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EDITORIAL

[Issue 110 – April 30, 2008](#)

Principles of Partnership (PoP)

A Statement of Commitment

Endorsed by the Global Humanitarian Platform, 12 July 2007

The *Global Humanitarian Platform*, created in July 2006, brings together UN and non-UN humanitarian organizations on an equal footing.

- Striving to enhance the effectiveness of humanitarian action, based on an ethical obligation and accountability to the populations we serve,
- Acknowledging diversity as an asset of the humanitarian community and recognizing the interdependence among humanitarian organizations,
- Committed to building and nurturing an effective partnership,

... the organizations participating in the **Global Humanitarian Platform** agree to base their partnership on the following principles:

➤ Equality

Equality requires mutual respect between members of the partnership irrespective of size and power. The participants must respect each other's mandates, obligations and independence and recognize each other's constraints and commitments. Mutual respect must not preclude organizations from engaging in constructive dissent.

➤ Transparency

Transparency is achieved through dialogue (on equal footing), with an emphasis on early consultations and early sharing of information. Communications and transparency, including financial transparency, increase the level of trust among organizations.

➤ Result-oriented approach

Effective humanitarian action must be reality-based and action-oriented. This requires result-oriented coordination based on effective capabilities and concrete operational capacities.

➤ Responsibility

Humanitarian organizations have an ethical obligation to each other to accomplish their tasks responsibly, with integrity and in a relevant and appropriate way. They must make sure they commit to activities only when

they have the means, competencies, skills, and capacity to deliver on their commitments. Decisive and robust prevention of abuses committed by humanitarians must also be a constant effort.

➤ **Complementarity**

The diversity of the humanitarian community is an asset if we build on our comparative advantages and complement each other's contributions. Local capacity is one of the main assets to enhance and on which to build. Whenever possible, humanitarian organizations should strive to make it an integral part in emergency response. Language and cultural barriers must be overcome.

The Global Humanitarian Platform (GHP) is an initiative that brings together the NGO, Red Cross/ Red Crescent movement and the UN on an equal footing to discuss issues of strategic and policy interest. The foundation of the Platform is the 'Principals of Partnership'- equality, transparency, result-oriented approach, responsibility and complementarity.

Until now, the majority of the discussions on the GHP and the principles have taken place at a headquarters level. This year, the hope is that the PoP will be further discussed, disseminated and implemented in a practical way by agencies and organizations working in the field. Currently there are three workshops planned including one in Amman. The aim of the workshops at the regional level is for the three families to come together and look at the PoP and how they apply in day-to-day relationships in the field. In more concrete terms this simply means asking the question, can the humanitarian community be more effective if partnerships are on a more equal basis? Can we achieve more and improve the quality of humanitarian interventions if we take the time to understand our different roles and responsibilities and what is the best way to work together?

On 19 May in Amman, directly before a workshop on humanitarian reform and cluster 'roll out', a discussion on the relationships between organizations when there is 'remote programming' will be held. Organizations working in Iraq will be invited to discuss difficulties in assessing and meeting humanitarian needs in highly insecure environments, including how improved relationships with 'remote' local partners, NGO, civil society and the Government could improve effectiveness in response.

To move from the more theoretical understanding of the Principles of Partnership to a more practical/ field based understanding. This will allow for concrete recommendations on how more equal partnerships can be developed and implemented at a global level and in Iraq as well.

Salaam,
NCCI Team

HUMANITARIAN UPDATES

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

Operational Humanitarian Space

- [LIFE Presents at Library of Congress Event on Iraq](#)

Source: [LIFE](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 18, 2008**

Access: **Open**

On March 28, 2008, representatives of LIFE for Relief and Development participated in a conference in Washington, DC hosted by the Library of Congress. Titled "Education, Health and Socio-Economic Developments in Iraq Today," the conference brought together representatives of various departments and agencies of the U.S., the Iraqi Embassy in Washington, international humanitarian and education organizations, and academic scholars who shared with one another their experiences and ideas.

- [UN playing enhanced role in Iraq, political chief tells Security Council](#)

Source: [UN](#)

Document: **Press Release**

Date: **April 28, 2008**

Access: **Open**

The international community has a duty and an interest in showing sustained commitment to helping to bring peace and prosperity to Iraq as the country undergoes "a painful transition," the senior United Nations political official told the Security Council today. Briefing Council members on his recent visit to Iraq, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs B. Lynn Pascoe said he was "absolutely convinced that the United Nations is doing its best.... the United Nations is playing an enhanced role in Iraq."

- [HWG meeting](#)

Source: [OCHA](#)

Document: **MoM**

Date: **April 22, 2008**

Access: **Members**

Minutes of the meeting held 21 April 2008.

- [The International Legislative Roundtable: What they hope to achieve](#)

Source: [UNAMI](#)

Document: **News story**

Date: **April 24, 2008**

Access: **Open**

The International Legislative Roundtable (ILR), co-chaired by UNAMI, is a working level forum for Baghdad-based representations of the International Community and was developed in November 2007 by the UN Office of Constitutional Support, along with their international and NGO partners, including the European Commission. The ILR created a forum where in-depth discussions are held bi-weekly and information is exchanged on legislative and constitutional developments, around pre-identified themes. At time, the modus operandi is to invite Iraqi Representatives and/or Iraqi experts present to present on related topics.

Humanitarian Needs and Assistance

- [Iraq programme update: progress in March 2008](#)

Source: [MAG](#)

Document: **Report**

Date: **March, 2008**

Access: **Open**

This programme continued to reduce risk to vulnerable communities and support conflict recovery and rehabilitation by implementing Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) and Small Arms Light Weapons (SALW projects in Dahuk, Diyala, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewah and Suleymaniah Governorates.)

- [Operational arrangements to access Sadr City](#)

Source: [UNAMI](#)

Document: **Procedure**

Date: **April 29, 2008**

Access: **Open**

This is to inform Humanitarian Agencies that the Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) Emergency Focal Point has agreed to coordinate the humanitarian community efforts in the whole Sadr City. He will then take care of the security arrangements with the ISF and CMOC-MNF-I. Each SOT / Agency / NGO that requires access to any location in Sadr City needs to provide OCHA / UNAMI ASAP with the following information:

- [Mercy Corps taps DHL's global logistics expertise to deliver medical supplies to Iraq](#)

Source: [Mercy Corps](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 28, 2008**

Access: **Open**

DHL, the express and logistics company, has teamed up with the global relief and development agency Mercy Corps to send \$9.6 million worth of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies to southern Iraq. The emergency supplies will be distributed to hospitals in Iraqi cities that are short on resources and near the frontlines of recent fighting. Mercy Corps expects that the shipment will help 140,000 people get improved medical care.

Human Rights and Protection

- [Barbaric 'honour killings' become the weapon to subjugate women in Iraq](#)

Source: [Independent](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 28, 2008**

Access: **Open**

At first glance Shawbo Ali Rauf appears to be slumbering on the grass, her pale brown curls framing her face, her summer skirt spread about her. But the awkward position of her limbs and the splattered blood reveal the true horror of the scene. The 19-year-old Iraqi was, according to her father, murdered by her own in-laws, who took her to a picnic area in Dokan and shot her seven times.

Health

- [WHO – weekly report](#)

Source: [UNWHO](#)

Document: **Report**

Date: **April 20, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) and laboratory confirmed cholera 13/04/ - 20/04/2008 (Week 16).

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

Source: [UNWHO](#)

Document: **ToR**

Date: **April 28, 2008**

Access: **Members**

Health and Nutrition SOT Hum response Matrix; SOT TOR 09/03/2008; Monthly progress Health reports SOT; Sector Communication Flow

Food and Agriculture

- [Food Sector Outcome Team – status by Governorate](#)

Source: [UNWFP](#)

Document: **Report**

Date: **April 28 2008**

Access: **Members**

Food Sector Outcome Team's report about status on Governorates.

Education

- [Education Sector Outcome Team - meeting](#)

Source: [UNICEF](#)

Document: **MoM**

Date: **April 28, 2008**

Access: **Members**

Monthly progress report Education Sector Outcome Team; Draft Minutes Education SOT meeting 21 April 2008; Education Sector Sub group

- [An Intolerable Situation for Iraqi Children](#)

Source: [UN](#)

Document: **Press release**

Date: **April 25, 2008**

Access: **Open**

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, in concluding her visit to Iraq of 20-25 April, stated that children of Iraq are the silent victims of the on-going violence. "Many of them no longer go to school, many are recruited for violent activities or detained in custody, they lack access to the most basic services and manifest a wide range of psychological symptoms from the violence in their everyday lives". Increasing cases of gender based violence are also reported. "It is an intolerable situation" she said. She called on religious, political, military and community leaders to send one clear message to Iraqi children: "Stay out of the violence and go back to school".

IDPs

- [Shelter Sector Outcome Team - update](#)

Source: [UNHABITAT](#) and [UNHCR](#)

Document: **Matrix**

Date: **April 28 , 2008**

Access: **Members**

Update on Sadr city – Matrix.

Refugees

- [Survey shows most Iraqis in Syria still unwilling to return home](#)

Source: [UNHCR](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 29, 2008**

Access: **Open**

A survey of nearly 1,000 Iraqis currently staying in Syria has shown that 95 percent fled their homeland because of direct threats or general insecurity and that only 4 percent currently had plans to return to Iraq. The latest Assessment on Returns to Iraq was carried out for the UN refugee agency by the IPSOS market research

agency in Syria from March 2-18. A total of 994 interviews were undertaken in Damascus at UNHCR's registration and food distribution sites, in community centres or during home visits.

- [Psychosocial Distress Common Among Iraqi Refugees, IOM Study Finds](#)

Source: [IOM](#)
Document: [Article](#)
Date: [April 3, 2008](#)
Access: [Open](#)

A study by IOM aimed at assessing the mental health and psychosocial needs of Iraqi refugees in Jordan and Lebanon has found high levels of emotional and psychological distress. The assessment, carried out between November 2007 and January 2008 among 200 families (800 people) in the two countries, revealed that more than half of those interviewed disclosed distress factors including panic attacks, anger, tiredness, sleep problems and fears.

WatSan

- [WatSan Sector Outcome Team – Mosul Matrix](#)

Source: [UNICEF](#)
Document: [Matrix](#)
Date: [April 28, 2008](#)
Access: [Members](#)

Mosul Matrix, current situation and priority needs/concerns.

IRAQ CONTEXT

General Overview

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

Source: [Centre of Excellence on Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance](#)
Document: [Weekly report](#)
Date: [May 1, 2008](#)
Access: [Open](#)

This report has been compiled from publicly available information. Although information has been gathered from reliable sources the currency and completeness of the information reported herein is subject to change and cannot be guaranteed. Inquiries, updates and comments are welcome and should be directed to PDMIN team at PDMIN@coe-dmha.org

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

Source: [Informed Comment - Juan Cole's Web Blog.](#)
Document: [Selection of daily comments](#)
Date: [April 24 - May1, 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

- [US – Iraqi troops raid hospital in Baghdad](#)

Source: [VOI](#)
Document: [Article](#)
Date: [April 25, 2008](#)
Access: [Open](#)

Iraqi-U.S. forces raided al-Rashad psychological hospital in eastern Baghdad and detained all its staffs and patients, the media director of the Baghdad health department said on Thursday. "An Iraqi army force, backed by U.S. troops, raided al-Rashad psychological hospital and arrested all its staffs," Qassem Abdul Hadi told Aswat al-Iraq – Voices of Iraq – (VOI). "The forces also arrested the patients and caused material damage inside the hospital," he also said.

- [Coalition Soldiers Repair Schools in Iraqi City](#)

Source: [US Department of Defense](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 25 , 2008**

Access: **Open**

Those efforts have opened numerous schools, water pumps and health clinics in Arab Jabour. The Islah School, Alula School and Al-Alemia School are currently undergoing repairs. Army Capt. James Anthony, commander of the 3rd Infantry Division's Company C, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, and his soldiers are overseeing the repair of the Al-Alemia School in the Bayija village. Anthony said the school was in disarray after al-Qaida in Iraq used it as a base of operations.

Iraqi Living Conditions

- [Iraqi Kids Dream of Artificial Limbs](#)

Source: [Islamonline.net](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 23, 2008**

Access: **Open**

While children elsewhere dream of a bright future and a good career, Mohammad Mukhaled, 10, has a far simpler dream. "More than three years I have been without a leg. I'm forced to go to school by my parents. I don't like it. I'm ashamed. "The Iraqi kid lost his leg after being caught in a cross fire between resistance fighters and US forces in Fallujah in November 2004. "My little sister run away from our home while insurgents were fighting the Americans in our street," Mukhaled recalls.

Rule of Law

- [U.N. vets Iraqi election directors](#)

Source: [UPI](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 28 , 2008**

Access: **Open**

The top U.N. envoy to Iraq reviewed the list of candidates nominated to serve as directors of provincial election offices. The United Nations reached an agreement with the Iraqi Council of Representatives to assist in the electoral process in order to secure a professional and transparent selection process for the Iraqi provincial elections scheduled for October.

- [Focus on Iraq](#)

Source: [FSE](#)

Document: **Report**

Date: **April 30 , 2008**

Access: **Open**

There was much celebration in the Iraqi Parliament on the 11th 2008: parliamentarians, full of jubilation gave free rein to their delight about the successful adoption of three bills, which even just before being promulgated had looked likely to face rejection despite weeks of negotiations.

Violence and (Un-) security

- [Iraqi pipeline fire 'accidental'](#)

Source: [BBC](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 25, 2008

Access: Open

The fire, near the town of Iskandiriya, disrupted the flow of crude oil to refineries in the south of Iraq. The military said it had been contained. Initial Iraqi police reports said Friday's fire was caused by a bomb attack and blamed insurgents.

- [Iraq Struggle Unfolds in Peaceful Protest and Violent Attacks in Sadr City](#)

Source: [New York Times](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 28, 2008

Access: Open

The latest episode in the struggle between the Shiite cleric [Moktada al-Sadr](#) and the Iraqi government unfolded Sunday on the streets of Sadr City, where members of Parliament demonstrated peacefully while clashes occurred a few blocks away.

- [Projectiles hit Green Zone; errant shells kill 2 nearby](#)

Source: [Los Angeles Times](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 28, 2008

Access: Open

A barrage of rocket or mortar fire was aimed at the fortified Green Zone on Sunday as this Iraqi capital was enveloped in a thick sandstorm. At least two Iraqis were killed and 25 wounded by projectiles that apparently missed their targets and landed in surrounding neighborhoods, police said. There were no immediate reports of casualties inside the enclave, which houses the U.S. Embassy and Iraqi government offices.

- [US in big battles with Shi'ite gunmen in Baghdad](#)

Source: [Reuters](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 28, 2008

Access: Open

A barrage of rocket or mortar fire was aimed at the fortified Green Zone on Sunday as this Iraqi capital was enveloped in a thick sandstorm. At least two Iraqis were killed and 25 wounded by projectiles that apparently missed their targets and landed in surrounding neighborhoods, police said. There were no immediate reports of casualties inside the enclave, which houses the U.S. Embassy and Iraqi government offices.

- [Sense of Injustice Drives Women Bombers](#)

Source: [Institute for war and peace](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 28, 2008

Access: Open

A head and pieces of flesh were all that were left of a woman who blew herself up near a security checkpoint in central Baghdad's Al-Karrada neighbourhood in February. The woman, strapped with explosives hidden under her clothing, approached a checkpoint. When security forces tried to search her, she turned and ran to a nearby shop. Although they fired on the woman, it was too late. She detonated her bomb in front of the electronics store, killing herself and three others. "She seemed to be a young woman," said Bushra Mohammad, 28, an employee for a company in the same building who witnessed the incident. "She was wearing an abbaya [long cloak]."

- [Fierce clashes kill 45 in Baghdad's Sadr City](#)

Source: [AFP](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 28, 2008

Access: Open

US and Iraqi forces have killed at least 45 insurgents in fierce battles with Shiite fighters in eastern Baghdad over the past 24 hours, the US military said on Monday. Three US soldiers were also killed in east Baghdad on Monday when they were hit by rocket or mortar fire, the military said. Earlier, the military said seven "criminals" were killed in the flashpoint Sadr City district of the Iraqi capital when US forces called up an aerial weapons team (AWT) and a M1A2 Abrams Tank after soldiers came under attack with small-arms fire

- [Several believed dead in US air raids in Baghdad](#)

Source: [AFP](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 29, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Several people were believed killed on Tuesday in two US air strikes in the Baghdad bastion of Shiite radical leader Moqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia, an AFP photographer and witnesses said. "Four houses have been heavily damaged," a resident of the Sadr City district said on condition of anonymity. Pictures taken by an AFP photographer showed completely destroyed houses and a number of bodies buried in the debris. Another witness said US forces launched the first air strike at around 1:30 pm (1030 GMT) in the southern section of Sadr City.

Reconstruction

- [Iraq Strategic Review Board](#)

Source: **ISRB**

Document: **MoM**

Date: **April 23, 2008**

Access: **Member**

List of projects; Approved projects in 25 feb; List of participants; Minutes of the 42nd meeting

- [Kurdish officials secure aid grants](#)

Source: [UPI](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 23, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Kurdish officials closed a meeting with U.N. officials regarding cost-sharing initiatives that allow the region to move forward on reconstruction issues. Kurdish officials along with delegates from several other countries convened in Erbil to adopt a "collaborative and cost-sharing initiative" with the U.N. Development Program, The Kurdish Globe said Wednesday.

- [Syria returns artifacts to Baghdad Museum](#)

Source: [UPI](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 23, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Syrian officials returned several hundred artifacts from the third century Mesopotamian era to the National Museum of Iraq in Baghdad. Syrian authorities seized more than 700 Mesopotamian artifacts from smugglers and handed them over to Iraqi State Minister of Tourism and Culture Mohammad al-Urabi, the Iraqi daily Azzaman said Friday. "These pieces alone can make a museum of their own," Syrian Culture Minister Riyadh Agha said.

Iraqi Political process

- [The campaign for Mosul: the last battle?](#)

Source: [Niqash](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 23, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Since two huge explosions hit western Mosul in January 2008, killing 205 people and wounding many others, the Iraqi government has not stopped stressing its intention of launching a huge security operation in the North to defeat al-Qaeda. As of yet however, this military operation has not materialized. Instead, people were surprised to see a recent military assault on Basra. Tanks and troops backed by U.S logistic support suddenly moved to the south of the country, at a time when explosions, assassinations, and kidnapping are spreading across Mosul.

- [Iraq's Maliki says factions agree to rejoin government](#)

Source: [Reuters](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 24, 2008

Access: Open

Parties that walked out of Iraq's government last year have agreed to rejoin, Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki said on Thursday, in what could amount to a long-awaited political breakthrough. The main Sunni Arab bloc, the Accordance Front, said it intended to submit a list of candidates for cabinet positions within days and could be back in Maliki's government soon. Its return has been a major goal of the United States.

- [Top Sunni Bloc Is Set to Rejoin Cabinet in Iraq](#)

Source: [New York Times](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 24, 2008

Access: Open

Iraq's largest Sunni bloc has agreed to return to Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki's cabinet after a boycott of nearly a year, several Sunni leaders said Thursday. They cited a recently passed amnesty law and the government's crackdown on Shiite militias as reasons for the move. The Sunni leaders said they were still working out the details of their return, an indication that the deal could still fall through. But such a return would represent a major political victory for Mr. Maliki in the midst of a military operation that has at times been criticized as poorly planned and fraught with risk

- [Sunni bloc to return to Iraq Government](#)

Source: [Los Angeles Times](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 25, 2008

Access: Open

Iraq's main Sunni Arab political bloc announced Thursday that it was ready to rejoin the Cabinet, a step that could boost reconciliation efforts and help shore up Prime Minister Nouri Maliki's government. The departure of the Iraqi Accordance Front in August left Maliki with a unity government in name only. Most of the Cabinet posts are held by Shiite Muslims and their ethnic Kurdish allies, and members of the disaffected Sunni minority continue to drive some of the worst insurgent violence.

- [Iraqi political leaders protest U.S. siege of Sadr City](#)

Source: [McClatchy](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 27, 2008

Access: Open

About 50 leaders representing a variety of Iraqi political blocs took to Baghdad's Sadr City on Sunday, a stronghold of fiery religious leader Muqtada al Sadr, to protest the U.S.-led siege of that area. The leaders promised to work together with Sadrists to remove insurgents and weapons in the area. But they also had six other demands of the government, including that it immediately suspend military activity in the city, supply basic services to residents and prioritize peaceful solutions over military conflicts.

Policies and Strategies

- [Sadrists deny Allawi cease-fire](#)

Source: [UPI](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 24, 2008

Access: Open

A lawmaker with Moqtada Sadr's political party denied statements by former Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi the Sadrist bloc asked him to broker a cease-fire. "We did not contact anyone, and we did not ask anyone to mediate with the Americans or the government," Sadrist lawmaker Salih al-Igaili told Voices of Iraq Wednesday.

- [British troops in Basra face clashes with Mehdi Army](#)

Source: [Independent](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 25, 2008

Access: Open

British troops stationed near Basra are at risk of being drawn into fighting with Shia militiamen. The Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, who is on a visit to Baghdad, has offered support to the Iraqi government's offensive against the Mehdi Army. Britain has 4,000 soldiers at Basra airport and has delayed pulling out 1,500 of them because of the fighting in late March between Iraqi government forces and the supporters of the nationalist cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

- [Muqtada Sadr says Iraq truce still stands](#)

Source: Los Angeles Times

Document: Article

Date: April 26, 2008

Access: Open

Radical cleric Muqtada Sadr reminded his followers Friday to observe a truce that has been nearing collapse, pulling back from a showdown against fellow Shiite Muslims in the government. In a statement read in mosques during Friday prayers, Sadr said his recent threat of "open war" was aimed only at U.S.-led forces and he urged his followers not to fight Iraqi troops. He also urged the Iraqi police and army "to be close to their people and far from the occupier, because we will not be blessed with peace as long as they occupy our land."

- [Iraq PM Sets Conditions To End Crackdown](#)

Source: AP

Document: Article

Date: April 25, 2008

Access: Open

Iraq's prime minister has set four conditions for stopping a government-led crackdown against radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's militia and other illegally armed groups. Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki says the groups must hand over weapons and cease interference in the affairs of the state. Al-Maliki listed the conditions in an interview Friday with Al-Arabiya TV. He is also demanding that the militants hand over all wanted people and present lists of names of people involved in violence. Al-Sadr has threatened an "open war" if the crackdown doesn't stop but said earlier Friday the threat only applied to U.S.-led forces, not Iraqis

- ["God Angels" Feed Displaced Iraqis](#)

Source: IOL

Document: Article

Date: April 25, 2008

Access: Open

Failed by the government and the world community, thousands of displaced families across Iraq have been relying on assistance from resistance and militia groups. "My family has been displaced since the fighting in Fallujah in 2004," Hadija Mohammad Rafi, 42, told IslamOnline.net. "Aid is rare in our displacement camp and aid agencies are forgetting us," she complained. "The government never did any thing for us and even the pledged compensation hasn't reached to us yet," added Rafi. "Some Sunni resistance groups in Anbar have been sending us food parcels and cooking gas to help us. They never asked for anything in return and promised our lives would be better once they free our country from US troops," she noted.

- [US pushes utilities to counter Moqtada Al-Sadr](#)

Source: CSMonitor

Document: Article

Date: April 28, 2008

Access: Open

Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, US commander in Baghdad, patted the hand of the Iraqi general who oversees government forces in Sadr City. He smiled, but delivered a firm message. "Tell the mayor – the mayor of Baghdad, the big mayor – tell him we'll be here tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock, and we'll be very disappointed if he's not here. The prime minister needs this to happen," he said during a Friday trip to Sadr City. "We gotta get going. "General Hammond is pushing for services – trash pickup, medical care, water, electricity – for a southern slice of the volatile district. It's part of a US plan to win Iraqis away from Moqtada al-Sadr's sway. And they see a window of opportunity as fighting in Mr. Sadr's Baghdad stronghold shows signs of quieting.

- [Al-Sadr rejects government terms for end to crackdown against Mahdi militia](#)

Source: AP

Document: Article

Date: April 25, 2008

Access: Open

Anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr has rejected conditions set by Iraq's prime minister for stopping the military crackdown against his Mahdi Army militia. An al-Sadr spokesman accused Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki of wanting to resolve the problem by force instead of dialogue. Last week, al-Maliki set four conditions for stopping the campaign. He said the groups must hand over heavy weapons and stop interfering in politics and the security forces. He also demanded they hand over all wanted people

Iraq and International policies

- [Refugees returning to Baghdad, U.S. says](#)

Source: [UPI](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 24, 2008

Access: Open

The U.S. military said more than half of the recently displaced Iraqis returned to various villages and communities in southern Baghdad. Estimates provided by Multi-National Division-Central, the military unit responsible for security from the southern edge of Baghdad to Saudi Arabia, said of the nearly 18,700 Iraqis who fled due to ongoing violence, around 10,450 returned to their homes.

- ['Disneyland In Iraq': Multi-Million Dollar Entertainment Park Coming To Baghdad](#)

Source: [Huffington Post](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 23, 2008

Access: Open

Some would say the last thing that war-torn Iraq needs is an entertainment park. California businessman Llewellyn Werner says different (from Times Online): Llewellyn Werner, a California investor, admits he is facing obstacles most amusement park developers never have to deal with. Such as insurgent attacks and looting.

- [Bringing Iraqis to the table UMass – Boston's O'Malley gathers 36 sectarian leaders in hunt for common ground](#)

Source: [Boston.com](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 25, 2008

Access: Open

Under a deep shroud of secrecy, a chartered flight took off yesterday from Baghdad, carrying with it the dreams of a visionary University of Massachusetts professor and perhaps the prospect of reconciliation among some of the rival religious and political groups in Iraq. Pdraig O'Malley, the irrepressible academic, author, and peacemaker, has put together an extraordinary guest list for the trip from Iraq to Helsinki: 36 Iraqi leaders from across the country's sectarian divide - Sunni, Shia, and Kurd. They are set to spend the next three days talking, in heavily guarded privacy, about how to bring peace, or at least the possibility of political reconciliation, to a nation at war with itself. It is the second such gathering of Iraqis O'Malley has organized as he takes on the bloody deadlock in that country, just as he previously forged unlikely dialogue between adamant enemies in Northern Ireland and South Africa. And he has high hopes for the weekend sessions, which will take place at an undisclosed location in Finland's capital.

- [Warring factions to gather in Iraq](#)

Source: [Boston.com](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 25, 2008

Access: Open

After a weekend of closed door negotiations in Helsinki, a group of rival members of Iraq's Parliament and tribal leaders are set to announce today that they will gather in Baghdad for the first time for further round of talks that they hope will lay the foundation for peace in their troubled country. "Progress has been made" Pdraig O'Malley, the UMass Boston Professor and veteran peace activist who organized the meeting, said in the phone interview from the Finnish capital.

- [Questions Linger on Scope of Iran's Threat in Iraq](#)

Source: [New York Times](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 26, 2008

Access: Open

The United States has gathered its most detailed evidence so far of Iranian involvement in training and arming fighters in [Iraq](#), officials say, but significant uncertainties remain about the extent of that involvement and the threat it poses to American and Iraqi forces.

HUMANITARIAN WORLD PERSPECTIVES & QUALITY OF AID

- [ICVA invitation for Global Humanitarian Platform Workshop](#)

Source: [ICVA](#)

Document: Invitation

Date: April 24, 2008

Access: Open

Dear NGO Colleagues, Please find below an invitation from the International Council of Voluntary Agencies – ICVA, regarding the Global Humanitarian Platform (GHP) Regional Workshop, to be held in Amman on May 19. NGO staff are encouraged to participate by contacting directly:

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

May-1 / Raby'-al Thaany -25

Labor Day / Bush's announcement of end of military operations in Iraq 2003

May-3

Word Press Freedom Day

May-7 / Jumaada al-awal-02

Announcement of KRG creation

Updates & Announcements

We would like to inform you that NGO Intersos advertised new [vacancies](#);

*The new procedure for delivering humanitarian aid to Sadr city is in place:
[Operational arrangements to access Sadr City.](#)*

We would also like to inform you that necessary forms which Iraqi citizen need to fill it out in order to obtained Jordanian visa are attached [here](#).

International Council of Voluntary Agencies – ICVA, will organize [Regional Workshop](#) regarding the Global Humanitarian Platform (GHP) on May 19, 2008 in Amman.