

[Despite the Optimism, Iraq is Close to the Edge](#)

Troops are preparing to withdraw as a peace of sorts descends, yet all the elements for civil war remain. Barack Obama will need all the goodwill he can garner

George W Bush, barely a month away from leaving office, flew to Baghdad last weekend for an eight-hour visit. On Wednesday, it was Gordon Brown's turn. The arrival of president and prime minister in the Iraqi capital is part of a concerted effort to draw a line under the debacle that Iraq has become for the American and British governments. After nearly six years of occupation, Bush was keen to stress the progress he claimed had been made.

"The Iraq we're standing in today is dramatically freer, dramatically safer and dramatically better," he told American troops. Brown was a little more circumspect, simply declaring: "We leave Iraq a better place." The startling actions of Iraqi journalist Muntazar al-Zaidi in throwing his shoes at Bush indicates that all is not as positive as Bush would have the world believe. There is a grave danger that by overstating the good news from Iraq, both Bush and Brown are making a return to civil war more likely.

I have been travelling back and forth to Iraq for the last seven years. I witnessed the violent aftermath of the invasion in the spring of 2003 when looting and lawlessness descended into an all out insurgency. I returned in 2007 to see a country in the midst of civil war. On my last trip to Iraq this year, the population was holding its breath, waiting to see if the internecine strife had finished or simply stalled while all sides rearm.

Bush and Brown's visits were heralded by what could be a final date for both US and British troops to go home. The agreement between Baghdad and Washington, passed by the Iraqi parliament at the end of November, should see US combat troops removed from all Iraqi cities by June and then out of the country entirely by the end of 2011. Britain's remaining 4,000 soldiers in Basra will leave Iraq by July. With an end to the occupation in sight, both Bush and Brown are attempting to put the best possible gloss on a military adventure that has seen 178 British and 4,209 Americans troops killed and anything between 90,000 and 650,000 Iraqi deaths.

Anglo-American declarations of progress and stability need to be treated with caution. Even today, Iraq is far from peaceful; an average of 500 people are murdered each month, making it one of the most dangerous countries in the world. Baghdad at the end of 2008 is a deeply divided city. Neighbourhoods that were religiously and ethnically cleansed by the wave of violence that engulfed the city before 2007 are now fortified by row upon row of concrete blast walls.

Bush "surged" US troops at the beginning of 2007 to reduce violence and trigger some form of political reconciliation and a negotiated settlement. This is yet to happen, so there is a real danger all-out conflict could reignite. Bush and Brown are loathe to use the term "civil war" to describe what took place in Iraq in 2006 and 2007 but this is exactly what happened.

The manner in which key political groups responded to the violence raises grave doubts about the future stability of the country. In the wake of al-Qaida car bomb and suicide attacks, militias claiming to represent the Shia community retaliated, abducting and murdering innocent Sunni men across Baghdad. This cycle of atrocity and counter-atrocity resulted in the murder of 3,700 people in October 2006 alone. Some were victims of car bombs but the majority of the dead had been bound, frequently tortured and shot in the back of the head, the work of death squads claiming to defend the Shia community of Baghdad.

The ultimate aim of this campaign was to reduce drastically the numbers of Sunnis resident in Baghdad. Previously affluent suburbs on the western side of the Tigris such as Mansour and Yarmouk were targeted for violent population transfer. There is also strong circumstantial evidence to suggest that government services were withdrawn from these areas as part of a co-ordinated campaign to drive Sunnis from Baghdad. In early 2007, as I travelled through these previously affluent suburbs of Baghdad, I found them to be largely deserted, their markets and shops closed, their populations either trapped inside their houses or forced to flee.

The optimism that both Bush and Brown displayed in Baghdad is naive. Al-Qaida in Mesopotamia have shown that they have the continuing ability to send car and suicide bombers into Baghdad. Across Iraq as a whole, there were 24 such attacks in November alone. The problem is that without meaningful political reconciliation and a sustainable peace deal, Iraq could once again descend into all-out civil war.

After nearly almost six years of occupation, a US withdrawal from Iraq is both inevitable and desirable. There is little that the Americans can now achieve on their own. Obama has committed his government to having all of its combat troops out of the country within 16 months of him entering the White House. Even with a clear electoral mandate to pursue this policy, there are potential problems he has to avoid. If violence does increase as he draws down US troops, then the Republicans and especially ex-President Bush will accuse him of "losing Iraq", of squandering the gains in security made in the two years before he took office.

There is a way of reducing this risk. The election of Obama was greeted with something like a global sigh of relief. The new American president will enter the White House with an immense amount of international goodwill. He could utilise this in Iraq to very good effect. Obama's international influence will be at its peak when he visits the United Nations in New York for the first time as president. A speech before the General Assembly will have to acknowledge the damage that his predecessor did to America's standing in the world. A clear request for international help in sorting Iraq out would have immense appeal.

Iraq faces two elections in 2009. The first, in January, is for provincial councils in the south and centre of the country. The second, more important, one in December will elect a new parliament which, in turn, will pick the next prime minister. It is hard to overstate the importance of this election. If successful, it has the potential to revitalise Iraq's governing elite, bringing in new, more representative politicians and reconnecting the ruling elite, presently tucked away in the Green Zone, with their long-suffering electorate.

There is a grave danger that the elections could be undermined, either by increased violence or by widespread electoral fraud. At present, the United Nations is set to play a minor role in the elections. By December, the US, already redeployed to remote bases, will also have little ability to oversee the vote. However, Obama could use the Iraqi national elections as a vehicle for greatly increasing the international community's involvement in Iraq.

An appeal by him at the UN for assistance would be hard to reject. This could act as the trigger for much greater international participation in the country, reducing the potential for Iraq to descend into civil war and help the United States to withdraw without leaving a political vacuum in Baghdad. The alternative was on display in Baghdad last week, the unrealistic and deeply opportunistic optimism of Bush and Brown. That approach offers little help to Iraq beyond wishful thinking.

- Toby Dodge
 - [The Observer](#), Sunday 21 December 2008
-
- Toby Dodge teaches Middle Eastern politics at Queen Mary University of London

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](#).



Contents Page

Iraq Context

International – pg. 4

National – pg. 0

Violence and Security – pg. 8

Iraq Humanitarian Environment and Space

IDPs and Refugees – pg. 9

Human Rights – pg. 10

Food Security and Livelihoods – pg. 11

Water and Healthcare – pg. 11

Oil – pg. 11

Finance and Funding – pg. 12

Coordination – pg. 12

Reference Documents – pg. 13

Schedule Updates – pg. 14

Upcoming Important Dates – pg. 14

Updates and Announcements – pg. 14

Iraq Context

International

[Australia assists victims of sectarian violence in Northern Iraq](#)

Source: [Reliefweb](#)

Document: Article

Date: December 19, 2008

Access: Open

The Australian Government has continuing concerns about the persecution of Christian and other minority groups in Northern Iraq and will provide \$1 million to assist Iraqis in Ninewa Province, Northern Iraq, who have been the victims of recent outbreaks of sectarian violence.

[Humiliation: Iraqi MPs reject UK exit deal](#)

Source: [The Independent](#)

Document: Article

Date: December 21, 2008

Access: Open

Britain's exit strategy from Iraq suffered a setback yesterday when the country's parliament rejected a draft law paving the way for withdrawal of forces by the end of July. The reversal was embarrassing for both Gordon Brown and the Iraqi Prime Minister, Nouri al-Maliki, after the two leaders publicly declared last week that an agreement had been reached on the pullout.

[US circulates UN resolution to protect Iraq assets](#)

Source: [Washington Post](#)

Document: Article

Date: December 19, 2008

Access: Open

The United States circulated a U.N. resolution that would shield billions of dollars of Iraqi assets from legal actions after the mandate for the U.S.-led multinational force ends, U.N. diplomats said Friday.

[Reluctant judges rule Iraqis accused of killing British soldiers can be handed to Baghdad](#)

Source: [The Guardian](#)

Document: Article

Date: December 20, 2008

Access: Open

Two Iraqis accused of killing British soldiers can be lawfully handed over to the authorities in Baghdad to be tried for war crimes, despite a "real risk" that they will face the death penalty, the high court ruled in an extraordinary case yesterday.

[Trying to Redefine Role of U.S. Military in Iraq](#)

Source: [New York Times](#)

Document: Article

Date: December 21, 2008

Access: Open

It is one of the most troublesome questions right now at the Pentagon, and it has started a semantic dance: What is the definition of a combat soldier? More important, when will all American combat troops withdraw from the major cities of Iraq?

[Britain gets ready for urgent Iraq pullout](#)

Source: [The Times \(London\)](#)

Document: Report

Date: December 23, 2008

Access: Open

British commanders have been forced to plan for an immediate withdrawal from Iraq after the country's parliament failed to vote on a resolution that would allow British troops to stay beyond the end of the year. The Speaker of the Iraqi parliament suspended moves to approve the resolution after a group of MPs called for his resignation.

National

[Iraq releases detained security officers](#)

Source: [LA Times](#)

Document: Article

Date: December 20, 2008

Access: Open

Iraqi authorities on Friday freed most of the approximately two dozen security officers detained this week for allegedly aiding insurgents

and remnants of Saddam Hussein's Baath Party, two Interior Ministry officials said.

[Status of Detained Iraqis Is Murky Amid Talk of a Political Showdown](#)

Source: [New York Times](#)

Document: Article

Date: December 20, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

A day after [Iraq's](#) interior minister said that all of his officers who had been arrested in a security crackdown were to be released, their status remained unclear on Saturday. ut the Interior Ministry spokesman, Maj. Gen. Abdul-Karim Khalaf, told the news service Agence France-Presse that all the ministry detainees, reported earlier to be 24 people, were freed on Saturday morning.

[Charges dismissed in Iraq against Ministry detainees](#)

Source: [New York Times](#)

Document: Article

Date: December 22, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

The Ministry of the Interior released a statement on Monday detailing the charges against its officials who were detained last week in a security crackdown. The officials were under suspicion of making fake badges and identification cards, the statement said, that provided access to the Interior Ministry building, which the statement described as a target of terrorist attack.

[Ethnic Divide in Iraqi City a Test for Nation](#)

Source: [Washington Post](#)

Document: Article

Date: December 20, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Darawan Salahadin, dressed in a black shirt and blue jeans, strolled out of his home in the Kurdish part of his ethnically fragmented neighborhood, passing concrete barriers and a checkpoint guarded by a Kurdish fighter. He entered the Arab section and walked swiftly to his tan, flat-roofed school.

[Iraqi judge says shoe-throwing reporter was beaten](#)

Source: [Yahoo news](#)

Document: Article

Date : December 19, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

A judge announced a probe Friday into the beating and bruising of an Iraqi journalist's face moments after he hurled his shoes at President George W. Bush, and said investigators destroyed the shoes in their search for explosives. The statement to The Associated Press by Dhia al-Kinani, the investigating judge, was the first official word that Muntadhar al-Zeidi was hurt after his outburst at a news conference by Bush and Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

[A Christian party to celebrate religious diversity](#)

Source: [LA Times](#)

Document: Blog

Date: December 20, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Trying to prove just how much safer Baghdad is these days, Iraqi officials threw a party for Christians on Saturday, complete with huge event posters featuring pictures of Jesus Christ. A skinny Santa Claus draped in an Iraqi flag also made an appearance, waving and posing for photos .The crowd of both Christians and Muslims -- despite being slightly outnumbered by the huge security detail protecting the event -- called it a positive sign for the country.

[The dawn of a new Basra](#)

Source: [The Independent](#)

Document: Article

Date: December 20, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Dining late in the evening on the restaurant boat Tistaahel on the Shatt Al Arab, as the manager discusses plans for an open-air casino in the summer, is an unusual experience for Basra. This was, not so long ago, a lawless place where militias terrorised the population through murder and intimidation.

[Kurds want to postpone elections in Mosul](#)

Source: [Uruknet](#)

Document: Article

Date: December 20, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

The Kurdish Alliance, an umbrella of major Kurdish factions, is seeking to put off provincial elections in the city of Mosul. The elections scheduled for January 31 are expected to rid the Kurds of the

current majority they have in the provincial council of Nineveh of which Mosul is the capital. The Arabs boycotted the previous elections four years ago. As a result the Kurds won 19 of the 30-seat council

[Mosul reduced to ghost town](#)

Source: [IWPR](#)

Document: Article

Date: December 19, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

When we arrived on Mosul's outskirts at an Iraqi army checkpoint, my impression was of a place without government. The checkpoint was chaotic, with soldiers firing into the air to clear the road. The city itself was very dusty and the people on the streets looked haggard. All the hotels were closed. Most of Mosul's wealthy citizens had left in 2004.

[The Candidate Lists Are Out: Basra More Fragmented, Sadrists Pursuing Several Strategies?](#)

Source: [www.historiae.org](#)

Document: Article

Date: December 22, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

So far, it has been difficult to discuss the upcoming provincial elections in Iraq because only the names of the parties and the party leaders have been made public. But now the Iraqi elections commission has published the candidate lists for individual governorates, showing which parties will run where, as well as the names of all persons on each list.

[Opinion poll of Kurdistan parliament](#)

Source: [www.pointnumber.com](#)

Document: Opinion poll

Date: December 2008

Access: [Open](#)

It was largely expected that (66.6%) of participants in this survey are proud of the Kurdistan Parliament. In spite of everything, the Parliament is still considered as important national establishment for all these men & women who participated with great enthusiasm in the elections at the beginning of the Nineties of the past century.

[Iraq threatens to expel Iranian rebels](#)

Source: [Washington Post](#)

Document: Article

Date: December 21, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Iraqi officials say they intend to expel members of an Iranian exile group living in a camp north of Baghdad that is protected by the U.S. military. The expulsion, which the Shiite-led government has long sought, is expected to become feasible once the U.N. mandate that regulates the presence of U.S. troops -- and which gave the Iranian opposition group protected status -- expires at the end of the year.

[Iranian Resistance Group Criticizes Iraq's Efforts to Expel It](#)

Source: [New York Times](#)

Document: Article

Date: December 22, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

An Iranian resistance group on Monday condemned a renewed push by the Iraqi government to deport its members as a result of undue Iranian influence. Some 3,800 members of the group, the People's Mujahedeen, live in a fenced-off camp north of Baghdad, where they have enjoyed the protection of the American military since 2003. The Iraqi government notified the group on Sunday of plans to shut the camp and evict its residents as Iraqi forces take control of the area from the United States

[Security Council Extends Protection of Iraq's Assets](#)

Source: [New York Times](#)

Document: Article

Date: December 22, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

The Security Council unanimously passed a resolution on Monday extending United Nations protection over Iraq's assets through 2009, effectively shielding its oil and other revenues from billions of dollars in international claims stemming from the era of Saddam Hussein. We need the assurances that Iraq's resources and financial assets are available for the country's recovery program," *Hoshyar Zebari*, Iraq's foreign minister, told the Council. "Without such assurances, the functioning of the Iraqi government and the current stability could be seriously in danger."

[Iraq court starts new trial for 'Chemical Ali'](#)

Source: [Alertnet](#)

Document: Article

Date: December 22, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

An Iraqi court on Sunday began a new trial for Ali Hassan al-Majid, better known in the Western media as "Chemical Ali," and three other Saddam Hussein-era officials accused in a 1998 gas attack that killed 5,000 Kurds. The relatives of the plaintiffs were allegedly gassed to death in the Kurdish village of Halabja. Hundreds of Kurds called for the execution of al-Majid, who has already been sentenced to death twice. Also facing trial are former defense minister Sultan Hashem and two intelligence officers.

[Mashhadani: Iraq's firebrand parliament speaker](#)

Source: [Yahoo News \(AFP\)](#)
Document: Article
Date: December 22, 2008
Access: [Open](#)

Iraqi parliament speaker Mahmud Mashhadani, whose feud with MPs has jeopardised the future of

British and other non-US troops in the country, is a staunch Islamist famed for his fiery rhetoric. He is facing furious calls to stand down after he branded some parliamentary colleagues "sons of dogs," but Mashhadani has mostly aimed his tirades at US-led forces.

[Iraq Parliament speaker resigns](#)

Source: [New York Times](#)
Document: Article
Date: December 23, 2008
Access: [Open](#)

The Iraqi Parliament accepted the resignation of its speaker on Tuesday and authorized the government to approve a resolution to allow British, Australian and other non-American foreign troops to remain in [Iraq](#) after the end of the year.

Violence and Security Issues

[Family of Iraq hostages plead for their release](#)

Source: [The Telegraph \(London\)](#)
Document: Article
Date: December 23, 2008
Access: [Open](#)

Armed militants, disguised as police officers, kidnapped the four bodyguards and a computer expert at the Finance Ministry in Baghdad in May 2007. Their families have received little information of their loved-ones since then. The captors, who call themselves the Islamic Shia Resistance in Iraq, claimed earlier this year that one of the men, known as Jason, had committed suicide.

family had they stayed in the wasteland that was their home. "I don't want to remember those days," she says, a couple of weeks after moving back to the city. "When we left for work we would see bodies on the streets all the time. People were too scared to pick them up."

[SMSG Condemns the Assassination of Kirkuk Woman](#)

Source: [UNAMI](#)
Document: Press release
Date: December 22, 2008
Access: [Open](#)

The Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Iraq Staffan de Mistura condemned the reported assassination of the Kirkuk based woman advocate Calwiz-Nahla Hussein on Thursday, 18 December.

[The new Iraq: The bombing goes on but the building has begun](#)

Source: [The Guardian \(London\)](#)
Document: Article
Date: December 23, 2008
Access: [Open](#)

The day Dr Sabah left Baghdad she stepped over a corpse sprawled at her front gate. The grim discovery as she fled two years ago merely reinforced her fear that the same fate awaited her

Date: December 18, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

For the sixth consecutive year, Iraq was the deadliest country in the world for the press, the Committee to Protect Journalists found in its end-of-year analysis. The 11 deaths recorded in Iraq in 2008, while a sharp drop from prior years, remained among the highest annual tolls in CPJ history

[Iraq shoe-thrower set for trial](#)

Source: [BBC](#)

Document: Article

Date: December 22, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

An Iraqi journalist who flung shoes at US President George W Bush will go on trial on 31 December, his brother and a judge have said. Muntadar al-Zaidi is accused of "aggression against a foreign head of state" over the 14 December incident. The 28-year-old, hailed as a hero by some in the Arab world, could face a jail term if convicted. His brother says he has been abused in detention and plans to file a legal suit over his injuries.

[Kurds hail human rights achievements](#)

Source: [UPI](#)

Document: Article

Date: December 22, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Iraqi Kurdistan has made impressive gains, with the help of international groups, on the issue of human rights, a Kurdish official

told a delegation in London .Yousif Mohammad Aziz, minister for human rights in the Kurdistan Regional Government, delivered a keynote address at a symposium on human rights in Iraq for officials at the British Foreign and CommonwealthOffice.

Food security and livelihoods

[Farmers hopeful for Iraq's return to being Middle East breadbasket](#)

Source: [Miami Herald](#)

Document: Article

Date: December 20, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Mansour Abdul Khadim's mix of winter crops gives every impression of abundance, despite the double threat of drought and violence that has plagued

Iraqi agriculture since Saddam Hussein's fall in 2003. Rows of red potatoes and green beans grow together in one lot. Winter wheat sprouts in adjacent fields. Tomatoes for the spring already are incubating in mounds of fertilizer.

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.

[IRC infuses new life into Iraq blood banks](#)

Source: [IRC](#)

Document: Press release

Date: December 16, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Before last October, patients who needed urgent medical care in Wassit province often relied on

family members to rush to Baghdad—over 100 miles away—to secure pints of precious donated blood. Now, thanks to an infusion of support from the International Rescue Committee, Iraqis in this rural area no longer need to race against time to

ensure their loved ones receive lifesaving treatment.

Oil

[Iraq oil exports see increase but not enough to offset price slump](#)

Source: [Iraq Oil Report](#)

Document: Report

Date: December 22, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Iraqi oil exports increased last month to 1.76 million barrels per day as the price for oil continued to fall, according to data from the Iraqi Oil Ministry. Oil exported from the southern terminals in the Persian Gulf shouldered the output boost.

The fall in world oil prices is slashing the revenues of the US-backed regime in Iraq, forcing it to drastically reduce its projected budget for 2009. Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh told a recent conference in London: "The decline in oil prices has serious implications on the Iraqi economy."

[Iraq signs \\$80M in oil export surveys to boost output and mitigate disaster](#)

Source: [Iraq Oil Report](#)

Document: Article

Date: November 23, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

The Oil Ministry wants to raise oil production from 2.37 million barrels per day to 6 million bpd in 10 years. It's currently exporting 1.76 million bpd, and oil receipts account for nearly all state income. To meet the output goals, Iraq's oil sector will not only require investment in expanding currently producing oil fields and bring more fields online.

[Falling oil prices shatter Iraqi budget forecasts](#)

Source: [Uruknet](#)

Document: Article

Date: December 19, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

Finance and Funding

[Paris Club lenders complete Iraq debt forgiveness](#)

Source: [Business week](#)

Document: Article

Date: December 22, 2008

Access: [Open](#)

The Paris Club of creditor nations said Monday it has canceled a final \$7.8 billion of Iraqi debt dating from the Saddam Hussein era. The sum is the final tranche waived under a four-year-old agreement to reduce Iraqi debts to the group by 80 percent.

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: [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: 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/>

Schedule Updates

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

NO UPCOMING MEETINGS

Upcoming important dates

- ∅ December 25/Thw al-Hajjah 27 – Christmas
- ∅ December 29/Muharram 1 - Islamic New Year

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

- ∅ NCCI is seeking a new Executive Coordinator. Further details and how to apply for this position can be found [here](#).
- ∅ Call for candidates for the 30th International Human Rights Training Program, Montreal, Canada, June 14 to July 3, 2009. Further information can be found [here](#)
- ∅ 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](#)
- ∅ CVs can be uploaded [here](#)
- ∅ CVs can be checked [here](#)
- ∅ Employment opportunities can be examined [here](#)