

UNAMI FOCUS

Voice of the Mission



News Bulletin on UNAMI Activities

Issue No. 9

Oct 2006

SRSB Activities

On 2 October, the SRSB met with Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki to discuss the security situation and to update the Prime Minister on the meetings on the International Compact with Iraq (ICI), held in Abu Dhabi and New York. The SRSB followed up on this issue by meeting the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff, Tariq Abdullah, the following day. As part of his work on the ICI, the SRSB held two meetings with Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) Barham Saleh, co-chaired a meeting of the Baghdad Coordination Group along with DPM Saleh, and participated in a meeting of the Compact Executive Committee via videolink.

More high-level meetings were held the second week of October by the SRSB. These included a meeting with the US, UK and Australian Ambassadors on his recent travel, as well as discussions with the MNF-I Deputy Commanding General, Lieutenant General Lamb. The SRSB hosted a working dinner for Fiji's Minister for Home Affairs, Josefa Bole Vosanibola, as the Minister concluded his review of the Fijian Army's detachment in Iraq.

Shortly after his return to the Mission Area, in mid-September, the SRSB met separately with Vice President Tareq Al Hashimi on political and security issues in Iraq, and with Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh on issues related to the International Compact with Iraq (ICI). On 28 September, the SRSB chaired a video-conference with DSRSB Jean-Marie Fakhouri and the Heads of Agency of UN Iraq Country Team (UNCT) in Amman to review recent developments in the humanitarian and reconstruction fields, as well as in regard to IRFFI and aligning the UN assistance strategy with the broad goals of the ICI.

In other high-level meetings, the SRSB exchanged views with the Chairman of the CoR Foreign Affairs Committee, Homam Hammoudi. The SRSB also met and held talks with the EU Commission. He had working dinners with the former Special Envoy of Romania to Iraq and with Iraq's National Security Adviser, Dr. Mawfaq Rubai'e.



Iraq's DPM Dr. Barham Saleh and SRSB Ashraf Qazi during the 2nd meeting in preparation for the International Compact with Iraq (ICI)

UNAMI Issues its 7th report on Human Rights Situation in Iraq

Despite considerable efforts by the Iraqi Government to ensure respect for human rights and re-establish the rule of law, as many as 6,600 civilians were reported killed in July and August alone, mostly in Baghdad, according to the new United Nations' report released on 20 September.

"Particularly abhorrent are terrorist attacks against markets and mosques and the killing of religious pilgrims," stated UNAMI in its latest human rights report, underlining a number of other human rights concerns, such as the deteriorating situation of the freedom of the press and women's rights, extrajudicial persecution of former Baath party members, and suffering caused by military operations and excessive use of force. Referring to how the rise in sectarian intolerance and criminal activity continues to impair women's rights, the report noted: "The security situation and the militancy of intolerant groups are increasingly limiting women's ability to move freely outside their homes while progressively restricting their access to health services and education as well as their ability to participate in public life. [. . .] In their fight against generalized violence, central, regional and local authorities should provide greater protection to women from crimes committed within the family, including all types of violence against women and girls on the grounds of honour." Additional suffering

of women, children and civilians in general is noted during the military operations when excessive use of force and prolonged restrictions of movement are reported.

UNAMI report cited the lack of effective centralized control over the law and order institutions, the growth of militias and the emergence of organized crime as a causes for ongoing violence, including indiscriminate killing of civilians, with hundreds of victims bearing signs of torture and execution style killing.

One of the issues that have been consistently raised in UNAMI human rights reports is the situation in prisons and detention camps. UNAMI has continued to find evidence of torture in detention facilities, and also noted other severe violations of the rights of detainees, in particular concerning the right to fair trial, legal representation, humane treatment and humane living conditions. Lack of qualified police officers and intimidation and targeting of judges and other trained legal professionals have led to the shortage of qualified law enforcement staff. "[...] violence against

INDEX:

- SRSB Activities	1
- UNAMI Bimonthly HR Report	1
- The ICI Preparatory Group Holds its Second Meeting	2
- Political Update	2
- Constitutional Support Newsflash	2
- Electoral Update	2
- Human Rights News	3
- Relief, Reconst & Develop Activities	3
- Brief from PIO	4
- Fiji Guard Activities	4
- Photos from UNAMI Activities	4

judges is keenly felt because of their already acute shortage throughout Iraq, a fact that further undermines the establishment of the rule of law in the country” the report noted.

The ICI Preparatory Group Holds its Second Meeting

On Monday, 9 October, the Preparatory Group for the International Compact with Iraq (ICI) held its second meeting at UNAMI’s office in Baghdad. Co-chaired by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Barham Saleh, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Ashraf Qazi, the meeting was also attended by a high level delegation of the Iraqi Government, including the Minister of Finance, Minister of Planning, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, advisors to the Vice Presidents, advisors to the Prime Minister, the Government Spokesman and the Baghdad representatives of the ICI Preparatory Group member-states (EC, US, UK, Italy, Republic of Korea, Germany, France, Japan). The meeting was also Attended via video-link by the EU presidency, the World Bank, the Arab Fund, the Islamic Development Bank, and UN HQ officials in New York, .

The meeting discussed progress made thus far, and the upcoming steps to ensure success of the ICI. These steps will include, among others, expanding and reviewing the ICI draft to reflect comments by Iraqi officials and donors. Outcomes of the first round of Sector Working Groups and the second iteration of the ICI Document as updated will be presented to the Preparatory Group Members at the next PG meeting to be held on Oct 19 in Baghdad.

Political Update

On 2 October, Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki announced a new initiative to address the sectarian violence. It was called the Iraqi Cessation of Bloodshed Pledge or the “Ramadan Agreement.” The accord was signed by representatives of major political parties. The cornerstone of the plan is the formation of local security committees in each district of Baghdad, involving politicians, religious figures and Iraqi army and police officers. There will also be a body to oversee media reporting.

On 7 October, Prime Minister Al-Maliki held a meeting with Sunni tribal leaders from Anbar, where he announced plans for reconstruction projects and more representative local administration in the province. The Council of Representatives (CoR) discussed the draft law defining the executive procedures for the formation of regions. After extended debate and

comments on the draft, it was agreed that voting will be held on each version of each article. Lawmakers have also discussed at length the draft law regulating investment. On 5 October, the Cabinet approved the proposal of the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs to open 15 new diplomatic missions in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America.

On 7 October, representatives of Iraqi Sunni and Shiite clerics met in Saudi Arabia to draft a declaration that forbids inter-Islamic fighting. The Organisation of the Islamic Conference started in preparation to a conference of Iraqi religious leaders, which was scheduled in Mecca before the end of Ramadan.

The KRG Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani issued a statement accusing the central government in Baghdad of trying “to sabotage” the Kurdish Region in its attempts to develop its own oil resources, in reaction to earlier observations by the Iraqi Oil Minister Al-Shahristani that all oil exploration and production contracts signed by the KRG administration were subject to his review.

On 27 September, representatives of the Arab Sunni tribes of Anbar met with Prime Minister Al-Maliki and proposed ideas and concrete steps “to save the province,” including a promise to encourage their tribesmen to enroll in the Iraqi police and army.

On 24 September, the Speaker of the CoR announced that agreement had been reached that a 27-member constitutional review committee would be formed and that the enactment of the Law of Regions would follow. The implementation phase of the review committee would begin one year after the point of formation, and the bill on the regions would be implemented 18 months after its passage.

On 24 September, the Regional Parliament of Iraqi Kurdistan began debates on the draft of regional constitution. Residents of Iraqi Kurdistan are invited to send their comments and recommendations.

Prime Minister Nuri Al-Maliki stated that the Iraqi government has decided to end the presence of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in Iraq, to close its offices and prevent it from carrying out any activities. PKK offices in the Kurdistan region of Iraq are reported to have been closed.

The controversy over the issue of which Iraqi flag should fly in the Kurdistan region seems to have lost some of its intensity. It now appears that the 1958 Iraqi flag will continue to fly in the KRG area.

Constitutional Support Newsflash

Over the first week of October, the Office of Constitutional Support has remained engaged with the CoR over the establishment of the Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) and process of drafting the law for the formation of regions, which is expected to be passed by the CoR on 11 October. It is the understanding of OCS that the CRC will convene to elect its chair and deputies over the coming days, but that it will commence its business after the Eid Holiday. OCS is currently preparing a trimmed process paper on CRC management relevant to the current debate for circulation to the CRC over the next week. It is preparing a similar substance document of issue areas for prioritized consideration by the Committee and dossiers on background constitutional information for all Committee members.

On 26 September, the CoR agreed on the formation of a constitutional review committee in accordance with the new Iraqi Constitution. It named 24 out of the 27 committee members. The remaining three members, who will represent minority groups, are expected to be announced after consultations with the Speaker. The chairperson of the committee is still to be elected. The parliament also held the first reading of the draft law on the formation of regions and agreed that the implementation of the law would start only 18 months after the passage. OCS plans (i) to engage the leadership of the committee as soon as it is elected and (ii) to offer UN assistance in both management of the process and provision of substantive support. In the context of the linked discussions on establishment of the constitutional review committee and the first reading of the draft law on formation of regions, OCS has been engaging members of parliament with the dual objective of both sounding party positions on current developments and positioning itself as provider of advice in the upcoming review process.

Electoral Update

The CoR completed two readings of the procedures for the formation of regions. Commentary has been provided to the leadership of the Parliament and the CoR committee on regions. From an electoral perspective, the confusion between electors and voters is a matter of concern. Other procedural and technical issues have been raised. The third and final reading of the proposed law is expected to take place shortly.

The status of the proposed electoral law remains unchanged. Kurdish MPs requested that the future Kurdistan electoral commission should have ultimate authority within Kurdish boundaries. The UIA (United Iraqi Alliance) maintains that the central IECI/IHEC should be the final authority on electoral matters. Kurdish MPs also requested that the Presidency nominate commissioners, instead of the Prime Minister. The EAT Legal Adviser met with the two Deputy Speakers of the CoR to address this issue. However, if a decision is taken in the CoR, it is likely that it will be re-addressed in the Kurdistan Constitution.

The CRC has not initiated proceedings, as there is no agreement on its chair and on the representation of Turkomen and Christian groups. It is expected that the review process will start as soon as the CRC is completed.

Human Rights News

Incidents of extreme violence continued throughout Iraq. Whereas the state officials reported finding tens of bodies bearing signs of torture and execution-style killings in Baghdad, reports regarding suicide or attempted suicide of women were received from the northern parts of the country, as well as incidents of honor killings, abductions associated with sexual exploitation, as well as continuous threats directed towards unveiled women.

HRO received reports that some high-schools and universities, such as the College of Medicine and Dentistry, were compelled to delay the beginning of the school year due to the emigration of teachers. In the areas of active conflict, such as Ramadi, further delays have been reported.

UNAMI Human Rights Office held numerous meetings with Iraqi government officials, members of the civil society and donors to reaffirm the collaboration on the rule of law and human rights promotion activities.

On 7 October, HRO held a meeting with the Minister of Human Rights over the issue of collaboration on the compilation of UNAMI human rights bi-monthly reports and joint participation in the press briefings during the issuance of such reports.

Ongoing consultations have been held with the representatives of the Iraqi Government MNFI to reduce the number of detainees who have not yet been subject to a proper judicial review. It was noted that the arrest warrants against 52 MoI officials related to

the allegation of abuse of detainees in "Site 4", issued following a joint MNF-I Iraqi inspection on 30 May, have not yet been delivered.

A series of other promotional activities were initiated during this period. In Basra, a human rights and leadership training for political, religious and tribal leaders started on 20 September. On 28 September, the Human Rights Office met the representatives of 23 NGOs on the issues of new NGO legislation, progress of the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the review of its bimonthlies and their impact towards the raising of awareness and improved government performance in the protection of human rights standards. Finally, on 1 October, a follow up meeting on transitional justice was held in Baghdad on the occasion of which the participants agreed to form a working group to look more closely into the issues of de-baathification, prosecution and reparation as well as the potential establishment of a truth-telling commission.

Human Rights Office, in collaboration with OHCHR and two international consultants, will be holding a two-day consultative meeting dedicated to the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission in Iraq and the consensus building over the NHRC legislation in Amman on 17 and 18 October expecting the participation of 40 representatives of the CoR, NGOs and donors.

Relief, Reconstruction & Development Activities

During this period, DSRSG Fakhouri was on mission in UNNY, completing his orientation as UNRC and UNDP RR. At the same time, he undertook advocacy meetings with the ERC Jan Egeland, in an effort to raise awareness of the critical humanitarian situation in Iraq and the UNCT's intentions to address those under the relevant agencies' mandates.

HRD continued to play a key role in the ICI preparation process. On 3 October, the ICI Executive Committee adopted the zero draft iteration of the Compact Document, along with the Work Plan for the ICI preparation process. On 6 October, during a Baghdad Coordination Group meeting, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and SRSR briefed donors' representatives in Baghdad on the recent ICI-related events and initiatives. On 9 October, the second ICI Preparatory Group meeting (organized at working-level) was held at UNAMI Baghdad and the ICI

Zero Draft (the first narrative iteration of the ICI document) was been presented to the participants. The document is a significant step forward in the ICI preparation process, as it provides substantial information on all three pillars along which the ICI initiative is articulated: Political affairs, security and economic reforms. Comments by the PG members have been positive: The document is thought to be balanced, well presented, and reflecting the outline presented at the first PG meeting in Abu-Dhabi. Participants have express appreciation of the efforts made by the GoI to increase understanding and buy-in from Iraqi institutions around ICI.

HRD's engagement with the Iraqi State Ministry for Civil Society continues. Since early September, HRD has provided substantive comments on the Ministry's new draft law and met with Ministry representatives on several occasions to discuss the recommendations. On 10 October, DRHC el Hillo met with the Minister of Civil Society to discuss progress to-date and plans for future action. It is envisioned that HRD will host a workshop with the Minister of Civil Society during the week of 15 October to clarify and discuss some of HRD & UNAMI's basic recommendations for the draft law.

The UNCT continued to finalise its Area-based Development Approach analysis, identifying indicators of vulnerability, using government data from COSIT to ensure ownership and acceptance of the data. The working groups have nearly completed the mapping process and hope to move to actual district selection within the next week.

The Erbil Area Office continued to assist inter-agency coordination and serve as an access point to the three northern governorates. The office assisted with a visit from UNOPS as well as a follow up mission from UNDP to identify institutional development and capacity building initiatives within key regional ministries. The FAO-UNIDO Cottage Industries Programme also came on line this month, generating interest from the KRG, particularly the KRG Minister of Martyrs and Anfal Victims who have been consulted during the project inception stage. The office continues to monitor the number of IDPs in the three northern governorates and to work with NGOs and government counterparts to ensure that the rights and needs of this group are addressed in a timely manner.

Brief from PIO

On 5 October, UNAMI PIO organized a televised interview for the Head of the UNAMI Human Rights Office with the BBC. On 6 October, the Chief of UNAMI PIO, Said Arikat, moderated the joint press encounter that followed a formal ICI Ceremony which SRSG Ashraf Qazi had with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh. On 7 October, PIO organized an interview for Head of UNAMI Human Rights Office with USA Today and Newsweek Magazine.

PIO issued press releases on a meeting between Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri Al-Maliki and SRSG Qazi (2 October) and on SRSG Ashraf Qazi's meeting with Iraqi President Jalal Talabani (4 October). In addition, PIO started preparations to publish the end-of-year (hardcopy) UNAMI FOCUS News Bulletin. It will include a substantive analysis of political, electoral, human rights, constitutional, humanitarian and reconstruction challenges facing Iraq, as juxtaposed with UNAMI's activities. It is envisaged to be sent for printing the third week of December.

On 28 September, PIO organized an interview for Human Rights Office with the New York Times. The following day, a story on Human rights violations in Iraq was published on the front page of the daily. There were many references to UNAMI and the bi-monthly report, along with a quotation from the Chief of Human Rights Office. PIO finalized technical preparations for launching the Kurdish version of UNAMI website, which is expected to be up and running within the next few days. The translation of the bi-annual hardcopy of the UNAMI Focus News Bulletin into Kurdish has begun, following approval of direct expenditure by UNAMI Finance.

Fiji Guard Activities

The second half of Sep 06 and Oct to date has been a fascinating and colourful month for the UNGU 4. We had our normal quotas of operational and other activities but, the standards in which they were conducted this past reporting period continues to be increasingly higher. In doing so, the Fiji UN Guard Unit continues to pledge its commitment to UNAMI as well as continue its Outreach efforts into the greater IZ and Baghdad area.

The Fiji Government Minister for Home Affairs (Min of Interior equivalent - responsible for the Army) visited UNAMI and UNGU 4 from 06 – 08 Oct 06, on his annual ministerial visit to deployed troops. He met and dined with the SRSG and senior UNAMI Staff before calling on senior staff of the MNF-I, Coalition Forces Operations Branch, the heads of the US, UK and Australian diplomatic missions represented in

Iraq and finally Brig Gen Zebari, the Joint Chief Of Staff of the Iraqi Army. A fact-finding visit as well as a morale and support trip, he left Diwan assuring the Fiji Governments continued support to this mission.

The 10th of Oct 06 was truly an anticipated day at Diwan. It was a conjoint commemoration day of the Fiji National Day as well for the awarding of UN Special Service Medals to members of the Fiji Guard Unit 4. It was a celebratory day for all Fijian nationals in Baghdad as a few from Kuwait who attended the morning medals military parade and the cultural entertainment later in the evening. The SRSG, DSRSG and invited MNF-I and Coalition Forces guests performed the honours of presenting the medals before the SRSG cut our island nations 36th anniversary cake. The evening was a dedicated intensive 2-hour cultural show of traditional dances and spontaneous songs that incorporated the UNGU, members of private security firms and even a lady artist visitor from Guam, who added her own flavour to the nights programme. A truly enjoyable night that many thought should have been longer.

Concurrent to the above and normal operational duties, FGU also conducted its normal routine training cycle in basic soldiering skills and mission-oriented procedures and duties. These training cycles are standard performance benchmarks aimed at keeping the troops motivated and operational qualified as well as for end of tour performance reports and personal assessments. It also coincided well with the initial in-theatre training for UN Compound Security platoon which on successful completion and subsequent duty hand-over, was deployed on 15 Oct 06. Similarly, desk file preparations are ongoing in preparation for the incoming UNGU 5 contingent. As the current unit's term comes to an end, preparations, repairs and refurbishments are well underway to ensure seamless hand-over of guard posts, duties and responsibilities to the new guard unit.

Finally, Outreach Programme Update – the UNGU choir monthly Morning Prayer breakfast visit to the US Embassy was successfully conducted as normal on 04 Oct 06. On 26 Sep, the Contingent Commander was hosted by Gen Ernesto Alviano, Commanding General of the NATO Training Mission in Iraq (NTM-I), at the NTM-I Cultural Centre academy in a friendly visit between the two generals. This was followed by a UNGU-Australian Defence Force friendly volleyball match at Camp Fearless, IZ, in a further relationship-strengthening exercise between the two forces. It has been a highly successful month for UNGU, significantly so because of another month safely completed and the continuing standards achieved this close to the end of the current units mission. The next edition of this publication will be compiled by the new Fiji UN Guard Unit PIO but for now, from UNGU Contingent 4, it has been a successful

and professionally enhancing six months at UNAMI and we can only hope the very best for UNAMI and the Iraqi nation as a whole. So, its farewell to all, you have our prayers and thoughts for a successful mission and for good sense, peace and understanding to prevail.

Photos from UNAMI Activities



Fiji Minister of Home Affairs Josefa Vosa with SRSG Qazi and DSRSG Schulenburg- Baghdad-7/10/06



Opening statement by Iraqi DPM Saleh and SRSG Qazi- ICI meeting in UNAMI HQ- 270906

UNAMI Focus

Is an internal bulletin produced by the Public Information Office of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq. The views printed in it do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations.

For further information contact e-mail:

unami-information@un.org

Or Adnan Jarrar,

Phone + 962 6 550 4700

Extensions: 2644

Visit our web site www.uniraq.org