

UNAMI FOCUS

Voice of the Mission



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UN Welcomes Announcement of Certified Results of Iraqi Elections

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan welcomed the announcement by the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq (IECI) of the final certified results of elections. Mr. Annan paid tribute to the "courageous commitment of the Iraqi people to the democratic process," citing the participation of millions of voters of all communities as well as hundreds of thousands of observers, agents and poll workers. The statement also congratulated the IECI for successfully conducting the election "under very challenging circumstances," and confirmed continuous support of the UN to Iraq.

SRSR Ashraf Jehangir Qazi also hailed the announcement by describing it as "an important milestone in the transition to a fully sovereign and democratically elected assembly and government."

Mr. Qazi reminded that there are many challenges ahead, especially the human rights situation which has become a matter of very serious concern. He encouraged political leaders to quickly form a government that will discharge its responsibilities towards making Iraq a safe, peaceful and prosperous place for all its people, regardless of their ethnic, religious, linguistic or other sectarian affiliations.

SRSR Activities

SRSR Ashraf Qazi visited Moscow at the invitation of the Russian Foreign Ministry from 14 to 16 Feb. He met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and briefed him on the latest political developments in Iraq.

Mr. Qazi also updated the Foreign Minister on UNAMI's functions in Iraq during 2005 and its operations expected in 2006. On his part, the Russian Foreign Minister expressed appreciation for the United Nations role in Iraq and promised continued Russian support for United Nations.

Last week, Mr. Qazi accompanied the visiting USG for Safety and Security David Veness in various



SRSR Ashraf Qazi with PM Ibrahim Jaafari, President Masoud Barzani and Adnan Pachachi.

external meeting with Iraqi and MNF-I Officials. Mr. Veness and his team visited UNAMI to discuss issues pertaining to the security of the mission.

Mr. Qazi continued his meetings with Iraqi politicians in the wake of the announcement of certified results of the 15 December elections, which he attended together with the IECI Board of Commissioners. In addition, he met Barham Saleh, Hossein Shahrstani, Hareth al-Dhari of the Association of Muslim Scholars, and the Governor of Al-Anbar Province. In the diplomatic corps, the SRSR met with US Ambassador Khalilzad and Australian Ambassador Howard Brown.

Mr. Qazi met earlier with Massoud Barazani, President of the Iraqi Kurdish Region (IKR), who was in Baghdad for consultations with other political and community leaders. He also held a dinner in Mr. Barzani's honour, attended by Iraqi political leaders and Ambassadors of the P5. He also attended lunches in honour of political leaders held by Prime Minister Al-Ja'afari and Vice-President Mehdi. He also met with General Williams, the outgoing Commander of MNF-I forces in Al-Anbar to discuss the UN's engagement in this important governorate. The SRSR briefed Martin Aeshbacker, the Swiss representative stationed in Baghdad on the work of the UN in Iraq. The SRSR also visited the Mufti of the Center of Iftaa of the Gilani Mosque Sheikh Jamal Abd al-Karim al-Daban.

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Feature: Certified Results of Elections, a Mark of Political Transition End

On 10 Feb 06, the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq (IECI) announced the final certified results for the 15 December Parliamentary elections.

This was the third major electoral event in the transitional period, but the first inclusive elections in which all the communities, including Arab Sunnis, participated. The new Iraqi legislative body will be made up of 275 representatives from 12 political entities and coalitions covering a broad political, ethnic and religious spectrum. More than 25% of the seats will be occupied by women.

The adoption through the October referendum of the new constitution, the seating of the new parliament, and the formation of the government will mark the end of the political transition period.

The announcement of the certified results followed the final adjudication of electoral appeals by the Transitional Electoral Panel, a judicial body appointed by the High Judicial Council. For the first time in the transitional electoral process twelve entities filed appeals including the four leading coalitions. The panel ruled in favor of the IECI in all twelve appeals, including appeals against the results, appeals against the IECI's individual decisions on complaints and against the seat allocation formula adopted by the IECI.

Three hundred and seven political entities and 19 coalitions and over 7,500 candidates contested the elections - numbers that far outweigh the January election for the Transitional National Assembly. The IECI certified 996 candidate lists representing all Iraqi communities and political affiliations, including Arab Sunnis who boycotted the January 2005 election.

Over 12 million eligible voters cast their vote in over 34,000 polling stations. In the predominantly Sunni province of Anbar alone, voter participation rate was over 85%.

Twelve political entities and coalitions representing all Iraqi communities and political spectrums won seats in the Council of Representatives. The United Iraqi Alliance will remain the largest political bloc in the parliament with 128 seats. The Kurdish Gathering will maintain a strong representation in the Council of Representative with 53 seats. The Tuwafoq Iraqi Front emerged as the front-runner Sunni list with 44 seats. The Iraqi National List won 25 seats, and the Hewan National Iraqi Front gained 11. The Islamic Union of Kurdistan secured 5 seats, and the Liberation and Reconciliation Gathering won 3 seats. Finally, each of the Al Rafedeen List, the Iraqi Turkoman Front, the Mithal Al Aloosi List for Iraqi Nation, and the Liberation and Reconciliation Gathering won one seat.

Figures & Facts
Iraqi women will occupy more than 25% of the 275-Parliament seat

Political Developments



The formal certification of election results on Friday 10 February marked the beginning of the 15 day period within which the sitting of the newly elected Council of Representatives has to take place under the new constitution. At its first sitting, the parliament has to choose its leadership - the speaker and the two deputy speakers. On Saturday, 11 February, the United Iraqi Alliance (UIA) in a secret ballot elected in a close contest the incumbent Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari as the PM-designate to lead it in parliament. The UIA is the entity with the largest plurality in the new parliament. Mr Jaafari, from the Dawa Party, was opposed by Abdil Adel Mahdi of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq.

Following the election of the speakership, the presidency council will have to be elected. There is some disagreement among different parties on whether the time table for government formation is regulated by the Transitional Administrative Law under which the formation of the government was to have taken place by 31 December 2005, or the new constitution which has not yet come into force, as one of three conditions required for its provisions to become operational have yet to be met. Meanwhile, discussion among and within the principal alliances continue on principles, procedures, personalities and programs to form a government of national unity, which appears to be a preferred option at this point.

IKR President Barzani visited Baghdad in early February for government formation talks. Consultations among the Iraqi politicians on government formation have been underway since, and the SRSG's dinner for Iraqi politicians can be seen as part of UNAMI's efforts to facilitate the political process.

The Iraqi Islamic Party (IIP) threatened to start a civil disobedience campaign if the current Minister of Interior (from SCIRI) stays on his post and demanded restructuring of the whole Ministry.

The 'Danish caricatures' reportedly depicting prophet Mohammed received significant attention within Iraq. Demonstrations were organised in different cities. The Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani issued a statement "strongly denouncing and condemning this horrific act". Iraqi Islamic Party considered this "as a criminal act" and the Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari made a demarche to the Danish Ambassador in Baghdad requesting a formal condemnation of the caricatures' publication from the Danish government.

<i>The Winners of 15 Dec Elections</i>	
<u>Bloc</u>	<u># of Seats</u>
United Iraqi Alliance	128
Kurdish Gathering	53
Tuwafoq Iraqi Front	44
Iraqi National List	25
Hewan National Iraqi Front	11
Islamic Union of Kurdistan	5
Liberation & Reconciliation Gathering	3
Al Rafedeen List	1
Iraqi Turkoman Front	1
Mithal Al Aloosi List for Iraqi Nation	1
Liberation & Reconciliation Gathering	1

UN Electoral Assistance Update

The IECI issued the final certified results of the 15 December 2005 Council of Representative Elections on 10 February. This followed the Transitional Electoral Panel (TEP) decisions on 08 February dismissing the remaining appeals. The Board announced the numbers of seats won per entity, which has not changed since the uncertified results announced on 20 January 06 and the names of all 275 successful candidates. The forty-five winners of national and compensatory seats were announced on 10 February 06 for the first time. The 230 governorate-based winners were announced with the uncertified results. In total, 70 of the 275 seats will be held by women, one more than the minimum Constitutional target of 25%. The final certification marks the formal end of the IECI's oversight of the Council of Representatives (CoR) elections. As per the law, the IECI will transmit names of elected candidates to the President so that he may convene the Council..

The Iraq Election Assistance Team (IEAT) members engaged all divisions of the IECI in a series of mini workshops regarding capacity building. The objective of these exercises is to identify shortfalls and areas for development in all corners of the IECI. All divisions (finance, logistics, public outreach, etc.) will participate in this process, first by producing an assessment and needs document, and then by discussing the contents of it in a multi-day seminar. The results of these seminars will be incorporated into a capacity building work plan; to develop an agenda for the UN-sponsored lessons learned Workshop in Cyprus this March.

Craig Jenness, International Commissioner and (former) Head of the International Electoral Assistance Team, completed his assignment and departed Iraq on 14 February.

Relief, Reconstruction & Development Activities

The Emergency Working Group (EWG) was convened on 13 February by the Humanitarian Coordinator Staffan de Mistura, to assess the response to flooding reported in 5 governorates. Participants from Baghdad, Amman, Basrah, Erbil, and Kuwait were online to share information and discuss next steps. Initial information indicates that potentially 7,000 families were displaced. Updated stock positions are being collected from agencies with warehouses in Basrah, Baghdad and Erbil, and agencies are ready to distribute food and non-food items once the needs and beneficiaries are confirmed. The International Federation of the Red Cross launched an appeal for US \$ 1.3 million to assist 5,000 families for two months. The EWG will determine whether a similar appeal should be launched by the UN to address the remaining needs.

Avian flu continues to be a critical issue, and the joint WHO/FAO technical assessment team completed their initial mission to Kurdistan. The results of the mission will be reported and discussed with central Iraqi Government authorities in Baghdad where the team arrived on 12 February.

DSRSG de Mistura is currently in Baghdad where he has been meeting with the Iraqi Government counterparts namely the Ministers of Planning and Health, as well as donor representatives. Donor coordination issues, the next IRFFI donor meeting, as well as funding for reconstruction and the emerging humanitarian needs, namely the Avian flu situation, as well as the floods affecting the five Governorates in the north and south were the focus of discussions thus far. The DSRG will be in Baghdad until end February and will continue to lead UNAMI and UN efforts in the above areas.

***Under the umbrella of
UNAMI, a Joint
WHO/FAO team is in
Iraq to assess the
Avian Flu situation***

Human Rights News

Extrajudicial and revenge killings continued this week with the discovery, on 6 February, of 30 bodies (all Shi'a) in the Northern part of Baghdad. The victims were found blindfolded, handcuffed and shot in the head. This follows the executions of 9 and 14 individuals (Sunnis) with the same methods, as reported last week. Extrajudicial killings, kidnappings and torture are mostly perpetrated by members of armed militias linked to political factions or criminal gangs, and recent reports tend to indicate a new rise in this trend. Allegations that Sunni Arabs have formed their own militia to counter Shiite and Kurdish forces could seriously hamper any effort at national reconciliation/dialogue. It is reported that the consolidation of power of local militias in Southern Iraq and the infiltration of Kurdish militias (Peshmerga) in the North is resulting in systematic acts of violence against members of the Sunni communities.

HRO held various consultations with members of the US and UK Embassy in order to share information on human rights issues. In its capacity of supporting donor of the Rule of Law Sector Working Group (ROLSWG), HRO is organizing a meeting on 15 February in Baghdad, chaired by the Head of the Iraqi Judicial Council. Representatives of various Ministries and of the donor community are expected to attend. The ROLSWG process is intended to facilitate direct interaction and substantive exchanges between the Government of Iraq and the international donor community in the area of rule of law.

On 8 February, HRO attended the SRSG's meeting with Sheikh Harith Al-Dhari, Secretary General of the Association of Muslim Scholars (AMS). A constructive dialogue emerged on the issue of human rights and more specifically on the issues of detention, extrajudicial killings, and torture. HRO explained that the Sunni community has been disproportionately affected by mass detentions and that this continues to be frequently reported..

The HRO is developing a more robust strategy built on the development of an Iraqi led and Iraqi owned national humanrights protection system. The main element of this system will be: strengthening the capacities of key ministries, the judiciary, ensuring compliance with human rights standards in the work of the police and the prisons administration and building up an independent and effective national human rights commission and civil society organizations. This national human rights commission - representing all Iraqis - will be able to address current human rights concerns as well as be key to accounting for past crimes and creating the conditions for national reconciliation.

Constitutional Support Newsflash

The Office of Constitutional Support (OCS) finalized a first draft of the document on the strategic intervention on the six major areas which need to be addressed by the Constitutional Review Committee (CRC). The draft was shared with a restricted number of international partners, namely US, UK, EU, the two main NGOs involved in the constitutional projects, NDI and USIP. The document on the options for the management of the constitutional review process has been finalized and shared as well. Both documents will be revised on the basis of the discussions and comments made by our partners.

OCS started a series of meetings with senior political party leaders in order to share with them OCS' plan of engagement during the constitutional review process. In addition, OCS had a fruitful meeting with HRO to discuss their respective plans for the coming months and to identify communalities and possibilities for cooperation. During this meeting HRO mentioned that OHCHR had expressed its interest and readiness to host the seminar on human rights in Geneva.

At the same time, OCS has designed a plan of expert engagement with key Iraqi interlocutors involving a set of seminars on review and implementation of other key constitutional aspects, which will be implemented between the months of March and June. The initial setting (early March) will take place in Cape Town, South Africa, with a focus on Transitional Justice. Three seminars will target federalism/decentralization-related issues. In particular, Oil and Gas (Dubai, early April), institutions/division of powers (Madrid, end of April), and fiscal federalism (location to be confirmed; possibly May).

A seminar on Judiciary/ Rule of Law is being organized in Syracuse, Italy, in mid-April. A seminar on Structures of Government will also be planned for the month of May. In the organization of these settings, OCS is coordinating with other interested parties in the international community, and with a range of host organizations in the countries where the seminars are planned and whose experts are being engaged. OCS is also mapping the activities planned by other members in the international community and is ready to coordinate and support as necessary. Along these lines, OCS and UNAMI will actively support and participate in a USIP-led conference on constitutional issues aimed at engaging key players in the Sunni community, to be held in the last week of February.

Brief from Public Information Office (PIO)

In close cooperation with the UN electoral Assistance team, the PIO issued a Press Release the same day the IECI announced the certified results of the 15 December Elections. PIO also arranged for a Media encounter immediately following the announcement, where Mr. Qazi addressed both Iraqi and International Media in Baghdad, welcoming the announcement saying as an important milestone in the transition to a fully sovereign and democratically elected assembly and government. Mr. Qazi also encouraged political leaders to quickly form a government that will represent the interests of the different communities in Iraq, and which will discharge its responsibilities towards making Iraq a safe, peaceful and prosperous place for all of its people. The statements made by the SRSG at this occasion were widely reflected in the Media reports the following day.

On 5 Feb, 2006, PIO invited the main Iraqi TV channels for footage and documentation of the dinner hosted by the SRSG in honour of President Barazani.



UN Fijian Contingent Commander leads a squad in a route march through the IZ

UN Fiji Guard Unit & Increasing UN Visibility IN IZ

On Saturday 0 February 06, a six man squad of the UN Fiji Guard Unit led by the Fijian Contingent Commander, Brigadier Ioane Naivalurua 'route marched' through the streets of the International Zone for the first time since the unit's arrival into Iraq.

After a short situation and safety brief, the squad departed the UN compound Diwan with their PPE and weapons, followed by safety vehicles.

The squad walked through the main street of the IZ tactically in a single file and stopped for approximately five minutes at the Palace after being greeted by Fijian civilian security guards manning the area. Along the way, the squad met a number of MNFI mobile patrols, IP, locals and others who looked curiously at the group of walkers.

The route march, a first of its kind to be conducted out of the UN compound is a small contribution by the Fiji Guard Unit towards the SRSG's intent for the UN to *be more visible and engaging so that our presence is an assurance and uplifting the Iraqi people.* Most notable were questions from onlookers who asked *'who are you?'* to which the walkers replied 'we are members of the United Nations'. Most people were not aware that the UN was *'just down the road'* and the walkers took time out to explain to the locals and internationals alike the important role that UN was playing in Iraq.

Arriving at the USPX the squad mingled with MNFI personnel and after quenching their thirst returned to Diwan by vehicle. In expressing their joy in having time out of the Diwan walls, members of the squad hope that more activities will be undertaken by the UNAMI family to increase the profile of the UN in Iraq.

It was mission accomplished – a few more people now know that the UN is just down the road and playing a very important role in the reconstruction and development of Iraq.

SRSG Meets Al-Anbar Governor Ma'amun Al-Alwani in Al-Ramadi



SRSG Qazi with Al-Anbar governor Ma'amun Al-Alwani

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq Ashraf Qazi traveled to Al-Ramadi, Al-Anbar province, on Monday and met with Governor Ma'amun Al-Alwani and the Governorate Council at the Governor's office. Mr. Qazi heard first hand from Governor Al-Alwani and his colleagues on the Governorate Council the concerns they have for Al-Ramadi, and the other cities of Al-Anbar province.

They discussed a wide range of concerns covering human rights, health care, education, agriculture and security, and listened to the Council's expectations of the United Nations.

Photos from the Reception and the Dinner hosted by SRSG on 5&11 Feb, 2006



SRSG with Minister of planning Burham Saleh



SRSG Qazi with USG Sir David Veness



SRSG Qazi and between DSRSG Michael Schulenburg and DSRSG Staffan De Mistura

UNAMI Focus

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