

NCCI would like to wish you all a happy
New Year and a peaceful 2009/1430

تتمنى لكم لجنة تنسيق المنظمات غير الحكومية في العراق بأن
تكون سنة 2009 - 1430 سنة سعيدة مملؤه بالسلام.

EDITORIAL

[Issue 142 – January 8, 2009](#)

How to Confront the Iraqi Refugee Crisis

A Blueprint for the New US Administration

Summary

Human Rights First recommends that the new administration adopt a comprehensive international approach to deal with the Iraqi refugee crisis. This approach should include the following four strategies:

1) INTEGRATE REFUGEE AND IDP PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE INTO THE BENCHMARKS FOR POLITICAL PROGRESS IN IRAQ.

- o Establish “Refugee Benchmarks” including respect for the principle of voluntary return and assistance targets. If the Iraqi government does not change its policies and practices in order to meet these benchmarks, the United States should shift its focus away from building the capacity of the Iraqi Ministry of Displacement and Migration and instead direct assistance to nongovernmental organizations and international organizations working most closely with refugees and IDPs.

2) PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO IRAQI REFUGEES— AND INCREASE ITS IMPACT.

- o Build assistance for Iraqi refugees into the President’s FY 2010 budget. Request at least \$1.44 billion in funding for the

- Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) account, and increase funding for the International Disaster and Famine Assistance (IDFA) account.
- o Within the first 100 days of the new administration, secure additional funding for Iraqi refugee resettlement and overseas assistance for FY 2009.
 - o Over several years, fulfill the campaign commitment to provide \$2 billion in aid for Iraqi refugees in neighboring countries and for displaced Iraqis inside Iraq, bilaterally or through UN appeals.
 - o Take steps to ensure accountability and coordination in the programming and distribution of aid funds to UN agencies, NGOs, and host governments.
 - o Conduct a review of existing State Department and USAID-funded humanitarian assistance and development programs that target refugees and IDPs, to assess aid effectiveness and gaps in programming. Note also an anticipated Government Accountability Office report on refugee assistance.
 - o Work with UN agencies, international organizations, and NGOs to develop longer-term goals and multi-year humanitarian assistance and development programs for displaced Iraqis.
 - o Develop a long-term strategy, in coordination with the UN, international NGOs, and local NGOs, to advocate for more-secure legal residence rights and some form of work authorization for displaced Iraqis in countries of first asylum.
 - o Keep diplomatic channels with Syria open to ensure that necessary aid reaches Iraqi refugees, contingent on Syria's continued willingness to work with international NGOs, to allow audits, and to improve transparency.
 - o Press the government of Jordan to improve transparency with regards to the funding it receives from the UN for the education and health sectors. In general, press the government of Jordan to improve information-sharing practices.
 - o Press the government of Iraq to immediately provide at least \$100 million in humanitarian aid to Syria and Jordan, bilaterally or through UN appeals.
 - o Apply diplomatic pressure on donor countries and the Gulf States, regardless of their position on the war in Iraq, to provide aid for Iraqi refugees and IDPs, bilaterally or through UN appeals.

3) LEAD RESETTLEMENT OF IRAQI REFUGEES.

- o Resettle Iraqis who have risked their lives by working for the U.S. military, government, contractors, or U.S.-based nongovernmental and media organizations, and who have been targeted as a result, and their families.
- o Lead an international effort to resettle—within two years—the 85,000 Iraqi refugees whom the UNHCR has identified as extremely vulnerable, in keeping with our historic role as a nation that protects refugees.
- o Increase resettlement of Palestinian refugees from Iraq trapped in border camps and eliminate a duplicative DHS pre-screening requirement for this group.

- o Appoint a new Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Homeland Security for Iraqi refugee issues who does not have collateral duties.
- o Increase funding, which is currently inadequate, for assistance to refugees after they have arrived in the United States through the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement.
- o Publicly state that though individual refugees may choose to return and will need assistance, Iraq does not meet the conditions necessary for general repatriation of refugees; this echoes the assertions of UNHCR. Press other refugee-receiving countries to adopt the same position.

4) APPOINT A WHITE HOUSE COORDINATOR FOR IRAQI REFUGEES.

- o Appoint a White House Coordinator for Iraqi Refugees with the rank of Ambassador-at-large, as proposed by Senators Kennedy, Biden, and Clinton. Such a position was first proposed by Senators Kennedy, Biden, and Clinton. The coordinator should be responsible for ensuring that plans to assist Iraqi refugees and to develop long-term solutions are integrated into the new administration's broader policy and strategy in Iraq and implemented across all of the relevant federal agencies

Human Rights First

www.humanrightsfirst.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](#).



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Iraq Context

International

European flight lands in Baghdad

Source: [BBC](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 2, 2009

Access: Open

The first commercial flight between Europe and Iraq in at least 17 years has landed at Baghdad airport. Swedish-based company Nordic Leisure says it expects to fly to the Iraqi capital once a week. About 150 passengers, mainly Iraqis, arrived from Denmark on the first such flight since UN sanctions were imposed after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

US opens new Iraq embassy, moves to normalize ties

Source: [HY](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 5, 2009

Access: Open

The United States opened its new embassy building in Baghdad on Monday, a step symbolizing its transition from occupying power to an ally of a sovereign Iraqi government. In recent weeks U.S. diplomats have gradually moved into the \$592 million newly-built compound, the world's largest U.S. embassy building, leaving behind a sprawling palace they had inhabited since toppling Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Paris Club cancels \$45 billion of Iraq's debt

Source: [IU](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 6, 2009

Access: Open

The Paris Club canceled 45 billion dollars of debt owed by Iraq, as per the agreements signed between Iraq and the Paris Club countries which permitted to cancel these funds from the debt owed by Iraq, amounting to 52 billion dollars,

according to a statement on Sunday by the Ministry of Finance. Iraq's Finance Minister Bayan Jabr said, based on the same statement that "the signing of several bilateral agreements with all countries of the Paris Club, which facilitated the cancellation of approximately 45 billion dollars of Iraq's total debt of more than 52 billion dollars."

Iraq set to host 21st Gulf Cup

Source: [OT](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 6, 2009

Access: Open

Jasim Bin Mohammed Jafa'r, Youth and Sports Minister of Iraq, and Mohammed Musabah Al Wa'illie, Governor of Al Basrah, highlighted the steps being taken to establish Al Basrah Sports City which will host the 21st Arabian Gulf Cup. Addressing a press conference at the Muscat Crowne Plaza hotel which was held on the sidelines of the 19th Arabian Gulf Cup in the Sultanate, the Iraqi Youth and Sports Minister spoke of Iraq's history of participation in Gulf tournaments.

Iraq signs foreign troops deals

Source: [BBC](#)

Document: Article

Date: December 31, 2008

Access: Open

Iraq has signed deals with Britain and Australia for their troops to stay in the country after a UN mandate expires on 1 January, Iraq's government says. It says the accords authorise UK and Australian forces to stay until July. Britain has 4,100 troops based in the southern city of Basra, while Australia has 1,000 soldiers also in the south.

Blackwater men plead not guilty

Source: [BBC](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 6, 2009

Access: Open

Five guards from US security firm Blackwater have pleaded not guilty to the manslaughter of 17 Iraqis in 2007. The charges in a US court relate to an incident in which the five, contracted to defend US diplomatic personnel, opened fire on a crowd in Baghdad.

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

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

Document: Weekly report

Date: January 7, 2009

Access: Open

In an attack on Shi'ite pilgrims on Sunday (January-4), a suicide bomber killed at least 38 people and wounded at least 72 as they entered a revered shrine in northwestern Baghdad, Reuters reported. The incident occurred at a checkpoint outside the Imam Moussa al-Kadhim shrine in Kadhimiya, and came ahead of the Ashura holiday this week, when hundreds of thousands of Iraqi Shi'ites visit the holy

city of Karbala, 50 miles (80 km) southwest of Baghdad, to mark the death of Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Mohammad. Security was heightened on Tuesday (January-6) as thousands of Iraqi Shi'ites traveled to holy sites to observe a religious rite following the deadly blast on Sunday.

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

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

Document: Selection of daily comments

Date: January 2-8, 2009

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's transport network on road to recovery but needs help](#)

Source: [Yahoo](#) (AFP)

Document: Article

Date: January 2, 2009

Access: Open

Iraq's dilapidated transport infrastructure is on the road to recovery after decades of neglect but funding is inadequate and the new transport minister is seeking outside investors. Factionalism and corruption was rife when Amer Abduljabbar Ismail took the helm at a government department considered to be one of the most dysfunctional in the war-battered country, the minister told AFP in an interview.

U.S. forces from the country's cities, and bookend elections in January and December. The troop withdrawal is pivotal. As Iraq takes charge of its security from the Americans, the civil war might reignite, or the gains of the U.S. troop build-up could prove lasting.

[Warning over plight of Iraqi widows](#)

Source: [IRIN](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 1, 2009

Access: Open

A women's rights activist and a Baghdad government official agree that the government needs to take action to help the huge number of widows in Iraq - but they disagree on how to proceed. "Iraqi widows, especially internally displaced widows in camps, are having a tough time. Most have more than one child and are finding it very hard to feed them," said Mazin al-Shihan, head of Baghdad's Displacement Committee.

[New year holds promise and problems for Iraq](#)

Source: [LAT](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 1, 2009

Access: Open

The coming year will test Iraq's fledgling democracy, with two key events looming as possible tipping points: the pullout of

[Changing Iraq's Face](#)

Source: [IOL](#)

Document: Article

Date: December 31, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Iraq plans to put up new artworks to replace old monuments across the country, a move questioned by many Iraqis who see these monuments as part of their history. "We have asked local artists to present their projects," Mohammad al-Tamini, head of the government's Statues and Murals Committee, told IslamOnline.net.

[In Iraq, the Day After](#)

Source: [WP](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 2, 2009

Access: [Open](#)

Maybe it was the only shot heard for days in a neighborhood once ordered by the cadence of gunfire. Perhaps it was the smiles at checkpoints and the shouts of Iraqi policemen navigating the always snarled traffic. "God's mercy on your parents," they beseeched. "God's blessings on you." Maybe it was the music box still playing "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" at a kiosk overflowing with Christmas tree decorations and heart-shaped red pillows.

[Iraqi Expatriate Professionals Back in Iraq for the First Conference on Iraq's Capacities and Expertise](#)

Source: [UNAMI](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 5, 2009

Access: [Open](#)

Under the banner of the Iraqi capacities and expertise, the Iraqi Government held a two day conference, 22-23 December 2008, at Al Rasheed Hotel in Baghdad. The Conference, titled the First Global Conference for Iraqi Expatriate Capacities and Expertise, aimed at reversing the Iraqi brain-drain phenomena that has chronically risen in Iraq during the many years of war and sanctions, and spiked dramatically as a result of the 2003 invasion and the subsequent violence.

[Iraq earns \\$60 billion from 2008 crude exports](#)

Source: [Reuters](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 5, 2009

Access: [Open](#)

Iraq earned about \$60 billion from average crude oil sales of 1.85 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2008, a top Iraqi oil official said on Monday. Shipments rose by about 200,000 bpd on the previous year and revenues were up about \$20 billion, according to data from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.

[Women banned from Baghdad shrine](#)

Source: [BBC](#)

Document: Article

Date: December 7, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Iraqi authorities have closed a major shrine in Baghdad's Kadhimiya area to women amid security concerns as a Shia religious ceremony reaches its climax. Ashura is among the holiest days for Shia Muslims, but women will be barred from the Imam Moussa al-Kadhim shrine.

[As war winds down, will Iraq's progress hold steady?](#)

Source: [CS Monitor](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 8, 2009

Access: [Open](#)

Last year saw vast improvements in Iraq. Violence dropped dramatically and Iraqis took greater political and military control. But war is still being fought, suicide bombings remain a near daily menace, and the gains are fragile. The year ahead will test the staying power of progress as US military forces begin to withdraw, Iraqi politicians jostle for power in Baghdad and beyond, and a new administration in Washington assumes responsibility for the war as it enters its seventh year.

[Shi'ites in Iraq mark Ashura in show of strength](#)

Source: [Reuters](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 7, 2009

Access: [Open](#)

Shi'ites in Iraq gathered in their thousands to observe an annual ritual of mourning on Wednesday, an event that has become a show of strength for a majority whose public worship was repressed by Saddam Hussein. Ashura, the most important day in the Shi'ite calendar, was largely peaceful, guarded by an unprecedented police and army presence three days after a suicide bomber killed 35 pilgrims outside a Baghdad shrine.

[US General: Anbar lacks support of Iraq government](#)

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

Document: Article

Date: January 7, 2009

Access: [Open](#)

The top American commander in the former insurgent stronghold of Anbar said Wednesday the Shiite-led government should have poured reconstruction money into the Sunni region after Sunni fighters joined forces with U.S. troops to chase al-Qaida out of the western province. Marine Maj. Gen. John F. Kelly told The Associated Press that his greatest "mission failure" was his inability to bring together the government in Baghdad and the Sunnis in Anbar to take advantage of the steep decline in violence.

Elections

[Election friction flares in Iraq's violent north](#)

Source: [Reuters](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 2, 2009

Access: [Open](#)

Tensions are mounting between Sunni Arabs and Kurds in the Iraqi city of Mosul, where political violence is increasing ahead of provincial elections. The United Nations this week condemned attacks on candidates competing in the January 31 provincial council vote in Mosul and the surrounding province of Nineveh. Predictions that violence could flare ahead of the polls are already bearing out.

independent United Nations-backed elections body. Ahead of the 31 January provincial elections in the nascent democracy, the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) said that intimidating or bribing its staff or voters is also carries a punishment of imprisonment for at least one year.

[UN-backed body lists punishable offenses for upcoming Iraqi elections](#)

Source: [UN](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 3, 2009

Access: [Open](#)

Interfering in the upcoming Iraqi polls by force or through threats is punishable by at least one year in prison, according to a list of offences issued today by an

[IHEC fact sheet: Voting for internally displaced persons \(Absentee Voting\)](#)

Source: Higher Electoral Commission of Iraq

Document: Factsheet

Date: January 5, 2009

Access: [Open](#)

Factsheet on voting for internally displaced persons in the upcoming provincial elections.

[IHEC fact sheet: Political Entities, Campaign Rules and Hate Speech](#)

Source: Higher Electoral Commission of Iraq

Document: Factsheet (Arabic and English)

Date: January 6, 2009

Access: [Open](#)

Factsheet on political entities, campaign rules and hate speech for the upcoming provincial elections

[IHEC fact sheet: Election Day Complaints](#)

Source: Higher Electoral Commission of Iraq
Document: Factsheet (Arabic and English)
Date: January 7, 2009
Access: [Open](#)

Factsheet on election day complaints.

[Time to seize the election mood in Iraq](#)

Source: [Gulf News](#)
Document: Article
Date: January 5, 2009
Access: [Open](#)

The underlying struggle in Iraqi politics is to shape the emerging constitution in a way that suits the political parties' aims and desires to get and retain power. The broad theoretical discussions about achieving representational democracy are closely examined as to how they might support or hinder every politician's ambitions.

[Iraqis learn the art of campaigning](#)

Source: [USA Today](#)
Document: Article
Date: January 6, 2009
Access: [Open](#)

More than three weeks before Iraqis will go to the polls to elect their version of state legislatures, the campaigning here seems a bit like what Americans see every four years before New Hampshire's presidential primary: up-close exchanges between candidates and citizens, get-out-the vote efforts, posters everywhere. Except here, many candidates wear red and white keffiyeh head scarves or gray pinstripes, instead of sweaters and shirt-sleeves.

[4 candidates excluded from Wassit election](#)

Source: [VOI](#)
Document: Article
Date: January 7, 2009
Access: [Open](#)

Four candidates were excluded from the Wassit provincial election for "violating" nomination conditions, a source from the Independent High Electoral Commission in the province said on Wednesday. "Four out of 1230 candidates were excluded from the Wassit provincial election," the source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency. "The four excluded male candidates did not provide the documents required for nomination, including their transcripts," he added.

Violence and Security Issues

[US hands over Green Zone security](#)

Source: [Al Jazeera](#)
Document: Article
Date: January 1, 2009
Access: [Open](#)

The US military in Iraq has come under Iraqi authority for the first time since the US-led invasion in 2003, as a UN mandate for foreign troops expired and bilateral military accords took effect. Iraqi and US officials on Thursday endorsed the return of the heavily-fortified Green Zone in central Baghdad to Iraqi control under a pact

between Washington and Baghdad, paving the way to restoring sovereignty.

[Suicide bomb kills many in Iraq](#)

Source: [BBC](#)
Document: Article
Date: January 2, 2009
Access: [Open](#)

At least 23 people have been killed in a suicide bombing in a town south of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, police say. About 110 people were also injured in the attack at a gathering of Sunni Muslim tribal

leaders in Yusufiya, 20km (12 miles) from Baghdad.

[Pilgrims die in Iraq bomb blast](#)

Source: [BBC](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 4, 2009

Access: [Open](#)

At least 35 Shia pilgrims have been killed in a suicide bomb attack near a shrine in Baghdad, Iraqi officials say. At least 55 people were injured in the blast, in the Kadhimiya area of the Iraqi capital, where pilgrims were gathering for a religious ceremony. Reports say a number of pilgrims from Iran are among the casualties. There are fears the death toll will rise.

[Iraq civilian deaths down in 2008](#)

Source: [BBC](#)

Document: Article

Date: December 29, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

The number of civilians killed by violence in Iraq has fallen by two-thirds in 2008, researchers say. Official Iraqi figures say 5,714 people were killed in 2008 compared to 16,252 the previous year. The non-governmental organisation Iraq Body Count also said the number of deaths was down by two-thirds, but put the figure between 8,315 and 9,028.

[Iraq takes over guard program in restive Diyala](#)

Source: [Reuters](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 4, 2009

Access: [Open](#)

U.S. forces put the Iraqi government in charge of tribal guards in restive Diyala province north of Baghdad on Sunday, another step in the U.S. military's gradual disengagement from day-to-day combat. The tribal guard units, known as "Awakenings" and made up mostly of Sunni Arabs including former insurgents, have been on the front line against al Qaeda Sunni militants, who made a stand in Diyala after being driven out of other parts of Iraq.

[SRSG Condemns the Killing and Continued Targeting of Pilgrims](#)

Source: [UNAMI](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 5, 2009

Access: [Open](#)

The Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Iraq (SRSG) Staffan de Mistura condemns in the strongest terms the attacks targeting pilgrims both yesterday and today. The SRSG described these actions that resulted in the killing of at least forty pilgrims in Al Kadhimiya on Sunday, 4 January and injured scores more, as well as the booby-trap detonated on Monday, 5 January, wounding at least a dozen other civilians as "appalling and unjustified crimes." The SRSG extends the United Nations' sincere condolences to the aggrieved families and its wishes for the full and speedy recovery of the wounded.

[Iraq massive security clampdown for Ashura](#)

Source: [Al Sumaria](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 6, 2009

Access: [Open](#)

Marking the 10-day Ashura rituals which reaches its peak on Wednesday, thousands of Arab and Foreign pilgrims wearing black and performing rituals on the beat of drums poured in to Karbala City. For safety reasons, Iraqi security forces imposed a massive clampdown and checkpoint searches in order to avoid such incidents as the recent blast near Imam Moussa Al Kadhem Shrine in Baghdad which killed 33 people and wounded more than 70.

[Member of Iraq president party killed in drive-by](#)

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

Document: Article

Date: January 6, 2009

Access: [Open](#)

Gunmen have killed a member of Iraqi President Jalal Talabani's political party in a drive-by shooting in the northern city of Kirkuk, Iraqi police officials said Tuesday. Subhi Hassan, who handles political relations for the Patriotic Union of

Kurdistan, and a bodyguard were killed Monday after unidentified gunmen chased down their car after it passed through a checkpoint, said Police Brigadier Ahmed Hawandi.

[Demo in Falluja to stop attacks on Gaza](#)

Source: [VOI](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 7, 2009

Access: [Open](#)

Scores of Falluja residents on Wednesday staged a demonstration in the city against the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, calling on the UN to intervene to stop the attacks. Haqi Ismail, a protestor, "called on the UN and Arab countries to intervene to stop this massacre against Palestinians."

[Moqtada al-Sadr calls for Iraq revenge attacks over Gaza](#)

Source: [Times](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 7, 2009

Access: [Open](#)

Moqtada al-Sadr, the anti-American cleric, called on the Iraqi resistance today to carry out "revenge operations" against US targets in Iraq in protest at the military offensive by Israel on Gaza. "I ask the Iraqi resistance to engage in revenge operations against the United States, the biggest partner of the Zionist enemy," the Shia cleric, who is believed to be in Iran, said in a statement issued by his office in the holy city of Najaf.

[Kidnapping Trends](#)

Source: Multiple

Document: Compilation

Date: January 8, 2009

Access: [Open](#)

A compilation of articles discussing trends in kidnapping.

Iraq Humanitarian Environment and Space

IDPs and Refugees

[An Iraqi debt](#)

Source: [BS](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 4, 2009

Access: [Open](#)

Violence is significantly lower these days in Iraq, and the Americans who still keep the peace there are busy planning for a significant troop withdrawal over the next 18 months. But that country's hopes for a brighter economic future are shadowed by the loss of more than 2 million refugees - many of them doctors, lawyers, teachers and engineers - who have fled to Jordan, Syria and other neighboring countries.

[Budget cuts threaten IDP housing projects](#)

Source: [IRIN](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 6, 2009

Access: [Open](#)

Lack of government funds could force the Ministry of Displacement and Migration to postpone until 2010 some housing projects designed to ease internal displacement, an official told IRIN on 4 January. "We asked for 40 billion Iraqi dinars [US\$34.2 million] for the ministry's [2009] investment budget but we were told that only eight billion [\$6.85 million] could be allocated.

[How to Confront the Iraqi Refugee Crisis](#)

Source: [Human Rights First](#)

Document: Article

Date: December, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

A blueprint drawn up by Human Rights First for dealing with the Iraqi Refugee crisis, for the incoming US President.

Human Rights

[Fewer reporters died in 2008; Iraq still deadliest](#)

Source: [Yahoo](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 5, 2009

Access: [Open](#)

The Committee to Protect Journalists says Iraq remains the most lethal place for working media members despite a two-thirds decline in deaths there in 2008. The New York-based private group said Monday that 11 journalists were killed there last year compared with 32 in each of the two years before that. All 11 were locals working for Iraqi news outlets.

[Iraq's Minorities Facing Extinction in Current Crisis](#)

Source: [Marketwire](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 6, 2009

Access: [Open](#)

Although all Iraqis are caught in a cycle of violence and victimhood, the extremist danger and the rise of religious parties as the main political actors in the new Iraq has left minority groups acutely vulnerable to extinction, states a special report by Mokhtar Lamani, a senior visiting fellow with The Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI).

Food security and livelihoods

[Iraqis want free food programme to continue, finds survey](#)

Source: [IRIN](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 4, 2009

Access: [Open](#)

An Iraqi government survey conducted late 2008 has found that 95 percent of Iraqi families would prefer to keep the state's free food programme running rather than replace it with financial aid, a government spokesman said on 3 January.

[UNICEF Iraq Monthly Update for Partners](#)

Source: [UNICEF](#)

Document: Report

Date: November and December, 2008

Access: [Members](#)

UNICEF report for partners on Iraq, for the months of November and December 2008.

[Move to evict squatters from government property](#)

Source: [IRIN](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 7, 2009

Access: [Open](#)

The Iraqi government has decided to evict all people who have been squatting in government buildings or on government land since the 2003 US-led invasion which toppled Saddam Hussein's regime. "The Iraqi Cabinet has decided to evict all squatters in or on government property - land, houses, residential buildings or offices.

Water and Healthcare

[Cholera outbreak in Maysan](#)

Source: [NCCI](#)

Document: Report

Date: September-December, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

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

Education

[Students return to class in Iraq](#)

Source: [MET](#) (UPI)

Document: Article

Date: January 7, 2009

Access: [Open](#)

Scores of Iraqi middle and high school students returned for the first weeks of class in 2009 as the security situation improves, U.S. military reports said. Students greeted the new school year with ceremonies in the town of Tarmiya in the central province of Baghdad. U.S. military officials said the area is relatively calm despite escalating targeted violence in the run-up to provincial elections Jan. 31.

Humanitarian Space

[UN GA Resolution on the Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel](#)

Source: [UN](#)

Document: Resolutions

Date: December, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

UN General Assembly Resolution on the Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel.

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

Reference Documents

[SOFA Text](#)

Source: [US Government](#)

Document: Status of Forces Agreement

Date: November 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Text of the Status of Forces Agreement between the USA and Iraq.

[Strategic Framework Agreement between the US and Iraq](#)

Source: [US Government](#)

Document: SFA

Date: November 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Text of the Strategic Framework Agreement between the USA and Iraq.

[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: [GoI](#)

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.

[UN SC Resolution 661](#)

Source: [UN](#)

Document: SC Resolution

Date: 1990

Access: [Open](#)

The UN Security Council Resolution imposing sanctions on Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait

[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: [IRFI](#)

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: December 2008 and January 2009

Access: [Members](#)

Air Serv's timetable for December 2008 and January 2009

[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. Please also see the NGO Assistance Office website (in Arabic only at the moment): <http://www.ngoao.gov.iq/>

[Human Rights First: Iraq Refugee Crisis](#)

Source: [Human Rights First](#)

Document: Information

Date: 2007-2009

Access: [Open](#)

Reports and information on the Iraq refugee crisis.

Schedule Updates

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

- Tuesday 13/MuHarram 16 – POT, UNHCR Iraq, Amman 2pm – 4pm
- Tuesday 13/MuHarram 16 – ERDSOT, UNDP Iraq, Amman 2pm-4pm
- Wednesday 14/MuHarram 17 – Health & Nutrition SOT, WHO Amman, 10am
- Thursday 15/MuHarram 18 – IHF 'Special', Imperial Hotel Baghdad 10am **(to be confirmed)**

Upcoming important dates

- January 9/MuHarram 12 – Hostages arrive in Kufa
- **January 10/MuHarram 13 - Burying of Al-Taaf Battle martyrs**
- **January 14/ MuHarram-17 - Beginning of Coalition Forces military operations (1424)**
- January 15/ MuHarram-18 - Arbor Day (Jordan)

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

- *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](#)*
- *Global WASH Cluster is holding a workshop on the right to water and sanitation in emergencies, 26-27 January 2009, Amman. Further information can be found [here](#)*
- *IRC Iraq have a new vacancy in Erbil. Further information can be found [here](#)*
- *CVs can be uploaded [here](#)*
- *CVs can be checked [here](#)*
- *Employment opportunities can be examined [here](#)*