

UNAMI FOCUS

Voice of the Mission



News Bulletin on UNAMI Activities

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SRSB Activities

SRSB Ashraf Qazi conducted numerous meetings with Iraqi government officials, political leaders, religious figures and civil society representatives and discussed the latest developments in Iraq with them.

On 17 June, 2006, PIO has issued a press release on SRSB Ashraf Qazi's strong condemnation of the attack on Buratha Mosque and the assassination of the Imam of Al-Kabir Mosque in Basra

On 16 June, 2006, Secretary-General Kofi Annan responded to requests by the new Government of Iraq by agreeing to strongly support the development of a framework for increased international assistance to Iraq. Mr. Annan has designated the Deputy Secretary-General, Mark Malloch Brown, as his focal point in NY for this issue, and SRSB, Ashraf Qazi, in the same role on the ground in Iraq.

On Thursday, 15 June, PIO has arranged for a Luncheon with the Head of Iraqi Journalists Rights Defense Association (IJRDA) and three other members of the NGO. Among the issues discussed was cooperation between UNAMI and IJRDA, ways to promote protection of Iraqi journalists and assistance in enhancing capacity of Iraqi journalists and their associations.

Following completion of the new Iraqi government including the key ministries of defence, national security and interior on June 8, Mr. Qazi expressed his hope that the government of Prime Minister Nuri Al Maliki will be able to move forward in tackling Iraq's many challenges. Mr. Qazi reiterated UN readiness "to assist in building the capacity of the new administration to deliver basic services, including a human rights protection system, to the people of Iraq."



List of 1st Constitutionally- Elected Govt. in Iraq- 8/06/06

<u>Name</u>	<u>Ministry</u>
Nuri Al- Maliki	Prime Minister
Barham Salih	Deputy PM
Salam Al-Zawba'I	Deputy PM
Jawad Kazim Al-Bulani	Interior
Abd-Al-Qadir Jasim	Defence
Shirwan Al-Wa'ili	National Security
Husayn Al-Shahristani	Oil
Baqir Jabr Al-Zubaydi	Finance
Hoshayr Zebari	Foreign Affairs
Hashim Al-Shibli	Justice
Yarob Nadhem Al-Obodi	Agriculture
Muhammad Tawfiq Allawi	Communications
As'ad Kamal Al-Hashimi	Culture
Khudayr Al-Khuza'I	Education
Karim Wahid	Electricity
Nirmin Uthman	Environment
Ali Al-Shammari	Health
Abd Dhiyab Al-Ajili	Higher Education
Bayan Dazayee	Housing& Constr.
Abdul-Samad Rahman Sultan	Immig.&Dispalcd.
Fawzi Al-Hariri	Industry
Mahmud Muhammad Al-Radi	Labor &Social Aff.
Riyad Ghurayyib	Municipalities
Ali Baban	Planning
Ra'id Fahmi Jahid	Science & Tech.
Abd-Al-Falah al-Sudani	Trade
Karim Mahdi Salih	Transport
Jamal Abdul-Latif Rashid	Water Resources
Jasim Muhammad Ja'far	Youth & Sports
<u>Ministers of State</u>	
Adil Al-Asadi	Civil Society Aff.
Safa-Al-Din Al-Safi	CoR Affairs
Rafi Hiyad Al-Isawi.	Foreign Affairs
Sa'd Taha Al-Hashimi	Gov. Affairs
Akram Al-Hakim	Nat. Dialogue Aff.
Liwa Sumaysim	Tourism & Antiq.
Fatin Mahmud	Women's Affairs
Muhammad Abbas Al-Uraybi	Ministers of State
Ali Muhammad Ahmad	Ministers of State
Hasan Radi Kazim Al-Sari	Ministers of State

Security Council Welcomes Iraq's Government; Agrees on Development Fund

After hearing detailed briefings on Iraq on 15 June, 2006, the United Nations Security Council welcomed the formation of the country's first constitutionally-elected Government, which was completed earlier this month, agreed upon the continuation of the Multinational Force (MNF) and also on certain arrangements for a Development Fund (DFI) and an International Advisory and Monitoring Board for the war-ravaged country.

In a press statement, the 15-member Council also "urged all Iraqis to participate peacefully in the political process and demanded that those who use violence lay down their arms."

"They reiterated their encouragement to the new Government to work tirelessly to promote national reconciliation and an atmosphere in which sectarianism is rejected," and the Council also "welcomed the progress made in recruiting, training and equipping Iraqi security forces and their increasing responsibilities on the ground."

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“Members of the Security Council continued to look forward to the day Iraqi forces assume full responsibility for the maintenance of security and stability in Iraq, thus allowing the completion of the MNF mandate. They also reiterated the importance for all forces promoting the maintenance of security and stability in Iraq to act in accordance with international law, including obligations under international humanitarian law.”

In her briefing to the Council, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Angela Kane acknowledged the killings and instability in the country, but said that despite this Iraq had completed a three-year political transition with the formation of its first constitutionally-elected Government and this was cause for some optimism.

“While it may be understandable that, due to their transitory character, previous Governments were unable to take some of the hard decisions required to address the urgent needs of the Iraqi people, the establishment of a constitutionally-elected Government for a full four-year term offers new hope,” she said.

Ms. Kane said that over the past three years Iraq’s transition had moved from the Governing Council to the Interim Government and the Transitional Government, culminating with Iraq’s first constitutionally-elected Government led by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

The other officials who also spoke to the Council painted a similar picture, with United States Ambassador John Bolton – speaking on behalf of the 29 countries making up the Multinational Force in Iraq – and the country’s Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari, also acknowledging the difficult and dangerous security situation.

In his comments, Ambassador Bolton highlighted that the latest reporting period included the killing on 7 June of al-Qaida leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and one of his key associates, Sheikh Abd Al-Rahman, although he said the organization still posed a threat.

“The measure of success will be the dawn of the day when the Iraqi people are fully able to secure their own safety, freedom and prosperity,” he said.

In his briefing to the Council, Iraq’s Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari also highlighted al-Zarqawi’s killing but added that security operations must go hand in hand with initiatives to promote national consensus, tolerance, justice and respect for human rights.

“With the formation of the new full-term Government and recent elimination of the most notorious terrorist, al-Zarqawi, we sense great momentum among the Iraqi people, and a very real chance to turn our situation around,” he told the Council members.

“This is the beginning of a new chapter in Iraq’s transformation from dictatorship to a sovereign, peaceful and prosperous federal democracy as voted by the Iraqi people.”

Constitutional Support Newsflash

Last week, the Office of Constitutional Support (OCS) held its multiparty dialogue on Issues for consideration on the application, enforcement and possible reformulations of the Iraqi Bill of Rights in the context of the constitutional review and implementation process. It took place from 6-8 June in Vienna (Austria), in cooperation with the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNDP-Iraq. This dialogue addressed possible reformulation of the human rights clauses contained in the constitution, and developments in legislation and in the institutional and statutory frameworks aimed at creating judicial and non-judicial mechanisms of application and enforcement of human rights.

Straight after the Vienna meeting, OCS organized a multiparty dialogue on federal arrangements under the new Iraqi Constitution. It was held in Madrid (Spain) from 12 to 13 June. The substantive sessions addressed this key constitutional topic from different perspectives, including sessions on regions and regional formation; distribution of powers, from the perspective of a) constitutional allocation of powers, and b) joint management and issues of pre-eminence; fiscal federalism; role of regions at the national level; and preservation of unity in a federal state. Key members of the former constitutional committee and current parliamentarians participated in both workshops.

Beyond its programme of multiparty dialogues, OCS has continued to engage key Iraqi political actors as regards to the prospects of a constitutional review process and possible modalities of assistance. In this regard, the Director of the Office met the Deputy Speaker of the Council of Representatives, Dr. Attiya, who indicated that the constitutional review committee is not likely to be established before the end of the summer parliamentary recess.

Electoral Update

The International Electoral Assistance (IEA) Legal adviser met with Dr. Mashadani, Speaker of the Council of Representatives, who stressed the need for UN support on legislative and electoral issues. In a separate meeting, Deputy Speaker Attiya expressed concern about the current deadlock at the CoR due to a dispute over the powers of the speaker.

During the week, DSRSG Schulenburg met Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq (IECI), Hussein Hindawi, who requested greater UN support to the IECI in the up coming months as that is one of the guarantees of independence for the IECI from political interference.

DSRSG electronically has been completed and handed over to UN. Later this month, IT advisors will assist representatives of Data Management division to hold meetings with IT training companies in Amman.

Human Rights News

Minority situation inside Basra remains of concern. Another Sunni sheikh was assassinated on 2 June 2006 while on his way to "Al-Hasanain" Mosque in "Al-Mishraq" Area. The perpetrators were reported to be in two white cars and two motorcycles. Representatives of the Iranian Ahwazi refugee community paid a visit to the Human Rights Office, expressing their concern over a lack of support system available to them. Five members of the Ahwazi community were assassinated since the fall of the past regime.

A focal point from the PM’s office confirmed to HRO that the government’s announcement that a state of emergency had been imposed in Basra on 31 May was only an extension of the state of emergency in place since the Allawi Government. During the upcoming month, the 10th Army Division is to be in charge of the security inside the city. Since 2nd June 2006, army checkpoints stop and search all cars. A day after the declaration of the state of emergency, a suicide bombing in Qadimah market area in the Basra city killed 28 people and injured 62 others. Hours later, the Iraqi Police surrounded two mosques. The "Ibn Eed" Mosque in "Al-Mishraq" area in Basra was reportedly attacked by police officers around 8:00 pm. There were no killed or injured, though some material damage was reported. At 11:00 pm on the same day, the Al-Arab Mosque, located in the very centre of the city, was surrounded by more than 50 Iraqi police cars. There were around 20 people inside the mosque including guards and students. Accounts of how the shooting started vary. Ten men from inside the mosque were reportedly killed in the incident and additional ten were arrested. Out of ten, four remain in detention on charges of being involved in the Qadimah bombing. According to one source who spoke to the Human Rights Officer one of the killed in the Al-Arab mosque incident was a 14 or 15-year-old student by the name of Mustafa Hassan.

On 31 May, the Iraqi cabinet decided to launch its own investigation into the Haditha deaths. On 4 June Vice-President Tariq Al Hashimi was quoted in the press asking for UN participation in the Haditha probe. The same day, the Sunni Waqf asked for UN intervention to solve the situation in Basra. A network of human rights NGOs

wrote to the High Commissioner for Human Rights requesting that OHCHR send a commission of inquiry in order to look into the reported crimes in Haditha and the latest ones in Basra.

On 30 May, the SRSR met with Ms. Ann Clwyd, Special Envoy to Iraq on Human Rights for the British Prime Minister, in order to discuss the current human rights situation in Iraq. On 7 June the Human Rights Office participated in a delegation visiting the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) in Erbil. During meetings with the Minister of Human Rights, the Minister for Martyrs and Anfal Victims (a newly created position), the Minister for Judicial Affairs and the Prime Minister, it was made clear that UN assistance in the area of human rights and rule of law would be welcome.

On 11 June CHRO, together with UNDP Country Director, chaired the first thematic working group on human rights with the UNCT at UNAMI HQ Amman. The working group will facilitate information sharing on human rights and rule of law issues; to identify priorities and critical gaps in this sector; and thus to support planning and programming by the UN system in Iraq on human rights and the rule of law and, more broadly, in order to support the mainstreaming of human rights into development and humanitarian programs.

On 6 June Prime Minister Nouri Al Maliki announced that his government would release 2,500 detainees from MNF custody.

Political Update

Stalemate over appointment of minister of Defence, Interior and National Security was resolved on 8 June when the Prime Minister presented his candidates to the Council of Representatives. Thereby formation of the new cabinet, which was inaugurated on 20 May, has been completed. The Minister of Defence is Gen. Abdulkadir Mohammed Jassim Al-Obeidi, a Sunni Arab; the Minister of Interior - Jawad al-Bolani, Shiite Arab; and National Security Minister - Sherwan al-Waili, Shiite.

The Prime Minister's other major initiative, a visit to Basrah to quell factional fighting among Shia militia and political groups, resulted in the imposition of a month-long state of emergency with the promised deployment of Iraqi army forces onto the streets. However, a car bomb on 3 June 2006, killing at least 28 and wounding 62, and yesterday's killing of 11 Sunnis during dawn prayer, at Al-Arab Mosque in Az Zubair District - a Sunni area outside Basrah, underlined the extent of the challenge presented by the deteriorating security situation in Iraq's second largest city. The lawlessness within Baghdad was underlined by unchecked sectarian murders and kidnappings.

In an incident that received widespread international coverage, the murder of a Russian diplomat and abduction of four others in a daylight attack on 3 June 2006 emphasized the threat faced by even the well protected.

A group of Anbar leaders, including the Governor, met in Jordan with representatives of the US government and military in an attempt to identify solutions to the security problems faced by the governorate. Near daily clashes in Ramadi between insurgents and MNF-I/ISF in recent weeks prompted the US military on 29 May 2006 to announce a major reinforcement of US troops in Anbar. The troop reinforcement has been interpreted as presaging a major military offensive in the city. League of Arab States Envoy Lamani visited Erbil on 2 June 2006 and the President of the Kurdistan Regional Government,

Massoud Barzani, offered to host the LAS Conference scheduled for 20-22 June 2006 in Erbil instead of Baghdad, in a clear reference to the deterioration of security in the Capital. On 5 June 2006, the Association of Muslim Scholars, whose presence at the preparatory meeting in Cairo in November 2005 was one of the successful elements of the meeting, announced their decision not to participate in the Baghdad conference. They complained that the undertakings from Cairo had not yet been fulfilled, and warned of a full-blown civil war if the Government continued, "in annihilating a certain segment of Iraqi society".

Meanwhile, SRSR Qazi continued his separate consultations with senior-level Iraqi Government representatives and key international partners. He met with Deputy President Adel Abdul Mahdi and the Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Barham Salih, who is also the acting Minister of State for National Security Affairs

The SRSR also called upon the U.S. Ambassador to discuss issues focused on outstanding ministerial posts in the Government formation process, the Parliamentary/ Constitutional review agenda, as well as the situation in Basra after the Government declared a state of emergency in this city. The SRSR undertook additional soundings with his interlocutors on the UN-facilitated Baghdad Peace Initiative and about status and preparations of the upcoming League of Arab States (LAS) conference scheduled for 22 June in Baghdad where the Prime Minister is expected to present the Government's 'Reconciliation Initiative' respectively the PM's plan to at that forum.

Also during the week, SRSR Qazi welcomed the new UNAMI DSRSG for Development and Humanitarian Affairs, Jean-Marie Fakhouri for his familiarization tour in Iraq. The SRSR also met with the Special Envoy to the British Prime Minister for Human Rights in Iraq, Ambassador Ann Clwyd.

Relief, Reconstruction & Development Activities

Over the past month, the main concern of the humanitarian, reconstruction and development activities continued to be the ongoing displacement of Iraqis as a result of sectarian tensions. To date, there are over 1.3 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Iraq, with over 110,000 in just the past months following the February bombing of shrines in Samarra. While

one month's basic supplies to recently displaced families requires approximately US \$ 170 per family, or nearly US \$ 3.12 million, an additional US \$ 700,000 to cover contributions to the expenses of the host families each month is required. This excludes the support costs related to logistics and administration of the activities. Therefore, the monthly total could easily equal US \$ 4 million simply to stem the tide of suffering.

At the same time, funding for medium and longer term initiatives is required, to both mitigate and prevent the displacement. While these issues were raised at the Briefing on IRRFI Progress to Donors, held in Amman on 24 May, 2006, and in a side event the following day hosted by Cluster F, DSRSG Jean-Marie Fakhouri also met with the various agencies and clusters, building upon the indications from the donors during the Briefing and identifying potential strategic directions. In particular, the DSRSG met with Cluster F to discuss the critical IDP situation Iraq is facing and possible interventions from the UN and its partners. With renewed interest from ECHO in possible funding for Iraq, a working group was established to examine the situation and propose a possible advocacy strategy for humanitarian issues in general and the current situation in particular.

During his meetings in Baghdad and Erbil, the DSRSG had an opportunity to share ideas on the humanitarian, reconstruction and development agenda with donors as well as various governmental and institutional stakeholders, including the KRG and Baghdad ministries and officials. In particular, with the recent unification of administrations within the KRG, the DSRSG and KRG officials, including the Prime Minister, exchanged views on the latest political developments and socio-economic challenges in the Kurdistan Region as well as ways and means to enhance coordination between the KRG and UN Country Team, within the mandates of the UN Agencies and UNAMI. To this end, OCUNA provided a proposal for a mechanism for systematized and enhanced coordination between the KRG and the UN.

Brief from Public Information Office (PIO)

On Saturday, 17 June, 2006, PIO has issued a press release on SRSR's strong condemnation of attack on Buratha Mosque and the assassination of the Imam of Al-Kabir Mosque in Basra.

On Thursday, 15 June, PIO has arranged for a Luncheon, hosted by the SRSR, with the Head of Iraqi

Journalists Rights Defense Association (IJRDA) and three other members of the NGO. Among the issues discussed was cooperation between UNAMI and IJRDA, ways to promote protection of Iraqi journalists and assistance in enhancing capacity of Iraqi journalists and their associations.

On Wednesday, 14 June, PIO has arranged an interview for the SRSG with Addustour Iraqi Daily.

On Saturday, 10 June, PIO also arranged for the SRSG a one-on-one interview with the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation International (LBCI).

PIO has circulated on Friday, 9 June, the latest Secretary-General's report on UNAMI activities in Iraq (S/2006/360) in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

On Thursday, 8 June, 2006, PIO has issued a press release on SRSG's welcoming the completion of Iraqi Government.

On Tuesday, 06 June, PIO has arranged a deep background gathering with two New York Times journalists.

PIO has finalized the first draft of the Baghdad Peace Initiative (BPI) media and PR campaign strategy. The campaign plan with projected cost awaits review and/or approval as part of the larger progress with the BPI.

On Sunday, 4 June, 2006, PIO has issued a press release on the mission's condemnation of the killing and abduction of Russian diplomats in Baghdad, reiterating its condemnation of increased violence in Iraq.

On Friday, 1 June, 2006, PIO also issued a press release on the visit made by Kurdistan Regional Government's Coordinator for United Nations Affairs (OCUNA) to the United Nations/Iraq Country Team in Amman.

On Tuesday, 30 May, PIO has arranged an official lunch for the SRSG with two journalists from the Washington Post and Newsweek. The meeting was on deep background basis.

A UNAMI staff member Races to the North Pole to Raise Funds for refugees

Mr. Jake Morland, a UNAMI staff member with the Humanitarian and Reconstruction Department will team up with Mr. James Turner in the North Pole Race to raise funds for the cause of refugees in the world. The team is called Team Refuge.

The Polar Race, dubbed the 'world's toughest race', starts from Resolute Bay in Nunavut



Jake Morland trains for the North Pole Race to raise funds for refugees- June 06

(North Western Territories of Canada). It takes the contestants 400 miles across the most desolate terrain in the world, in temperatures as low as -40C to the Magnetic North Pole.

Competitors in the race will typically be self-sufficient, dragging sledges of up to 70 kg on foot or on ski, containing tents, food, and communication and positioning devices, cooking equipment and medical supplies.

Competitors undergo a year long training program which equips competitors with the survival and racing skills necessary for the race, which will take place in March, 2007.

Those who would like to support Team Refuge, kindly visit the following website: <http://www.teamrefuge.org/>

Fiji Guard Activities

The UNGU 4 under the command of Lt Col Seremaia Tuikoro has firmly established itself in Baghdad after taking over command from Lt Col Mason Smith on 05 May 06. During the same period an additional fifty-five (55) guards were deployed to the new UN Regional Office compound, Erbil.

On 02 June 06, Sir David Veness was accorded an honour guard by the UN Guard Unit on the occasion of his third visit to UNAMI. Later he was also accorded a traditional Fijian ceremony of welcome followed by a very informal session with the guard unit around the *kava bowl* and cultural entertainment.

On 08 June, the UNGU in Erbil welcomed the new DSRSG Jean Maria Michel Fakhouri with an honour guard on his inaugural visit to the region and the new camp.

UNGU has spent some effort through its *Outreach Programme* to engage security agencies, coalition neighbours including the ISF in the IZ to develop professional relationships, mutual understanding and network. On 10 June, the staff of SSU and UNGU hosted Brig Gen Mohamed Wasef to a lunch at the Diwan DFAC. Brig Gen Wasef is the 5th Brigade Commander, 6th Division, responsible for IZ security.

Visitors to the UNAMI HQ, Diwan School compound through our Outreach Programme also included members of the Coalition Forces. On 15 June 06, UNGU hosted the head of the coalition Ops, Brig Lunelli (Italy) and his deputy, Col Tarter (US) to a Fijian cultural night. The event was organised to

farewell Col Tarter, and welcome Brig Lunelli. Col Tarter who had attended the Australian Defence College with the UNGU Contingent Commander; Brig Naivalurua back in 2000. UNGU now looks forward to another challenging reporting period with anticipation.

Photos from UNAMI Activities



SRSG with members of Iraqi Journalists Rights Defense Association (IJRDA)
15/06/06



SRSG Ashraf Qazi and visiting USG for Security and Safety Sir David Venesse
4/06/06



An UNGU honor Guard to DSRSG Jean-Marie Fakhouri in Erbil- 8/06/06

UNAMI Focus

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