restore conditions for economic growth.

Similar action is now required in relation to aid, Mr. Gurría and Mr. Deutscher declare in the joint letter:

"Declining aid budgets ... would exacerbate pressures that food and energy prices are already inflicting on these countries and constrain our ability to help them adapt to climate change. Action is essential to avoid a deepening poverty crisis, and we know that poor countries face heightened possibilities of conflict in times of economic and social stress."

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE / COMITÉ D'AIDE AU DÉVELOPPEMENT

Dear Head of State,

At this time of deep financial and economic crisis I know that heads of state are faced with many domestic economic and social challenges involving the welfare of their people.

But we are also seeing how closely interdependent economies across the world have become and how important coherent collective actions are in managing this global challenge. In this context we must work to ensure that the effects of this crisis on investment and growth in the emerging and developing countries are limited and that we take action to offset any impacts. Such efforts make good macroeconomic sense at a time when we face a serious global slowdown. In the coming days, the OECD will present an action plan to our members that addresses the key interconnected policy and regulatory issues raised by the crisis – areas in which we have ample experience.

As Secretary-General of the OECD and as Chair of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), we have repeatedly expressed concern over the last year that the aggregate commitments to ODA levels for 2010 and beyond are becoming increasingly out of reach. With the crisis, development aid budgets will be under enormous pressure as donor countries invest in restoring stability to their financial systems and in boosting their sagging economies. Unless we act decisively now, we may not be able to prevent the financial crisis from generating an aid crisis.

Let us not repeat the mistakes we made following the recession of the early 1990s when many OECD governments let aid efforts decline, with the consequent impacts on developing countries in such areas as agricultural production, infrastructure, social welfare and political stability. Declining aid budgets in the years ahead would exacerbate pressures that food and energy prices are already inflicting on these countries and constrain our ability to help them adapt to climate change. Action is essential to avoid a deepening poverty crisis, and we know that poor countries face heightened possibilities of conflict in times of economic and social stress.

(Head of State)
Cc: Finance Minister
Aid Minister

Article and letter taken from OECD website
www.oecd.org

Salaam,
NCCI Team¹

¹ If a link in the NCCI newsletter is not working anymore, it may be because the article has been removed from the open access website. Generally, you can access these articles by clicking [here](#).

Iraq Context

International

[Iraq expects U.S. reply on troop pact within days](#)

Source: [Reuters](#)

Document: Article

Date: November 1, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Iraq expects a reply from the United States within days to its proposal for changes to a pact requiring U.S. troops to leave by the end of 2011, Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari said on Saturday. "We expect by Tuesday or Wednesday next week to receive answers from the American side about the suggestions of amendments proposed by the Iraqi cabinet," Zebari told U.S.-funded al-Hurra Arabic language television. "We are talking about a small space of time. It is not open ended, and every side is coming nearer to the moment of truth."

[Senior Iraqi Leader Says Pact With U.S. Is Unlikely to Pass](#)

Source: [WP](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 30, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

A senior Iraqi political leader said yesterday he is "doubtful" that a bilateral agreement authorizing U.S. forces to remain in Iraq after the end of the year would be approved by the Iraqi cabinet and parliament. Massoud Barzani, president of the Kurdistan Regional Government, said most political factions in Iraq want the accord to go through. But he said the country is "in a situation of intellectual terrorism, where people are not able to state their real positions" for fear of appearing too close to the United States and of undercutting their standing in provincial elections scheduled for January.

[Washington OKs most Iraq's proposed changes over SOFA](#)

Source: [Xinhua](#)

Document: Article

Date: November 3, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Iraqi officials said that Washington has agreed on most of Iraq's proposed changes to a draft security agreement that would allow U.S. troops to stay in the country until 2011, an Iraqi newspaper reported on Monday. "According to information received from the Americans in Baghdad, Washington has agreed on three changes out of five earlier proposed by Baghdad to amend," the official al-Sabah daily quoted a well-informed government source as saying. The paper also said that the U.S. side "rejected changes on the immunity item, but the U.S. response which is expected in two days would include a proposal that would solve this issue."

[Maliki to show neighbours US-Iraq military pact](#)

Source: [Yahoo \(AFP\)](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 31, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki said on Friday he will submit the text of the controversial security pact with the United States to all of his country's neighbours. He would do so after Baghdad receives a US reply to five proposed amendments made by Iraq, a statement from his office said. Maliki "will dispatch delegations to Iraq's neighbours, including Turkey, to show them the security agreement after receiving the American replies to the proposed modifications," he was quoted as telling Turkish President Abdullah Gul in a telephone conversation.

[Kurdistan Would Welcome U.S. Troops Without Pact](#)

Source: [CQ](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 31 , 2008

Access: [Open](#)

The president of Iraqi Kurdistan said Friday that his semi-autonomous region would welcome U.S. troops if Iraq and the United States cannot finalize an agreement governing U.S. troops in Iraq after 2008. "If the United States requests, I am confident the Kurdish regional parliament and people of the Kurdistan region . . . would welcome that," Massoud Barzani, president of the Kurdistan Regional Government, said at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. Barzani said he hopes that the two countries do conclude a status of forces agreement to govern the future U.S. troop presence beyond the Dec. 31 expiration of a U.N. mandate.

[Talabani dismisses US base offer](#)

Source: [AJ](#)

Document: Article

Date: November 4, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Iraq's president has dismissed Kurdish leader Massud Barzani's invitation to the US to set up military bases in the Kurdish region if a proposed security pact with Baghdad fails. Jalal Talabani, himself a Kurd, said Washington could set up bases in the country - even in the Kurdish region - only with Baghdad's approval. "It is not possible for US troops to stay in Kurdistan without the approval of the central government," Talabani said in an interview with state television Al-Iraqiya late on Sunday.

[Iraq sends more police to Syrian border](#)

Source: [Yahoo \(AP\)](#)

Document: Article

Date: November 1, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Iraq sent police reinforcements Saturday to the Syrian border after last weekend's U.S. raid against an alleged al-Qaida hideout in Syria raised tension between the two countries, officials said. Police Col.

Jubair Rashid Naief said a police quick reaction force for Anbar province moved to the border town of Qaim, about 200 miles northwest of Baghdad, to prevent al-Qaida from moving into the area from Syria. Al-Arabiya television quoted witnesses as saying scores of armored vehicles were seen moving from the Anbar provincial capital of Ramadi to Qaim, which had been a major al-Qaida stronghold until Anbar's Sunni tribes turned against al-Qaida.

[Syria, Iraq in talks to ease tension over US raid](#)

Source: [Yahoo \(AFP\)](#)

Document: Article

Date: November 2, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Damascus and Baghdad are discussing ways to ease the tension between the two neighbours in the wake of last week's raid inside Syria by Iraq-based US forces, the foreign ministry said on Sunday. The ministry said in a statement that Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallem telephoned his Iraqi counterpart Hoshiyar Zebari on Saturday in a bid to ease the tension. "They discussed relations between the two countries and ways to enhance them and how to overcome tensions in the aftermath of the raid," the statement said.

[US still the villain in Iraq's former rebel bastion](#)

Source: [Yahoo \(AFP\)](#)

Document: Article

Date: November 2, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

The tall iron bridge spanning the Al-Furat river that runs through the city of Fallujah is still the symbol of the raging anti-US insurgency that once engulfed Iraq's Sunni enclave. In March 2004, four security guards of US-based Blackwater security company were brutally killed by Sunni rebels and left hanging from the bridge for three days. The gruesome murders came a year after the March 2003 US-led war on Iraq that toppled the regime of Saddam Hussein. The killings triggered one of the biggest assaults by US forces in Iraq.

[No hasty change in US policy with Obama win](#)

Source: [Yahoo \(AP\)](#)

Document: Article

Date: November 5, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Many in Iraq said Wednesday they don't expect an immediate shift in U.S. policy toward their country when Barack Obama takes over as the new U.S. president, despite his calls for a complete withdrawal of U.S. troops within 16 months. But top Iraqi officials said they do recognize the new president-elect's perspective on the war in Iraq differs greatly from current U.S. President George W. Bush. "We don't expect any change to happen overnight or any hasty change in U.S. policy and commitment toward Iraq," Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari told Al-Arabiyah TV moments after Obama claimed victory over Republican John McCain.

[Iraq Crisis Report \(IraqHAR\)](#)

Source: [Centre of Excellence on Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance](#)

Document: Weekly report

Date: October 29, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Following months of negotiation over a security agreement that would keep US

troops in the country until 2011, Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari said on Saturday (November-1) that the Iraqi government expected Washington's response to the proposed changes on that pact after Tuesday's (November-4) presidential election in the US. Reuters reported that both countries are under pressure to resolve the agreement that would allow US troops to stay, and avoid the unfavorable alternative of seeking another extension of the UN mandate that expires at the end of the year.

[Juan Cole's informed comment's excerpt](#)

Source: [Informed Comment – Juan Cole's Web Blog.](#)

Document: Selection of daily comments

Date: October 26-30, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Juan Cole is a Professor of Modern Middle East and South Asian History at the University of Michigan. As such he brings daily much needed expertise and historical perspective to issues surrounding Iraq, Afghanistan and the Middle East. Good reading to have a weekly review of the Iraq daily situation.

National

[Iraq looks ahead to provincial, national elections](#)

Source: [LAT](#)

Document: Article

Date: November 5, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Iraq presents Barack Obama with the complicated task of bringing troops home from a deeply unpopular war and determining the role America will play as the devastated country struggles to rebuild. American forces are slated to pull out of Iraq's cities by June and leave Iraq by the end of 2011, according to a yet-to-be ratified security agreement between the two countries. The U.S.-led invasion began nearly six years ago and has resulted in 4,190 American deaths.

[The Map of Electoral Coalitions South of Baghdad Is Taking Shape](#)

Source: [Historiae](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 31, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

After a long series of extensions, it now seems as if the final deadline for forming coalitions for the next local elections in Iraq will be on 2 November 2008. The first announcement of coalitions among the Shiite Islamist parties is one of the indicators that suggest the coalition-forming process could be coming to an end.

[1219 candidates to run for local elections in Wassit](#)

Source: [VOI](#)
Document: Article
Date: November 5, 2008
Access: [Open](#)

A total of 1219 candidates distributed on 67 blocs will run for the Wassit provincial council elections, a source from the Iraqi Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) said on Wednesday. "The candidates will compete for 28 seats of the Wassit provincial council," the source told *Aswat al-Iraq*. "The Wassit elections office decided today to open 22 polling stations throughout Wassit," he noted. A Shiite province, Wassit, 180 km south of Baghdad, is in the east of the country.

[Detainees May Go From Frying Pan to Fire](#)

Source: [IPS](#)
Document: Article
Date: October 30, 2008
Access: [Open](#)

An estimated 17,000 Iraqis detained in their own country by occupying U.S. forces may soon face transfer into an Iraqi government detention system where reports of abuse and torture are commonplace, says a leading human rights advocacy group. A Human Rights Watch (HRW) statement Wednesday focuses on the potential for detainee transfers according to the stipulations of the U.S.-Iraqi security deal, a draft of which is currently before Iraq's cabinet and parliament for approval. There are reports this week that the cabinet has decided to reopen negotiations on some aspects.

[Will Baghdad Pay For The Sons Of Iraq?](#)

Source: [MOI](#)
Document: Article
Date: October 31, 2008
Access: [Open](#)

Tomorrow, November 1, is an important litmus test for Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. It is the day that the government is suppose to start paying the 54,000 Sons of Iraq (SOI) in the Baghdad area. On September 8, Maliki officially declared that the government would take responsibility for the Baghdad SOI and integrate them.

The government promised that those that were literate, had an education, passed a medical test, and had no criminal record could join the security forces.

[Iraq and U.S. Confer on Iraqi Economy](#)

Source: [NYI](#)
Document: Article
Date: November 1, 2008
Access: [Open](#)

With oil prices less than half what they were this summer, Iraqi and American officials are searching for new sources of money to jump-start Iraq's economy. At a meeting on Saturday, representatives from the two countries and a handful of foreign business people discussed ways to stimulate investment in business ventures in Iraq. Almost 95 percent of Iraq's revenues come from oil exports. The Iraqi government has said that it will have to reduce its 2009 budget to \$67 billion from an earlier forecast of \$80 billion because of slipping crude prices.

[Iraqi parl. votes with majority over provincial law amendment](#)

Source: [VOI](#)
Document: Article
Date: November 3, 2008
Access: [Open](#)

The Iraqi parliament on Monday voted with majority of 106 out of 150 in favor of a draft to amend the provincial council election law to give one seat to each key group in the provinces of Basra, Ninewa and Baghdad, a lawmaker said. "Today's approved amendment held that the Christians and the Mandaean Sabians will get one seat each in the Baghdad provincial council, one seat for Christians in the Basra council and one seat for each of the Christians, Yazidis and Shabaks in the Ninewa council," Mohammed al-Khazaali told *Aswat al-Iraq*.

[Iraq minorities quota 'an insult'](#)

Source: [BBC](#)

Document: Article

Date: November 3, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Iraqi MPs have voted to guarantee six provincial council seats for members of small religious and ethnic minorities in local elections to be held in 2009. The reserved seats, out of a total of more than 400, are intended for three Christians and one each for the tiny Yazidi, Mandaean and Shabak groups. There has been some criticism that the measure falls short of the 12 guaranteed seats proposed by the UN.

[Iraq's Shabak community demands incorporation into Kurdistan](#)

Source: [VOI](#)

Document: Article

Date: November 2, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Hundreds of Iraq's Shabak people on Sunday took to the streets in Ninewa calling to include them in Iraq's Kurdistan region, according to a local official. "Today, hundreds of Shabak people staged a peaceful demonstration, calling to incorporate them into the Kurdistan region on the basis that they are Kurds, not Arabs," the head of Ninewa's Basheeqa district, Thanoun Younis, told Aswat al-Iraq. The Shabak people are an ethnic group that lives primarily in the province of Ninewa in Iraq. Their language, Shabaki, is a Zaza-Gorani dialect, similar to Kurdish, with many borrowings from Turkish, Persian, and Arabic.

[بعثة الأمم المتحدة لمساعدة العراق تدرك أهمية قرار مجلس النواب حول إشراك الأقليات في مجالس المحافظات](#)

[UNAMI Recognizes Importance of CoR Decision on Inclusion of Minorities](#)

Source: [UNAMI](#)

Document: Article

Date: November 4, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

إن بعثة الأمم المتحدة لمساعدة العراق تدرك أهمية قرار مجلس النواب بتخصيص مقاعد محددة في مجالس المحافظات لممثلي مكونات الأقليات في العراق.

The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) recognizes the importance of the decision by the Iraqi Council of Representatives (CoR) to allocate specific seats for representatives of Iraq's minority components on the Provincial Councils.

[Iraqi MP says oil law could pass by year end](#)

Source: [Reuters](#)

Document: Article

Date: November 5, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Iraq's parliament could pass a long overdue federal oil law by the end of 2008, but other laws needed to get Iraq's energy production on track would have to wait until 2009, said the vice chairman of the legislature's oil and gas committee on Wednesday. Speaking on the sidelines of a Houston energy conference Abdulhadi Al-Hassani said the law must unite all of Iraq, including the northern Kurdish region, disputes with which have held up the law's passage since February 2007.

Violence and Security Issues

[Iraqi Christians forming ad hoc militias](#)

Source: [UPI](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 29, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Several members of the Christian community in northern Iraq are setting up ad hoc militias to secure their neighborhoods, rights advocates said

Wednesday. A campaign targeting the minority Christian community in Iraq erupted in September. The attacks corresponded roughly with the passing of a provincial elections law that set aside minority representation. Though the events may be coincidental, several Christian refugees suspect Kurds may be behind some of the attacks in an effort to affect regional demographics.

[Iraqi Christians being armed](#)

Source: [PressTV](#)

Document: Article

Date: November 1, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Iraqi Christians are reportedly being armed to counter what they call a 'religious cleansing campaign' which has begun from Mosul. According to the US-based Kurdish Human Rights Watch, some Christian neighborhoods in Iraq are forming unofficial militias to counter a wave of 'anti-Christian' violence which began earlier September in the northern city of Mosul. Some Christian leaders say at least 20 people have been killed since September, but Nineweh Governor Duraid Kashmala and other officials put the number at 12. The United Nations has also estimated that violence forced at least 13,000 Christians to flee Mosul in early October.

[2 Baghdad blasts leave 4 wounded](#)

Source: [VOI](#)

Document: Article

Date: November 2, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

A policeman and three civilians were wounded in two separate improvise explosive device attacks in central and eastern Baghdad on Sunday, an Iraqi police source said. "An IED went off near an Iraqi police patrol at al-Shirka intersection, near the Indonesian embassy building on Salman Faeq street, al-Karada, leaving one policeman and one civilian man wounded, and causing severe damage to two civilian vehicles," the source told Aswat al-Iraq. In a separate incident, the source said an IED went off near a garage in the area of al-Mashtal, eastern Baghdad, leaving two civilians wounded and severely damaging a number of vehicles.

[Iraq plans to cut Sunni fighters' salaries](#)

Source: [CT](#)

Document: Article

Date: November 2, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

The Iraqi government plans to cut salaries for the estimated 100,000 members of the

Awakening movement whose revolt against Al Qaeda in Iraq played a key role in bringing about the sharp fall in violence in Iraq. The move is certain to aggravate building tensions between the Sunni volunteer force and the Shiite-led government, which assumed responsibility for the Awakening movement from the U.S. military earlier this month. The U.S. military, which calls the movement the Sons of Iraq, had been paying members \$300 a month to carry guns and protect their neighborhoods against Al Qaeda.

[Could Awakening Fighters Rejoin Insurgency?](#)

Source: [IWPR](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 31, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

As American forces hand back control of the largely Sunni militia forces known as the Awakening (al-Sahwa) Councils to the Shia-led government, there are fears that sectarian rivalries could prompt some members of these groups to rejoin the insurgency. With violence in Iraq at a four-year low, and United States troops gradually preparing to withdraw, power relations are changing. The United States-financed Awakening Councils, sometimes called the Sons of Iraq, who have been credited with playing a major role in battling al-Qaeda, are to be taken over by the Iraqi authorities.

[Bombs Kill 15 as Violence Rises in Baghdad](#)

Source: [NYT](#)

Document: Article

Date: November 4, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Fifteen people were killed and dozens wounded by bombings in Baghdad on Tuesday, according to the police and hospital officials, part of an uptick in violence after a relatively quiet few weeks here. In Mashtal, a predominantly Shiite neighborhood in eastern Baghdad, an improvised explosive device hidden in a fishmonger's stall killed seven and wounded 18 when it exploded early Tuesday afternoon.

Iraq Humanitarian Environment and Space

IDPs and Refugees

[Plan for Ongoing Support in an Unstable Region](#)

Source: [RI](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 30, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Two million Iraqi refugees are increasingly desperate and few of them are willing to return home. Although the United Nations and donor governments have dramatically increased their response to Iraqi refugees' needs, these efforts must be expanded as refugees are increasingly vulnerable due to depleting assets and rising costs. Helping host countries is also essential and donor governments must fund appeals for the drought response in Syria and for resettlement of Palestinians from Iraq.

[Floods hit Palestinian refugees stuck in Iraq-Syria border camps](#)

Source: [UN](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 30, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

The United Nations refugee agency today urged the international community to offer resettlement to desperate Palestinian refugees trapped in camps on the Iraq-Syria border, as it rushed emergency aid to hundreds after heavy rain and flooding caused chaos and misery. Tuesday night's rainstorms struck some 800 refugees, inundating tents with water and sewage, soaking possessions and cutting off electricity at the Al Tanf refugee camp, in the narrow strip of no-man's land between Iraq and Syria.

[Iraq pledges \\$900K to help displaced Christians](#)

Source: [CNN](#)

Document: Article

Date: November 2, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Iraq's president on Sunday pledged nearly \$900,000 to help Christian families who have fled the northern Iraqi city of Mosul because of killings and threats. The money -- equivalent to 1 billion Iraqi dinars -- will help safeguard "the rights and freedoms of Christians" in Iraq, according to a statement from President Jalal Talabani's office. A committee of Christian leaders and representatives from Talabani's office will supervise the distribution of the money, the statement said.

[NGOs warn against encouraging large-scale refugee returns](#)

Source: [IRIN](#)

Document: Article

Date: November 3, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

The Iraqi government should review its policy of encouraging Iraqi refugees to return home by offering them free plane or bus tickets, until it is able to ensure security, local and international NGOs said. "For the time being, the government should take care of the refugees and meet their daily needs in their host countries until it can secure suitable life conditions to allow them to go back to their homes," said Basil al-Azawi, head of the Baghdad-based Commission for Civil Society Enterprises, an umbrella group of over 1,000 NGOs operating inside and outside Iraq.

[In huge blow to Iraqi refugees, Sweden tightens asylum rules](#)

Source: [VOI](#)

Document: Article

Date: November 4, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Sweden, which has welcomed far more Iraqi refugees than the U.S. or the rest of Europe, stepped up restrictions against Iraqi asylum seekers, and began deporting hundreds who came through Greece in spite of protests voiced by Human Rights organizations in the Scandinavian country. While the new rules would threaten the lives of Iraqis seeking refuge who fear returning home, Swedish Migration Minister Tobias Billstrom announced "there is no hope for any Iraqi denied refugee status in Sweden."

[Iraqi refugee women and girls in Jordan: "Rape is a death sentence"](#)

Source: [WCRWC](#)

Document: Article

Date: November 3, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

The Iraqi doctor looked us straight into the eyes and said "I would rather be dead than tell anyone I have been raped." If this woman—a highly educated, successful doctor working for the UN— wouldn't speak out, who would? The Women's Commission has been in Amman, Jordan for the past week to find out if any improvements have been made for Iraqi refugee women and girls since our last visit in 2007. Although incredible progress has been made by international agencies and the Jordanian government to help Iraqis, women and girls who have survived rape are still under siege.

Human Rights

[Iraq holding thousands in secret prisons: lawmaker](#)

Source : [Forbes \(AP\)](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 30, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

An Iraqi opposition lawmaker claimed Thursday that thousands of his countrymen are being mistreated in detention centers outside the official prison system. Sunni legislator Mohammed al-Daini claimed the government and paramilitary groups control 420 unofficial detention centers to hold people without legal justification.

[MNF arrest women instead of their wanted relatives](#)

Source : [VOI](#)

Document: Newsletter

Date: November 1, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

An Iraqi legislator on Saturday said that most female detainees at Multi National Force (MNF) prisons were arrested instead one of their family members the forces were actually looking for, adding that this issue violates Iraq's constitution. "There are 13 women arrested at MNF jails, and the Iraqi parliament's human rights committee hired lawyers to follow up their cases and refer them to Iraqi courts," a committee member, Shazha al-Ibosi of the Sunni Iraqi Accord Front (IAF) told Aswat al-Iraq.

Gender and Cross-Cutting Issues

[Bahraini Women and their Position in the Reform Process](#)

Source: [ARB](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 21, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

لا يبدو الحصول على التعليم والدخول إلى ميادين العمل المهني شروط كافية لامتلاك النساء المساواة المدنية والسياسية، والانتقال إلى لعب دور فاعل ومشارك في تقرير مصير مجتمعاتهن.

The marginalization of women can exist side by side with an increase in their level of education and professional involvement. It should not be assumed that there is a positive correlation between education and involvement in the work force on one hand, and political participation on the other.

Food security and livelihoods

[Market in ruins after bulldozers move in](#)

Source: [LAT](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 30, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

The day started like every other in Hurriya, a working-class district in Baghdad. By 7 a.m., vendors had begun opening the stalls that line the sidewalks and offer makeup, books, toys, phones and just about anything else to shoppers browsing one of the neighborhood's informal outdoor markets. But at about 2 p.m., bulldozers guarded by Iraqi security forces showed up. Some witnesses said U.S. troops also were present. The heavy machines moved quickly to destroy the illegal marketplace, which had grown to cover a large section of sidewalk and is similar to scores of others across the capital.

[قانون تعديل قانون انتخاب مجالس المحافظات و الأفضة والنواحي](#)

[Basra's wandering women](#)

Source: [Niqash](#)

Document: Article

Date: November 4, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

People call them the "wandering women." They roam Basra's city outskirts in search of valuable waste, suffering the pain and indignity of life amidst society's rubbish. The women come from the rapidly emerging poverty belts and slums of Basra and practice a profession that nobody else wants. They spend their days searching the city's garbage dumps for plastic containers, leather shoes, cardboard, copper, old electrical appliances, car machinery and an array of other goods that can be recycled or sold on.

Water and Healthcare

[Cholera outbreak in Maysan](#)

Source: [NCCI](#)

Document: Report

Date: September, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

A collection of reports and articles about the "cholera outbreak" in Maysan; updated regularly.

[Iraq still thirsting for water that's safe to drink](#)

Source: [McClatchy](#)

Document: Article

Date: November 3, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Every day, a man driving a tanker truck filled with water comes to Nashat al Chamamla's village in southern Iraq, and every day the people line up to fill their jugs and jerry cans. "The water we buy from the tanker isn't clean. You can see the dirt in it," Chamamla said. "But we drink it anyway." Violence has dropped dramatically across Iraq in recent months, but the fight for a better life is just beginning. From electricity and health care to education and the economy, Iraq has many needs, and safe drinking water is among the most urgent.

Finance and Funding

[Financial crisis could cut official aid by 30%](#)

Source: [IRIN](#)

Document: Article

Date: November 6, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

The financial crisis is expected to have a severe impact on humanitarian funding, with some analysts projecting cuts in official development assistance (ODA) of up to a third or more. "We are deeply concerned about the prospects for ODA," Brett House, UN Development Programme (UNDP) senior economist, told IRIN. "In past periods of market turmoil and recession, global ODA has on some occasions fallen up to 40 percent from established trends."

Coordination

[Coordination Meetings for Iraq](#)

Source: [NCCI](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 29, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Details of coordination meetings concerning Iraq.

[Iraqi National Development Strategy 2007-2010](#)

Source: [GOI](#)

Document: Strategy Paper

Date: March, 2007

Access: [Open](#)

The National Development Strategy of Iraq for the period 2007-2010

[NGO Security Collaboration Guidelines](#)

Source: [EC](#)

Document: Article

Date: 2006

Access: [Open](#)

Guidelines in enhancing NGO security collaboration in the field.

[Humanitarian Coordination Meeting](#)

Source: [NCCI](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 30, 2008

Access: [Members](#)

Minutes of the Humanitarian Coordination Meeting, held in Baghdad on the 30th October 2008.

Reference Documents

[The Code of Conduct for the ICRC and NGOs in Disaster Relief](#)

Source: [ICRC](#)

Document: Code of Conduct

Date: 1994

Access: [Open](#)

The international code of standards for the ICRC and humanitarian NGOs, working in disaster relief situations.

[UN SC Resolution 1830](#)

Source: [UN](#)

Document: SC Resolution

Date: 2008

Access: [Open](#)

The latest UN Security Council resolution regarding Iraq and UNAMI.

[UN SC Resolution 1770](#)

Source: [UN](#)

Document: SC Resolution

Date: 2007

Access: [Open](#)

The UN Security Council resolution regarding Iraq for 2007, including the expanded UNAMI mandate

[UN SC Resolution 1546](#)

Source: [UN](#)

Document: SC Resolution

Date: 2003

Access: [Open](#)

The UN Security Council resolution setting the mandate of UNAMI

[UN SC Resolution 1500](#)

Source: [UN](#)

Document: SC Resolution

Date: 2003

Access: [Open](#)

The UN Security Council resolution establishing UNAMI

[International Compact with Iraq](#)

Source: [Gol](#)

Document: Compact

Date: 2006

Access: [Open](#)

The International Compact is the initiative of the Government of Iraq for a new partnership with the international community.

[UN SC Resolution 1511](#)

Source: [UN](#)

Document: SC Resolution

Date: 2003

Access: [Open](#)

The UN Security Council Resolution giving MNF-I the mandate to be in Iraq.

[UN SC Resolution 1790](#)

Source: [UN](#)

Document: SC Resolution

Date: 2007

Access: [Open](#)

The UN Security Council Resolution renewing the MNF-I the mandate to be in Iraq until 31st December 2008.

[Helsinki II](#)

Source: [CMI](#)

Document: Multi-National Agreement

Date: July 2008

Access: [Open](#)

The full text of the Helsinki II agreements

[International Reconstruction Fund for Iraq](#)

Source: [IRFFI](#)

Document: Fund

Date: 2004

Access: [Open](#)

Information about the International Reconstruction Fund for Iraq

[Sphere Standards: English/Arabic](#)

Source: Sphere Project

Document: Code of Practice

Date: 2004

Access: [Open](#)

The Sphere Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response.

[Iraq's Political Structure](#)

Source: USAID

Document: Report

Date: 2008

Access: [Open](#)

A description of the political structure of Iraq.

[Iraqi Legal Database](#)

Source: ILD

Document: Database (Arabic)

Date: September 2008

Access: [Open](#)

All laws, regulations, constitutions and orders etc. of Iraq from 1917 to 2008.

[Guidelines for relations between US armed forces and NGOs](#)

Source: [InterAction](#)

Document: Guidelines

Date: 2005

Access: [Open](#)

Guidelines for relations between US Armed Forces and NGOs in hostile or potentially hostile environments

[Air Serv Timetable](#)

Source: [NCCI](#)

Document: [Timetable](#)

Date: October 2008

Access: [Members](#)

Air Serv's timetable for October 2008

[NGO Assistance Office Guidelines for registering International NGOs in Iraq](#)

Source: [NCCI](#)

Document: Guidelines

Date: November 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Guidelines of the Iraq Ngo Assistance Office for registering international NGOs in Iraq.

Schedule Updates

We encourage you to check regularly our Weekly Schedule on our [Website](#) for updates.

- Sunday 9th November – EC Meeting, European Commission, Amman at 11am

Upcoming important dates

- **November 9/Thw al-Qi`dah 11 – Imam Ali Raza Birthday**

Updates & Announcements

If you have an announcement, if you are aware of meetings, events, humanitarian update or if you would like to make known some information, please details to webmanager@ncciraq.org

- Coordination Sud is holding a workshop on Humanitarian NGOs and armed forces relations on the 7th November, in Paris. Further information can be found [here](#).
- Call for candidates for the 30th International Human Rights Training Program, Montreal, Canada, June 14 to July 3, 2009. Further information can be found [here](#)
- CVs can be uploaded [here](#)
- CVs can be checked [here](#)
- Employment opportunities can be examined [here](#)