

# UNAMI FOCUS

## *Voice of the Mission*



News Bulletin on UNAMI Activities

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### SRSR Activities

On his way to Abu Dhabi for attending the Preparatory Group Meeting of the International Contact with Iraq (ICI), which took place on 10 September, the SRSR met with the UN Country Team in Amman, to obtain an update of activities with particular focus on assistance towards the growing number of internally displaced people in Iraq. The SRSR also took this opportunity to meet with Jordanian officials in relation to his efforts to support the Government of Iraq in moving towards national reconciliation and to exchange views on the ICI process. After the Abu Dhabi meeting, the SRSR proceeded to NY to present the latest SG report on UNAMI's activities and to participate in a strategy meeting at the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) on the latest developments in Iraq and their implications for UNAMI.

On 28 August, the SRSR met with Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri Al-Maliki to discuss current political and security developments in Iraq, including preparations for the International Compact with Iraq (ICI). On related matters, the SRSR conferred with the National Security Adviser, Dr. Mawfaq Al-Rubai'e and the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of economic affairs, Dr. Barham Saleh. In early September, the SRSR also met and held talks with the Speaker of the Iraqi Council of Representatives, Mahmoud Mashhadani, on the electoral calendar and legislation for the independent electoral commission.

In separate meetings, the SRSR received the head of Shaheed Al-Mihrab Organization (an Iraqi NGO) Ammar Al Hakim, as well as a group of Baghdad-based emergency workers.

On 2 September 2006, the SRSR co-chaired a Preparatory Group Meeting in Baghdad for the upcoming ICI Meeting in Abu Dhabi. On internal UNAMI activities, the SRSR met with a visiting fact finding delegation from the Government of Fiji that toured their country's military deployments to UN peace and security operations in the Middle East region. He also presided over a medal parade in honour of three outgoing UNAMI MovCon military officers.



SRSR Qazi and DRSR Fakhouri- International Compact with Iraq meeting- Abu Dhabi – 10 Sep, 2006.

On 19 August 2006, the SRSR led a commemoration of the third anniversary Of Baghdad UN Headquarter bombing. Participants including representatives of the Iraqi Government observed a minute of silence during a formal ceremony.

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### **Qazi says before SC: Iraq must develop a 'truly national agenda' for all its people**

Iraq's leaders must develop a "truly national agenda" relevant to all its people, SRSR Ashraf Jehangir Qazi told the Security Council on Thursday, 14 September 2006, during a meeting in which he presented Secretary-General Kofi Annan's latest situation report.

"The key challenge of the Government of Iraq is to develop a truly national agenda that is responsive to the needs and aspirations of all Iraqis," said Mr. Qazi, at the start of the Council's discussions.

"Prime Minister [Nouri] Al-Maliki has laid out a range of initiatives in his National Reconciliation Plan and has taken initial steps to broaden the basis of support for his Government and to increase the effectiveness of the Iraqi Security Forces."

Mr. Qazi, who spoke ahead of 16 other representatives, acknowledged the extent of

the violence in Iraq – as laid out in the Secretary-General's report – but he said despite this there were still reasons for optimism. He also emphasized the importance of attaining stability.

"Whatever the challenges of the moment – and there are many – there is still reason for cautious optimism. The demonstrated resilience of the Iraqi people in the face of a succession of calamities and tribulations is reason enough to know they will not be defeated in achieving their aspirations," he said.

"Given Iraq's importance and potential, its neighbours and the wider international community have a vital stake in helping Iraq become a peaceful, stable and prosperous partner, fully integrated within the region and the international community."

He warned that the country stands at an "important crossroads" that could lead to civil war but reiterated praise for Iraqi efforts to rehabilitate the country, in particular through the International Compact with Iraq.

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## **Abu Dhabi Declaration International Compact with Iraq (ICI)**

On 10 September 2006, the Government of the United Arab Emirates hosted a preparatory meeting on the International Compact with Iraq (ICI) of States and multilateral institutions in Abu Dhabi. The meeting was opened by H.E Dr. Mohammad Khalfan bin Kherbash, Minister of State for Financial and Industrial Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, and co-chaired by H.E Dr. Barham Salih, Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, and H.E Mr. Mark Malloch Brown, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. The purpose of the meeting was to assess the preparatory work of the ICI, an initiative of the Iraqi Government supported by the International Community. The event was attended by representatives of 13 Governments, the European Union, European Commission and League of Arab States, and senior officials of the World Bank, IMF, Islamic Development Bank, The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. The meeting resulted in an agreement on the direction and process of the ICI as presented by the Government of Iraq.

The ICI is an initiative of the Government of Iraq for a new partnership with the International Community. The Compact, jointly co-chaired by the Government of Iraq and the United Nations, with the support of the World Bank, will, over the next five years, bring together the International Community and Multilateral Organizations to support Iraq in achieving its National Vision. This Vision seeks to build a secure, unified, federal and democratic nation, founded on the principles of freedom and equality, and providing peace and prosperity for all its people, and fully integrated within the region and the international community. Guided by the Millennium Development Goals, the Government will work to meet basic needs, protect the rights of all citizens and ensure the optimal use of the country's resources for the common good.

The Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Dr. Barham Salih, together with H.E Dr. Bayan Baqer Jaber Al Zubaidi, Minister of Finance, H.E. Ali Ghaleb Hussain Baban, Minister of Planning and Development Cooperation, H.E. Dr. Husain Al Sharistani, Minister of Oil and H.E. Dr. Mowaffak al Rubaie, the National Security Advisor, spoke to the objectives and commitments that it is hoped will realize the National Vision. They outlined the key priorities on which to form a Compact such as effective public resource management and institutional strengthening, economic reform in private sector development, social sector reforms and investment, energy and agricultural reform investment.

The Government of Iraq also pledged its strong commitment to tackling corruption,

creating a transparent and efficient oil sector, developing a solid budgetary framework, improving governance, and building and consolidating effective national institutions.

The Government of Iraq also recognizes that good governance and resolution of security and political challenges are interlinked, and are pre-requisites for progress in all other areas, including economic revival and normalization. The Government of Iraq therefore expressed its strong commitment to making urgent progress on national reconciliation, political inclusion and consensus building, the rule of law, and the establishment of professional security forces able to carry out their duties impartially.

The participants welcomed the commitments made by the Government of Iraq within a comprehensive political, security and economic framework that addresses the urgent needs of the Iraqi people. The participants also pledged their support to work closely with the Government of Iraq in further developing the ICI with the assistance of the United Nations and the World Bank. They affirmed that the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI) will be re-calibrated as an important instrument for the international community to support the implementation of the ICI. For its part, the United Nations is committed to support and facilitate the ICI, through its mission and agencies in Iraq and the good offices of the Secretary-General and his representatives.

The participants look forward to the next stage of this process, the High-Level Meeting, convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York on 18 September 2006. The New York Meeting will review the development of the ICI within the framework of relevant Security Council

Resolutions. The New York meeting will be followed by an update on the ICI to Finance Ministers at the Annual World Bank/IMF Meeting in Singapore on 18 September 2006.

The Preparatory Group Meeting recognized the need to expeditiously complete the development of the ICI through a broad consultative process at the national, regional and international levels. To this end, the participants expressed their commitment to working towards the adoption of the ICI by the end of the year.

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### **Political Update**

Following its summer recess, the Council of Representatives (COR) resumed sessions on 5 September. During its session, the COR extended the State of Emergency throughout the country for 30 days, with the exception of three northern governorates of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. On 6 September, the COR passed a law liberalizing imports and

distribution of petroleum products, which was hitherto government-run. Amendments to the procedures of criminal law were passed on 11 September.

Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh visited Iran at the head of an official delegation, within his regional tour which included Iran, Egypt and UAE over the period of 5-10 September. In Abu Dhabi, Mr. Saleh headed the Iraqi delegation at the preparatory group meeting of the International Compact with Iraq.

On 5 September, Trade Minister Abd al-Falah al-Sudani met with the head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce and members of the Iran-Iraq Chamber and, in that context, called for more Iranian investment in Iraq's reconstruction projects.

British Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett visited Baghdad and Basra and met with Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri Al-Maliki and President Jalal Talabani. During a meeting with the Foreign Secretary on 5 September, President Talabani commented that British troops could be able to withdraw by the end of 2007.

On 2 September, Prime Minister Maliki met with Grand Ayatollah Ali Al-Sistani in Najaf. Reiterating his support for the National Reconciliation Plan (NRP), Al-Sistani called for the unity of Iraq. He also called for improving public services and government control over the use of weapons within Iraq.

On 31 August, the President of Kurdistan, Massoud Barzani, ordered the removal of the Iraqi national flag from all public buildings. In response, Iraqi Prime Minister Al-Maliki, on 2 September, ordered that the Iraqi flag be hoisted across "every inch of Iraq". The row continued on 3 September, when President Barzani threatened with secession. Barzani's order was issued a few days after his expression of his support to the NRP and a unified Iraq.

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### **Constitutional Support Newsflash**

After weeks of discussion on both contents and adequacy of a draft regional formation law and the establishment of the constitutionally-mandated constitutional review committee, parliamentary groups reached an agreed package whereby a) the review committee is established and has four months to table its proposals for consideration of the Council of Representatives (COR), with the entire process (including referendum on the amendments) linked to a one-year limit timeframe; and b) the draft law for regional formation to be considered by the COR contains an 18-month moratorium for its implementation. This decision de facto

provides for the constitutional review process to be completed before procedures to form regions are implemented.

This agreement comes after considerable dispute on the opportunity of tabling a regional formation law in parliament. An initial proposal from the SCIRI and the Kurdish coalition was strongly opposed by Sunni groups. Tawafiq, Fadillah and Iraqiya presented alternative proposals. Dispute also arose between the parliamentary committees of Legal Affairs and Regions/Governorates, as there was no agreement on which of the two committees should consider the draft before tabling it at plenary level. Within the current agreement, the committee on Legal Affairs has drafted a proposal on the basis of the four existing drafts – including the 18month moratorium –, which is to be considered for first reading on Tuesday September 26.

In this context, OCS has been engaging its Iraqi counterparts in order to both sound their positions on these different issues, and to offer its assistance in the upcoming review process. In particular, OCS has shared a) a non-paper on constitutional review and constitutionally-mandated legislation, outlining suggestions on addressing legal implementation of constitutional mandate subject to review; and b) a non-paper on options for establishment, composition, management and technical support to the constitutional review committee. In the context of the COR decision to establish the constitutional review committee, OCS plans to engage the leadership of the committee as soon as it is elected, and offer UN assistance in both management of the process and provision of substantive support.

Beyond discussion on constitutional review and regional formation, discussion has also been held on draft law on governorate powers, and on draft law on hydrocarbons. In the first case, an initial draft was considered at the level of the regions/governorates committee. In the second, both the Kurdish authorities and the national Ministry of Oil have presented drafts, on which Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh tried to facilitate agreement. Further negotiation is expected in the following weeks. On a parallel constitutional development, the Kurdish Assembly has tabled a draft Kurdish constitution, which has been publicized and on which comments and potential proposals for amendment have been requested.

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## Electoral Update

In the first week of September, The DSRSG Schulenburg and OIC of the Electoral Assistance Office met with Deputy Speaker Sheikh Attiya to provide commentary on the draft law on the establishment of the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC), particularly on the independence of the commissioners.

Attiya agreed to address some of the concerns by de-politicising the process of nominations through the introduction of the High Judicial Council and by increasing the required majority for the removal of commissioners from simple to absolute or two thirds majority. Concern was also expressed about the nomination and appointment mechanism for senior members.

A revised commentary on the draft, incorporating the agreed changes, has been prepared and forwarded to the Legal Committee. The date for the adoption of the draft remains unclear, as the COR agenda is currently taken up by debate around the Executive Procedures for the Formation of Regions and the constitutional review process.

The Electoral Legal Adviser provided comments to the Legal Committee and the Committee of Regions regarding the electoral provisions of the draft Executive Procedures for the Formation of Regions.

On 10 September, after a detention of 7 weeks, IECI Chief Electoral Officer Adel Al-Lami and four heads of departments were released. The release followed a decision by

the IECI Board of Commissioners not to authorize the referral of the investigation to the Court. Al-Lami has requested to be reinstated in his position as CEO which the BoC is considering.

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## Human Rights News

The Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights provided the numbers of detainees for August 2006, with a total for the entire country of 35,542 detainees. There has been a constant increase in the number of detainees since June 2006, particularly in the number of detainees held in the Ministry of Justice.

The reported number of detainees in the Region of Kurdistan remained stable. A significant reduction in the number of detainees within the Ministry of Defense may be explained by more efficient procedures in the transfer of detainees to the Ministry of Justice and in recent transfers of MOD detention facilities to the custody of the Ministry of Justice.

The body of Abdel Monem Yassin Hussein, assistant to a defense lawyer in the current Anfal trial of Saddam Hussein and others, was reportedly found on 3 September in the Medico-Legal Institute of Baghdad. Mr. Yassin Hussein had been kidnapped on 29 August and, according to press reports, had been shot twice in the head and once in the arm.

The Government's media office issued a statement informing the public that it

executed 27 individuals, including one woman, for murder and kidnapping on 6 September.

The discovery of two mass graves in Top Zawa, 15 km south east of Kirkuk, was announced on 4 September. It is believed that the graves contain the remains of victims of the Anfal operation. According to press reports a total of 80 bodies were exhumed.

On 5 September, HRO Erbil visited the KRG Ministry of Human Rights and met with Director General Tavga Rasheed to discuss the Ministry's plan to establish a human rights monitoring network in Iraqi Kurdistan Region. On 7 September, HRO in Erbil and other UN agencies met with Ms. Chnar Saad Abdullah, KRG Minister of Martyrs and Anfal Victims, and some staff of her Ministry. Both ministries welcomed HRO's proposal to hold a Transitional Justice meeting that would focus on accountability for past crimes and the need for mapping and investigating violations that occurred during the past 35 years.

On 11 September the head of the Human Rights Office, Mr. Gianni Magazzeni, met with the Minister of Human Rights of Iraq, Ms. Wijdan Michael to discuss progress in the implementation of the Human Rights Programme for Iraq and in the draft law for the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission for Iraq.

On 4 September, UNAMI HRO met with the Director for Prisons in the Ministry of Human Rights, who reported that all detainees in Abu Ghraib had been transferred to other detention centres, primarily Camp Cropper. The Abu Ghraib facility is currently empty but, due to swelling number of detainees and based on a recommendation by the Ministry of Human Rights, will probably be refurbished and reutilized as a detention centre in the near future.

On 29 August, it was reported that the body of journalist Ayad Nsaif Al Musawi, who was kidnapped in mid-July in the Palestine Street area, was found in mid-August in the same spot where he was kidnapped. The International Federation of Journalists announced that at least 134 journalists and media staff were killed since the US invasion three years ago.

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## Relief, Reconstruction & Development Activities

The focus during the reporting period has been two-fold: supporting the Compact process through technical assistance as well as ensuring that the UNCT's programming strategy is complementary to the Compact's directions, and accelerating the advocacy on

humanitarian issues with donors and UNHQs. To this end, the DSRSG/HC Jean-Marie Fakhouri convened an Emergency Working Group, to mobilize the NGO's and relevant UN actors to re-examine the humanitarian situation and identify an appropriate resource mobilization strategy. At the same time, new momentum was gained on the finalization of the Contingency Plan, with OCHA contacted and expressing willingness to provide technical assistance.

As part of the first element indicated above, the UN Country Team undertook the penultimate phase of its refocusing process, during the week of 11-15 September under the guidance of the DSRSG/RC Jean-Marie Fakhouri, spending four highly dynamic and productive days determining the criteria against which programming would be designed and monitored. Seeking to apply an area-based development approach with IDPs at its centre, the UNCT created a list of six critical criteria that would take into account, among other things, vulnerability, political and security environments, capacity and willingness of counterparts, and capacity of the UN to deliver. The UNCT will finalise its selection matrix, followed by a mapping of current and potential interventions, by early October. These developments will be shared with the government during the DSRSG's current mission in Baghdad.

During his mission to UNNY, the SRSR met with and provided a brief to the ERC, Jan Egeland, concerning the growing intensity of the humanitarian situation. There was a positive response to the presentation, which reiterated the concerns raised in the SRSR's presentation to the Security Council, namely; the rapid deterioration of the security situation in Iraq is resulting in an even speedier decline in the living conditions for the people. It bears repeating that there are over 1.3 million IDPs, with current displacement figures from 22 February reported at over 300,000 individuals, according to the MoDM.

It is anticipated that, during DSRSG Fakhouri's visit to New York at the end of the month, there will be further discussions and hopefully resource mobilisation specifically aimed at the humanitarian situation. This is a critical and positive development, as the resources within the IRFFI UNDG Iraq Trust Fund cannot be directly used for humanitarian assistance; a factor that has hampered the UN Country Team for the past two years. While a small amount of funding was earmarked for capacity building and response in the ITF's early years, the rest of the assistance has been funded through agencies' core and bilateral resources. However, these have not been exhausted.

The last week of the month, there was a two-day workshop, hosted by UNHCR, and bringing together the relevant UN agencies, the Ministry of Displacement and Migration from Baghdad, and representation from the KRG to discuss UNHCR's 2007 programme plan, including a strategy for addressing the IDP situation.

This forum will also provide an opportunity to ensure that while the Compact is the flagship for Iraq's development, the relevant government authorities pay equal attention to the immediate issues of human security and basic needs to ensure an acceptable quality of life for the people. This is a critical element underpinning the Compact, and such fora make it possible for the Iraqi government to identify potential linkages between the two elements.

## Brief from PIO

The Public Information Office (PIO) has posted the electronic version of the UNAMI Focus magazine on the UNAMI website. The address guide for international journalists in Iraq has been finalized. In addition, PIO issued on 3 September, 2006 a press release in which SRSR Ashraf Qazi condemns the brutal murder of Shia pilgrims on their way to Karbala.

PIO arranged a press conference following the conclusion of a series of Iraqi multiparty dialogue seminars which were organized by the Office of Constitutional Support in the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (OCS/UNAMI). Representatives of Iraqi political parties, technocrats, academics and civil society organizations, along with leading international experts on key constitutional issues participated in the seminars. Participants tackled federalism related issues including fiscal federalism and oil and gas, the judiciary, human rights, and accountability of government.

PIO also disseminated a media advisory, on behalf of the media bureau of the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, Mr. Barham Saleh, to regional and international press to invite them to attend the Compact preparatory meeting in Dubai on 10 September 2007.

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## Fiji Guard Activities

UNGU actively contributed in UNAMI Commemoration of the 3rd anniversary of the Canal Hotel Bombing Commemoration on 19 Aug 06. The third anniversary of the occasion was a sombre day in which the lives of the twenty-two UN staff members lost in 2003 was remembered by members of the current UNAMI mission. A (UNGU catafalque detachment stood guard at the memorial epitaph for the morning remembrance service which included speeches, wreath laying and the playing of the 'Last Post', also by the UNGU bugler.

On 21 Aug 06, a Guard Unit detachment was deployed to Tamimi Camp as the security unit for the new UN staff accommodations.

A two-member Fiji Government Peacekeeping Review Team visited the contingent and UNAMI from 31 August to 03 September 06. This was an annual government fact finding visit to witness how the UNGU has been contributing to UNAMI

and how that service could be improved in months to come. They met and had dinner with the SRSR after arrival and for the rest of their stay were hosted and escorted around Baghdad by the Fiji Guard Unit. In their own words, it has been an 'eye opener' for them and they will inform the Fiji Government accordingly of the magnitude of UNAMI's service to the people of Iraq and how UNGU is contributing to this assistance mission.

Finally, on 04 Sep 06, the much awaited Tamimi Compound guard Platoon arrived into the country under Second Lieutenant Asaeli Toanikeve. They have since been integrated into the security responsibilities at Diwan.

In its Outreach Programme, the UNGU choir and cultural group have been active in projecting the Fijian culture and way of life in the IZ. The normal Morning Prayer breakfast visit to the US Embassy was conducted on 03 Sep 06, and on 07 Sep, the cultural group was invited to an anniversary celebration of a private security company located in the IZ. This has boosted our internal, as well as external relationships further, at the same time providing the opportunity for the guard members to perform other duties apart from that they usually do.

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## Photos from UNAMI Activities



SRSR and Iraqi Gov representative lay wreath in commemoration of 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of victims of 19 Aug, 03 attack on UN HQ in Baghdad-  
10/09/06

## UNAMI Focus

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