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EDITORIAL

[Issue 99 - February 14, 2008](#)

Acting out of the boxes

More creativity, flexibility, adaptability and experience that what humanitarian organisations currently propose are needed in Iraq to respond to the crisis accurately and meet the needs of the vulnerable.

Actually there is a lot of creativity implemented in Iraq, at ground level. Iraqis had no option but be creative to survive during the past few years. Obviously, humanitarian actors on the field have also continuously adapted to the context.

However, remote programming and funding that are the rule for many agencies in lots of Iraq's regions have had as major consequence to over-rely on guidelines and administrative regulations.

Today, there is a growing gap between these regulations and the reality on the field.

Reducing this gap should be a matter of emergency for every humanitarian actor in Iraq. This is one of the reasons why we invited Ms. Anna Mansour in Amman this week. With unbelievable energy and passion, she described humanitarian responses and social mobilization in Lebanon during that country's civil war. She shared with the participants her unique experiences as Unicef's Education Program Officer during the 1980s and early 1990s, during which she led an [innovative Education for Peace and social mobilization effort](#) amongst Lebanon's children and youth during the worst of the fighting in her country. Ms. Mansour talked about how this programme started and was implemented, and how she and her staff overcame tremendous challenges in successful set of activities in a difficult, dangerous and complex context.

Obviously the Lebanese context was different from the Iraqi one. But the war was as violent as it is in Iraq, and many of the conflict related lessons learnt may be adapted to today's Iraq. Amongst them we can highlight:

- The need to adapt programmes to the context's reality through timely and field-oriented, based and led programmes;
- The necessity to have principles-based approach;
- The respect of humanitarian principles such as independence, impartiality or transparency;
- The acceptance of high level of risks assuming that zero risk does not exist for anyone, including humanitarian workers, in conflict zones;
- The need of dedicated, experienced and committed staff acting and creating on the ground with the support of back-up offices.

In fact, all the main lessons learnt may be summarized in two concepts: Bottom-up strategies and non-formal approach.

It is time for both to be more developed in Iraq. The non-formal – or call it informal or non-institutionalised - approach is especially needed in term of creative programming. Indeed, with the original aim to ensure a better quality of aid and to

reassure donors or auditors, guidelines have become laws that control and threaten the daily work of implementing teams or aid workers. Yet, guidelines should only guide an action and never restrict it, while it remains needs-based and principles-oriented.

Many agencies and humanitarian actors have understood, over the past few years, that the only way to continue supporting vulnerable in Iraq was to “think out of the box”. Non-formal programming means going farther than thinking. It means acting out of the box.

Too often, under the pressure of donors, because of the lack of presence or the lack of trust, administrative procedures and so-called guidelines have become the only allowed framework for programming. Yet, originally, guidelines have been drafted to support programmes and guide them. Administrative procedures have the aim to support people who run the programmes, not to hamper the provision of assistance. Listening to Ms. Mansour, it is obvious that she faced the same constraints 20 years ago. But she and few in her hierarchy had the courage to resist to this reality and to support and allow teams to work through a non-formal approach.

Unless this courage is shown, administrative regulations and rigid framework generally overlay programming, especially in non-formal operations. While they undermine further results, they generally reassure people that are not directly involved in such programmes and who think that non-formal operations do not have clear framework.

Yet, without a clear framework, a non-formal programme cannot survive or be effective. In non-formal programming, the framework should (and generally is) even better defined than in formal programming. Indeed, in formal programming, frameworks are already defined by the so-called “box” (which can be either the organisation’s operating or administrative procedures, the rigidity of the system or the auto-censorship of staffs).

In non-formal programmes, the framework is based on principles and defined according to the needs, the context, the timing, the beneficiaries, the implementing staff’s capacity and willingness, etc. Therefore, the framework has to be very clearly drawn. But this framework cannot be rigid. It should be flexible and moving to be continuously adapted.

5 years after the beginning of the war in Iraq, humanitarian responses and protection activities do not meet the needs of the vulnerable and are very often encroached by administrative issues, guidelines that are not adapted or principles that are blurred. Perhaps would it be the time to let people who are present on the ground to create adapted responses, and to support non-formal and innovative programmes.

This is indeed perhaps the time to try other responses, to give space to creative innovations that are not already designed “within the box”.

Salaam,
NCCI Team

HUMANITARIAN UPDATES

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

Advocacy

- [Jeremy Scahill interviews Dahr Jamail: Beyond the Green Zone](#)

Source: [The Nation](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **February 8, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Dahr Jamail has spent more time reporting from Iraq than almost any other US journalist. He recently sat down with Nation correspondent Jeremy Scahill to talk about the supposed "success" of Bush's troop surge, what would happen if Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton wins the White House and why he believes an immediate withdrawal from Iraq is the only way to peace. Here's an edited transcript of that interview.

- [Iraq's Tragic Future](#)

Source: [Truthdig](#)

Document: **Opinion**, By Scott Ritter

Date: **February 7, 2008**

Access: **Open**

While the American people, politicians and media may remain mute on the reality of Iraq, I won't. There is no such thing as a crystal ball which enables one to see clearly into the future, and I am normally averse to making sweeping long-term predictions involving a topic as fluid as the ongoing situation in Iraq. At the risk of being wrong (and, indeed, I hope very much that I am), I will contradict the rosy statements of the president in his State of the Union address and will throw down a gauntlet in the face of ongoing public and media ambivalence by predicting that 2008 will be the year the "surge" in Iraq is exposed as a grand debacle. The cosmetic bandage placed over the gravely wounded Iraq will fall off, and the damaged body that is Iraq will continue its painful decline toward death.

- [Our crimes in Iraq must not be forgotten](#)

Source: [The Independent](#)

Document: **Opinion**

Date: **February 12, 2008**

Access: **Open**

If the alliance was arrogant at the time of the invasion, it is even more so today

Operational Humanitarian Space

- [European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid](#)

Source: [European Union](#)

Document: **Official Document**

Date: **December 18, 2007**

Access: **Open**

The Presidents of the European Commission, European Parliament and Council of the European Union on behalf of the 27 EU Member States signed a 'European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid'. The Consensus sets out a common EU vision and a practical approach for reaching out effectively to millions of people worldwide suffering as a result of conflicts and natural disasters. The European Consensus, which was proposed by the Commission, aims at boosting EU coordination and emphasises good donor practice. It also clearly underlines the different roles of those involved in providing relief. Delivering aid successfully in very difficult circumstances demands strong partnership and good links to the international community, including the UN, the Red Cross movement and the humanitarian NGOs. Local capacity is also crucial to save lives and minimise suffering. Through the Consensus, the EU also affirms its commitment to supporting vulnerable communities through risk reduction and disaster preparedness work.



[VOICE welcomes the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid](#)

- [Creative Programming Lessons Learned from Lebanon](#)

Source: [Various](#)

Document: [Various](#)

Date: [February 11, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

Sample of documents provided by Ms. Anna Mansour during the 2 sessions she conducted for NCCI on February 10th and 11th in Amman on Creative Programming in a Conflict Environment.

- [Principles of Partnership - A Statement of Commitment](#)

Source: [IASC](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [March 21, 2007](#)

Access: [Open](#)

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, acknowledging diversity as an asset of the humanitarian community and recognizing the interdependence among humanitarian organizations, committed to building and nurturing an effective partnership,

Blurring the lines

- [U.S. lacks counterinsurgency skill](#)

Source: [UPI](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [February 12, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

A study commissioned by the Department of Defense says that U.S. capabilities for counterinsurgency are "seriously deficient and out of balance. Large-scale U.S. military intervention and occupation in the Muslim world is at best inadequate, at worst counter-productive, and, on the whole, infeasible," said a statement from the RAND Corp., a think tank with historic ties to the U.S. military, which carried out the study. The authors conclude the United States "should shift its priorities and funding to improve civil governance, build local security forces, and exploit (intelligence) information -- capabilities that have been lacking in Iraq and Afghanistan."

 [Rand Press Release: United States Lacks the Capability to Counter Insurgency in the Muslim World](#)

 [Rand Full Report](#)

- [Soldiers Provide Aid to Orphanage](#)

Source: [MNF-I](#)

Document: [Press Release](#)

Date: [February 9, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, visited a Kirkuk orphanage, Feb. 3. The Soldiers plan to visit the orphanage regularly during the duration of their deployment.

Humanitarian Needs and Assistance

- [Iraq's Tidal Wave of Misery - The First History of the Planet's Worst Refugee Crisis](#)

Source: [Tom Dispatch](#)

Document: [Article](#)

Date: [February 11, 2008](#)

Access: [Open](#)

The displacement of people carries with it the destruction of human capital. The destruction of human capital deprives Iraq of its most precious resource for repairing the damage of war and occupation, condemning it to further infrastructural decline. This tide of infrastructural decline is the surest guarantee of another wave of displacement, of future floods of refugees. As long as the United States keeps trying to pacify Iraq, it will create wave after wave of misery.

- [Caritas Presence and Action in Iraq](#)

Source: [Caritas](#)

Document: **Report**

Date: **January 31, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Activities run by Caritas in Iraq.

Food Security and Nutrition

- [Agriculture and Food Security SOT - Draft](#)

Source: [UNDP](#)

Document: **ToRs**

Date: **February 9, 2008**

Access: **Members**

Draft Terms of Reference and Strategy for the Agriculture and Food Security Sector Outcomes Team.

Health & Mental Health

- [UN-NGOs Health and Nutrition SOT](#)

Source: [WHO](#)

Document: **MoM**

Date: **February 9, 2008**

Access: **Members**

Minutes of the full day retreat held by WHO on February 3rd in Amman.

- [For Broken Iraqis, A Haven of Healing](#)

Source: [Washington Post](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **February 9, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Children Shattered by War Find Care, Kindness in Jordan. About 50 of these wounded Iraqis have been living in the Amman Palace hotel, while half that number are in the Jordan Red Crescent hospital up the hill. Dozens more, limbless and broken, arrive in Amman each month asking to be remade. They stay an average of 53 days, sometimes more than a year, attended by a team of orthopedic, plastic and maxillofacial surgeons from the Geneva-based Doctors Without Borders organization.

 [Pictures illustrating the article](#)

- [Leishmaniasis affecting children in south – in \[English\]\(#\) and \[Arabic\]\(#\)](#)

Source: [IRIN](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **February 11, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Over 180 children have been affected with Baghdad boil disease, or leishmaniasis, in Iraq's southern province of Qadissiyah, about 130km south of Baghdad, local officials said. Leishmaniasis is known by different local names, including oriental sore, Aleppo button, Jericho boil and Delhi boil. In its most unpleasant form - visceral leishmaniasis - organ failure and death can result. "The disease has spread because of the lack of medical measures in the province and the lack of medicines, as most of those available have expired," Abdul-Salam said.

IDPs

- [IDPs Working Group](#)

Source: [UNHCR](#)

Document: **MoM**

Date: **February 10, 2008**

Access: **Members**

Minutes of the last IDPs Working Group that was held in Amman on February 6th and focused on civil-military coordination in Iraq.

- [IDP Tent Camp Assessment Report Iraq](#)

Source: [IOM](#)

Document: **Report**

Date: **February 7, 2007**

Access: **Open**

Although displacement slowed significantly during 2007, internally displaced persons (IDPs) continue to live in tent camps. These camps usually lack basic services, provide inadequate shelter during cold weather, and are set up in remote areas. For these reasons, and a cultural aversion to the indignity and lack of privacy camp life entails, camps are viewed as a last resort for shelter and are treated as a temporary measure. The IDP population in camps therefore fluctuates considerably. Some camps have been opened in anticipation of displacement that did not materialize, while others have been closed after IDPs left due to their substandard living conditions. IOM nationwide assessments find that the recently displaced rank shelter as their number one priority need. IOM does not endorse the establishment of camps and instead encourages assistance to the local communities that host IDPs. However, some IDPs are forced to reside in camps and, since camps usually lack services, are especially vulnerable and in need of humanitarian assistance.

- [Parliament committee demands fixed budget to aid the displaced – in English and Arabic](#)

Source: [IRIN](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **February 10, 2008**

Access: **Open**

With no end in sight for the plight of Iraqis displaced in and outside their country, a comprehensive, long-term government policy and budget to assist them is urgently required, an Iraqi parliamentary committee said on 9 February.

- [Fear Breeds Poverty in Iraq's Sadr City](#)

Source: [Al Jazeera](#)

Document: **Video**

Date: **February 10, 2008**

Access: **Open**

The statistics on violence and security in Iraq have improved slightly over the last year, but basic living standards are still sliding daily. The worst hit areas are those where service providers are unable or afraid to work. One of the poorest areas in the capital, Baghdad, is Sadr City. Once a slum area under Saddam Hussein, Sadr City is now a stronghold for the Shia militia, the Mehdi army. Hoda Abdel Hamid reports on people living on the edge of the overcrowded borough, home to two million people driven to increasingly desperate measures by poverty.

Refugees

- [High Commissioner starts week-long visit to Middle East region](#)

Source: [UNHCR](#)

Document: **Press Release**

Date: **February 12, 2008**

Access: **Open**

UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres is in Jordan today on a week-long mission to the region aimed at highlighting the plight of millions of uprooted Iraqis and the efforts by host countries to help them.

- [UNHCR takes part in mass aid distribution in Syria](#)


Source: [UNHCR](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **February 12, 2008**

Access: **Open**

The UN refugee agency and its sister organization, the World Food Programme (WFP), warned of a funding shortage on Tuesday after launching their biggest joint aid distribution to date in Syria.

 [WFP, UNHCR Boost Assistance to Iraqi Refugees in Syria Amid Lack of Funds](#)

- [Caritas Response to the Iraqi Refugees Crisis in the Middle-East](#)

Source: [Caritas](#)

Document: **Report**

Date: **January 31, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Activities run by Caritas for Iraqis refugees in the region.

- [Mercy Corps Launches Work in Syria to Assist Iraqi Refugees](#)

Source: [Mercy Corps](#)

Document: **Press Release**

Date: **February 11, 2008**

Access: **Open**

This month, Mercy Corps will begin work to address the Iraqi refugee crisis in Syria. Mercy Corps will be the first American global relief and development agency to receive permission from the Syrian government to open an office inside the country since the crisis began. The United Nations estimates that there are 1.5 million Iraqi refugees in Syria, an influx that has put significant strain on the resources of that small nation.

- [More Iraqis heading to Syria than returning home: UN](#)

Source: [AFP](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **February 8, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Iraqis are once again leaving Iraq for Syria in greater numbers than are returning, despite the lower level of bloodshed in their homeland, the UN refugee agency said on Wednesday.

- [Iraq's returnee numbers unclear -minister](#)

Source: [Alertnet](#)

Document: **Interview**

Date: **February 7, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Abdul Samad Sultan, the displacement and migration minister, said last year about 1,600 people were coming back to Iraq every day -- a figure aid agencies have disputed. Sultan now acknowledges the situation is not so clear. "There are big indicators of families returning to Iraq, a large movement at airports and border checkpoints," Sultan said in an interview with Reuters. "(But) we have no accurate numbers about the number of people displaced and returned to Iraq," he said, adding a survey was being planned with humanitarian group the International Medical Corps to produce detailed statistics.

- [Exiled Iraqis too scared to return home despite propaganda push](#)

Source: [The Independent](#)

Document: **Article** by *Patrick Cockburn*

Date: **February 11, 2008**

Access: **Open**

As a propaganda exercise designed to show that the Iraqi government was restoring peace, it never quite worked. The majority of the returnees said they were returning to Baghdad, not because it was safer, but because they had run out of money in Syria or their visas had expired.

Education – Child Protection

- [Iraq Children 2007 – A year in their life](#)

Source: [UNICEF](#)

Document: **Report**

Date: **February 12, 2008**

Access: **Open**

This report gives a brief perspective on how conditions have changed for children in Iraq over the past year, factoring in the knowledge and research of many important actors. It also looks at what more could be done in the year ahead.

- [A Day in a Life of an Iraqi Boy – in English and Arabic](#)

Source: [Asharq Al-Awsat](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **February 11, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Asharq Al-Awsat- Reports issued by international and local Iraqi social organizations concerned with the welfare of children have confirmed that the poor living conditions endured by Iraqi families have caused thousands of children to leave the education system and enter employment that may be unsuitable to their ages and stature, or at best, have forced children to work during after school hours. Considering that it is difficult to obtain any official statistics on the number of those who are not attending school in a country where many sectors, including the education sector, are deteriorating, the level of street children is increasing on a daily basis. Many children have taken up employment as cleaners, or sell newspapers and magazines on the street or helpers in vehicle repair garages.

- [The Road to Learning Can Be Dangerous](#)

Source: [IPS](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **February 11, 2008**

Access: **Open**

University professors now enjoy increased pay, but in the face of threats and isolation, there is little they are able to do in the world of academics.

Human Rights & Protection (and violations...)

- [Protection Outcome Team - Draft](#)

Source: [UNHCR](#)

Document: **ToR**

Date: **February 11, 2008**

Access: **Members**

Draft Terms of Reference for the Protection Outcome Team.

- [SGBV Coordination Meeting](#)

Source: [UNHCR](#)

Document: **MoM**

Date: **January 29, 2008**

Access: **Members**

Minutes of the SGBV Coordination Meeting held in Amman on January 29th.

 [UNHCR SGBV Guidelines](#)

Water and Sanitation

- [Watsan Sector Outcome Team - Draft](#)

Source: [UNICEF](#)

Document: **ToR**

Date: **February 11, 2008**

Access: **Members**

Terms of Reference for the Watsan Sector Outcome Team elaborated during the meeting held in Amman on February 11th.

 [NGOs membership criteria](#)

Funding Appeals

- [Iraq: Expanding Response to Humanitarian Crisis](#)


Source: [IFRC](#)

Document: **Appeal**

Date: **February 12, 2008**

Access: **Open**

This Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 20,679,198 (USD 18,991,820 or EUR 12,799,985) in cash, kind, or services to support the Iraqi Red Crescent in delivering assistance in disaster response; public health in emergencies; and in improving capacity building of the National Society.

 [International Federation launches appeal to assist nearly one million socially vulnerable and disabled people](#)

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

Source: [OCHA](#)

Document: **Appeal**

Date: **February 12, 2008**

Access: **Open**

The international aid community today appealed for a comprehensive international response to help vulnerable people in Iraq over the next 12 months. UN agencies and NGOs said \$265 million is needed to deliver urgent relief to Iraqis suffering under the humanitarian crisis inside the country.

 [Emergency Appeal Targets \\$265 Million for Aid in Iraq](#)

 [UNICEF appeals for \\$37 million to save vulnerable Iraqi children](#)

- [UNICEF issues annual appeal to meet needs of children and women in global emergencies](#)

Source: [UNICEF](#)

Document: **Appeal**

Date: **February 12, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Calling on donors to help address 39 specific crises around the world, UNICEF today launches its annual Humanitarian Action Report outlining the organization's funding requirements for emergency work in 2008.

 [UNICEF appeals for \\$856 million to aid children and women in emergencies](#)

 [Full Appeal](#)

IRAQ CONTEXT

General Overview

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

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

Document: **Weekly report**

Date: **February 13, 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: **February 8 to 14, 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's tribal system is vital for national stability](#)

Source: [Bitter Lemons International](#)

Document: **Opinion**

Date: **February 12, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Every Iraqi government has tried and failed to disband the tribal system. Today, we have seen that the tribal mechanism (including tribal leaders, tribal law, and tribal judges) has demonstrated its effectiveness and has earned a place in a modern Iraq. It is a system that is based on hundreds of years of experience in resolving disputes and mediating conflict; it is practical, effective, secular and completely tuned in to stakeholder needs with full transparency and accountability. Furthermore, today many tribal leaders, in the past uneducated but knowledgeable and wise, can tout degrees in law, engineering, mathematics and medicine. We may not see a Jeffersonian democracy in Iraq, but the tribal leaders of Iraq are poised to lead their nation toward an equitable system. It is our hope that one of the lessons learned from the Iraqi experience since 2003 is that the tribal system is a vital component for a stable Iraq and Middle East. It is one area where the West can learn from the East and is the foundation for any sustainable Arab democracy.

- [Securing their own street](#)

Source: [Bitter Lemons International](#)

Document: **Opinion**

Date: **February 12, 2008**

Access: **Open**

So the new localization of Iraqi politics is only the latest sign of the degeneration of a system in which identity counts more than ideology or issues. In times of insecurity, people usually tend to fall back on communal and sectarian defenses. When insecurity becomes truly massive, peoples' horizons shrink yet further. To treat Iraq's collapse into local politics as a success story is laughable. Iraqis are in survival mode, and the safety of their own street, even if it has to be safeguarded by militias, is all they can hope for.

Iraqis Living Conditions

- [Baghdad Walls Divide Neighbors, Friends](#)

Source: [Alive In Baghdad](#)

Document: **Video**

Date: **February 4, 2008**

Access: **Open**

In order to reduce the rate of violence between the Ghazaliya neighborhood and the Shu'la neighborhood, the Iraqi Government and Coalition Forces built a wall to separate these two neighborhoods. The wall is one and a quarter miles long, measuring from the northern to the southern side of the two neighborhoods and the height of the wall is approximately three meters. Some rejection demonstrations was taking place around the Wall describing it as another method to separate the Iraqi society, and the crowd was contains both Sunni and Shia Iraqis

- [In Baghdad, a Different Kind of Nightmare Commute](#)

Source: [Los Angeles Times](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **February 11, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Street brawls, gun battles and threats can make getting home scary. I was only trying to do what millions of Angelenos do every day: commute home from work. But even when things are good here, they can quickly turn bad.

- [Sectarian to the Bone](#)

Source: [Baghdad Treasure](#)

Document: **Blog**

Date: **January 26, 2008**

Access: **Open**

When my sister told me about all of this just a few hours ago, I got so frustrated. First of all, it's just a bank account. Secondly, and most importantly, what kind of new law is this? You can't open a bank account in a bank outside your neighborhood? Isn't that totally sectarian? Isn't the government supposed to open the barriers and bring the people together after they were divided by them?

Violence and (Un-) security

- [Rift threatens U.S. antidote to Al Qaeda in Iraq](#)

Source: [The Christian Science Monitor](#)

Document: Article

Date: February 13, 2008

Access: Open

Growing divisions among pro-US Sunni tribal chiefs threatens to unravel American gains against Al Qaeda. Commenting on the political impasse, London-based Iraq analyst Ghassan Attiyah, who opposes the current political order, sums it up this way: "All the Americans did was buy the Iraqi government some time. The fact that fewer people are dying now does not change the reality that this is a dysfunctional state that can easily slip back into civil war."

- [Violations of 'Islamic teachings' take deadly toll on Iraqi women](#)

Source: [CNN](#)

Document: Article

Date: February 8, 2008

Access: Open

Crimes against women in Iraq's south have included killings and amputations. Police chief: "Two women were killed in front of their kids". Not wearing headscarves, other violations of "Islamic teachings" bring crimes. Woman tells CNN "fear is always there," but "we don't know who to be afraid of"

- [More Bombing Creates New Enemies](#)

Source: [IPS](#)

Document: Article

Date: February 8, 2008

Access: Open

Now that the smoke has cleared and the rubble settled, residents of a group of bombed Iraqi villages see the raid as really a U.S. loss.

- [G.I. Tells of Ordering Unarmed Iraqi's Death](#)

Source: [New York Times](#)

Document: Article

Date: February 9, 2008

Access: Open

A top Army sniper testified Friday in a military court that he had ordered a subordinate to kill an unarmed Iraqi man who wandered into their hiding position near Iskandariya, then planted an AK-47 rifle near the body to support his false report about the shooting.

"Reconstruction" is not going so well...for Iraqis

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

Source: [UNDP](#)

Document: MoM

Date: February 4, 2008

Access: **Members**

Minutes of the Economic Reform and Diversification Outcome Team meeting held in Amman on February 4th.

 [ERD Sector Outcome Team TORs - Draft](#)

- [US business lags in Kurdistan, 'the other Iraq'](#)

Source: [Alertnet](#)

Document: Article

Date: February 12, 2008

Access: Open

Opportunities are rich in oil, agriculture and other sectors in Iraq's Kurdish north, U.S. and Kurdish officials said on Monday, but U.S. investment is still paltry in what promoters bill as "the other Iraq."

- [Selling Iraq -- Abroad and at Home](#)

Source: [Wall Street Journal](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **February 7, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Finance Minister Bayan Jabr is traveling abroad to convince deep-pocketed foreigners that it is now safe enough to invest in Iraq. But a tougher sell these days is persuading his colleagues in government that foreign investment is a good idea in the first place.

- [Development and Reform of the Iraqi Police Forces](#)

Source: [US Army War College Strategic Study Institute](#)

Document: **Report**

Date: **January 25, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Despite 4 years of millions of dollars in aid, equipment, education, and advisors, Iraqi police force development lags far behind the military. Numerous reasons are offered to account for this gap: corrupt practices left over from the previous regime, infiltration by militias, weak leadership, competition by better armed and organized criminal and militant groups, and so on. However, the military is also subject to these same influences, thus none of these explanations by themselves or in combination are satisfactory. The author argues that the poor political and security environment impacts social, political, and cultural factors in ways that are predictable, understandable, and, with external help, resolvable. The author offers valuable insights into the creation of such programs as well as a number of policies and practices advisors may adopt to best facilitate the creation of a just and effective Iraqi police force.

- [Basra theatrical movement dying – in English and Arabic](#)

Source: [Aswat Al-Iraq](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **February 11, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Basra stages are dying. Flourishing years for the stages of theaters in Basra were ended with the British invasion to that southern Iraqi city in March 2003, and the subsequent rising of radical Islamists there.

Iraqi Political process

- [Iraq's Civil War, the Sadrists and the Surge](#)

Source: [International Crisis Group](#)

Document: **Report**

Date: **February 8, 2008**

Access: **Open**

If the downturn in violence in Iraq is to continue, Muqtada al-Sadr's unilateral ceasefire must urgently be converted into a comprehensive multilateral one that creates conditions for his movement to evolve into a legitimate political actor. The latest report from the International Crisis Group, examines the continued involvement until 2007 of the Sadrists and their Mahdi Army, the country's biggest militia, in the brutal sectarian civil war and assesses the reasons behind their decision to freeze military activities. It argues that the ceasefire in place since August 2007 offers an opportunity for the movement's full integration into the political sphere which ought not to be missed.

- [Iraqis Pass 3 Key Bills, Pleasing All Parties](#)

Source: [Washington Post](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **February 14, 2008**

Access: **Open**

The bundling of the proposals, however, underscored the deep divisions among Iraq's political parties. None trusted the others to pass the three laws separately, each fearing that the measure it cared most about would fail. "There's no negotiating with faith and trust between the blocs," said Mahmoud Othman, an independent Kurdish legislator. "They are afraid to pass one law before the other. They fear each other. It's a shame that our democracy in Iraq is like this." By voting for the three proposals at once, Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds in the government all got what they had long sought. After the vote, each group proudly declared success.



[Los Angeles Times: Iraqi lawmakers pass 3 key bills](#)



[New York Times: Ending Impasse, Iraq Parliament Backs Measures](#)

- [Ruling partners pressure Iraq premier](#)

Source: [Los Angeles Times](#)

Document: Article

Date: February 8, 2008

Access: Open

Key parties threaten to oust Nouri Maliki unless he acts quickly to improve the government's performance and build an effective coalition.

- [Iraqi parliament in turmoil as sectarian rivalries flare](#)

Source: [WSWS](#)

Document: Article

Date: February 11, 2008

Access: Open

A bitter conflict is developing within the Iraqi parliament over the attempts of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to push through laws that are opposed by the Kurdish and Shiite parties that make up the core of his governing coalition.

- [The Law on the Powers of Governorates Not Organised in a Region](#)

Source: [Historiae](#)

Document: Article

Date: February 11, 2008

Access: Open

Whenever Iraqi politics becomes difficult to classify according to the ethno-sectarian mindset preferred by most Western commentators, interest in what is going on in Baghdad seems to dwindle. Little wonder, then, that for the past few weeks, somewhat esoteric news items (like a visit to Iraq by Angelina Jolie) have dominated press reports from Iraq. The two truly significant developments during the past month have received less coverage: the attempts to agree on a general budget, as well as efforts to pass a law on the powers of governorates nor organised in a [federal] region.

Rule of Law

- [Thousands of New Prisoners Overwhelm Iraqi System](#)

Source: [New York Times](#)

Document: Article

Date: February 14, 2008

Access: Open

The increase in American troops in Iraq over the past year has been accompanied by waves of new Iraqi detainees, inundating the country's already overburdened prisons and courts, American officials said Wednesday.

- [Hospital chief questioned in Baghdad blasts](#)

Source: [Los Angeles Times](#)

Document: Article

Date: February 14, 2008

Access: Open

He may have aided insurgents in finding mentally disabled bombers, U.S. says. He did not name the administrator, but a hospital worker and a spokesman for the Ministry of Health identified him as Sahi Abaoub Hermish Maliki. They, and Smith, said Maliki had worked at the hospital for only a couple of weeks.

Policies and Strategies

- [Army Buried Study Faulting Iraq Planning](#)

Source: [New York Times](#)

Document: Article

Date: February 11, 2008

Access: Open

After 18 months of research, RAND submitted a report in the summer of 2005 called "Rebuilding Iraq." RAND researchers provided an unclassified version of the report along with a secret one, hoping that its publication would contribute to the public debate on how to prepare for future conflicts. But the study's wide-ranging critique of the White House, the Defense Department and other government agencies was a concern for Army generals, and the Army has sought to keep the report under lock and key.

- [Reporting Iraq: Journalists' Coverage of a Censored War](#)

Source: [Alternet](#)

Document: **Interview**

Date: **February 8, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Reporting Iraq offers a candid view of the difficulties and complexities of working in an environment so hostile to reporters. In one episode Rajiv Chandrasekaran of the Washington Post recalls the difficulty of getting any relevant information from the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA): "Well, off the record," CPA advisor Dan Senor told him, "Paris is burning, but on the record, security and stability are returning to Iraq." Such double-speak motivated reporters to take great risks to find the facts -- and spurred a wartime environment where journalists have now come to rely heavily on Iraqi stringers who, unlike western reporters, are able move more freely around the country. Mike Hoyt, co-editor of Reporting Iraq and executive editor of the Columbia Journalism Review recently sat down with AlterNet to discuss some of the major themes raised by these war-time journalists. He also explains why he thinks we may have to push beyond the conventions of journalism to ensure that we're getting at the truth of war.

- [Making a Case for a Pause in Troop Cutbacks in Iraq](#)

Source: [New York Times](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **February 13, 2008**

Access: **Open**

There is an overarching reason American commanders in Iraq want a pause in American troop reductions this summer: The United States has learned through painful experience that security can rapidly deteriorate if it overestimates the ability of Iraq's forces to keep the peace.

HUMANITARIAN WORLD PERSPECTIVES & QUALITY OF AID

- [Arab charity is blooming - no thanks to America](#)

Source: [The Christian Science Monitor](#)

Document: **Article**

Date: **February 8, 2008**

Access: **Open**

Why doesn't the country that invented modern philanthropy do more to support it in the Middle East?

- [Number of armed groups or forces using child soldiers increases from 40 to 57](#)

Source: [UNICEF](#)

Document: **Press Release**

Date: **February 12, 2008**

Access: **Open**

According to the new Secretary General's annual report on Children and Armed Conflict, the number of armed groups and forces identified as using children has climbed from 40 in 2006 to 57 in 2007.

- [Voice Out Loud](#)

Source: [Voice](#)

Document: **Newsletter**

Date: **December 2007**

Access: **Open**

Humanitarian NGO s have not traditionally engaged in advocacy nor taken a strong position on politically controversial issues. Carrying out advocacy was feared to compromise commitment to the humanitarian principles, above all independence and impartiality, which are considered the key to the acceptance by the affected populations. Increasingly, the changing environment for humanitarian action and new actors have required NGOs to relate to issues that are having an impact on the delivery of aid. Also, humanitarian advocacy has started taking shape in relation to operational reality on the ground. VOICE OUT LOUD is intended to contribute to the understanding of the professional reality of humanitarian NGOs. It is addressed to the European decision makers and other stakeholders of the humanitarian community, while giving an insight into relevant humanitarian issues, relying upon the experience and input of VOICE members.

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 Coordination Meeting in Basra on Thursday 21st. 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

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| <i>Feb-14 / Saf-07</i> | <i>Imam Musa Al-Kadhom Birthday</i> |
| <i>Feb-16 / Saf-09</i> | <i>Anniversary of Amar Bin Yaser Martyrdom / Al-Nahrawan Battle</i> |
| <i>Feb-20 / Saf-13</i> | <i>Martyrdom Sayyida Sakina</i> |
| <i>Feb-22</i> | <i>Samarra Bombing Anniversary - Destruction of Imam Askari Shrine (2006)</i> |
| <i>Feb-24 / Saf-17</i> | <i>Martyrdom Imam Ali Ridha Anniversary</i> |
| <i>Feb-27 / Saf-20</i> | <i>Arbae'en (40's day of Imam Hussein's Death)</i> |

Updates & Announcements

Workshop on Non-violence as a mean for change

The Iraqi Development Institution in cooperation with the Mesalla Network will hold a workshop on Non Violence as a mean for change in Nineveh in March 2008. A number of participants from this workshop will be chosen to attend a conference for the non violence that will be held in Amman mid-2008. Interested participants can apply filling-up the form available on our website. Closing date to apply February 28th, 2008.

e-learning courses on Mainstreaming Human Rights (31 March-15 June 2008)

In 1997, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan (in his report "Renewing the United Nations: A Programme for Reform") designated human rights as a "cross-cutting issue" for the whole United Nations (UN) system and asked for human rights to be "mainstreamed" into the programmes, policies and activities of all UN specialised agencies, programmes and funds. This course will critically trace and evaluate the results of the Secretary-General's proposal, compare the different approaches taken by members of the "UN family" and note their experiences. Despite numerous pledges to mainstream human rights, the very term still lacks conceptual clarity, and misunderstandings and disagreements as to both the process and its desired outcome remain. The obstacles to successfully mainstream human rights are plentiful and its practical requirements demanding. What do we learn, ten years on, from the experiences made by UN specialised agencies, programmes and funds? Is mainstreaming a beneficial process worth pursuing? What are the prerequisites for successfully mainstreaming human rights? How does mainstreaming change institutions; and does it also change our perception of human rights? Please note that the registration deadline for this courses is **1 March 2008**.

[NCCI's Contact List](#)