

EDITORIAL

[Issue 132 – October 23, 2008](#)

Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Humanitarian Funding

With far over a trillion dollars worldwide going to various bailout packages, the money will have to come from somewhere. (Theoretically, at least.) Though it would be nice if humanitarian and development spending were immune from such cut-backs, history shows quite the opposite.

The Center for Global Development offers by far the best analysis of how the financial crisis will affect humanitarian (and development) funding. It's not a pretty picture. According to their most recent article, *History Says Financial Crisis Will Suppress Aid*: "After each previous financial crisis in a donor country since 1970, the country's aid has declined."

(Even better for the financially illiterate such as myself, the article includes easy-to-follow charts and tables.)

Just to review the figures involved - the various US bailout packages, including the \$700 billion economic bailout plan as well as additional assistance to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and AIG, total almost a trillion dollars. The UK bailout package is at least £400 billion, or just under \$700 million dollars. Some estimate that the total amount spent worldwide on various bailouts is nearing \$3 trillion.

To put this in perspective, Oxfam has estimated that \$700 billion dollars would be enough money to: "clear the accumulated debt of the 49 poorest countries in the world twice over...[or] eradicate all world poverty for over two years."

The impact of the bailouts is already being felt. In the US, the Democrats are now saying that even if they win the election, they will not be able to increase foreign assistance spending as promised.

It's not only an issue that funding will not increase, but that it might be reduced. According to Steve Radelet of the Centre for Global Development, the US will be under severe pressure to cut its international aid budget. (Some experts are warning of possible reductions in US spending on AIDS.)

Fears about similar cuts in Europe led Louis Michel, the European Commissioner for Humanitarian and Development Aid, to declare: "The credibility of the donor community as a reliable partner is clearly at stake. This is already self-evident when the fledgling pace with which aid for the poorest is increased is compared with the speed with which aid for the richest is mobilized."

Private donations - which in the US alone totaled \$34.8 billion in 2006 - will also probably be affected. According to Tom Arnold, the Chief Executive of Concern Worldwide: "Undoubtedly, overall funding - from business, private individuals and government sources - will come under pressure. The world has changed in the past week, and we're really in uncharted waters. Just this week at headquarters we were having a very tough conversation about some difficult choices in 2009."

Other aid agencies are also reacting. Oxfam is contemplating budget cuts of 10-15% next year, while even UN agencies and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are making contingency plans.

Michael Kleinman
[Humanitarian Relief – Change.org](http://www.change.org)

Salaam,
NCCI Team

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Iraq Context

International

[Iraqi Cabinet Wants Security Agreement Altered](#)

Source: [NYT](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 21, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

In a sign of growing unease with the proposed security agreement between the United States and Iraq, the Iraqi cabinet said Tuesday that it would demand changes to the deal and key Iraqi leaders said it was important to have a backup plan in case there was too much opposition for the pact to win approval. Several senior members of Parliament said there were worries that the agreement left too much leeway for the Americans to stay in Iraq beyond the scheduled deadline for withdrawal in 2011.

[Draft pact lets Iraq try troops](#)

Source: [WT](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 16, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

American troops could face trial before Iraqi courts for major crimes committed off base and when not on missions, under a draft security pact hammered out in months of tortuous negotiations, Iraqi officials familiar with the accord said Wednesday. The draft also calls for U.S. troops to leave Iraqi cities by the end of June and withdraw from the country entirely by Dec. 31, 2011, unless the government in Baghdad asks some of them to stay for training or security support, the officials said. It also would give the Iraqis a greater role in U.S. military operations and full control of the Green Zone, the 3-square-mile area of central Baghdad that includes the U.S. Embassy and major Iraqi government offices.

[US gives warning on Iraq troop pact](#)

Source: [AJ](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 22, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

The US defence secretary has said that "pretty dramatic" consequences would follow if an accord governing the presence of US soldiers in Iraq, falls through. Robert Gates said on Tuesday in Washington that the door was "pretty far closed" on further negotiations - though it was not slammed shut. Iraq's cabinet discussed the pact on Tuesday and unanimously called for changes to the draft agreement now under review, despite US warnings that time is running out.

[Iran weighs in on SOFA](#)

Source: [MET](#) (UPI)

Document: Article

Date: October 22, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Tehran on Monday expressed full support for the sovereignty of Iraq and its territorial integrity as Iraqi lawmakers vet the security agreement with Washington. Iraqi lawmakers Monday weighed in on the negotiated Status of Forces Agreement, a bilateral pact set to replace the expiring U.N. mandate for Iraq. Despite positive statements from U.S. officials, several Iraqi leaders expressed doubt over its movement through Parliament. A spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Hassan Qashqavi, said Tehran is a steadfast supporter of the democratic process in Iraq and respects its complete independence as a free nation, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

[UK and Iraq to begin troop talks](#)

Source: [BBC](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 19, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Britain and Iraq have agreed to begin immediate negotiations on the future role of UK forces. New Defence Secretary John Hutton, who is on a surprise visit to Baghdad, said talks would start soon on a new mandate based on a similar pending US deal. That agreement, hammered out over many months, has run into trouble in winning political Iraqi approval. Mr Hutton also said the process of reducing troop numbers from the current 4,100 could begin early next year. The MP, who took over the defence job just over two weeks ago, said he wanted to reach a deal with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki on the future of UK troops before the current UN Security Council mandate ended on 31 December.

[Iraq slams Odierno statements on bribes](#)

Source: [UPI](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 16, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Iraqi lawmakers Thursday said they viewed statements from the top U.S. commander suggesting Baghdad took bribes from Iran as unnecessary interference. The top U.S. commander in Iraq, Gen. Ray Odierno, told The Washington Post Monday that Iran was inserting its agenda into the negotiations surrounding the long-term security pact between Washington and Baghdad. He said there were "intelligence reports" that suggested Iranians are "coming in to pay off people to vote against" the long-term security deal set to replace the U.N. mandate for Iraq, but offered no proof of the claim. Iraqi lawmakers issued a statement Thursday saying they viewed the statements from Odierno as tantamount to meddling in Iraqi internal affairs, Voices of Iraq reported.

[Iraq sees diplomatic surge](#)

Source : [GN](#)

Document: Article

Date: Octobr 19, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

The current rush of Arab diplomacy towards Iraq looks unprecedented since the invasion and occupation of the country in 2003. Yet, the Americans have been pressing Arab countries, for years now, to provide a regional legitimacy to ruling regime in Iraq. This time it is really different and worth attention, both in the context of regional Arab strategy - if there's any actually - and the outgoing American administrations' efforts to finalise a long-term security deal with Iraq. It was not only American-friendly Arab moderates who responded to such pressures before, but even Syria - in a way to avoid isolation, cooperated with Iraqis to stop insurgents crossing its borders into Iraq.

[Saudi Arabia asserts importance on Iraq's security, stability](#)

Source: [Kuna](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 20, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Saudi Minister of Interior Prince Nayif bin Abdul Aziz said on Monday the 5th meeting of interior ministers of Iraq's neighboring countries, which begins in the Jordanian capital, Amman, on Thursday, will discuss interaction and genuine security with the Iraqi security authorities. Prince Nayif made his comment in a press release and after attending the opening ceremony of a conference on industrial engineering. The Saudi minister said the aim of Amman's meeting, like previous meetings, is to ensure Iraq's security and stability in the region, and for Iraq's neighboring countries not to become a passageway to disrupt Iraq's stability.

[Jordan envoy takes up Iraq post](#)

Source: [BBC](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 16 , 2008

Access: [Open](#)

The new Jordanian ambassador to Iraq has taken up his post in Baghdad. Nayef

Zeidan's is the first such appointment since a bomb attack on the Jordanian embassy in 2003, in which at least 11 people were killed. A number of other Arab states have recently moved to upgrade their diplomatic presence in Iraq, as a result of security improvements. This week, Syria - a sworn enemy of Saddam Hussein's government- sent its first envoy to Iraq for three decades. Mr Zeidan arrived in Baghdad and presented his credentials to Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari, reports said quoting foreign ministry officials.

[Saudi Arabia, citing security, delays Iraq embassy](#)

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

Document: Article

Date: October 21, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Saudi Arabia said Tuesday it would delay sending an ambassador to Baghdad, saying there was no point sending a diplomat who would end up forced to remain inside a "fortress" to stay safe. Several of Iraq's mainly Sunni neighbors have sought over the last year to restore ties damaged by Saddam Hussein's rule and the U.S.-led invasion, as violence in Iraq has declined. But Saudi Arabia is hoping for further security improvements before it posts an ambassador to Baghdad, Foreign Minister Saud Al-Faisal said Tuesday, adding that the country did not want its top diplomat to Iraq forced to stay in a "fortress" without being able to communicate with anyone.

[Backing down](#)

Source: [Al Ahram](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 18, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

On Tuesday, two high level Turkish officials flew to Baghdad to meet with Massoud Barzani, the president of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), at the start of what appears to be a new Turkish policy of engagement with the Iraqi Kurds in an attempt to eradicate the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has its main camps and bases in the mountains of northern Iraq. The visit followed recent PKK

attacks inside Turkey. On 3 October, 17 Turkish soldiers were killed in a PKK assault on a military outpost in the village of Aktutun, close to the Turkish-Iraqi border. It was the highest Turkish death toll in a single incident since the PKK returned to violence after a five-year lull in June 2004. A few days later, on 8 October, the PKK demonstrated its ability to strike in urban areas when it ambushed a bus carrying police personnel in the heart of the southeastern city of Diyarbakir, killing six.

[Turkish warplanes strike Kurdish bases 100km inside Iraq](#)

Source: [IT](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 19, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Turkish warplanes carried out airstrikes inside Iraq on Friday on the main bases used by Kurdish rebels, the military said. The jet fighters bombed Mount Qandil, an area about 100km inside Iraq, where the leadership of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, is believed to be hiding. "The operations that were carried out during the day were successful and all planes have returned safely to their base," the military said. There was no immediate comment from the rebels and the claims could not be independently verified. It is the latest of a series of Turkish airstrikes against rebel hideouts in northern Iraq, which the rebels use as a launch pad for attacks against targets inside Turkey. Earlier on Friday, the military said it intercepted Kurdish rebel radio chatter indicating that up to 35 guerrillas had been killed in clashes with troops earlier this week in southeastern Sinak Province.

[Turkey mulls three-way talks with Iraq, US to curb rebels: FM](#)

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

Document: Article

Date: October 20, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Turkey is considering three-way consultations with Iraq and the United States for fresh measures to purge Kurdish rebel bases in neighbouring Iraq, Foreign Minister Ali Babacan said Monday. The talks, proposed by Iraqi President Jalal

Talabani, "could be important with respect to sharing intelligence and coordinating military activity," Babacan told a joint press conference with visiting Spanish counterpart Miguel Angel Moratinos. Ankara has long complained that the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), waging a bloody separatist campaign in southeast Turkey since 1984, uses bases in the mountains of northern Iraq as a springboard for cross-border attacks.

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

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

Document: Weekly report

Date: October 22, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Despite agreeing to a "final draft" of the security pact last week, Iraq's cabinet on Tuesday demanded amendments to the pact after eight months of painstaking negotiations with Washington, Reuters reported. On Saturday (October-18), tens of thousands of followers of cleric Moqtada al-Sadr rallied in Baghdad in a mass public show of opposition to a US-Iraqi security pact that would prolong the presence of US

forces in Iraq for three more years, the Associated Press (AP) reported. Following the protest, Iraqi political leaders withheld support on Sunday (October-19) for the proposed security pact, smashing American hopes for a speedy approval of the agreement. Iraqi government spokesperson Ali al-Dabbagh told BBC News that ministers would convene soon to "give their opinions and provide the amendments suggested" prior to submitting their draft to the US negotiators.

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

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

Document: Selection of daily comments

Date: October 18-22, 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

[Thousands march in Baghdad against U.S. pact](#)

Source: [AlertNet](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 18, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Thousands of followers of anti-American cleric Moqtada al-Sadr took to the streets on Saturday in a demonstration against a pact that would allow U.S. forces to stay in Iraq for three more years. Iraq's foreign minister said a draft of the agreement hammered out after months of negotiations was now final and being reviewed by political leaders. Parliament would be given a chance to vote for or against it, but not to make changes. The agreement "has been presented as a final text by the two negotiating teams. The time now is time for a decision,"

Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari told a news conference. "I believe the next few days will be crucial for the Iraqi leaders to make a political decision and a judgment on this agreement." At the demonstration across town, marchers waved Iraqi flags and chanted "Yes, yes Iraq! No, no to the occupation!"

[Sadrist refuse presidential invitation to discuss US security pact](#)

Source: [MC](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 16, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

The Sadrist bloc in Iraq's parliament refused a presidential invitation for a meeting to be held on Friday to discuss the US-Iraqi security pact, the bloc's spokesman said. The bloc loyal to Shiite

cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, which holds 30 of 275 seats in the parliament, opposes the agreement and has demanded a timeline for US troops' withdrawal. Movement loyalists have taken to the street several times to protest the deal. The Sadrist bloc insists on refusing to attend the meetings, after its participation has been suspended before,' Ahmed al-Massoudy told the Voices of Iraq (VOI) news agency on Thursday.

[Kurds back SOFA as Christians grow wary](#)

Source: [MET](#) (UPI)
Document: Article
Date: October 21 , 2008
Access: [Open](#)

Iraqi Kurds called on Baghdad to sign the long-term security arrangement with Washington despite a growing sentiment of dissatisfaction with the accord. Kurdish President Massoud Barzani called for swift movement on the bilateral measure set to replace the U.N. security mandate for Iraq, which expires at the end of December. The president said his government had established five committees in Baghdad to deal with the security arrangement, the Kurdistan Regional Government said in a news release. Barzani said it was imperative to reach an agreement with Washington, provided the measure does not violate the sovereignty of the country.

[The missing ingredient for an Iraq recovery: trust](#)

Source: [LAT](#)
Document: Article
Date: October 20, 2008
Access: [Open](#)

I first noticed the shop nearly two years ago, because of the guitar and the spray of pink plastic flowers hanging on the wall outside. A yellow and red stairway led to the door. It was a defiant display of color in a tense city of grays, blacks and browns. More remarkably, the store appeared to be selling musical instruments at a time when religious extremists were attacking anything that hinted at Western decadence. Several times a week I'd pass the corner shop, always peering upward to make sure the guitar and flowers were

there, always vowing to visit. The time was never right, until now. With violence at a relatively low ebb, I had a few free hours one day, and the simple outing no longer seemed to carry the risk of getting blown up or trailed and abducted on the way home.

[Launch of a nationwide Voter Education Radio Programs](#)

Source: [UNAMI](#)
Document: Article
Date: October 14, 2008
Access: [Open](#)

Following the adoption of the provincial elections law, Iraq is now preparing for the holding of regional elections for governorate councils in 14 of Iraq's 18 provinces by end of January 2009. In support of this crucial step forward in helping consolidate Iraq's political progress, UNAMI and its implementing partner, Media in Cooperation and Transition (MICT) have worked on a nationwide Voter Education Radio Programs project. This project is aimed at producing, disseminating and exchanging radio reports and features related to the elections by engaging a network of radio stations and a pool of journalists from all over the country.

[\\$14 Million to Preserve Iraqi Cultural Heritage](#)

Source: [NYT](#)
Document: Article
Date: October 20, 2008
Access: [Open](#)

American and Iraqi officials began a two-year, \$14 million plan on Monday to help preserve Iraq's cultural heritage, which includes a frieze with an Assyrian king, left. The State Department grant will create a conservation and historic preservation institute in Erbil, help refurbish the Iraqi National Museum and train museum employees. Goli Ameri, the assistant United States secretary of state for education and cultural affairs, unveiled the program at the Iraqi National Museum, which she said "will remain closed in the near term." Thousands of cultural artifacts were stolen from Iraq after the war began in 2003.

Violence and Security Issues

[Iraq's Christians "sacrificial lambs" as attacks mount](#)

Source: [Reuters](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 19, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

في الآونة الأخيرة شهدت مدينة الموصل التي تضم هي واقضيّتها أكبر تجمعات المسيحيين في العراق موجة شديدة من أعمال العنف والإرهاب ضد أبناء الطائفة مما أدى الى فرار حوالي ألف عائلة مسيحية من المدينة وان ما يجري في الموصل يأتي في إطار اجندات خارجية وانها حلقة اخرى من مسلسل العنف والإرهاب بحق استثناء والتي تستهدف وحدة أبناء شعبنا جميعا دون المجتمع والامن والاستقرار وتاجيح نار الفتنة وعرقلة مسيرة التقدم في العراق. عليه نحن في منظمة الحقوق المدنية في كردستان ندين ونستنكر هذا العمل الارهابي الذي يتعرض اليه شعبنا العزيز من اخواننا المسيحيين في الموصل وندعو من الجهات المسؤولة والمعنية لبذل جميع المساعي لتهدئة ومعالجة هذه الأزمة وتوفير الحماية العاجلة للمواطنين المسيحيين ليتمكنوا من العيش واطمئنان كباقي مكونات الشعب العراقي بامان

[Who persecutes Christians in Iraq ?](#)

Source: [Azzaman](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 20, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

The current plight of Christians in the northern city of Mosul is a reminder of how precarious conditions in Iraq as whole are. At least 2,500 families have been forced to leave the city, a dozen killed and many of their houses destroyed. Christians are not the only minority under persecution but their fleeing is being highlighted because it comes at a crucial moment for Iraq and particularly its northern region. And therefore many have began raising questions on who would benefit from forcing thousands of families out in the open from a city which has traditionally been known for its tolerance and a mosaic of cultures, religions, sects and ethnicities.

[Kurds condemn attacks on Christians](#)

Source: [UPI](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 15, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

The Kurdistan Regional Government Wednesday strongly condemned attacks on Iraqi Christians and denied claims it was behind the violence. Thousands of Christian families in Mosul have fled the region in the wake of increased attacks on their community. Iraqi officials ordered an investigation into the perpetrators, as some in the Christian community pointed to suspected Kurdish moves to drive them out of the region. Meanwhile, Interior Ministry spokesman Abdul Karim Khalaf said there was no evidence to suggest al-Qaida in Iraq was behind the attacks either.

[Ninewa operations commander urges Christian families to return](#)

Source: [Aswat Al-Iraq](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 20, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

The commander of the Ninewa operations command on Monday called on Christian families who left Mosul to return to their homes, noting that all these regions have been secured. Speaking at a press conference with Deputy Prime Minister Rafeaa al-Eissawi, Lieutenant General Riyadh Jalal said "350 Christian families have returned home to Mosul," noting that all regions where Christians live, including churches, have been secured, through the deployment of security forces in Mosul.

[Five killed, 12 injured in blast in Baghdad](#)

Source: [DPA](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 15, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Five Iraqis were killed and 12 injured when two bombs exploded near an electric power station in Baghdad on Wednesday, eyewitnesses said. The blasts targeted the power station near several primary schools, including one that serves both Christian and Muslim students, witnesses told Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa. During the past few weeks, several Christians have been murdered in the northern city of Mosul and thousands have fled the city after recent threats that forced them to leave their homes and jobs. The attacks coincided with major demonstrations by Christian groups protesting the removal of Article 50 from the provincial elections law, which was approved by the Presidential Council last week. The article had guaranteed Christians certain rights of representation in local assemblies.

[Baghdad mosque blast kills 3](#)

Source: [Press TV](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 17, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

At least three worshippers have been killed in a bomb attack that hit the participants at the weekly Friday prayers in a mosque

in Baghdad. "At around 1:30 p.m. (1030 GMT), as worshippers were leaving the Saeed Haydar mosque in the Shaab neighborhood, a bomb went off killing three people and wounding seven others," AFP quoted an Iraqi security official as saying. The bomb exploded at the entrance to the mosque in the Shia neighborhood in northern Baghdad, he added. On October 2, tens of people were killed and many others were wounded in twin suicide bomb attacks on two Shia mosques in the Iraqi capital as worshippers marked the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

[Iraqis clash before Babil handover](#)

Source: [AJ](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 21, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

At least 15 men have been killed in clashes between anti-government fighters and Sunni tribal members in the Iraqi province of Babil, police and a medic have said. At least 14 people were also injured in the fighting on Tuesday, two days before US troops are due to hand over control of security in Babil to Iraqi security forces. The gunfight began in Jurf al-Sakhr, a town lying on the border between Babil and Anbar province, at around 5.00am (02:00 GMT), Haider al-Lami, a police lieutenant, said.

[Iraq Humanitarian Environment and Space](#)

[IDPs and Refugees](#)

[Asylum-seekers put at risk by law, warns top judge](#)

Source: [OPU](#)

Document: Article

Date: October, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Labour's tough stance on immigration may have forced courts to send asylum-seekers back to their home countries to face "torture or death", one of the most

senior judges in England and Wales has warned. Lord Justice Sedley, a Court of Appeal judge, accuses the Government of threatening the independence of the judiciary by imposing a rule that obliges judges to dismiss an asylum-seeker's story if that refugee has fled their home country using a false passport. Sir Stephen Sedley, writing in the London Review of Books, warns that such a measure "is a serious

invasion of judicial independence". The judge, who caused controversy this year over his call for a national compulsory DNA database, said: "As is obvious, many people fleeing persecution have no option but to travel on false papers

[UN experts express concern about proposed EU Return Directive](#)

Source: [UNHCR](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 18, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Ten independent human rights experts of the Special Procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council have expressed, in a letter to the Presidency of the Council of the European Union (France), their concerns regarding the proposal for a so-called 'EU Return Directive'. This Directive aims to provide common standards and procedures in EU Member States for returning irregularly staying third-country nationals. The Directive was approved by the European Parliament on 18 June 2008 and is currently under consideration of the Council of the European Union, which will consider its adoption on 24/25 July 2008.

[Iraqis still at the top of the asylum seeker table, despite drop](#)

Source: [UNHCR](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 17, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

A UN refugee agency report released on Friday shows that the number of Iraqis seeking asylum in industrialized countries dropped in the first six months of this year, but they were still by far the top nationality seeking asylum in these destinations. According to the asylum trends report, the number of claims made by Iraqis (19,500) during the first six months of 2008, was higher than the combined number of asylum claims submitted by citizens of the Russian Federation (9,400) and China (8,700), the second and third most important source countries. Other important countries of origin of asylum seekers were Somalia (7,400), Pakistan and Afghanistan (6,300 each). Compared to the previous six months, however, the

number of Iraqi asylum seekers fell by 18 percent and by 10 percent compared to the first half of 2007.

[Christians continue to flee northern Iraq](#)

Source: [DPA](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 16, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

The deportation of Iraqi Christians from their homes in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul has been all too familiar over the past week after several were murdered. 'The forced displacement is an awful scene, because it affects the social fabric of our country,' said Pascal Warda, a human rights activist. 'The exodus of Christians from Mosul these days is very organised compared to what used to happen in Iraq during the years that followed the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, as it comes at a time when the government is imposing control over vast areas of the country,' Warda told DPA.

[200 Iraqis demonstrate to support local Christians](#)

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

Document: Article

Date: October 20, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Some 200 Kurds have demonstrated in a show of support for Christian. Some 200 Iraqis have demonstrated in the city of Kirkuk in a show of support for Christians who have faced increased attacks in northern Iraq this month. The event was organized by Kurdish groups and took place Sunday near the oldest church in Kirkuk province. The demonstrators called on the government to help thousands of Christians who recently have been chased from their homes in the nearby city of Mosul, presumably by Sunni insurgents. They urged compensation for the victims and aid for their return.

[Tent-dwellers to get wooden caravans in Baghdad](#)

Source: [IRIN](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 21, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

In a bid to alleviate the suffering of internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in tent camps, the local authorities have built a makeshift camp in western Baghdad to house 150 families in wooden caravans, an official said on 20 October. Local council official Mazin al-Shihan said another 150-caravan camp would be completed in a few days in eastern Baghdad. "These new camps will not erase the suffering of these families but at least they are better than living in tents, which are terribly hot during summer and very cold during winter," al-Shihan told IRIN. "These new camps are also intended to reduce the humiliation and embarrassment these families feel living in tents," he said.

[Some Iraqis return; thousands more register for food aid](#)

Source: [IRIN](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 21, 2008

Access: Open

Several hundred Iraqis returned home from Syria this week and last, but thousands more continue to register with the UN in Damascus to receive vital food aid, underscoring the hardship faced by the huge refugee community. Some 150 Iraqi refugees flew back to Baghdad on 15 October on a flight paid for by the Iraqi government, the first such assisted return since November 2007, in a move officials said was made possible by improved security in Iraq. But the latest figures from the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), showed that in the three months to the end of September some 13,000 Iraqi refugees had newly registered with the agency, allowing them to receive financial and material support.

Human Rights

[Iraq's New Family Law Sparks Furor](#)

Source: [IO](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 17, 2008

Access: Open

Lina Abdel-Rahman, 33, collapsed when she heard that her husband wants to divorce her to marry another woman. "He didn't measure his words and I felt like a used machine that got old and was being replaced by a brand new one," Abdel-Rahman told IslamOnline.net on Friday, October 17. "He just told me that I had to pack and go to my parents home and that the children were going to stay with him and his future 17-years-old new wife." Abdel-Rahman screamed at her husband's face, unbelieving that her 11-year-old marriage will collapse that way. "But it just made me more vulnerable," said the bereaved mother. "Without a choice I preferred to keep the few shame I still had in my face in that moment and go out from that house." The Iraqi mother left her husband's house for her family's. Desperate and afraid to lose her children,

Abdel-Rahman looked for a lawyer to defend her and bring back her children.

[Young journalist gunned down on Kirkuk street](#)

Source: [RSF](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 13, 2008

Access: Open

Reporters Without Borders is outraged to learn that another journalist was murdered yesterday in the city of Kirkuk, 255 km north of Baghdad. Diyar Abbas Ahmed, who worked for a privately-owned local news agency, was gunned down near a hotel in the city centre. "This young journalist's family and friends have to mourn another victim of the appalling bloodshed in Iraq," Reporters Without Borders said. "Ahmed was the 222nd media worker to be killed in Iraq since March 2003. What kind of political or spiritual victory can those who commit such horrible crimes hope to achieve?" Ahmed was killed by several unidentified gunmen who opened fire on him in the street and then fled, the local police said. Aged 28, he worked for Ain

("Eye" in Arabic), a privately-owned local news agency. He also represented an organisation of Kirkuk-based artists.

[New Wave of Violence Against Iraqi Journalists](#)

Source: [EI](#)
Document: Article
Date: October 18, 2008
Access: [Open](#)

Iraqi journalists have faced a fresh bout of violence in recent weeks, which is seen by some observers as a renewed attempt to undermine free media in the country. Since last month, at least five media workers have been killed and several others injured. Earlier this week, Dyar Abas Ahmed, a Kurdish journalist, was gunned down in the northern city of Kirkuk, according to the New-York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, CPJ. On September 13, three journalists and their driver were killed while filming a show in Mosul. Senior correspondent with al-Sharqiya TV Musab Mahmood al-Ezawi and cameramen Ahmed Salim and Ihab Mu'd and their driver Qaydar Sulaiman

were reportedly kidnapped while their fellow crew members were inside a house filming.

[Another interior ministry initiative to protect journalists](#)

Source: [RSF](#)
Document: Article
Date: October 21, 2008
Access: [Open](#)

Reporters Without Borders hails the Iraqi interior ministry's creation of a hotline for journalists in danger just a few weeks after it set up a special police unit to investigate murders of journalists. Created jointly with the Journalistic Freedoms Observatory in Iraq (JFO), a Reporters Without Borders partner organisation, the hotline may have already saved lives. Two journalists in the southern city of Basra eluded threats by calling the number and getting the security forces to intervene. The war in Iraq has been the deadliest armed conflict for the media since the Second World War, with at least 222 journalists and media assistants killed since the start of the US-led invasion in March 2003.

Food security and livelihoods

[Childhood cut short in Baghdad](#)

Source: [LAT](#)
Document: Article
Date: October 18, 2008
Access: [Open](#)

Come to Sadr City and follow the children, the one hauling flour on his donkey, the one collecting garbage on his tractor, the two brothers with bowl haircuts and greasy hands hoisting mufflers and car batteries in the late morning heat. A lot of kids here can't tell you what 6 x 3 is. They can't read. They have no time to play. They work from dawn until after the moon is high. They are children in size only. The new school year began recently, but not for Karrar Raad, 12, and his 10-year-old brother, Allawi. They work for car mechanics in adjacent

garages that are smaller than a rich lady's closet. Their father is ill and has no job, and the boys have to support eight children and two adults. They earn \$2.70 a day, plus tips.

[Participatory Impact Assessment-- a Guide for Practitioners](#)

Source: [FIC](#)
Document: Handbook
Date: October, 2008
Access: [Open](#)

Feinstein International Center's guide to developing and adapting participatory approaches to measure the impacts of livelihoods based approaches.

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.

[Situation report on diarrhoea and cholera in Iraq](#)

Source: [WHO](#)

Document: Report

Date: October 20, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

World Health Organisation weekly report on cholera and diarrhoea in Iraq.

[Situation report on diarrhoea and cholera in Iraq](#)

Source: [WHO](#)

Document: Report

Date: October 19, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

World Health Organisation weekly report on cholera and diarrhoea in Iraq..

[In Iraq, The Doctors Are Out](#)

Source: [Newsweek](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 18, 2007

Access: [Open](#)

Doctor Wasim bickers with his wife over where to raise their three kids. A pharmacist by profession, she longs for her friends and relatives back home in Baghdad. He suggests she settle in where they live now, amid the gleaming skyscrapers and seaside confines of Abu Dhabi. "It's like building on sand," she answers, refusing to think of their new home as anything but temporary. Nevertheless, the 45-year-old internist isn't ready to risk returning to Iraq—or even to let his full name be used. Four years ago on a Baghdad street a gang of kidnappers dragged him from his car. "You're the doctor," they said. "We've been following you for months." They held him hostage for two weeks of drunken beatings and cigarette burns before receiving a \$15,000 ransom, dumping him on a roadside and warning him to get out of Iraq. He found a good job at a hospital in Abu Dhabi. He likes the reliable air conditioning and the safe streets. And Baghdad scares him. "I have nightmares every night," he says.

Education

[UNESCO and Iraqi Ministry of Education launch educational TV channel](#)

Source: [UNESCO](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 21, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

UNESCO and the Education Minister of Iraq yesterday launched the Iraqi Educational TV Channel, IRAQI EDU. The channel is a response to the difficult security conditions in the country that keep many children away from school, and will provide support to students through distance learning. A measure taken to strengthen an endangered

educational system, the \$6.5 million project, financed by the European Union as part of their overall support for the Sector in Iraq, is being implemented by UNESCO in cooperation with the Iraqi Ministry of Education.

[First Turkish university opens in north of Iraq](#)

Source: [IZ](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 22, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Işık University, the first Turkish university in the north of Iraq, is to start providing education next month. The university, set

up by Turkish company Fezalar Eğitim Şirketi that runs a total of 10 kindergartens, primary schools and high schools in the region, will be the 11th educational institution of the Turkish company in the

north of Iraq. Rector Salih Hoşoğlu said that the aim of the university was to bring students together with the world and reach an international level of education.

Humanitarian Space

Overcoming the threat to aid workers

Source: [BBC](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 21, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

The killing of a British aid worker in Afghanistan has again highlighted the dangers posed to humanitarian staff in many parts of the world. BBC News looks at the threats and what can be done to ease them. Aid work is about helping those less fortunate than yourself, but for hundreds of humanitarian workers in the world's most dangerous countries the threat of violence goes hand in hand with their chosen path. The shooting of aid worker Gayle Williams, who had dual British and South African nationality, adds to a death toll that has reached almost 30 in Afghanistan alone during the past year, according to the UN.

fiscal year 2008 and for the first time one organization will be able to offer three schemes of help all 'under one roof' including technical assistance, soft loans and grant aid.

Finance and Funding

CERF Newsletter

Source: [OCHA](#)

Document: Report

Date: October, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Monthly report on the Central Emergency Response Fund.

Quarterly Regional Humanitarian Funding Update

Source: [OCHA](#)

Document: Report

Date: September 30, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Regional Humanitarian Funding Update for July – September 2008

منتدى يقف على تداعيات الأزمة المالية العالمية وأثرها على اقتصاد العراق

Iraq forum to study consequences of world financial crisis

Source: [Al Sumaria](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 21, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

وف على تداعيات الأزمة المالية العالمية بهدف الوفاء وأثرها على اقتصاد البلاد، عقد عدد من رجال

الأعمال والاقتصاديين مُلتقى، دعا الى ضرورة النهوض بواقع الاقتصاد العراقي والاعتماد على قطاعاتٍ بديلة عن القطاع النفطي كالقطاعات هتمام الزراعي والصناعي، بالإضافة الى الامتياز للمزيد من التنمية البشرية التفصيل، شاهد الفيديو الخاص بهذا التقرير

In aim to consider the consequences of the world financial crisis on Iraq's economy, a number of businessmen and economists held a forum stressing the necessity to raise Iraq's economy and depend on alternative sectors other than the oil sector such as the agricultural and industrial sectors in addition to human resources development.

Trends in Humanitarian Funding

Source: [HR](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 5, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Humanitarian funding has increased steadily since the early 1990s. The total amount spent on humanitarian assistance by the twenty-two major donors that comprise the Development Assistance

Committee(DAC) has grown from \$3 billion in 1990 to approximately \$9 billion in 2006, the last year for which full figures are available. This represents slightly less than 9% of the \$102 billion spent by DAC donors that year. Geographically, Africa received 46% of all humanitarian funding in 2006, up

from 29% in 2000. Asia's share of humanitarian funding increased from 29% to 34% over that time, while the amount allocated to the Middle East (15 - 14%) and the Americas (4 - 5%) remained constant. .

Coordination

[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

[العراقي الاحمر الهلال لجمعية صحفى بيان](#)

Source: [IRCO](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 17, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

A press announcement of the Iraqi Red Crescent Organisation, concerning the election of a new board.

[UNICEF Humanitarian action update - Iraq](#)

Source: [UNICEF](#)

Document: Report

Date: October 17, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

An update on UNICEF's activities in Iraq.

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: [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.

[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

[Return Directive – standards lowered to the minimum](#)

Source: [OPU](#)

Document: Article

Date: October 2008

Access: [Open](#)

A discussion of the proposed EU Return Directive.

Schedule Updates

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

- Monday 27th October - Education SOT Meeting, Amman (No time available yet)
- Tuesday 28th October - POT Meeting - 2pm UNHCR Iraq, Amman
- Sunday 2nd November – Special IHF Meeting on PDS Reform – 3pm, IOM, Amman

Upcoming important dates

- October 25/Shawwal 25 - Anniversary of Imam Jafar al Sadiq's Martyrdom
- October 29/Shawwal 29 - Anniversary of Prophet Ibrahim's Death
- October 30/ Thw al-Qi`dah-01 - Al-Hudaibea Truce / Fatima Bint Imam Al-Kadhom's 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

- Call for candidates fro the 30th International Human Rights Training Program, Montreal, Canada, June 14 to July 3, 2009. Further information can be found [here](#)
- Call for nominations of candidates for the 2nd Tri-Cluster training (Health, Nutrition and WASH), to be held 3rd-8th November 2008. Further information can be found [here](#)
- Call for applications to a discussion entitled "Building 'Whole of Community' Conflict Prevention", to be held October 30th, Washington DC. Further information can be found [here](#)
- Air Serv October 2008 schedule can be checked [here](#)
- CVs can be uploaded [here](#)
- CVs can be checked [here](#)
- Employment opportunities can be examined [here](#)