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EDITORIAL

[Issue 111 – May 8, 2008](#)

Lethal ghettos - Ignored legally and ethically

The citizens of **the sealed off** areas of **Sadr city**, in East Baghdad are isolated from the rest of the world, secluded with most probably no access to basic facilities and goods such as food and water **for seven long and agonizing weeks**. Under curfew, partial or total, under siege and sealed off, enwalled and banned from movement for seven weeks. Official forces, MNF-I and non state armed groups are celebrating the freedom of movement in Sadr City.

Currently, we are witnessing a process of “ghettoization” of Sadr City where all human rights and conventions are being violated.

But what is going on behind the wall? In these last seven weeks, civilians of Sadr City have experienced how to cope with very limited food and water, **how to survive** injury without medical assistance, how to avoid IEDs, air bombing, snipers, street fighting, deadly attacks without any way out.

We are experiencing new military tactics where basic services such as hospitals or schools and their surrounding areas are used by militia men to gather, to hide, to regroup, or to redeploy, etc... and on the other side disproportionate military attacks on the same basic facilities.

In this fight, military versus militia, in the most crowded area of Baghdad, where basic services are hijacked and usurped as battlefield, the enwalled and sealed off civilians are taken hostages of military strategies.

Earlier this week, the Government of Iraq requested the support of International Community to establish camps for the potential displaced of Sadr City. In the latest news, women and children

are requested in official announcements to leave Sadr City. Is forced displacement the only alternative to isolation?

Another confusing point is **what is happening on this side of the walls: the silence.**

Have we heard anybody denouncing those practices violating international conventions, agreements, and International Humanitarian jurisprudence?

Is it because we have different views and agendas about it, or is it just lack of information? Is it because of political constraints or absence of legal qualification of the context?

Our silence might be perceived as a permissive message. Do we accept the fact that civilian hostages of Sadr City will be enwalled and deprived. Do we ratify that this scenario can be applied tomorrow in Al Shohleh, Al Husseinayah, Mosul, Baquba and Kirkuk?

These questions should be raised at the highest International Humanitarian Community levels. The various International Courts should legislate on this type of conflicts.

Salaam,
NCCI Team

HUMANITARIAN UPDATES

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

Operational Humanitarian Space

- [Strengthening humanitarian networks: Applying the network function approach](#)

Source: [ODI](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Economic and political globalization, accelerating technological innovation, shifting climate patterns – wherever we look it is a clear that we live in a world of continues change. New challenges are calling for new approaches, new challenges and innovative mechanism for information exchange, collaboration and decision making.

- [Press Conference by Secretary General Special Representative for children and armed conflict on her visit to Iraq](#)

Source: [UN](#)

Document: **Press Release**

Date: **April 30, 2008**

Access: **Open**

There were a total of 1,500 Iraqi children in detention, the youngest of whom were as young as 10 years old, Radhika Coomaraswamy, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, said at a Headquarters press conference today. Speaking after a five-day mission to Iraq, Ms. Coomaraswamy said 500 children were under administrative detention by United States forces. They were not allowed outside legal counsel, but were handled by military advisers instead. United Nations human rights monitors and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had brought up the issue and, since the end of last year, there had been some steps forward with regard to family visits, education and recreation for the detained.

- [Shia militiamen attack aid convoys in Baghdad suburb](#)

Source: [IRIN](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **May 1, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Government officials and residents of Baghdad's mainly Shia district of Sadr City on 30 April accused pro-Moqtada al-Sadr militiamen of attacking aid convoys and closing down schools. The militiamen have used roadside bombs to target aid convoys which carry food rations and medicines. They have also targeted schools, ambulances and public service vehicles, Tahsin al-Sheikhli, a government spokesman, said.

Humanitarian Needs and Assistance

- [Response to humanitarian crisis](#)

Source: [IFRC](#)

Document: **Report (12 February 2007 – 11 February 2008)**

Date: **April 30, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Period covered by this report: 12 February 2007 to 11 February 2008. Appeal target (current): CHF 10, 346, 868 USD 8, 383, 196 or EUR 6, 420, 644. Final appeal coverage: 49%. Appeal History: This emergency appeal was initially launched on 12 February 2007 CHF 10, 346, 868 USD 8, 383, 196 or EUR 6, 420, 644 for 12 months to assist 50, 000 families or 300 000 beneficiaries with relief items and 150,000 beneficiaries in health sector.

- [NCCI Coordination meeting in Erbil](#)

Source: [NCCI](#)

Document: [MoM](#)

Date: [April 23, 2008](#)

Access: [Members](#)

Response to development and humanitarian needs: Each NGO updated the participants on its current projects. The following activities are carried out by the NGO participants:

- [NCCI Coordination meeting in Sulaymaniyah](#)

Source: [NCCI](#)

Document: [MoM](#)

Date: [April 22, 2008](#)

Access: [Members](#)

Response to development and humanitarian needs: Each NGO updated the participants on its current projects. The following activities are carried out by the NGO participants:

- [Humanitarian Working Group](#)

Source: [OCHA](#)

Document: [MoM](#)

Date: [May 6 , 2008](#)

Access: [Members](#)

Mosul CP Minutes April 28; Draft Scenario April 27.

- [Humanitarian Situation Report Sadr City](#)

Source: [OCHA](#)

Document: [Report](#)

Date: [May 6 , 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

With 2.5 million inhabitants, Al Sadr City in east Baghdad, is one of the poorest and most overcrowded districts in Iraq. After 2003, the city became the hub for followers of Shiite Leader Muqtada Al Sadr and the Al Mehdi Army. Since 27 March 2008, there has been intense fighting in Sadr City between militias linked to Muqtada Al Sadr and the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) / Multi-National Forces in Iraq (MNF-I).

- [Sadr City SitRep](#)

Source: [UNWFP](#)

Document: [Report](#)

Date: [May 4 , , 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

Clashes between the Iraqi and Multinational Forces and the Mehdi Militia in Baghdad's Sadr City have intensified in the past few weeks. As of April 29, the Government of Iraq reported 925 deaths and 2,600 people injured during military operations since late March 2008.

Human Rights and Protection

- [Iraqi organizations \(based in UK\) appeal against violence on Iraqi women](#)

Source: [Iraqi women network](#)

Document: [Article \(Arabic\)](#)

Date: [May 5, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

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- [Protection Sector Outcome Team](#)

Source: [UNHCR](#)

Document: [MoM](#)

Date: [May 5, 2008](#)

Access: [Members](#)

New Matrix HM Sadr City; Basrah_RMP; Rapid Protection Information Collection Form, Rapid Protection Information Collection Mosul, Sadr City Response 5 May 2008; Translation of MDM letter.

- [Gender Task Force](#)

Source: [UNIFEM](#)

Document: [ToR ; Draft Action plan](#)

Date: [May 7, 2008](#)

Access: [Members](#)

Gender Task Forces Terms of References; Draft action plan; Proposed agenda for May 12 meeting.

- [“Women are Being Beheaded for Taking Their Veil Off”: Honor Killings On Rise in Iraq](#)

Source: [Independent](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [April 30, 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.

- [IWPR report triggers debate on women’s rights](#)

Source: [IWP](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [April 23, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

For example, a report about Iraqi Kurdish women lacking political power has prompted leaders in the north to address the problem, according to women’s rights representatives. The report, Kurdish Women Hit Glass Ceiling, by IWPR trainee Barham Omar in Sulaimaniyah, detailed some of the obstacles faced by Iraqi Kurdish women politicians in attaining political power.

Health

- [Food Safety and Nutrition During Pregnancy and Infant Feeding](#)

Source: [UNWHO](#)

Document: [Report \(English and French\)](#)

Date: [May 6, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

Pregnant women, the developing fetus, infants and young children are especially susceptible to certain chemical and microbiological hazards and need special protection. As the nutritional requirements of pregnant and lactating mothers and infants are different to those of the general population, tailored nutritional information should be provided to pregnant mothers and caregivers.

- [Fears of Cholera Epidemic in Kurdistan](#)

Source: [IWP](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [April 23, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

Officials concerned series of gastric infections may signal outbreak of killer disease. By Azeez Mahmood in Sulaimaniyah (ICR No. 257, 2-May-08)A rash of patients hospitalised with diarrhoea and vomiting in northern Iraq has raised fears of a cholera outbreak across the region. In April, the main hospital in Sulaimaniyah received an average of 25 patients per day with such symptoms – which are very similar to those associated with cholera. While no cases of the disease have been confirmed, officials are worried.

Food and Agriculture

- [Food Sector Outcome Team – draft scenario planning](#)

Source: [UNWFP](#)
Document: **Report**
Date: **May 5, 2008**
Access: **Members**

Food Sector Outcome Team – draft scenario planning Mosul.

- [Food Sector Outcome Team – meeting 9/08](#)

Source: [UNWFP](#)
Document: **Report**
Date: **May 5, 2008**
Access: **Members**

At the request of the D-SRSG/HC, all the SOTs were asked to provide inputs to a new matrix, detailing the situation (needs), actual and planned response. This meeting was called at very short notice in response to the D-SRSG's request

- [Iraq launches crop-protection program](#)

Source: [UPI](#)
Document: **Article**
Date: **April 30, 2008**
Access: **Open**

The Iraqi government in coordination with U.S.-led forces launched a major pest-control project to protect the nation's date crops, a chief Iraqi export. The Iraqi Agricultural and Defense Ministries coordinated operations to protect crops in several Iraqi provinces, including Babil, Najaf and Diyala, the U.S. military said.

Education

- [Education Sector Outcome Team – Monthly progress report](#)

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 composition.

- [Iraq must spend more on basic service, particularly for children, says UN envoy](#)

Source: [UN](#)
Document: **Press release**
Date: **April 30, 2008**
Access: **Open**

The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict has called on the Iraqi Government to spend more on basic services, noting that a large portion of the strife-torn nation's children are going to school or receiving proper care. "The government of Iraq must use a large portion of its budget – that is the surplus – to deal with the provision of basic services to its population," Radhika Coomaraswamy told reporters in New York today, after a six-day visit to Iraq.

IDPs

- [IOM emergency needs assessments \(post Feb 2006 displacement in Iraq\) 01 May 2008 bi-weekly report](#)

Source: [IOM](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **May 1, 2008**

Access: **Open**

The security situation has deteriorated in Baghdad, with ongoing clashes in Sadr City and Al Shu'la City after the recent military campaigns there. Approximately 500 families reportedly have been displaced from sectors 1-9 to the peripheries of Sadr City. Having rapidly fled the violence, they took almost nothing with them and are living in small houses with relatives or in rented dwellings.

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

Source: [UNHABITAT](#)

Document: **Report**

Date: **6 May , 2008**

Access: **Members**

Update on Sadr city – Matrix; Beneficiary selection point system; IDP strategy January 2006; Material for the 6 May meeting.

- [Iraqi civilians flee fighting in Baghdad militia stronghold](#)

Source: [AP](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **May 6, 2008**

Access: **Open**

A rocket slammed into Baghdad's city hall and another hit a downtown park Tuesday as more frightened civilians fled a Shiite militia stronghold where U.S.-led forces are locked in fierce street battles. The American push in the Sadr City district — launched after an Iraqi government crackdown on armed Shiite groups began in late March — is trying to weaken the militia grip in a key corner of Baghdad and disrupt rocket and mortar strikes on the U.S.-protected Green Zone.

Refugees

- [UNHCR concerned about funding for refugees, IDPs](#)

Source: [IRIN](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 30, 2008**

Access: **Open**

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has said it is concerned about funding levels for its programmes for Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Iraq. On 29 April UNHCR said it had received just under half of the US\$261 million it had requested in January to be able to assist Iraqi IDPs and refugees abroad.

- [Al-Tanf camp: Trauma continues for Palestinians fleeing Iraq](#)

Source: [Amnesty International](#)

Document: **Report**

Date: **May 1, 2008**

Access: **Open**

At least 729 Palestinian refugees who have fled Iraq are stranded in appalling conditions in al-Tanf camp in the no-man's land on the Iraq-Syria border, as of 2 April 2008. The narrow strip of land, wedged between a concrete wall and the main transit from Baghdad to Damascus , is dry and dusty.

WatSan

- [In Iraq 70 Percent of People Lack Clean Water](#)

Source: [Alternet](#)

Document: Article

Date: April 30, 2008

Access: Open

Less than half of Iraq's population of 29 million people have access to clean, drinkable water. And, according to a recent report by Oxfam, the number of civilians in Iraq without water has risen from 50 percent to 70 percent during 2003 to 2007 (the continued US occupation). In the recent past, Iraq had over 140 drinking water and treatment facilities in operation. Air attacks in 1991, during the Persian Gulf War destroyed many of these water treatment plants.

IRAQ CONTEXT

General Overview

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

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

Document: Weekly report

Date: May 7, 2008

Access: Open

Political: Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari on Wednesday (May 7) urged Iran and the US to stop trading accusations and find solutions to Iraq's security crisis by participating in a fourth round of talks, which have been postponed indefinitely. (Reuters, May-7). Iran on Monday (May 5) suspended talks with the US on security in Iraq, demanding US forces end their current assault against Shiite militias. On Friday (May 2), a delegation of Shiite Iraqi politicians from the ruling United Iraqi Alliance that had arrived in Iran on April 30 confronted Tehran with a list of names, training camps and cells linked to Iran, said Haider al-Abadi, a lawmaker from Iraqi prime minister's Dawa party, adding, "they [Iranians] claim they are not intervening in Iraq." (AP, May-2) On Sunday (May 4), Iraqi government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said there was no conclusive evidence Iran was supplying weapons to militias in Iraq, adding that Iraq does not want trouble with Iran and would not act aggressively toward it. (AP, May-5) The US has long held that Iran funds and aids Shiite militias fighting in Iraq.

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

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

Document: Selection of daily comments

Date: May 1 - 8, 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

- [Dems Prepare \\$183.6B Supplemental, May Vote Thursday](#)

Source: [National Journal](#)

Document: Article

Date: May 6, 2008

Access: Open

Also today, the 47 freshman Democrats in the House, led by Rep. Ron Klein of Florida, sent a letter to Obey and Defense Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman John Murtha, D-Pa., calling for a new direction in funding for the Iraq war. They asked that the supplemental bill require the Iraqi government to take more financial responsibility for reconstruction projects and training for security forces and that Iraq pay the \$153 million per month the United States spends on fuel in Iraq. Democratic aides said the war policy portion of the package

includes language on combat readiness, banning the building of permanent military bases in Iraq and anti-torture language.

- [Coalition forces bring aid to village](#)

Source: [MBF-I](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [May 7, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

Coalition forces conducted a medical assistance mission in Byda Village, near al-Kut, Iraq, May 2. The mission is part of an outreach program to provide for outlying villages in Wasit Province that have seen little or no Coalition presence, said Lt. Col. Rob Jones, the Wasit Provincial Reconstruction deputy team leader. American, Salvadoran, Georgian and Lithuanian troops took part in the mission to perform medical and dental checks and distribute food, vitamins and hygiene supplies. The villagers here need supplies badly, as there is no hospital nearby, said Lt. Fernando Alfaro Iraheta, a doctor with the Salvadoran Cuscatlán Battalion.

Iraqi Living Conditions

- [Military's patience wears thin at Baghdad checkpoint](#)

Source: [Los Angeles Times](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [May 2, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

On a smog-choked stretch of "Route Pluto," a street haunted by snipers and bombs on the edge of Sadr City, Army Lt. Matt Vigeant was out in traffic looking for a white Opel. A suspected Shiite Muslim extremist was expected at a funeral for one of his own, so Vigeant had set up an ad hoc roadblock in hope of nabbing him or other militants expected to be among the mourners.

- [Iraq Boy's Family Describes Fatal Blast](#)

Source: [ABC news](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [May 2, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

Just like any other day, the Hussein family was getting ready for lunch at their home in Baghdad, Iraq, when the house suddenly shook and the brick walls came down around them. That was the dramatic account told to ABC News by the parents of 2-year-old Ali Hussein, the Iraqi boy killed during a fierce battle in Sadr City Tuesday.

- [Iraq's new gated communities: safer, mixed, walled in](#)

Source: [CSMonitor](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [May 6, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

There is big excitement on al-Marifah Street. City workers are installing a new transformer to bring power to a part of the southern Baghdad neighborhood of Saidiyah that hasn't been on the city's electrical grid for more than a year. "A year ago, dead bodies lay on this street for days; no one dared to pick them up. But now we are getting lights and shops have opened back up," says Mahdi Jabbar Falah, a 40-year resident who has just moved himself and his family of nine back to their house. They fled last year after Mr. Jabbar received a bullet in an envelope, a sure sign he was on someone's hit list.

Rule of Law

- [Iraq funding lacks accountability](#)

Source: [UPI](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [April 28, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

An audit by the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction found billions of dollars of Iraqi reconstruction funds went unused. An audit by Inspector General Stuart Bowen Jr. reviewed more than 47,000 reconstruction projects in Iraq. The audit said U.S. officials canceled more than 800 contracts because of budget overruns or

violence, and 112 of those were withdrawn for poor performance from the contractor.

Violence and (Un-) security

- [Sadr City bloodshed kills 925 Iraqis](#)

Source: [AFP](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 30, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Clashes between Shiite militiamen and security forces have killed more than 900 people in Baghdad's Sadr City, an Iraqi official said on Wednesday, as Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki vowed to keep up the offensive. The latest death toll from the Sadr City fighting that erupted late last month is set to make April the deadliest month this year, denting US and Iraqi government claims of improved security

- [CNN graphic video: Aftermath of US rockets in Sadr City](#)

Source: [Prison Planet](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 30, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Dozens of fighters ambushed a U.S. patrol in Baghdad's main Shiite militia stronghold Tuesday, firing rocket-propelled grenades and machine gun bursts as the American push into Sadr City increasingly faces pockets of close urban combat. U.S. forces struck back with 200-pound guided rockets that devastated at least three buildings in the densely packed district that serves as the Baghdad base for the powerful Mahdi Army militia

- [Death toll in Iraq jumped in April](#)

Source: [Los Angeles Times](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **May 1, 2008**

Access: **Open**

The four U.S. soldiers who died in a series of roadside bombings Wednesday lifted the number of American service members killed in April to a seven-month high of 50. Civilian deaths reported by the Iraqi government also reached the highest levels in months as Baghdad experienced intense clashes triggered by an Iraqi government crackdown against Shiite Muslim militias..

- [US military death toll in Iraq hits 7-month high](#)

Source: [Independent](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **May 1, 2008**

Access: **Open**

The US military death toll has reached a seven-month high as America's war in Iraq enters a new phase – with its troops primarily engaged in fighting insurgents from the Shia rather than the Sunni community. The killing of three US soldiers in Baghdad raised the number killed in April to 47, reversing a trend towards lower American casualties. Half of the losses were in Baghdad, where the US is fighting the Mehdi Army militia loyal to the Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr

- [Double Bombings in an Iraqi Town Kill 35](#)

Source: [New York Times](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **May 2, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Two thunderous blasts set off by suicide bombers ripped through a crowded shopping street in the town of Balad Ruz in Diyala Province on Thursday, killing at least 35 people and wounding at least 62 others, many of them seriously.

- [Kurdish rebels threaten suicide attacks against US](#)

Source: [AP](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **May 5, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Kurdish rebels could launch suicide attacks against American interests to punish the U.S. for sharing intelligence with Turkey after Turkey bombed rebel bases, a spokeswoman for a wing of a rebel group warned. Turkey's military said more than 150 Kurdish rebels were killed in Friday's air strikes against bases of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, on Mount Qandil on the border of Iran and Iraq. Peritan Derseem, a senior official of the rebel group's Iranian wing, PEJAK, claimed that only six people were killed in latest Turkish strikes.

Reconstruction

- [Diplomats engage Iraq](#)

Source: [UPI](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 29, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Diplomats from Saudi Arabia, Norway and Croatia met separately to discuss formal relations with Iraq and various reconstruction measures. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal met with his Norwegian counterpart, Jonas Gahr, in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, to discuss the need to support a unified Iraq independent from foreign interference, Voices of Iraq reported. "Regarding situation in Iraq, the viewpoints are identical on maintaining Iraq's security and prosperity within its sovereignty and territorial integrity," Faisal said.

- [Boeing to sell Iraq 30 737s worth \\$2.2B](#)

Source: [Business Journal](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **April 23, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Boeing Co. said the government of Iraq has ordered 30 737-800 planes worth \$2.2 billion at list prices. In addition, the Chicago aerospace giant (NYSE: BA) said it's finalizing an agreement with the Iraqi government for 10 Boeing 787s that could be worth between \$1.4 billion and \$1.5 billion when that deal is completed. Also, Boeing said Iraq has options for another 10 737s.

- [Jordan hosts Iraqi business expo](#)

Source: [UPI](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **May 6, 2008**

Access: **Open**

More than 31 nations visited Jordan for the launch of Project Rebuild Iraq 2008 featuring exhibitions by nearly 500 Arab and international companies. The fair, organized by the international business-to-business trade fair planner IFP Group, featured pavilions by nations from France to India and Korea to the Netherlands, The Jordan Times said Tuesday.

Iraqi Political process

- [KRG statement on first high-level talks with Turkey](#)

Source: [KRG](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **May 1, 2008**

Access: **Open**

A Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) delegation led by Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani today in Baghdad met with a delegation from the Republic of Turkey headed by Mr Ahmet Davutoğlu, the senior advisor to the Turkish Prime Minister; Mr Murat Özçelik, the Special Coordinator for Iraqi Affairs at the Turkish Foreign Ministry; and Mr Derya Kanbay, Turkey's Ambassador in Baghdad.

- [Iraq after the Surge I: The New Sunni Landscape](#)

Source: [ICG](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [April 30, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

Against the odds, the U.S. military surge contributed to a significant reduction in violence. Its achievements should not be understated. But in the absence of the fundamental political changes in Iraq the surge was meant to facilitate, its successes will remain insufficient, fragile and reversible. The ever-more relative lull is an opportunity for the U.S. to focus on two missing ingredients: pressuring the Iraqi government to take long overdue steps toward political compromise and altering the regional climate so that Iraq's neighbours use their leverage to encourage that compromise and make it stick.

- [Iraq after the Surge II: The Need for a New Political Strategy](#)

Source: [ICG](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [April 30, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

Against the odds, the U.S. military surge contributed to a significant reduction in violence. Its achievements should not be understated. But in the absence of the fundamental political changes in Iraq the surge was meant to facilitate, its successes will remain insufficient, fragile and reversible. The ever-more relative lull is an opportunity for the U.S. to focus on two missing ingredients: pressuring the Iraqi government to take long overdue steps toward political compromise and altering the regional climate so that Iraq's neighbours use their leverage to encourage that compromise and make it stick.

- [Baghdad and Kurds Close the Gap](#)

Source: [Council on Foreign Relations](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [April 30, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

In March, despite few signs of progress on an Iraqi national oil law, the Kurdistan Regional Government's Ministry of Natural Resources readied for a hiring spree. Calls went out for legal advisors, engineers, and geoscientists—thirty-five oil and gas experts in all. At the time the job postings seemed like wishful thinking; Baghdad and Irbil, capital of the Kurdish autonomous region, appeared sharply divided on how to develop the region's massive oil wealth.

- [Allawi-Maliki row erupts over 2007 assault](#)

Source: [UPI](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [May 1, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

An official with the Iraqi National List coalition denied suggestions Iyad Allawi sought a formal apology for claims he backed an Iraqi Shiite messianic sect. U.S. and Iraqi forces in January 2007 launched a massive operation against the Shiite cult Jund al-Samaa, or Soldiers of Heaven, who claim their leader was the hidden imam, the prophesized redeemer of Islam.

Policies and Strategies

- [Iraq's premier: Special forces to root out militias](#)

Source: [DPA](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [April 30, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

Iraq's Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki vowed Wednesday to continue a crackdown to disarm all militias while a Sadrist leader put casualties of the ongoing fighting in Sadr City at 500 since the launch of the crackdown on March 25. Speaking at a press conference in Baghdad, al-Maliki said special forces were deployed in Sadr City in east Baghdad to root out "gangs," in reference to the Mahdi Army militia of Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.

- [Turkey confirms air strikes on Kurd rebels in N.Iraq](#)

Source: [Alternet](#)
Document: Article
Date: May 2, 2008
Access: Open

Turkish warplanes launched intensive bombing raids on Kurdish rebel targets in northern Iraq overnight, the Turkish General Staff said on Friday, but there were no reports of casualties. Turkish forces have stepped up strikes against Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) targets in northern Iraq in recent weeks in addition to operations against them in Turkey. Turkish troops conducted a large-scale incursion across the border in February.

- [Iraq's Shiite clerics deeply divided on militia crackdown](#)

Source: [AP](#)
Document: Article
Date: May 2, 2008
Access: Open

Shiite clerics offered sharply different visions Friday in the showdown between government forces and Shiite militias — one predicting that armed groups will be crushed in Baghdad and another calling for the prime minister to be prosecuted for crimes against his people. The contrasting views — given during weekly sermons — showed the complexities and risks in the five-week-old crackdown on Shiite militia factions.

- [In Iraq, U.S. walks tightrope with Sadr](#)

Source: [Los Angeles Times](#)
Document: Article
Date: May 7, 2008
Access: Open

The U.S. military has tied itself into a verbal knot as it tries to avoid further inflaming tensions with Shiite cleric Muqtada Sadr while confronting members of his Mahdi Army militia. U.S. forces battle almost daily with Shiite militiamen in Sadr City, including Sadr loyalists, but commanders are careful to avoid blaming the Mahdi Army for the violence.

Iraq and International policies

- [USCCB Official Testifies That U.S. 'Should And Must' Do More To Address Iraqi Refugee Crisis](#)

Source: [USCCB](#)
Document: Article
Date: May 1, 2008
Access: Open

Testifying before Congress on behalf of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, Anastasia K. Brown, director of Refugee Programs at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), said May 1 that the United States is "not doing everything in its power" to avert a looming refugee crisis in the Middle East. Currently, there are an estimated two million Iraqi refugees, mostly in Jordan and Syria, and two and a half million displaced in Iraq.

- [USG Pascoe Reiterates UN Commitment to Iraq at the Third Ministerial Conference of Neighboring Countries](#)

Source: [UNAMI](#)
Document: Article
Date: May 1, 2008
Access: Open

The Third Expanded Ministerial Conference of the Neighboring Countries of Iraq held in Kuwait on April 22, 2008, highlighted several central themes, but most prominently regional dialogue and the role of neighboring countries in promoting stability in Iraq. Succeeding in achieving several constructive steps, the conference also generated a momentum among participants for working towards a peaceful, stable and developed Iraq. Both regional and international partners echoed these sentiments and goals. As part of this, the participants agreed to hold the next Ministerial Meeting in Baghdad.

- [Iraq Oil for Food; May 2008](#)

Source: [UN](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [May, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

The Iraq oil-for-food programme came to an end on 31 December 2007. However, many issues concerning letters of credit remain outstanding and the Council continues to receive progress reports from the Secretary-General on the processing of those issues. The next progress report is expected in May. It will contain a summary of activities of a joint Iraqi-UN Working Group established in November 2007 to speed up the processing. The Council is expected to respond by way of a letter to the Secretary-General.

- [Iraq sends team to Iran to discuss U.S. accusations](#)

Source: [Los Angeles Times](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [May, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

Iraq has sent senior Shiite Muslim leaders to Tehran to discuss new evidence that Iranian security services are providing weapons and training to militiamen locked in a deadly showdown with U.S. and Iraqi forces, Iraqi officials said Thursday. The visit follows some of the most heated U.S. accusations in months of Iranian meddling in Iraq, charges denied by Tehran.

- [Luxury hotels and golf: welcome to the Green Zone](#)

Source: [Guardian](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [May 5, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

Picture, if you will, a tree-lined plaza in Baghdad's International Village, flanked by fashion boutiques, swanky cafes, and shiny glass office towers. Nearby a golf course nestles agreeably, where a chip over the water to the final green is but a prelude to cocktails in the club house and a soothing massage in a luxury hotel, which would not look out of place in Sydney harbour. Then, as twilight falls, a pre-prandial stroll, perhaps, amid the cool of the Tigris Riverfront Park, where the peace is broken only by the soulful cries of egrets fishing.

HUMANITARIAN WORLD PERSPECTIVES & QUALITY OF AID

- [Gunmen kill French aid worker in eastern Chad](#)

Source: [Alternet](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [May 1, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

Gunmen in eastern Chad killed a French aid worker with Save The Children UK on Thursday after halting the convoy of vehicles in which he was traveling near the Sudan border, the British charity said.

Pascal Marlinge, 49, was one of a group of aid workers moving in a three-car convoy between the villages of Forchana and Hadjer Hadid in Chad's eastern borderlands, where several hundred thousand refugees are sheltering in U.N.-run camps.

We remember Pascal Marlinge as NGO HoM in Iraq in 2003/04.

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-10 / Jumaada al-awal-05	Zeinab Bint Ali Birthday
May-15 / Jumaada al-awal-10	Al-Jamal Battle
May-17 / Jumaada al-awal-12	Assassination of Izee Al-Din Salim (Member of GoI) by VBIED

Updates & Announcements

NCCI would like to inform you that NGO Food Sector field meeting and NGO Health and Nutrition Sector field meeting took place this week in Baghdad.

The UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, is launching its [annual call for proposals for 2008](#)

We would also like to inform you that UNHABITAT has set new [NGO registration criteria for cooperation in Shelter construction](#).

Necessary forms which Iraqi citizen need to fill it out in order to obtained Jordanian visa are attached [here](#).