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EDITORIAL

[Issue 108 – April 17, 2008](#)

Leadership: Good Governance or “Wariorism”?

Leadership is nowadays all the rage. There are countless, books, articles, websites and conferences devoted to leadership and developing the qualities of great leadership.

Leadership is ultimately about getting things done that Drive to Take Action - and get results and improve performance. It is the ability to influence, motivate and provide the tools and environment to others so that they can best contribute towards the successful attainment of the goals of their community or organisation.

Some charismatic personalities are considered Leaders. Having a Title or misusing power, authority or / and weapons to accomplish certain tasks and objectives in the community, this power does not make a leader...it simply makes the boss. Imposing fear, using violence, threatening and fighting for the interests of a group is not leadership.

Leadership is a process by which a person influences others to accomplish an objective and directs the community in a way that makes it more cohesive and coherent. Leaders carry out this process by applying their leadership attributes, such as beliefs, values, ethics, character, knowledge, and skills. Leadership makes the followers want to achieve high goals for common interests, rather than simply alienating people around for a group agenda or personal achievements. Goals and objectives will also define the Leadership. The world needs Leaders not warlike and warriors.

Salaam,
NCCI Team

HUMANITARIAN UPDATES

FROM NCCI, NGOS' REPORTS FROM THE FIELD AND UN AGENCIES

Operational Humanitarian Space

- [Uprooted and unstable: Meeting urgent humanitarian needs in Iraq](#)

Source: [Refugee International](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 14, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Uprooted and Unstable: Meeting Urgent Humanitarian Needs in Iraq describes a vacuum of humanitarian assistance created by the failure of the Iraqi government and the international community to administer aid to civilians. During a mission inside Iraq, researchers for Refugees International found that Iraqi militias are creating a Hezbollah-like dynamic by becoming major humanitarian providers of food, clothing, oil and other basic resources. As a result, militias are recruiting civilians, including displaced Iraqis, at a rapid pace.

- [UN backs conference to prevent recurrence of cholera outbreak in Kurdistan](#)

Source: [UN](#)

Document: **Press Release**

Date: **April 14, 2008**

Access: **Open**

A United Nations-backed international conference is under way in Iraq's Kurdistan region to draw up measures to prevent a recurrence of last year's cholera outbreak, which saw more than 30,000 people fall ill with acute watery diarrhoea. "Last year's crisis demonstrated how crucial it is to embark on concerted efforts to urgently improve the delivery of basic services to the population in order that another outbreak of cholera does not occur again this year," UN Development Programme (UNDP) country director Paolo Lembo told the gathering of the disease, which is spread by drinking contaminated water and in extreme cases can be fatal.

- [ERC NGO Coordination meeting - Draft](#)

Source: [NCCI](#)

Document: **MoM**

Date: **April 17, 2008**

Access: **Member**

The United Nations' Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Sir John Holmes, expressed the wish to meet the NGOs during his visit to Amman. NCCI Office in coordination with OCHA organized the meeting at NCCI premises. Sir Holmes wishes to hear NGOs perception of the coordination with the UN and what are their major concerns. The CAP is considered by OCHA as a good exercise to put together and develop the relations between the UN Agencies and the NGOs.

- [HC NGO Coordination meeting - Draft](#)

Source: [NCCI](#)

Document: **MoM**

Date: **April 17, 2008**

Access: **Member**

The United Nations' DSRSG/HC/RC in Iraq, Mr. David Shearer expressed the wish to meet the NGOs. NCCI Office in coordination with OCHA organized the meeting at NCCI premises on April 8. The HC presented the UN coordination structure and was interested in hearing NGOs concerns regarding Iraq as well as comments on the new coordination structure recently set-up by the Humanitarian Coordinator and OCHA.

Humanitarian Needs and Assistance

- [IMC Al Sadr City – 11 April](#)
- [IMC Al Sadr City – 15 April](#)
- [IMC Situational Assessment – 14 April](#)
- [IMC Humanitarian Situation Report](#)

Source: [IMC](#)

Document: **Report**

Date: **April , 2008**

Access: **Members**

Fighting eased on Saturday, April 12 in Sadr City after a night of clashes and air strikes- deaths have been confirmed although IMC has not been able to ascertain number of deaths.

- [Al Sadr City](#)

Source: [UPP](#)

Document: **Press Release**

Date: **April 12, 2008**

Access: **Open**

"We are isolated. Barricaded in our houses and isolated. We are not able to communicate with anyone and no one is communicating with us" said M., a 38 year old Iraqi journalist living under siege in Al'Sadr City in Baghdad that started 13 days ago. For almost two weeks American soldiers have surrounded Al'Sadr City and its two million inhabitants; the block is full of Muqtada Al'Sadr militia. We asked M. what the most urgent priority was. "Hospitals are not able to accept wounded people and corpses anymore. The two hospitals in the neighborhood and our only clinic are already full. And that's not all; they have generators but they can't use them for lack of fuel".

- [Shelter Project 2007](#)

Source: [INTERMOS](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 13, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Intermos mission for Iraq – 2007 shelter project.

- [Humanitarian Situation Report Al Sadr city](#)

Source: [OCHA](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 15, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Iraqi Security Forces have been clashing with militia, notably Moqtada Al Sadr's Mehdi Army, since the Government of Iraq's crack down on so called "criminals and outlaws" in Basra on 25 March. The situation in Basra is relatively calm: the current operation is limited to house to house searches for the purpose of the collecting weapons.

- [Humanitarian Working Group](#)

Source: [OCHA](#)

Document: **MoM**

Date: **April 15, 2008**

Access: **Members**

The HWG was convened first time on the second day the hostilities broke out and focused on WWW (stock taking) and on updating each other on "who had what information". The HWG should also at that stage have included a discussion on how we should have organised ourselves and what key information would have been relevant to obtain

- [Expended Humanitarian Response Fund and NGO Micro Grant](#)

Source: [OCHA](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 17, 2008**

Access: **Open**

As of March 31, 2008, a total 33 project proposals have been submitted to the ERF since August, 2007. Nine projects proposals have been submitted by international NGOs and twenty – two by Iraqi NGOs. Twenty-two projects have been approved with 8 completed projects and 14 ongoing projects, with a total value of \$ 3 543 152.

Human Rights and Protection

- [Protection Sector Outcome Team – National Policy for Displacement](#)

- [Protection issues](#)

Source: [UNHCR](#)

Document: [MoM](#)

Date: [April 14, 2008](#)

Access: [Members](#)

The aim of this policy is to find durable solutions and develop an effective, realistic and comprehensive framework to respond to the needs of displaced persons* from emergency to protracted/prolonged displacement. The large-scale displacement in Iraq needs consolidated/uniform response at all levels of government. The policy was developed through a process of broad consultation, led by the Ministry of Displaced and Migrants (MoDM) and Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) with a large number of key stakeholders at national, regional and local levels in Iraq. This process included the groups and communities aggrieved/affected by displacement (both the Internally Displaced (IDs) and the host communities), professionals working with the mixed communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local authorities.

- [SRSG CAAC - Briefing note on Protection of Children in Iraq](#)

Source: [UN](#)

Document: [Briefing note](#)

Date: [April 16, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

The humanitarian crisis in Iraq continues to take its toll on 29 million Iraqis, half of whom are under the age of 18. In south and central Iraq, families live in a context of deprivation, violence and absence of rule of law. The protection of civilians is gravely compromised, characterized by gross and systematic violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law perpetrated by both state and non-state actors. With the loss of tens of thousands of caregivers, the erosion of children's protective environment is creating conditions that expose them to extreme levels of violence and deprivation on a daily basis

- [Iraqi detainees languish uncharged in crowded jails](#)

Source: [McClatchy](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [April 9, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

Barefoot in his yellow jumpsuit, the young detainee's eyes welled up as he described in a shaking voice how he landed in an Iraqi army detention facility on the outskirts of Baghdad. He was visiting his mother in the hospital when Iraqi soldiers raided the hospital and detained him and several others, said Thamer Hamed, 22. They handcuffed and blindfolded him and took him to a holding cell at a former U.S. military base, ironically named Camp Constitution, that's been handed over to the Iraqi army. There, he was told that he was accused of murder. That was 45 days ago, and he still hadn't seen a judge, he said.

- [Around 1,350 children languishing in Iraq jails](#)

Source: [Khaleej Times](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [April 10, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

Around 1,350 children are estimated to be detained in various Iraqi jails for conflict with the law, Unicef officials said in Dubai yesterday. Launching the Arabic version of the annual Humanitarian Action Report (HAR) in Dubai, Sigrid Kaag, Unicef's regional director for the Middle East and North Africa, also called for strategic partnerships and flexible funding to enhance emergency response in the region. "As of 2007, there are estimates that about 900 to 1,350 children may have been detained in Iraqi jails for conflict with the law. We are trying to determine who these kids are and where they are. We are concerned about the protection of children

and children's rights, especially of those who are in conflict with the law," Kaag told reporters after the launch of the report.

- [Iraqi Court Kicks Loose AP Photo Held by U.S.: Right-Wing Heads Explode](#)

Source: [Alternet](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 9, 2008**

Access: **Open**

An Iraqi judicial committee has dismissed terrorism-related allegations against Associated Press photographer Bilal Hussein and ordered him released nearly two years after he was detained by the U.S. military. Hussein, 36, remained in custody at Camp Cropper, a U.S. detention facility near Baghdad's airport.

Health

- [LIFE activities in Health for March 08](#)

Source: [LIFE](#)

Document: **Report**

Date: **April 14, 2008**

Access: **Members**

Life Clinic in Diallah; Specialists Surgery; Ibn albaitar cardiac surgery hospital; Life clinic in Baghdad; Alnamma Clinic in Karkuk; Haditha hospital; Alrahma hospital; Karkuk hospital; Baquba hospital; Samara hospital; Samawa Hospital.

- [Health and Nutrition Sector Outcome Team](#)

Source: [UNWHO](#)

Document: **MoM**

Date: **April 14, 2008**

Access: **Members**

Updates on the current situation in Iraq; Agree on modus operandi in sharing information (to help in validation of information)

Food and Agriculture

- [WFP Ambassador Mahmoud Yassin appeals for funds for displaced Iraqis](#)

Source: [UNWFP](#)

Document: **Press Release**

Date: **April 15 2008**

Access: **Open**

The World Food Programme's (WFP) Ambassador Against Hunger [Mahmoud Yassin](#) has called on donors to provide urgent funding now to enable WFP to continue its operation to provide food assistance to tens of thousands displaced Iraqis in Syria after early June.

Education

- [Education Sector Outcome Team](#)

Source: [UNICEF](#)

Document: **MoM**

Date: **April 16, 2008**

Access: **Members**

This set of guidelines was developed by the Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) / Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, with the advice of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and in consultation and

collaboration with a wide range of humanitarian actors working on Iraq, including the United Nations Country Team in Amman, non-governmental organisations and others.

IDPs

- [Returning home is no easy solution for displaced Iraqis](#) [Arabic and English](#)

Source: [IOM](#)

Document: **Report**

Date: **April 15, 2008**

Access: **Open**

At close of 2007, International attention began to focus on the return of Iraqis from displacement internally and abroad. This phenomenon has been raised as a political issue and used an indicator in debates on the Iraqi context. However, the return of displaced Iraqis is first and foremost a humanitarian issue that requires assessment and assistance.

- [IOM emergency needs assessments - Bi-Weekly Report](#)

Source: [IOM](#)

Document: **Report**

Date: **April 15, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Following the February 2006 bombing of the Samarra Al-Askari Mosque, escalating sectarian violence in Iraq caused massive displacement, both internal and to locations abroad. In coordination with the Iraqi government's Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM), IOM continues to assess Iraqi displacement through a network of partners on the ground.

Refugees

- [Iraqis need entry visa as of May 1](#)

Source: [UNHCR Jordan Times](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 16, 2008**

Access: **Open**

As of May 1, Iraqis planning to enter the Kingdom will need visa issued in advance, Ministry of Interior Spokesperson Ziad Zu'bi announced on Monday. Eligible applicants will have to apply the International courier TNT Post's offices in Iraq or through the Jordanian diplomatic missions abroad, Zu'bi said.

- [Briefing on the Latest Developments in the Iraqi Refugee Admissions Program](#)

Source: [US Department of State](#)

Document: **Report**

Date: **April 9, 2007**

Access: **Open**

All right. Thank you, Tom. Thanks for coming, all of you. I see this briefing as an opportunity mostly to talk about my trip to the Middle East and to Europe, which was almost exclusively focused on the assistance side, the need to meet the needs of the roughly 2 million Iraqi refugees who are in place in the region, in the neighboring countries. But let me just mention, in passing, the resettlement issue. I think you are aware that in March, that we resettled 751 Iraqis and that means that thus far this fiscal year, we are in the neighborhood of about 2,700 arrivals. And together with the figures from last year, from '07, we're currently at a little over 4,300 total Iraqis who have been resettled in the United States as refugees. There has also been a number of special immigrant visa recipients and their family members. So I think the number of Iraqis who have been resettled in the U.S. certainly exceeds 5,000..

- [Refugees fight forced return to Iraq war zones](#)

Source: [Guardian](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 13, 2008**

Access: **Open**

The United Nations last night accused the government of holding a 'sword of Damocles' over the heads of Iraqi refugees in Britain after it emerged that the Home Office had won a landmark test case giving it the power to

return refugees to war-torn parts of their home country, including Basra and Baghdad. The ruling, which is being studied closely by other European countries, has alarmed refugee support groups, who say it means asylum seekers from war zones could be returned to other dangerous countries, such as Somalia.

- ['Betrayed' Iraqi staff in test case over UK's refusal to offer asylum](#)

Source: [Independent](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 14, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Iraqi interpreters, clerical staff and labourers who face death threats and persecution after risking their lives working for British forces are challenging the Government's refusal to grant them sanctuary in the UK. A test case in the High Court will accuse the Government of abandoning former Iraqi staff who have fled their homes after being branded "spies and collaborators" by the Shia militias. Many have seen their homes bombed, family members killed or have received death threats

IRAQ CONTEXT

General Overview

- [Iraq Crisis Report \(IraqHAR\)](#)

Source: [Centre of Excellence on Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance](#)

Document: **Weekly report**

Date: **April 16, 2008**

Access: **Open**

The Washington-based non-governmental organization (NGO) Refugees International (RI) published a report on Tuesday (April 15) saying the movement of radical anti-US Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr is now Iraq's main humanitarian organization helping needy Iraqis, underscoring the group's influence. RI said Sadr's Mahdi Army as well as other Shiite and Sunni militias were expanding their influence by providing food, shelter and other essentials to destitute Iraqis. RI's findings indicate Sadr's movement is expected to make political gains against other Shiite parties supporting Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki during October provincial elections. This is a cause of concern for US officials who view reducing the militias' influence as one of the Iraqi government's challenges. RI said the Sadrist movement was operating in a similar manner to Lebanon's Hezbollah, a group sponsored by Shiite Iran that provides humanitarian services in Lebanon. RI said, "Not only do these militias now have a quasi-monopoly in the large-scale provision of assistance in Iraq, they are also recruiting an increasing number of civilians to their militias -- including displaced Iraqis." (RI, Reuters, Apr-15)

- [Juan Cole's informed comment's excerpts](#)

Source: [Informed Comment – Juan Cole's Web Blog.](#)

Document: **Selection of daily comments**

Date: **April 10 - 17, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Juan Cole is a Professor of Modern Middle East and South Asian History at the University of Michigan. As such he brings daily much needed expertise and historical perspective to issues surrounding Iraq, Afghanistan and the Middle East. Good reading to have a weekly review of the Iraq daily situation.

Blurring the lines

- [Good News! PSCs and NGOs Get Along...Sometimes](#)

Source: [Serviam magazine](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **March - April , 2008**

Access: **Open**

When drafting this story, I'd hoped it would end up a "good news" piece—an antidote to the dismal media coverage of private security contractors (PSCs). Surely something cheery could take the curse off last September's Nisoor Square (Baghdad) nightmare. After all, the two "sides" work in common geostrategic neighborhoods. Two things, though, became clear early on. One, employees of PSCs and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) are hardly comrades. And two, modalities for changing attitudes—even if the two sides

wanted to—don't exist. In short, their relations are lousy. Most officials have precious little to say on the record. An individual close to the PSC industry suggested that a reporter log onto chat rooms. CARE, a humanitarian organization, among other leading outfits, couldn't even manage a "sorry." PSC and NGO Web sites convey zilch of substance on the issue. Clearly, each side is mentally bunkered, and these bunkers appear off-limits to reporters.

- [NGO Seminar on Civ-Mil relations](#)

Source: [NGO Voice](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **December 2007 , 2008**

Access: **Open**

Voluntary organizations in Cooperation in Emergency (VOICE) is a network representing some 90 European Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) active in humanitarian work. VOICE is the main interlocutor with the European Union on humanitarian affairs, including emergency aid, relief, rehabilitation and disaster preparedness.

Iraqi Living Conditions

- [Curfew in Najaf after murder of al-Sadr aide](#)

Source: [ADN Kronos International](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 11, 2008**

Access: **Open**

A curfew was imposed in the city of Najaf, south of Baghdad on Friday after the assassination of a key aide of radical Shia cleric, Moqtada al-Sadr. Riyadh al-Nuri, the director of the cleric's office in Najaf, was killed by unidentified gunmen near his home as he returned from Friday prayers. According to Ahmad Dabil, a government spokesman quoted by Voices of Iraq, an indefinite curfew was imposed immediately after the shooting.

- ["Acute shortages" in clash-hit Baghdad suburbs](#)

Source: [IRIN](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 10, 2008**

Access: **Open**

A humanitarian crisis is looming in two sprawling Shia suburbs in Baghdad, as clashes continue between government forces (backed by US soldiers) and Shia militants, members of parliament and residents said on 10 April.

- [Iraqi marriages are a casualty of war](#)

Source: [Los Angeles Times](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 13, 2008**

Access: **Open**

For years, most of the solemn young couples who sought out Sayid Rafid Hussein were looking for a marriage certificate. Now, the robed cleric says, many who make their way to his office near a revered Shiite Muslim shrine want a divorce. "I try to convince them not to do it," Hussein says.

- [Devising Survival at Factory in Iraq](#)

Source: [New York Times](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 14, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Before April 2003, when the maze of crooked lanes that branch away from Rasheed Street downtown were crammed with hundreds of small leather goods factories, Hassan Attiya, now 43, designed fancy women's shoes under his signature "Cowboy" label. And his workers manufactured and sold them by the thousands.

Rule of Law

- [Parliament urges government to reallocate development money to those in need](#)

Source: [IRIN](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 13 , 2008**

Access: **Open**

The Iraqi parliament on 12 April urged the government to reallocate US\$5 billion earmarked for investment in infrastructure and services to social welfare programmes, a food rationing system and to meet the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs). "We believe that \$5 billion will serve the citizens well if the funds are used in an appropriate way and a mechanism is established for the fair distribution of the funds among the citizens by boosting food rations, social welfare programmes and by helping displaced families," Sheikh Sabah al-Saidi, head of the Iraqi parliament's anti-corruption committee, said.

- [Efforts to continue to accelerate Electoral law](#)

Source: [Al Yaqeen Center](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 16 , 2008**

Access: **Open**

Independent Higher Election Commission and UN election experts met with the Constitutional Committee and as well as parliamentary blocks and presented a number of suggestions about studying Election law to prepare for the election which will help to determine the country's political system and as well as discussing the law's article, mainly the women's share in the provincial councils and how IDPs can vote.

Violence and (Un-) security

- [Haunting: The Pillaging and Destruction of Iraq's National Museum of Antiquities](#)

Source: [Axis of Logic](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 9, 2008**

Access: **Open**

"The Iraqis have accused the US of the most organized cultural 'crime of the century'. And rightly so. US archaeologists have even suggested that the failure to protect Iraqi antiquities could amount to a war crime under the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property. According to initial estimates, a total of 170,000 statues, clay tablets, pieces of pottery and jewelry dating back more than 5,000 years to the first dawn of civilization simply vanished.

- [Can You spot the Difference Between These Two Wounded Children? \(An Iraqi Mother Can't\)](#)

Source: [Alternet](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 10, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Did you spot the difference -- it's not the obvious one that one is a boy and one is a girl. The answer is below the fold: The difference between the two is that the The girl was wounded in the roadside bombing attack on a bus south of Baqubah. The boy was wounded in one of several American rocket attacks on Sadr city today.

- [Sadr City clashes hit Iraqi civilians hard](#)

Source: [CS Monitor](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 11, 2008**

Access: **Open**

A mini Koran and a toy cellphone was lying next to a bandaged Batoul Ahmed, barely 2 years old, as her mother wept by the bed in a Sadr City hospital Thursday, where many of the injured children have been taken during the recent spike in fighting. In this densely populated Shiite district that has become the latest front in the US and Iraqi campaign against Moqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia, the youngest residents are among those suffering most.

- [Gunmen Kill Aide and In-Law of Iraqi Cleric](#)

Source: [New York Times](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 12, 2008

Access: Open

A senior aide to the radical anti-American cleric Moqtada al-Sadr was assassinated in Najaf as he returned home from Friday Prayer, raising the likelihood that tensions would climb still higher between Mr. Sadr's loyalists and the Iraqi government forces they have been battling.

- [Sadr aide slain in Najaf](#)

Source: [Los Angeles Times](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 12, 2008

Access: Open

A senior aide to Shiite Muslim cleric Muqtada Sadr was shot dead outside his home Friday in the Iraqi shrine city of Najaf, prompting suspicions that either rival Shiite parties or competing factions inside the Sadr movement were responsible. Police immediately enforced a curfew on Najaf to try to prevent a recurrence of the Shiite-on-Shiite violence that raged from Basra to Baghdad in late March and resulted in an estimated 600 Iraqi deaths.

- [Iraq's ruined library soldiers on](#)

Source: [The Nation](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 9, 2008

Access: Open

The brutalities of the Iraq war accumulate so fast it is difficult to keep track. But in this season of fifth-year anniversaries, one largely forgotten crime demands to be recalled, in part because it relates directly to the politics of memory itself. Five years ago this week, US troops stood by as looters sacked the Iraq National Library and Archives (INLA)--one of the oldest and most used in the world. In Arab countries the old expression was "Cairo writes, Beirut publishes, and Baghdad reads." American troops were under orders not to intervene. Library staff who requested protection from the GI's were told, "We are soldiers, not policemen" or "our orders do not extend to protecting this [building]." American military orders did, however, extend to guarding the Ministry of Oil, and the headquarters of the Mukhabarat, Saddam Hussein's secret police.

- [Bombings kill nearly 60 in Sunni areas of Iraq](#)

Source: [AP](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 15, 2008

Access: Open

Bombings blamed on al-Qaida in Iraq tore through market areas in Baghdad and outside the capital on Tuesday, killing nearly 60 people and shattering weeks of relative calm in Sunni-dominated areas

Reconstruction

- [Economic Reform and Diversification Sector Outcome Team](#)

- [Minutes of the meeting](#)

Source: [ILO](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 15, 2008

Access: Open

Review and Adoption of minutes of previous meeting Briefing was adopted without modification – Final version will be circulated before next meeting.

[Facts on Iraq Reconstruction](#)

Source: [AP](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 14, 2008

Access: Open

Since 2003, Congress has appropriated about \$47.5 billion while the Iraqis have budgeted \$50.6 billion. International contributions have totaled \$15.8 billion. The U.S. has allocated most of its money, but Iraq hasn't. In 2006 and 2007, for example, Iraq designated \$16.3 billion as its capital budget, which is used to invest in reconstruction projects. But it spent only \$2.9 billion.

Iraqi Political process

- [Sadr bloc hints at reconciliation](#)

Source: [UPI](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 11, 2008

Access: Open

An official with the political party of Moqtada Sadr said Friday the movement seeks reconciliation with the Iraqi government through political dialogue. Abdul-Hadi al-Muhammadawi, a top official with the Sadrist Movement's office Karbala, said the party is calling for dialogue through peaceful means to resolve its issues with the government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, Voices of Iraq reported.

- [Iraqi cabinet agrees provincial election law](#)

Source: [Alnet](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 13, 2008

Access: Open

Iraq's cabinet has agreed on a draft of a law governing provincial elections to be held later this year and will now submit it for approval to parliament, government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said on Sunday. "The cabinet has endorsed it and will send it to parliament, which has 90 days to pass it," Dabbagh told a briefing in Baghdad.

- [Iraq to seek parliamentary approval for long-term U.S. pact](#)

Source: [Reuters](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 14, 2008

Access: Open

Iraq will seek parliamentary approval for a strategic agreement being negotiated with the United States even though it expects heated debate over the deal, Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari said. U.S. and Iraqi officials began talks last month on a strategic framework agreement that defines long-term bilateral ties and a separate "status of forces" deal outlining rules and protections governing U.S. military activity in Iraq.

Policies and Strategies

- [Petraeus urges Maliki to work with Sadr](#)

Source: [Bloomberg News](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 11, 2008

Access: Open

The top U.S. commander in Iraq, Gen. David H. Petraeus, urged the Iraqi government to seek conciliation with Shiite leader Muqtada al-Sadr, saying the cleric headed a "legitimate political movement" that could play a constructive role. Petraeus expressed worry that the recent clashes between Sadr's militia and government forces in Baghdad and Basra could undermine an eight-month-old truce between Sadr's Mahdi Army militia and U.S. forces that has contributed to a decline in violence.

- [The Iraq wars](#)

Source: [Boston Globe](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 11, 2008

Access: Open

Today Iraq is embroiled in three separate civil wars, only one which has involved US troops in a significant way. These three conflicts have generated most of the country's violence, and are intensively reported in the Iraqi press, which I follow closely. The next president will inherit these ongoing Iraqi regional conflict. The chief news of the past two weeks has come from Basra, where Iraq's central government mounted a major military push against the supporters of cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. The sudden campaign surprised many observers, but shouldn't have: Even before the recent fighting, Basra was divided by an armed power struggle among al-Sadr and two other fundamentalist Shia parties.

- [Secret Iraqi Deal Shows Problems in Arms Orders](#)

Source: [New York Times](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 13, 2008

Access: Open

An \$833 million Iraqi arms deal secretly negotiated with Serbia has underscored Iraq's continuing problems equipping its armed forces, a process that has long been plagued by corruption and inefficiency. The deal was struck in September without competitive bidding and it sidestepped anticorruption safeguards, including the approval of senior uniformed Iraqi Army officers and an Iraqi contract approval committee.

- [Iraq security forces fire 1,300 deserters](#)

Source: [Los Angeles Times](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 14, 2008

Access: Open

Iraqi officials said Sunday that they had fired about 1,300 soldiers and police officers who refused to fight Shiite Muslim militias during the recent government crackdown, desertions that raise questions about the likely performance of Iraqi forces as U.S. troop levels decrease.

- [PM: Status of Kurdish peshmerga remains unchanged despite crackdown on militias](#)

Source: [AP](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 12, 2008

Access: Open

Iraq's Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and the head of the Kurdish regional authority agreed Saturday to retain the current semiautonomous status of the peshmerga — the military force responsible for security in Iraqi Kurdistan — despite a government crackdown on militias elsewhere in Iraq

- [Iraqi Militias Win Recruits With Aid](#)

Source: [AP](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 14, 2008

Access: Open

Sectarian militias are increasing their profile in Iraq and recruiting members by providing much-needed assistance to families displaced by the war, according to the Washington-based advocacy group Refugees International. In a report to be released on Tuesday, the group says that the Iraqi government's inability to provide basic services for its displaced citizens has attracted the attention of Sunni and Shiite militias, who are stepping in to provide food, oil, electricity, clothing and money.

- [Iraq opens door to foreign contracts at major oil fields](#)

Source: [Telegraph](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 15, 2008

Access: Open

Five years since the US and Britain toppled Saddam Hussein's dictatorship, there have been few forays by oil's major players into Iraq, even though the country accounts for almost 10pc of world reserves. A violent insurgency

forced most oil companies to keep executives responsible for Iraq outside the country. Most are based in the Gulf.

- [Militia break-up poses questions](#)

Source: [Gulfnews](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [April 14, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Al Maliki's insistence on dissolving the Mahdi Army militia has prompted many questions concerning the Shiite leader Moqtada Al Sadr's options, the Iranian role, and US and various Iraqi political forces' positions. Al Maliki and others should realise that dissolving the Mahdi Army and disarming it is unacceptable and its leader Sadr will not consider this step an option," Talal Al Sa'adi, a prominent figure in the Al Sadr trend, told Gulf News.

- [Basra in chaos as top commander is fired](#)

Source: [Telegraph](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [April 17, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

Britain faced further humiliation in Basra as officials admitted they did not know who ran its security amid reports that the top Iraqi general had been fired. The admission came after the Iraqi interior ministry announced that Lieutenant-General Mohan al-Furaiji and police Major-General Abdul-Jalil Khalaf had been sacked. However, an Iraqi defence ministry spokesman later flatly denied the announcement. The reports came after more than a thousand Iraqi soldiers were sacked by the government for desertion during a government crackdown on Shia militias in the city last month.

Iraq and International policies

- [General Urges Care in Dealing With Militia](#)

Source: [New York Times](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [April 11, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

The top U.S. commander in Iraq on Thursday urged a "very, very sensitive approach" in dealing with the Shiite militias loyal to the radical cleric [Moktada al-Sadr](#), as the Baghdad government unwinds a military operation against Sadr followers and other armed groups in southern Iraq.

- [Sweden says Iraq-U.N. conference set for May 29](#)

Source: [Alternet](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [April 10, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

A conference on Iraq's development is set for May 29, host country Sweden said on Thursday, adding it expected United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Iraqi Premier Nuri al-Maliki to attend. The conference, which was announced on April 3 by Sweden on the sidelines of a NATO summit, is a follow-up meeting to the so-called International Compact with Iraq. The U.N. Secretary-General and Maliki will issue invitations.

- [Bush Signals No Further Reduction of Troops in Iraq](#)

Source: [New York Times](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [April 11, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

President Bush said Thursday that the senior United States commander in Iraq could "have all the time he needs" before reducing American forces there any further, but he promised shorter tours for troops and longer breaks for them at home.

- [Iraq and the Surge](#)

Source: [International Crisis Group](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 9, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Mr. Chairman: Let me begin by expressing my deep appreciation for the invitation to testify before the Senate Armed Services Committee. This hearing comes at an important time, when some argue that the surge's success dictates continuation of the US military presence while others claim the surge's underlying failure commands a relatively prompt military withdrawal.

- [U.S. Attempt to Control Iraq's Oil and Economy Continues Behind the Scenes](#)

Source: [Alternet](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 7, 2008**

Access: **Open**

As violence rises again in Iraq, negotiations to institutionalize US economic dominance continue unabated. While the battle of Basra raged last week, a series of talks between the Bush administration and the US-backed Maliki government rolled forward. These negotiations may have at least as many implications for Iraq's future as the violence on the ground. The discussions, ongoing since November, stem from a "Declaration of Principles" agreement signed by the two leaders, aimed at establishing a long-term "friendship" between their countries.

- [An Iraqi View of the War](#)

Source: [Washington Post](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 14, 2008**

Access: **Open**

While Gen. David H. Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker were on Capitol Hill last week updating the situation in Iraq from the American point of view, Iraq's ambassador to the United States, Sameer Shaker Sumaidaie, was giving his somewhat different -- also upbeat -- view at a think tank in downtown Washington.

HUMANITARIAN WORLD PERSPECTIVES & QUALITY OF AID

- [CERF Newsletter Apr 2008](#)

Source: [OCHA](#)

Document: **Press Release**

Date: **April 11, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Iraq – A \$ 1.56 million CERF grant is enabling eleven nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to sustain humanitarian activities in Iraq. The allocation goes to the Expanded Humanitarian Response Fund (ERF) for Iraq, which address gaps in several sectors, including food, non-food items (NFIs), safe drinking water and sanitation, as well as basic health care.

This Page is your page

If you have an announcement (training, workshop, etc) regarding your organisation, if you are aware about meetings, events, humanitarian update, if you would like to make known some information, please send them to webmanager@ncciraq.org

Weekly Schedule

We encourage you to check regularly our Weekly Schedule on our [Website](#) for updates. We have added on our [weekly schedule](#) some events hold in Iraq or Jordan that concern only specific invited people. They are highlighted as "restricted". This is to give better information on what is going on to our members.

Upcoming important dates

April-17 / Raby'-al Thaany -11

Liberation Day / Iraq – Iran War

Updates & Announcements

We would like to inform you that NGO Intersos advertised new [vacancies](#); Medecins Sans Frontieres is looking for skilled medical personnel, their vacancy you can check it [here](#).

NCCI Price Indicators for [February, 2008](#) and [March 2008](#) are prepared.

NCCI would, also, like to inform you that the NCCI web maintenance will take place between 18-19 April 2008 and to apologize in advance for any possible inconvenience caused by it.

European Advocacy Workshop on Iraq will be held in London, April 22, 2008. Workshop agenda you can check it [here](#).