



UNAMI FOCUS

Voice of the Mission

News Bulletin - Issue 38

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SRSR Ad Melkert Visits the IHEC



SRSR Melkert at the Press Conference with Chairman Al-Haydari (UN Photo / Richard Bajomas)



Parliamentary and Presidential elections in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. (UNAMI/Rick Bajomas)



Exhibition marking the UN Day - Amman 22-24 October 2009

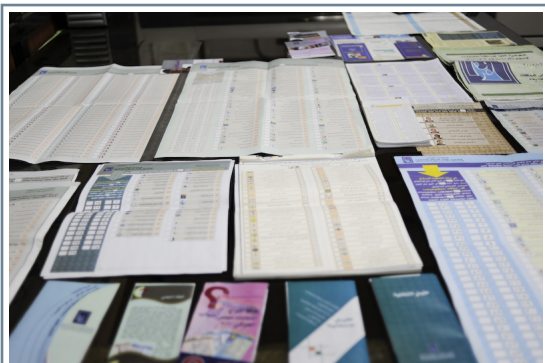
SRSG Ad Melkert Visits the IHEC



SRSG Melkert at the Press Conference with Chairman Al-Haydari (UN Photo / Richard Bajornas)

On 3 October 2009, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Iraq Ad Melkert visited the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC), based in Baghdad, to view the ongoing preparations for the forthcoming national elections. He was received by the Chairman of the IHEC Board of Commissioners Faraj Al-Haydari and by UNAMI International Technical Electoral Advisor and Head of the Electoral Team Ms. Sandra Mitchell. The officials walked Mr. Melkert through the IHEC various units, including the design, data and audit centers.

In touring the Graphic Design section, Mrs. Hamdiya Al-Hussaini, IHEC Chief Electoral Officer showed Mr. Melkert the various samples of ballots designed by the specialized election commission team, including the forms that will be used depending on whether the Election Law



Material displayed at the Graphic Design Section (UN Photo/Richard Bajornas)

will opt for an open or a closed list. She also pointed out to a poster entitled, "My Voice is my Future", with women and men representing Iraq's multi-ethnic diversity. Illustrating how hard the IHEC team has been working, Al Hussaini explained to Melkert that the IHEC had produced enough material to suffice for the next election campaigns in Iraq. She also emphasized the independence of the commission and its need for support from the international community and the UN.

In response, Mr. Melkert said, "You could be assured that the UN will continue providing assistance to the IHEC and to the Iraqi people", stressing the importance for the elections to take place in January of 2010, and thus the importance for the Council of Representatives (CoR) to approve the law to move ahead with the preparations. Acknowledging that there has been a lot of questions and criticisms of the IHEC, the SRSG emphasized that this is part of democracy and all parliamentarians should come together to give Iraq such an opportunity.



IHEC Data Entry Center (UN Photo / Richard Bajornas)

Following the tour of IHEC offices, a joint press conference was held by IHEC Chairman and the SRSG. In his statement, Mr. Melkert said, "It is important for the UN to meet the High Commissioner and the staff working here, to review the entire operation. The UN is very proud to help the IHEC and the people of Iraq".

In relation to the Election Law, the SRSG said, "I trust that the CoR will pass it as soon as possible", adding that the discussions currently taking place are only normal in any parliament in a democracy. He also commented about the thousands of Iraqi civil servants who have been working around the clock to prepare for these elections, saying "We look forward to the elections that will be held in January 2010".

To a question on the potential UN effort in coordinating international observers to monitor the elections, Mr. Melkert responded that the UN is willing to assist with such an endeavor upon an official request from the IHEC. And on possible external interference in the electoral process, the SRSG emphasized that "Elections are a prerogative of the Iraqi people alone; anything else should be support and not interference".

The Board of Commissioners Chairman Faraj Al-Haydari for his part, called on the CoR to "Approve the law by 15 October 2009, so we could move ahead with the preparations as we only have 100 days left". He also thanked the UN electoral team working with the IHEC, for their expertise in building systems and capacities.

Head of the UN Electoral Team Sandra Mitchell, said that "Today, the SRSG was able to see first hand the election commission completing the update of the final register and the preparation of ballot design for the January election. Now all the election commission needs is clarity on the law from the CoR".

The Iraqis and the Elections



Iraqi people in Baghdad streets (UN Photo/ZaidFahmi)

By Zaid Fahmi

As we go online, the fate of the elections of the Iraqi Council Representatives, scheduled for 16 January 2010 hangs in the balance. Iraqi parliamentarians and political party leaders have been earnestly negotiating a way out of the present deadlock and pass pertinent amendments to the 2005 elections law required for conducting the elections on time. Assuming that it does, we are

only about ten weeks away from this auspicious day that is likely to affect Iraq's political future profoundly. Despite the countdown, many Iraqis are still undecided on which way to vote.

Drawing on lessons learned from the 2005 CoR elections, substantial number of Iraqis views these elections as an important turning point that will change their lives for the better.

"We voted in 2005 elections despite the difficult security conditions, and we defied the obstacles in that time, and we did our role in this country. Now we should be more motivated because most of these obstacles have been overcome." Engineer Ali Naji said. "Many people voted on sectarian bases in 2005, but once they realized that this kind of voting was wrong because their selected representatives failed on delivering their promises in living normal life, so I think in the upcoming elections the Iraqis will do better than 2005," he added.

Others like Thuriya Al-Khateeb, a school teacher in a girls school agree with engineer Ali in this matter. She said, "We should go to the poll stations in the upcoming elections and we should exercise our right by voting, because it's the only way if we want to change things in Iraq, and I believe this time the Iraqi people will chose better than 2005."

Other people view the upcoming elections as an important tool for "combating the rampant corruption" among Iraqi politicians. "It's important to go to the next election and vote to choose the right people to serve the country, and election is the only weapon that we can use as Iraqis against the corrupted politicians and move them from their positions to replace them with better ones," said Nather Jawad a shop owner said.

For some, the conflicting and widely varied news accounts and statements about the elections from different sides as reported in the media is more a cause for confusion rather and a tool for clarification. The resultant frustration may sap the enthusiasm of other voters to cast their ballots, resigned to believing that voting will not bring real change.

To emphasize the point Jamal Qasim a shop owner said "I don't know what's going on anymore in Iraq. I am confused. Too many conflicting news about the different politicians fighting about the elections and about their interests. I don't see them fighting for our interests as Iraqis and I have many doubts about the honesty of the parliament and the government, so I think I will not vote in the next elections."

Echoing ---, Zahra Kareem an employee in ministry of trade said, "I don't think I will vote in the next election, because nothing will change in Iraq...the same figures in 2005 are the same in 2010, they did nothing for us during their ruling in the last years, and they will do nothing now, or in the future, so what's the point of going to vote."

Another, Ahmed Sabah a college student said, "It was a big mistake I made in 2005 when I voted and I will never repeat that again, we brought the people who run things now in parliament and government; and they didn't do anything for us, and we were so shallow when we believed their promises and thought they will make a difference in Iraq."

Award for Excellence to Head of UNHCR for Iraq Daniel Endres for building a strong team



Daniel Endres, UNHCR Representative in Iraq

By Randa Jamal

On 5 October 2009, the Deputy High Commissioner, L. Craig Johnstone of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees issued a press release announcing the Awards for Excellence in Field of Service. The Deputy Commissioner also paid tribute to colleagues who lost their lives serving the field and noted that regardless of the circumstances, staff remains committed to fulfilling UNHCR's mandate.

Several years ago the premiere refugee Commission launched these annual awards to recognize individuals and teams for their contribution. One

award went to UNHCR Representative Daniel Endres of Iraq, in recognition of building a strong, motivated and productive team in a volatile and insecure environment.

A graduate of Christchurch and Pantheon-Sorbonne Universities in Law and Political Science, Endres joined UNHCR in 1989 where he first served in Peshawar, Pakistan, as Associate Protection Officer. In his current position, and although he had a challenging and difficult role, Endres quickly built a team to address the serious challenges that face more than two million Iraqi refugees in neighboring countries and another two million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) within the country.

Endres accepted the award only on behalf of his team, which surprised his admiring colleagues. One Iraqi staff member said the prize made them feel proud of having made a difference in the lives of refugees, returnees, and IDPs. A national protection officer said, "Endres treated us like colleagues; he would even introduce us before he introduces himself", while another staff member noted that Endres taught how to resolve conflict, address emerging issues and deliver UNHCR's messages more articulately. Another Iraqi national staff emphasized the importance of UNHCR's work in creating a first step towards having a UN agency that is in touch with the community.

The Executive Assistant Emad AbdulMagid described Endres management and leadership skills: "he delegates responsibilities and gives confidence to his staff who also take part in making decisions". With several responsibilities and a busy daily schedule, Mr. Endres gives utmost attention to details and doesn't hesitate to spend time receiving direct calls from people of concern who want to discuss their cases. For example, he is in direct contact with the people of concern at the border or in the camps. He also worked hard to ensure that other operational UN and international agencies come into one consolidated and collaborative approach. Given the unusual work environment in Iraq, it was challenging to fully implement UNHCR's policies and programmes and to manage over 130 staff members at the same time.

Apparently, UNHCR team will be close to 200 by end of the year. UNHCR's Reporting Officer, Maha Sidky, agreed that Daniel is an exceptional supervisor who motivates and empowers staff. She said, he has a way of making every single one of us feel indispensable.

It takes an inspiring leader to win such a prestigious award a reminder of the determination and perseverance of the organization to carry on with its work.

Political alliances ahead of Iraq's 2010 election

Source: Reuters World Service Date: October 31, 2009

Oct 31 (Reuters) - Several alliances, many presenting themselves as nationalists who have rejected the sectarianism that pitted Iraq's majority Shi'ites and once dominant Sunnis against each other, plan to compete in the parliamentary election in January

While allegiances are fluid and may yet shift again, here is a list of what appear to be the likely major coalitions and alliances that will contest the Jan. 16 poll.

STATE OF LAW

- Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki has created a broad-based alliance of his Dawa party and other groups including some Sunni tribal leaders, Shi'ite Kurds, Christians and independents. Dawa's roots are Islamist, but the coalition plans to run on a non-sectarian platform. It hopes that security gains under Maliki and promises to improve public services and ensure Iraq remains a strong, united state will win it seats. Maliki's allies were the main winners of 2009 provincial elections fought on the same platform.

IRAQI NATIONAL ALLIANCE

- The Shi'ite alliance bringing together the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council (ISCI), followers of anti-American cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, Basra-based Fadhila, a few Sunni leaders, former prime minister Ibrahim Jaafari, Ahmed Chalabi -- a former exile who played a key role before the 2003 U.S. invasion -- and some smaller groups is the main rival to Maliki's coalition. ISCI and the Sadrists have lost ground since holding sway over the Shi'ite electorate only a few years ago. Some observers say the group may split after the vote, which will be run on an anti-Maliki stance, because of disagreements between ISCI and the Sadrists.

KURDS

- The Kurdish coalition is dominated by the two parties administering Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region. The Kurdish Democratic Party led by the region's president, Masoud Barzani, and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan headed by Iraq's national president, Jalal Talabani, are both secular in nature and enjoy close ties with the West. The two parties faced a major challenge in Kurdistan's parliamentary vote this year from the Change bloc, which won about a quarter of the seats.

TRIBAL LEADERS

- Tribal leaders will play an important role in the election and are being courted by major parties looking to boost their national vote. Some of Iraq's Sunni tribal leaders sprang to prominence when U.S. forces began backing local sheikhs against al Qaeda in western provinces. Their ranks are riven by dissent and they have been unable to form a united front.

TAWAFUQ

- Since the 2005 national elections al-Tawafuq, or the Sunni-based Iraqi Accordance Front, has seen many splits and divisions, and now consists of the Iraqi Islamic Party (IIP) and some tribal leaders. The IIP was the only major Sunni bloc to participate in the 2005 election. The group, which includes the speaker of parliament, is unlikely to gain the same number of seats due to divisions within the Sunni electorate.

IRAQIYA

- Former Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, a secular Shi'ite, has joined up with senior Sunni politician Saleh al-Mutlaq to run on a non-sectarian platform. The alliance is campaigning on a theme of national unity and may yet end up also including Iraqi Vice President Tarek al-Hashemi.

IRAQ'S UNITY

- Interior Minister Jawad al-Bolani, Ahmed Abu Risha, a top leader of anti-al Qaeda tribal sheikhs, and Ahmed Abdul Ghafour al-Samarrai of the Sunni Endowment have also formed a group.

MINORITY PARTIES

- Iraq's minority Turkmen, Christians, Yazidis, Sa-beans, Assyrians, Shabak, Faili Kurds and others are likely to ally with a bigger party in areas where they are not dominant.

FACTBOX-Who has eye on Iraq prime minister's post?

Source: Reuters World Service Date: October 31, 2009

Oct 31 (Reuters) - A plethora of alliances are contesting Iraq's parliamentary election on Jan. 16, with none of them likely to garner a clear majority. That means it may take weeks if not months for parliament to pick the next prime minister.

The following are political figures who have been mentioned as possible prime ministerial candidates:

- **Nuri al-Maliki** - The current prime minister is contesting the upcoming election at the head of the State of Law coalition. While his Dawa party has Islamist roots, Maliki has rebranded himself as a secular nationalist campaigning on a platform that seeks credit for increased security in Iraq, calls for improved public services and promotes a vision of a strong unified Iraq.

The coalition he is leading into the national election is similar in nature to one that performed strongly, especially in the Shi'ite south, in provincial elections in January 2009. The last months of Maliki's tenure has seen a flurry of multibillion dollar deals with global oil majors, a move analysts say is meant to tell voters that he also intends to promote prosperity.

Maliki has emerged as a strong leader, and is regarded as sincere and honest by supporters. But Maliki is viewed by some as quick to anger and divisive -- he has managed to turn many former political allies into foes -- and critics question his willingness to seek reconciliation with once dominant Sunnis.

- **Bayan Jabor** - A prominent leader in the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council (ISCI), one of Maliki's main Shi'ite partners-turned-rivals in the election. Jabor has been the finance minister in Maliki's government. He was the interior minister under the previous government of Ibrahim al-Jaafari, when death squads ran riot in the Interior Ministry. The chaos that governed the ministry did not reflect well on Jabor.

An engineer by training, Jabor has kept somewhat to the background as finance minister. His discourse comes across as more practical than political.

- **Ayad Allawi** - A secular Shi'ite, Allawi was prime minister in the Iraqi Interim Government from 2004 to 2005. His political bloc, the Iraqi National List, has fractured but he has now formed an alliance, under the Iraqiya banner, with prominent Sunni politician Saleh al-Mutlaq. Iraqi Vice President Tarek al-Hashemi may also join.

A doctor by training, Allawi has become a leading critic of Maliki's government and of the U.S. invasion. Once also highly critical of Iranian meddling in Iraq, and in particular of Tehran's support for Shi'ite militia, Allawi is reported to have since sought to mend fences. He speaks fluent English.

- **Ibrahim al-Jaafari** - A Shi'ite politician, Jaafari was prime minister in the Iraqi Transitional Government between 2005 and 2006. Jaafari was the head of Maliki's Dawa party but left it amid disagreement. He has joined the Iraqi National

Alliance headed by ISCI. He is also a doctor by training.

- **Adel Abdul-Mahdi** - A senior leader in ISCI, and member of a family that has been involved in politics since the days of the Iraqi monarchy, Abdul-Mahdi was a member of the Baath party before Saddam Hussein seized power, then became a prominent Marxist and ultimately an Islamist.

He is currently one of the country's two vice presidents after being finance minister under Allawi. He is viewed as friendly toward foreign investment and business, and speaks fluent French.

- **Ahmed Chalabi** - A secular Shi'ite, Chalabi rose to prominence as leader of the then-exiled Iraqi National Congress which played a major role in encouraging the U.S. administration of former President George W. Bush to invade Iraq and oust Saddam. Once viewed in Washington as its preferred future Iraqi leader, he lost favour among his American benefactors amid accusations that he had passed information to arch-foe Iran.

Chalabi has joined the Iraqi National Alliance led by ISCI.

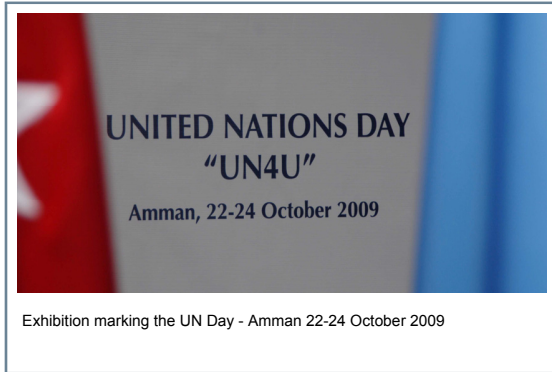
- **Jawad al-Bolani** - Currently interior minister, Bolani is believed to have irritated others in the government, especially Maliki, when he formed the Constitution Party ahead of the January 2009 provincial election. The party did not perform strongly and Bolani had been expected by many to link up with Maliki for the national election.

Instead he has formed an alliance with Ahmed Abu Risha, a prominent leader of anti-al Qaeda tribal sheikhs, and Ahmed Abdul Ghafour al-Samarrai of the Sunni Endowment, a government body that supervises Sunni mosques and properties. Their list is called Iraq's Unity. Bolani was an army officer under Saddam.

- **Qassam Daoud** - A liberal Shi'ite politician, Daoud was a member of Allawi's Iraqiya list and minister of national security under Allawi. He left to join the Shi'ite alliance backing Maliki's government and has signed up with the ISCI- and Sadrist-led INA for the coming election.

- **Raad Mawlud Mukhlis** - Son of a family of prominent Sunni politicians based in Saddam's hometown of Tikrit, Mukhlis is not particularly well-known. He has joined Bolani's Iraq's Unity list. His family was severely repressed by Saddam and some of his relatives executed. He headed a party running in the last election in 2005 but it failed to perform strongly.

“Meet the UN” Exhibition Marked the UN Day Celebration This Year



Hundreds of people came together over the weekend of 22-24 October, to mark the UN Day, which was celebrated at Al-Hussein Cultural Center, in Jordan's capital, Amman.

During a three-day exhibition “ Meet the UN” shaped around this year's theme, “UN4U”, staff from 17 UN agencies shared information on ongoing programmes and projects with the public, and engaged in discussions with visitors, on the UN's work in Iraq and Jordan.

The event, which marks the 64th anniversary of the United Nations, was organized by the UN Jordan Communication Group, in close coordination with the UN in Iraq Advocacy Working Group.

Speaking at the official opening of the UN Day, attended by hundred of citizens, government officials, representatives of diplomatic missions, civil



Exhibition marking the UN Day - Amman 22-24 October 2009

society partners and media representatives, UN Resident Coordinator Luc Stevens, said: “Engaging with people through our work and on the role we play is therefore critical to the UN's activities, and we always welcome feedback on how we can better meet people's needs”.

During the interactive exhibition which followed, the public met with representatives of the UN agencies where they were able to ask questions and discuss their different activities, while the UN advocacy and public information material displayed on stands and stalls like publications, posters, videos, and handicrafts attracted a large degree of interest and attention.

In what could be described as a “family event”, many visitors came back several times bringing friends and family, and beyond members of the public there were school teachers, university professors, NGO representatives, diplomatic community staff, Government officials, taking information with them and spreading it further.

Many Iraqis, living in Jordan, were particularly interested in the UN in Iraq stand and staff working with associations for Iraqis in Jordan were happy to receive maps and other UN background and reference material to use in their activities.

While sharing their “Enthusiasm and commitment in working and delivering as ONE”, many of the event's organizers who worked tirelessly to make it happen, expressed their strong determination to undertake such an event next year in Baghdad to maximize the UN's outreach to the Iraqi people.

GENDER: A significant factor in determining whether or not women vote, shows a survey

By Jacky Sutton - UNDP

As Iraq's politicians gear up for parliamentary elections in January 2010, the results of a poll commissioned by the United Nations indicates that more focus needs to be placed on women's access to electoral information. The poll by YouGov, which builds on research commissioned for the provincial council elections in January 2009, has found that gender is a significant factor in determining whether or not women vote, their reasons for doing so and the preferred media for accessing information on which to base their decision.

The survey on ‘The Participation of Women in Iraq's Elections’ was based on the discussions of



Parliamentary and Presidential elections in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. (UNAMI/Rick Bajornas)

eight focus groups of women conducted in June 2009 in Baghdad, Anbar and Mosul. The Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Governorates were not included in this exercise as it was linked to the provincial council elections of January 2009; the KRG elections were held later that year.



Parliamentary and Presidential elections in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. (UNAMI/Rick Bajornas)

The objective of the original survey, 'The Iraqi Provincial Election Study', was to explore public perceptions of electoral processes and institutions in the run up to the elections. It provided an unprecedented snapshot of voter attitudes towards politicians, institutions such as the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC), and the concept of electoral democracy itself. When findings indicated significant differences between men and women in relation to elections, it was decided to explore this issue further to enable the UN to develop targeted strategies to enable women's participation in electoral processes.

Data from the original study indicated that sect was the strongest predictor of political attitudes – more important than age, gender, education or any other variable. For this reason the study 'The Participation of Women in Iraq's Elections' considered sect as a factor in the selection of the focus group location. However given the sensitive nature of the

subject and to create the conditions for free, fair, uninhibited and unbiased discussions, the primary variable in group demographics was education.

The results were clear – there is a direct correlation between formal education and voting. Those women who had no formal education were far less likely to vote and those with the highest academic qualifications were the most likely to have heard of the Iraqi election commission, the IHEC.

Another significant obstacle to women's enfranchisement was a lack of accurate information. Unlike men, who were more likely to turn to the IHEC, peer groups or television for information, women respondents were more likely to listen to the radio for electoral related information. Another constraint that emerged was the lack of basic information about candidates' reputations or their policy platforms, as well as media follow up on whether campaign promises had indeed been kept.

The study also indicated widespread disillusionment among women with politicians and political processes. Four years ago, said many respondents, there was a sense of optimism as the population geared up for Iraq's first elections in January 2005. "It was like a big wedding celebration," one respondent is quoted as saying. Four years on, as far as respondents were concerned, the honeymoon is over for Iraq's politicians and women look for evidence of progress - services, jobs and security – before they commit themselves to vote.

The Kut Dam

By Mohammed ATABI, Government Liaison Officer – Al-Wasit Province

In addition to being an irrigation project designed to bring water to the al-Gharraf and al-Dujailah Rivers by shifting water from north to south for seasonal planting of crops and vegeta-



The Kut Dam from the right bank of the Tigris River (UN Photo/ Mohammad Atabi)



A commercial street near the Kut Dam (UN Photo Mohammad Atabi)

bles, the Kut Dam is one of the most important architectural monuments in al-Kut city. The al-Kut city logo, which is usually used by the local authorities and also for sport, scientific, artistic and cultural festivals held in Wasit Province, is represented by the Kut Dam. In summer evenings, after long hot days, al-Kut citizens usually cross the dam on foot or bike to enjoy the fresh breeze that flows from the Tigris and also the fascinating sunset. Restaurants, parks and cafes are opened in the commercial streets surrounding the Kut Dam and attract many passers by.

The Kut Dam was built on the Tigris River in the 1930's by an English contractor company called Balfour, to regulate the distribution of water among Wasit, Thi Qar and Maysan provinces, from the Gharraf and Dujailah rivers. Consulting engineers in London provided the full design of the Kut Dam, and construction work started in late 1934. Many Iraqi inhabitants of al-Kut were hired to work on the project and their families still tell the stories of their fathers, grand fathers, uncles or brothers' participation in achieving such a colossal task, and proudly display the very rare photos they still possess on this challenging period of their life.



The Kut Dam has 56 Gates (UN Photo/Mohammed Atabi)

The Kut Dam was officially inaugurated by King Ghazi on 29 March 1939. The 550 meters long dam has 56 gates; each is 6 meters large and 6.5 meters high. The gates are operated electrically as well as manually. The original bridge was one lane wide, and in 1967 a second lane was added to facilitate the movement of vehicles between the two banks of the Tigris. The navigation lock on the left, which is 5, 16 meters large and 50 meters long, has a single lane, which causes huge traffic jams as hundreds of cars have to wait for more than one hour the traffic police officer's green signal to cross it. Although an additional bridge is under construction near the Kut Dam, local residents hope that the single lane navigation lock will also be enlarged to ease the traffic flow.

The ongoing expansion works also include the fish pass to allow the flow of the largest number possible of fish in the opposite direction of the stream water. Local fishermen, who remember the happy days when the river surrounding the Kut Dam was flooded with fish, in particular the "shabut", today deplore that due to the current low level of the Tigris River waters, this much praised fish has become a very rare species.

UN Agencies Active in Iraq Segment

UN Agencies' Activities* October 2009

- UNESCO, UNICEF and the World Bank jointly sponsored a simulation workshop for 17 planners and statistics from the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Planning in Baghdad and the KRG to help formulate the National Education Strategy for Iraq.
- WHO, UNICEF and a number of international non-governmental organisations joined efforts to support activities for the Global Hand Washing Day on 15 October 2009 where they outreached to 120 schools in the 18 governorates of Iraq.
- Supported by the European Union and implemented through UNDP, UNOPS and its implementing partner "The Arab Institute for Human Rights" a workshop took place on International Norms and Instruments for Pro-

motion and Protection of Detainees, Prisoners and Vulnerable People's Rights". The workshop was attended among others by representatives from the Iraqi Government's Prison's Office and the Ministry of Human Rights.

- WHO conducted a three day workshop on data management in Erbil for 18 managers and expanded programme on immunization in Iraq.
- UNICEF conducted five training courses on solid waste management for 100 staff from the Iraqi government to improve their knowledge and application of the technical components to manage solid waste. This comes in support of the Ministries of Municipalities and Environment.
- UNICEF trained a total of 10 staff and teachers from the KRG Ministry of Education for ten days to become trainers/focal point in accelerated learning program (ALP) schools that are provided with computers.
- UNAMI/HRO met in northern Iraq with the Civil Society Initiative (CSI), a member organization of Sulaymaniyah Federation of NGOs, which has been granted the permission by the government to conduct visits to KRG detention facilities. The meeting was dedicated to discussions on human rights and detainees situation in the detention facilities.
- UNOPS conducted a workshop on international standards of protection for detainees and prisoners for 26 trainees from Iraqi NGO's and government officials from Ministries of Defence, Justice, Interior, Human Rights and the directors of prisons.
- UNAMI HRO and UNOPS, with implementing partner ICMP, completed the training on excavation techniques for 22 trainees in Baghdad. Participants were from the Ministry of Human Rights and the Medical Legal Institute. Participants acquired skills on using specific tools and scientific methods to identify bodies discovered in mass graves.

* Information provided by the UNAMI Development & Humanitarian Section.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

MESSAGE ON UN DAY

24 October 2009

On this United Nations Day and every day throughout the year, the United Nations is at work -- for the planet, for jobs, for "we the peoples".

We deliver more humanitarian aid than anyone -- and to the toughest places. We vaccinate 40 per cent of the world's children. We feed more than 100 million people and are helping more than 30 million refugees, most of them women and children fleeing war and persecution. We are deploying more peacekeepers than ever -- more than 115,000. In the last year alone, we provided electoral assistance to almost 50 countries. And the entire UN system has mobilized to face global economic turmoil and the social unrest it threatens.

People look to the United Nations to defeat poverty and hunger, to keep the peace, to expand education and stand up for human rights in every corner of the globe. They look to us to stop the spread of deadly weapons and disease, and to protect people and families hit by disasters. In December, they will look to us to seal a comprehensive, equitable and ambitious deal on climate change that will protect us all and pave the way toward a greener, more sustainable economy.

This is a unique moment in world affairs. Multiple crises -- food, fuel, financial, flu -- are hitting at once. Climate change looms larger every day. Each illustrates a 21st century truth: we share one planet, one home. As people, as nations, as a species, we sink or swim together.

The United Nations is doing its utmost to respond -- to address the big issues, to look at the big picture. We are forging a new multilateralism that can deliver real results for all people, especially those most in need. But I am also painfully aware of the distance to go and the gap between commitment and action. On this UN Day, let us resolve to redouble our efforts on behalf of the vulnerable, the powerless, the defenceless. Let us stand more united than ever -- united in purpose and united in action to make the world a safer, better place.

- [The United Nations in Iraq - Frequently Asked Questions, Oct 2009](#)
- [IOM Iraq - The Story of Zahra'a](#)
- [UNESCO Iraq Office - The ABC's of Empowerment](#)
- [UNDP - THE HIDDEN DANGER / Clearance by Humanitarian Demining Organization \(Basrah\), Son of Haji Jeheel story](#)
- [UNDP - THE HIDDEN DANGER / Victim Assistance \(Erbil\), Hakim story](#)
- [WHO - Helping to Cure Tuberculosis in Iraq](#)
- [OCHA - ERF Iraq - Spotlight on Peace Winds Japan](#)

Quotes from Iraqis

- "Is the blood of Iraqis very cheap and I ask how many victims will it take to convince the government that it has totally failed?" Hameed Salam, a former army officer now driving a taxicab – Reuters- 26 Oct. 2009
- "What we are afraid of, if there is any delay to the elections... is this may create problems for security in general," said Lieutenant General Ali Ghaidan Majeed, Iraq's army chief. AFP- 27 Oct. 2009.
- "Democracy would not be defeated in Iraq and the Iraqi people would not accept the killers as rulers again in Iraq. They acquired a lot of experience through the political process during the last six years to distinguish between those faithful for their country and the killers," lawmaker Izzat Al-Shahbander- NINA – 27 Oct. 2009.
- "The government is still unable to provide security stability to citizens in many areas, so we urge it to deploy National Police and security forces all over Baghdad areas." MP Haneen al-Qaddo of the United Iraqi Alliance, NINA, 27 Oct. 2009.
- "Maliki is not a superman and he cannot take control over the security of the country unless there is cooperation and union between the parties and politicians." Alaa Hussain, a former military officer. 26 Oct 2009, Reuters
- "Over the past week, we diagnosed four cases of H1N1 influenza among school students in the southern province of Kut, then the number increased to 25 cases and that prompted us to quarantine and shut down the school [where the cases were detected]," Ihsan Jaafar, a senior Health Ministry official. Reuters, 22 Oct. 2009.
- "The action of the British immigration authorities is indeed considered a unilateral step ... sending persons to a country without verifying their identity and whether they were Iraqis or not is wrong," Ali al-Dabbagh, Iraqi state television. 17 Oct. 2009.

- "We will not go to the parliament session if we are asked to vote on multiple options for Kirkuk. The Kurdish list will boycott the session," Kurdish lawmaker Khalid Shwani, Reuters, 29, Oct. 2009.
- "God willing, the violence will end as soon as possible and Turkish and Kurdish youth will shed no more blood," Iraqi Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani, Reuters, 30 Oct. 2009.
- "The sectarian fronts, whether Shi'ite or Sunni, are being rejected by Iraqis because they represent an era Iraqis are so keen to change," Haider al-Mula, a member of the party formed by Allawi and Mutlaq. Reuters, 31 Oct. 2009.

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