

No Weekly Highlight next week. Next publication on February 7th. Sorry for this disagreement.

EDITORIAL

Issue 97 - January 24, 2008

Don't kill genuine humanitarian action with semantic

[A recent article](#) published in the estimated British medical journal The Lancet explored how humanitarian action in conflicts should be measured and showed how much military and US Department of Defence (DoD) failed to be accountable for their aid activities. The article does not fail to highlight that *“the motivation of the DoD seems too often to be driven by political agendas, not humanitarian ends”*.

Humanitarian concept implies indeed principles such as impartiality, neutrality, [Do no Harm](#) or independence¹, while military aid is the implementation of political or military agendas. Particularly in Iraq (or in Afghanistan), the DoD use aid for their military strategy and therefore undermine the security of populations and aid workers by blurring the lines between genuine humanitarian action and military intervention.

For sure, more accountability and monitoring of programmes are always welcome to improve the quality of aid delivered. But comparing a harming agenda-driven intervention with humanitarian aid has something shocking. Humanitarian action is a concept as defined above. Military intervention is far to be humanitarian, it uses aid as tactic only. Generally they have the aim to gain the “hearts and minds” of the population, not to help them. The [Do no Harm](#) concept is unknown to them.

In some contexts, military support may be acceptable at last resort, and in that case welcome. They have logistical capacities and competencies that no one else may have. But this support should be under precise and defined Civil Military Coordination (CMCoord) guidelines and principles that we explored few weeks ago².

When people die and suffer in Iraq daily, debate on wording or harassing people on their vocabulary may appears chocking to some. It may appear useless to others. If so, please think differently: Is it chocking to defend a proper and genuine humanitarian intervention? Is it useless to look after an increased humanitarian space in order to ensure that the needs of Iraqi vulnerable are met professionally and in a proper way?

In this protection and advocacy of genuine humanitarian action versus military aid, every word is important. The military strategy in Iraq is based

¹ Please refer to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief](#)

² Please refer to the editorial of the Weekly Highlight #93: <http://www.ncciraq.org/spip.php?breve735>

on [counterinsurgency concepts](#) that have been first developed by the French Army in Algeria and the British Army in Malaysia. It was recently updated by General Petraeus to adapt it to “modern wars” and especially the so-called Global War on Terror (GWOT). There is no humanitarian principle or objective on that. The only objective is to defeat the enemy. Harming people or blurring the lines with genuine humanitarian actors are just considered as “collateral damages”.

President Bush called the strategy that developed this concept in Iraq “the surge”. He was widely mocked when he expressed that. However, everybody is now calling this strategy “the surge”. Therefore, asking for a “[humanitarian surge](#)” or reporting about an allegedly “[UN surge](#)” definitively links their authors with the MNF-I and the US; so, for most of Iraqis, with the “occupation”. Whatever were the efforts to highlight the independence and impartiality of their organisations before this unfortunate wording, they are negated aftermath. When it comes from supposedly humanitarian actors, the consequences, more to be shocking, are tragic for other humanitarian actors or their partners who may lose their credibility by generalisation and amalgam.

That is why calling “humanitarian” the so-called “civilian” operations that are enclosed in broader military objectives is shocking. That is why accepting to be embedded with these troops is shocking. Reading in an [UPI article](#) this week that “*A large-scale operation in Diyala province in Iraq transitioned from combat operations clearing militant outposts to humanitarian aid*” is also shocking.

For these reasons, the humanitarian community should develop and adapt its own vocabulary, not based on existing media and propaganda flows. Every genuine humanitarian actor in Iraq should be very carefully with the words he/she employs. Because using the military wordings or calling military aid in Iraq “humanitarian” just blur the line more than it is. Because when it is coming from those who are supposed to be the real humanitarian, it gives credibility to the military and reduce the space given to humanitarian actors.

This is also why using military escorts that are involved in the conflict, or private security armed guards who are killing Iraqis just makes the limits vaguer. Humanitarian security is about ways and means to access vulnerable populations and not necessary only about keeping staff safe. That should define set-up and operation procedures of genuine humanitarian actors in addition to existing above-mentioned CMCoord guidelines, nothing else.

Genuine humanitarian actors who risk their lives daily to save lives deserve respect for their necessary independence and impartiality. This respect should start from what can appear as a detail for some. It is the only way to increase access of Iraqis to basic services and to meet the needs of the most vulnerable.

Salaam,
[NCCI Team](#)

HUMANITARIAN UPDATES

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

Advocacy

- The Cost of War

Source: [AFSC](#)

Document: **Video**

Date: **January 22, 2008**

Access: **Open**

The Iraq war costs \$720 million per day. How would you spend it?

- Right-Wingers Can't Cover Up Iraq's Death Toll Catastrophe

Source: [Alternet](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **January 21, 2008**

Access: **Open**

The MoH survey is the fifth trying to measure mortality during the war, and there is significant congruence among all. (The Lancet estimate is not actually the highest; that belongs to the private British polling firm, Opinion Research Business, which found that as of August 2007, 1.2 million Iraqis were dead due to the war.) But all the surveys point to one thing: A colossal amount of killing and dying has been going on, far more than numbers used in most discussions of the issue in the fleeting instances when concern for Iraqis appears.

- Blackouts.

Source: [Arab Woman Blues](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **January 21, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Wake up. Wake up! How many more Palestinians and Iraqis will it take for you to nudge you out from your slumber? How much more blood and wasted innocent lives will it take you before your alarm bell rings? How many more Iraqs and Palestines do you need? How much more inter-cleansing does it take? Look at the REALITY. I want to slap with you this REALITY. And the door stares at you. And you can't. You are paralyzed in the obscurity. The darkness of a blacked out DEAD BRAIN.

Operational Humanitarian Space

- Response to Humanitarian Crisis – Operations Update #5

Source: [IFRC](#)

Document: **Report**

Date: **January 22, 2008**

Access: **Open**

The funding status of this Emergency Appeal enabled the International Federation to launch relief assistance to 13,000 families in the previous reporting period (for details, please refer to the operations update no.4) and 3,000 families in the current reporting period; thus, focusing on socially vulnerable people in four governorates. The community based first aid (CBFA) programme has continued, with 35 basic CBFA training courses and 1 CBFA training of trainers (ToT) being implemented. In addition, the school first aid programme has continued with 1,378 first aid training courses being conducted in the selected nine governorates. The planning and reporting seminar for 18 branch directors and key headquarters staff is re scheduled for 8-15 January 2008. In addition, an induction ToT course for youth and volunteers will be implemented on 21-25 January, 2008. Full scale preparation and logistics support for the training is in progress. As of the 31st of December 2007, 55% of the appeal is covered. The low response could be explained by the increased attention on internally and externally displaced persons, in comparison to the focus on the socially vulnerable in Iraq who need further support.

Blurring the lines

- [Military incursions into aid work anger humanitarian groups](#)

Source: [The Lancet](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **December 2006**

Access: **Open**

The US military is making plans to collaborate more closely with NGOs in an effort to better serve countries in conflict. But aid agencies believe the Defense Department's new interest in their work could politicise funding for humanitarian activities and put aid workers at risk. Oxfam's Raymond suggests one possible solution is for US policymakers to define the purpose of humanitarian actors. "There needs to be a more proactive discussion about ... the role of NGOs and the role of humanitarian aid and reconstruction in post conflict, complex humanitarian contexts. What are the values that make the NGO role unique and indispensable and how do we protect that?"

- [Now Defense Contractors Are Lecturing Us On Morality?](#)

Source: [Alternet](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **January 20, 2008**

Access: **Open**

The Washington Post offers us a Very Serious Perspective on the occupation of Iraq, penned by one Nate Slate, a retired Army colonel ... There's something particularly disgusting about hooking a pro-war propaganda piece to the story of one of the 2.2 million refugees who, according to the UN, have had to flee the hellhole people like Slate helped create. That's only the number who have fled the country -- another 2 million have been displaced and remain in Iraq. Diseases have been widespread among Iraqi refugees, they've faced harassment and abuse from neighboring governments and half of them lack access to food aid -- it's a humanitarian crisis of epic proportions, and it's both profoundly immoral and typical of the war's supporters to take something that reasonable people around the world can see is a disaster and try to twist it to their rhetorical advantage.

- [Diyala mission shifts to reconstruction](#)

Source: [UPI](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **January 17, 2008**

Access: **Open**

A large-scale operation in Diyala province in Iraq transitioned from combat operations clearing militant outposts to humanitarian aid.

Humanitarian Needs and Assistance

- [Consolidated Appeal Process \(CAP\)](#)

Source: [OCHA](#)

Document: **Various**

Date: **January 24, 2008**

Access: **Members**

The preparatory process of the CAP is following a time table from mid-December to end of January through multiple meetings. Sectors' priorities and full CAP document will be sent as soon as the drafts will be issued.

 [Iraq CAP 2008 – Draft 2 \(January 24\)](#)

 [Iraq CAP 2008 – Sector Response Plan Draft - Protection – English and Arabic](#)

 [Iraq CAP 2008 – Sector Response Plan Draft - Food – English and Arabic](#)

 [Iraq CAP 2008 – Sector Response Plan Draft - Health – English and Arabic](#)

 [Iraq CAP 2008 – Sector Response Plan Draft - Education – English and Arabic](#)

 [Iraq CAP 2008 – Sector Response Plan Draft - Watsan – English and Arabic](#)

 [Iraq CAP 2008 – Sector Response Plan Draft - Shelter – English and Arabic](#)

- [Monitoring and Analysis of Political, Social and Economic Development in Countries Affected by Conflict \(July-December 2007\)](#)

Source: [UNESCWA](#)

Document: Report

Date: January 17, 2008

Access: Open

This is a fourth in a series of bi-annual reports on political and socio-economic trends in the ESCWA region. The purpose of this report is to identify political and socio-economic developments and highlight the implication of major events for country in the ESCWA region afflicted by conflict and instability. Regarding Iraq, in the medium to long term, there is a danger that the inability of the Iraqi Government and the International community to address the basic humanitarian needs of Iraqi refugees and IDP population could become a destabilizing force in the region.

- [Iraq Situation Operations Update – January 2008](#)

Source: [UNHCR](#)

Document: Report

Date: January 23, 2008

Access: Members

Update relating to UNHCR's activities in the region as well as several maps relating to Iraqi displacement.

- [Population hit by acute power outage, shortage of petroleum products – in English and Arabic](#)

Source: [IRIN](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 20, 2008

Access: Open

Pressure on the country's fragile power grid and demands on fuel products have been increased by an exceptionally cold winter. Recent Baghdad temperatures have hit a low of -4 degrees Celsius. "There are 20 of us living in this house as I'm hosting my two displaced brothers' families. We three are all government employees [on low salaries] and can't afford to buy from the black market," Ali, a father-of-six, added.

- [Iraqis without fuel, power](#)

Source: [UPI](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 22, 2008

Access: Open

You can't have one without the other, but with many of Iraq's power plants shut and refineries stopped, Iraqis have neither fuel nor electricity.

Food and Nutrition

- [Iraq sets a plan to provide ration cards](#)

Source: [Iraq Directory](#) (from Al-Sumaria)

Document: Article

Date: January 15, 2008

Access: Open

Iraqi Trade Minister Abdul Fallah Al Sudani announced that his ministry is studying a three stage plan for three years in order to support ration cards in view of equipping the private sector, thus it becomes in charge of food products in return of turning the ministry into a monitoring party.

 [No financial allocations to cover items of the ration \(Jan 19\)](#)

- [Hunger Global Hotspots - Iraq](#)

Source: [WFP](#)

Document: Press Release

Date: January 18, 2008

Access: Open

Update of WFP activities

Health & Mental Health

- [Morbidity and mortality among families in Iraq](#)

Source: [The Lancet](#)

Document: **Editorial**

Date: **January 18, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Disturbingly, the IFHS indicates that the violence and insecurity endemic in Iraq is now reflected by violence and anxiety within households. Although a thoroughly renovated health-care system is required urgently to address the consequences of these behaviours, such a system cannot succeed without parallel improvements in security and the confidence of exiled health workers to return. Without an accessible and effective health system, in which returning health professionals can practise in safety, the coalition's legacy of civilian morbidity will be even greater than its shameful record of civilian mortality.

- [The United States cannot claim success if it retreats in the face of Iraqi suffering. Iraq's other enemies: Disease and poverty](#)

Source: [Uruknet](#)

Document: **Opinion**

Date: **January 22, 2008**

Access: **Open**

To respond adequately to the emergency engulfing most of the country's population, it is crucial to improve the mechanism of food and medicine distribution, and to support the work of nongovernmental agencies that continue to work in Iraq. Improving the public health situation in Iraq at all levels would let Iraqis know that their health and welfare have not been forgotten and disregarded. A task force should be created with UNICEF, the World Health Organization, and local health officials to address Iraqis' most pressing health needs and plan future actions. Improving the Iraqi people's health can break the vise hold of negativity and distrust and replace it with a desperately needed sense of hope.

IDPs

- [Assistance needed for internally displaced and refugees](#)

Source: [Presbyterian World Service and Development](#)

Document: **Press Release**

Date: **January 23, 2008**

Access: **Open**

The lack of security and fear of killings has severely impacted the social and economic life in Iraq. In many places, the population is deprived of clean water and electricity. People are threatened with death because of their affiliation to specific religions, among which also count the Christian minority. Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) contributed over \$15,000 to provide Iraqi refugees in Jordan and Syria and Iraqis displaced within Iraq with food, medicines, medical treatment, clothing and computer training programs. ACT has reported that funding levels from around the world are well below those anticipated, limiting the ability of the response to reach the intended number of affected people.

Refugees

- [Trauma survey in Syria highlights suffering of Iraqi refugee](#)

Source: [UNHCR](#)

Document: **Press Release**

Date: **January 21, 2008**

Access: **Open**

A UNHCR-commissioned survey of trauma among Iraqi refugees indicates widespread depression and anxiety among those interviewed and calls for programmes be set up to address mental health issues and their prevalence among some 1.5 million Iraqi refugees in Syria. Final results of the study of 754 refugees in Syria were released in Geneva on Tuesday, including another key recommendation for increased advocacy among all groups within Iraq "to end deliberate torture and the numerous other horrific events" in the country.

 [Full IPSOS Report](#)

- [Lesson in how to create Iraqi orphans. And then how to make life worse for them](#)

Source: [The Independent](#)

Document: Article by Robert Fisk

Date: January 24, 2008

Access: Open

Alas, the milk of human kindness does not necessarily extend to orphans from Iraq – the country we invaded for supposedly humanitarian reasons, not to mention weapons of mass destruction. For as their British uncle waited for them at Queen Alia airport, Jordanian security men – refusing him even a five-minute conversation with the girls – hustled the sisters back on to the plane for Iraq.

- [Iraqi refugees: "We can't return" – Part 1 and Part 2](#)

Source: [BBC](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 18, 2008

Access: Open

The decrease in violence in Iraq over the past few months has seen a number of Iraqis return home. But many of the hundreds of thousands of Iraqis who have fled the violence are unable or unwilling to go back. In the first of two first person accounts from Iraqi women now living in Damascus, Umm Ali, describes what she found when she visited the home in Baghdad she had fled a year earlier.

- [Lebanon: For Iraqis, Treatment for Trauma is Luxury](#)

Source: [IPS](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 18, 2008

Access: Open

Hamzeh works at the recently opened Restart centre in Beirut, a charity funded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) that provides free therapy and psychological therapy rehabilitation for up to 70 mostly Iraqi refugees who are victims of torture. The centre also gathers documentation to help argue their case for asylum. The centre is a brief respite for a few Iraqis fleeing torture, death sentences and the grinding violence of daily life back home. But they arrive in Lebanon only to find themselves dangerously illegal, and subject to discrimination and exploitation. Few can find counselling and support.

- [Jordan 's cold wave eats away at Iraqis' savings – In English and Arabic](#)

Source: [Aswat Al Iraq](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 20, 2008

Access: Open

After successfully escaping the violence of their home country, many displaced Iraqis in Jordan say they have been trapped by not-so-much-better circumstances in their host country. A harsh winter and a fierce cold wave were the last to be expected to eat away at Iraqis' savings which they have kept for a rainy day.

Education – Child Protection

- [Orphans in Iraq, a tragic situation – In English and Arabic](#)

Source: [Aswat Al Iraq](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 17, 2008

Access: Open

There are many children like Mustafa, orphans and street-kids that live a current tragic reality in Iraq, with an unknown future awaiting them, especially when considering that there are no pre-existing legislations or decrees that protect them and their rights. The statistics of the Iraqi Ministry of Planning and Development Coordination show that there are 4.5 million orphans in Iraq, 500 thousand of them living in the streets.

- [Iraq's scholars reluctant to return](#)

Source: [IWPR](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 18, 2008

Access: Open

The continuing shortage of academics is damaging higher education throughout the country.

Human Rights & Protection (and violations...)

- [Iraqi juvenile inmates get basic education](#)

Source: [UPI](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **January 22, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Juveniles at Iraqi detention facilities are attending education and reintegration programs at a training camp located near Baghdad International Airport.

Demining and MRE

- [Land mines threaten Iraqis and hamper development](#)

Source: [Reuters](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **January 22, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Up to 25 million land mines, or almost one for every Iraqi, remain buried in thousands of minefields across Iraq and are hampering development of rich oil deposits, officials said on Wednesday.

Organisations and Agencies' Communication

- [Newsletter Fourth Quarter 2007](#)

Source: [IOM](#)

Document: **Newsletter**

Date: **January 22, 2008**

Access: **Open**

This report gives news from the different IOM programs in Iraq, like the project for IDPs and the Capacity Building operations.

- [International community must quickly build on Iraq's recent progress – UN envoy](#)

Source: [UN News](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **January 21, 2008**

Access: **Open**

The fourth positive development is the UN surge. "We are with a strong mandate, we are in Erbil (in the north), Baghdad, Basra, we are currently having a mission in Kirkuk and we are seriously, actively involved in many areas we were not before," he added. He cited UN involvement with the central authorities in Baghdad and the leaders of the Kurdish region to cooperate to avoid further violence over the delay in a referendum over the city of Kirkuk and disputed internal boundaries.

 [Special Representative Staffan De Mistura Describes UN Priority Areas, Says Recent Reduction in Violence Will Not Last Absent Political Consensus](#)

 [Full Security Council Meeting transcription](#)

IRAQ CONTEXT

General Overview

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

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

Document: **Weekly report**

Date: **January 23, 2008**

Access: **Open**

A weekly Iraq humanitarian assistance report Compiled by Pacific Disaster Management Information Network

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

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

Document: Selection of daily comments

Date: January 18 to 23, 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.

Non-Violence and Reconciliation

- [Iraq Parliament Considers Amnesty for Detainees](#)

Source: [AFP](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 21, 2008

Access: Open

Iraq's parliament gave a first reading on Monday to a draft law that offers a general amnesty to thousands of detainees held in US and Iraqi prisons in a bid to boost national reconciliation.

Iraqis Living Conditions

- [Baghdad liquor stores reopen](#)

Source: [IWPR](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 18, 2008

Access: Open

Shopkeepers selling alcohol say they remain nervous about potential attacks by militants.

- [A Doctor's Passion, a Journalist's Eye](#)

Source: [New York Times](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 22, 2008

Access: Open

Dr. Mahdi said journalism refocused him after he became overwhelmed working in an emergency room in the aftermath of the invasion of Iraq. "I felt myself very weak, very desperate," he recalled. "I was telling myself, 'I am alone.'" When he started translating for Western journalists, he said, he "got fascinated by the power of journalism" and decided that if he could "carry these things to the outer world, that will make me feel better."

Violence and (Un-) security

- [A Failure to Think](#)

Source: [The Guardian](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 21, 2008

Access: Open

Five years after he launched it, George Bush's invasion of Iraq looks even more disastrous than it did at the end of the first year. Not only did it uncover no weapons of mass destruction. The invasion has led to a collapse in millions of ordinary Iraqis' personal security, producing a human rights nightmare and annual rates of killing that dwarf the atrocities of Saddam Hussein's three decades of power.

- [Attacks Imperil Militiamen in Iraq Allied With U.S.](#)

Source: [New York Times](#)

Document: Article

Date: January 24, 2008

Access: Open

American-backed Sunni militias who have fought Sunni extremists to a standstill in some of Iraq's bloodiest battlegrounds are being hit with a wave of assassinations and bomb attacks, threatening a fragile linchpin of the military's strategy to pacify the nation.

- [The Southern Mahdists Speak for Themselves](#)

Source: [Historiae](#)
Document: Article
Date: January 20, 2008
Access: Open

In an interesting statement, the Adherents of the Mahdi, the group targeted in recent security operations in the southern Iraqi cities of Nasiriyya and Basra, have explained the conflict from their own point of view.

- [In Anbar, Sunni rivalries surface](#)

Source: [Los Angeles Times](#)
Document: Article
Date: January 16, 2008
Access: Open

In the Iraqi province, where militants have mostly been driven out, clan-based feuds and power struggles are leading to bloodshed.

- [Tea and tribal conflict in Iraq](#)

Source: [Los Angeles Times](#)
Document: Article
Date: January 22, 2008
Access: Open

The possible rise of militias from Sunni groups is the topic for Marine commanders and power brokers in a region bordering Syria.

- [Police and Army Getting Sidelined](#)

Source: [IPS](#)
Document: Article
Date: January 21, 2008
Access: Open

New military operations in Diyala province north of Baghdad have exacerbated a growing conflict between U.S.-backed Sunni fighters on the one hand and Iraqi army and police forces on the other.

“Reconstruction” is not going so well...for Iraqis

- [Bad food invading Iraq for lack of supervision](#)

Source: [Iraq Directory](#)
Document: Article
Date: January 19, 2008
Access: Open

Iraqi governmental control bodies took extensive procedures to examine foodstuffs entering the country through a strict system of import, preventing the entry of non-conformity foodstuffs with the conditions and specifications set by the Ministry of Commerce. These procedures came as a result of dumping the Iraqi market with bad canned food without taking into account the safety of citizens. Sources at the Ministry of Health hold the border inspection committees responsible for this case because they lack effectiveness.

- [Tough fight against corruption seen in Iraq](#)

Source: [Alertnet](#)
Document: Article
Date: January 21, 2008
Access: Open

Iraq's political leaders have so far lacked the will to fight the "cancer" of corruption and should start by declaring how much money they earn, the country's new anti-graft chief said. "Corruption is just like cancer ... we should take it on by long-term strategies," Ugaili told Reuters in an interview. "There has never been a political will to fight corruption and today the political will to do so is still weak," said Ugaili, who began his new job last week.

- [Bickering Stalls Iraq's Budget in Parliament](#)

Source: [Reuters](#)
Document: Article
Date: January 22, 2008
Access: Open

Iraqi lawmakers have refused to pass the 2008 budget because of rows over funding, including how much money to give the autonomous Kurdistan region, in the latest sign of the country's deep political divisions. Officials said on Tuesday that failure to pass the \$48 billion budget would hold up vital spending at a time when Washington is urging the government to jumpstart the economy to take advantage of sharp falls in violence.

- [Iraqis Take Lead Rebuilding Role](#)

Source: [Washington Times](#)
Document: Article
Date: January 20, 2008
Access: Open

Iraqi authorities have taken charge of reconstruction projects along with military operations in southern Iraq, establishing a major test of their ability to effectively manage the large sums of money involved. The transition, which follows Britain's turnover of military responsibility in the Basra area in mid-December, wraps up more than four years of British- and U.S.-funded reconstruction in southern Iraq worth more than \$500 million.

- [Iraq May Need Military Help for Years, Officials Say](#)

Source: [Washington Post](#)
Document: Article
Date: January 18, 2008
Access: Open

Senior U.S. military officials projected yesterday that the Iraqi army and police will grow to an estimated 580,000 members by the end of the year but that shortages of key personnel, equipment, weaponry and logistical capabilities mean that Iraq's security forces will probably require U.S. military support for as long as a decade.

- [Iraq oil, other projects unclear](#)

Source: [UPI](#)
Document: Article
Date: January 18, 2008
Access: Open

Iraq's Oil Ministry spent \$558 million on capital projects in 2007 to improve its struggling oil sector. Or \$500 million. Or only \$270,000.

- [Power Cuts Plague Iraq, Hurt Oil Production](#)

Source: [Alertnet](#)
Document: Article
Date: January 18, 2008
Access: Open

Electricity cuts that blacked out Iraq's northern oilfields and main refinery this week were a timely reminder that its hopes of boosting oil production rest on something it does not have -- a dependable power supply. Iraq has managed to sustain production of around 2.2 million barrels per day (bpd), but levels were close to 3 million bpd before the U.S.-led war on Iraq in March 2003.

Iraqi Political process

- [The farce of sovereignty](#)

Source: [The Guardian](#)
Document: Article
Date: January 21, 2008
Access: Open

The coalition made much of bringing democracy to the 'liberated' country by handing the reins to the Iraqi government. But, as Jonathan Steele relates in this final extract from his new book, it also ensured that it retained complete control

- [Iraq's New Law on Ex-Baathists Could Bring Another Purge](#)

Source: [Washington Post](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **January 18, 2008**

Access: **Open**

"This new law is very confusing," Awadi said. "I don't really know what it means for me." He is not alone. More than a dozen Iraqi lawmakers, U.S. officials and former Baathists here and in exile expressed concern in interviews that the law could set off a new purge of ex-Baathists, the opposite of U.S. hopes for the legislation.

- [Ashura, 1429/2008: Iraq's Shiites between Sectarianism, Iraqi Nationalism, and Mahdism](#)

Source: [Historiae](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **January 18, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Ashura, the tenth day of Muharram which is the first month of the Islamic calendar, is commemorated by Shiites as the day of the martyrdom of their Imam Hussein in the battle of Karbala in AD 680. In 2008, Ashura falls on 19 January, and, as usual, it will prompt many Shiite individuals to reflect on their relationship to wider communities – the sectarian Shiite one, as well as the national Iraqi one.

- [Iraq more secure, needs political consensus](#)

Source: [Alertnet](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **January 21, 2008**

Access: **Open**

The United Nations' chief envoy in Iraq gave a mixed report on Monday on the situation, saying security had improved but an Iraqi political consensus was needed for a long-term reduction in violence.

- [Iraq lawmakers approve new flag](#)

Source: [Los Angeles Times](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **January 16, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Kurds had rejected the old banner, which included Saddam Hussein's handwriting and symbols of his Baath Party.

Rule of Law

- [Can Cash Create Goodwill in Iraq?](#)

Source: [Los Angeles Times](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **January 21, 2008**

Access: **Open**

At the edge of a dirt crater 40 feet wide and 20 feet deep, Lieutenant Shawn Spainhour and Sheikh Dawood Rashid al-Shuhaib stare down in silence at the wreckage. In August 2007, the U.S. military bombed the sheikh's house, obliterating it with a 500-lb. JDAM "bunker buster." The rest of the village was flattened by artillery. Spainhour, in full battle gear — flak jacket, helmet, knife, guns, boots, camouflage and radio — turns to the grief-stricken, 60-year-old sheikh, who is wearing resplendent traditional Arab dress, and asks his translator to tell him that "I sincerely apologize for everything that has happened here." Spainhour pauses as they survey the damage. "It's the cost of war." Literally. Coming along with the apology will be U.S. dollars.

Policies and Strategies

- [Iraqi Mirages](#)

Source: [Washington Post](#)

Document: **Editorial**

Date: **January 18, 2008**

Access: **Open**

A new law may not bring real reconciliation much closer. That's no reason to give up.

- [How George Bush became the new Saddam](#)

Source: [Macleans](#)
Document: [Article](#)
Date: [September 20, 2007](#)
Access: [Open](#)

That problem may be systemic—the result of a “fact-based” America confronting a society it did not understand and simply making up an alternate reality, guns ablaze. So far, the Republicans have done an impressive job at failing in Iraq. Soon it may be the Democrats’ turn to fail, albeit in a different way. It’s a shame because Iraqi political parties are perfectly capable of doing that on their own. Indeed, they seem to be going out of their way to compete with the Americans on that score.

- ['We had no idea we were not wanted'](#)

Source: [The Guardian](#)
Document: [Article](#)
Date: [January 22, 2008](#)
Access: [Open](#)

When US troops entered Falluja, they found a proud, well-ordered city that had already liberated itself. Within a year, it had become a byword for resistance. In this second extract from his new book, Jonathan Steele recalls how the coalition forces began to alienate the locals as soon as they arrived

- [Britain 'as Inept as US' in Failing to Foresee Postwar Iraq Insurgency](#)

Source: [The Guardian](#)
Document: [Article](#)
Date: [January 21, 2008](#)
Access: [Open](#)

The government's top foreign policy advisers were as inept as their US counterparts in failing to see that removing Saddam Hussein in 2003 was likely to lead to a nationalist insurgency by Sunnis and Shias and an Islamist government in Baghdad, run by allies of Iran, the Guardian has learned. None of Whitehall's "Arabists" warned Tony Blair of the difficulties which have plagued the occupation. The revelation undermines the British claim that it was US myopia which was to blame for the failure to foresee what would happen in postwar Iraq.

- [Independent Study Finds Bush "Unequivocally" Lied U.S. into War with Iraq](#)

Source: [OpEd News](#)
Document: [Article](#)
Date: [January 23, 2008](#)
Access: [Open](#)

A nonprofit collaboration of two independent, non-governmental organizations has concluded that President Bush used at least 532 misleading and deceptively false statements to justify military action against Iraq. In all, the Bush administration as a whole used a mind-numbing 935 false statements to goad America into war with Iraq.

HUMANITARIAN WORLD PERSPECTIVES & QUALITY OF AID

- [A Seat at the Table: The Role of Displaced Persons in Peace Talks and Peacebuilding](#)

Source: [International Crisis Group](#)
Document: [Speech Transcription](#)
Date: [December 14, 2007](#)
Access: [Open](#)

Many in the international community view internally displaced persons as mere victims of conflict and extol their remarkable capacity for survival. But it is vital to see IDPs as much more: they are an essential piece of the puzzle in making and building sustainable peace. Peace processes must benefit greatly from their knowledge of local conditions, their power to generate civil society support for agreements, their willingness to return home and rebuild stable societies, and their commitment to the future of their countries. In the pursuit of peace, we must make them part of the solution, not part of the problem.

- [Measuring humanitarian assistance in conflicts](#)

Source: [The Lancet](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [January 18, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

In 2001, just before the invasion of Afghanistan, US Secretary of State Colin Powell called on non-governmental organisations to partner with NATO forces as a “force multiplier” and “part of our combat team.” Increasingly, humanitarian assistance operations have assumed a major role in US efforts to win the hearts and minds of populations abroad. Indeed, in 2005, the Department of Defense (DoD) said that implementation of the military’s capacity for reconstruction and stabilisation with humanitarian and stability operations was “a core US military mission.” Since 2001, however, there has been little independent analysis of the DoD’s surging role of development and non-development assistance in developing countries.

- [Integrated Health Strategies Can Save Children’s Lives, says UNICEF Flagship, State of the World’s Children Report 2008](#)

Source: [The Lancet](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [January 22, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

Strategies that can help reduce the number of children who die before their fifth birthday were highlighted today, at the launch of UNICEF’s flagship report - The State of the World’s Children 2008: Child Survival – in Geneva. While recent data show a fall in the rate of under-five mortality, the State of the World’s Children Report 2008 goes beyond the numbers to suggest actions and initiatives that should lead to further progress.

 [Full Report](#)

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

NCCI/NGOs Strategic Workshop will be held in Amman on January 30th and 31st. 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

January 25 th	Beginning of Coalition Forces military operations (Muharram 17 th 1424)
February 1 st	Anniversary of Samarra's Al Askari Shrine Bombing (Muharram 24 th , 1427)
February 8 th	Anniversary of Baathist Revolution against Qasim's regime (1963)
February 14 th	Anniversary of Imam Musa Al-Kadhom Birthday (Safar 7 th)

Updates & Announcements

NCCI Recruitments

NCCI is urgently looking for a **Data and Web Manager** and a **secretary for its Amman office** and few other positions. ToRs are available [here](#).

Some **CVs** are also on our website

New NCCI Executive Board Members

Following the last month's NCCI General Assembly and the resignation of two former Boards Members (EMDH and ASI), elections have occurred within NCCI membership.

We welcome two new members within the NCCI Executive Board: **Reach** and **Islamic Relief Worldwide** (IRW).

They join other Board members that are Oxfam, Mercy Corps, Italian Consortium of Solidarity (ICS), Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Iraqi Al-Amal (IAA).

A Board Meeting will convene soon to elect the Executive Board Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

NCCI Staff Departure

At the end of the month Wasan Ghazi will leave NCCI after more than 4 years of dedicated work to support the NGO community in Iraq.

NCCI team would like to thank her for her commitment during these more than four long and difficult years.

[NCCI's Contact List](#)