

Iraq Status Report July 29, 2009



Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs U.S. Department of State

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	N. Car	MEN	VT O	1
6				7
O.V.	1			劳
•	0	M	No de	1

HIGHLIGHTS	3
POLITICAL	
Governance & Legislation	4
ECONOMIC	
• Oil	10
• Fiscal and Monetary Affairs	15
• Public Sector	17
Public Services - Electricity	19
BEYOND BAGHDAD	20
DIPLOMATIC	
Political Engagement	21
SECURITY	
• Situation Update	23
• Security Transition	20

Contact Information, Notes and Source Citations

27

HIGHLIGHTS



- KRG Elections (POLITICAL, page 4).
- Iraq's Cabinet Approves Draft Law Resurrecting National Oil Company (ECONOMIC, page 13).
- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Issues Report on Iraq's Obligations Under Chapter VII (*DIPLOMATIC*, page 21).
- Secretary of Defense Announces Possible Acceleration of Military Drawdown (SECURITY, page 23).

POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation



Elections take place in Iraq's Kurdish Region

KRG Elections:

• The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) held elections for the regional presidency and parliament July 25. The polls drew a high voter turnout of almost 80%. According to preliminary results released July 29, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) maintained control in parliament with 57% of the vote, while the main opposition party, the Change List, gained 23.8%. Current KRG President Masoud Barzani won 69.6% of the votes for president. Certified results will be released following the Iraqi Independent High Electoral Commission's review of complaints. According to Hamdiya al-Husseini, the chairwoman of the Kurdish region's electoral commission, approximately 350 foreign election monitors from Europe, the Middle East, and the United States were registered in addition to over 7,000 local observers.

POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation



Elections take place in Iraq's Kurdish Region

KRG President Rejects UNAMI Proposals and Indicates Intention to Hold KRG Constitution Referendum in Fall:

• KRG President Masoud Barzani said July 28, in his first interview after the KRG elections, that United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) recommendations for resolving Iraq's disputed internal boundaries are unrealistic. The KRG President also said he wanted to hold a referendum on the controversial draft KRG constitution during the fall.

Turkmen Against Participating in Iraqi National Census:

• Political parties representing the Turkmen population of Kirkuk announced July 23 that they intend to boycott Iraq's national census, scheduled for October. In a statement, the parties vowed they would not participate in the census in any part of Iraq that they reside in, saying that a "boycott of 2% of the nation's population will cause the census to lose its authenticity." They called for a delay until a strategy could be developed determining the residency status of Kurds who moved to Kirkuk after the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime. Kurdish leaders in Kirkuk said they plan to participate in the census.

POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation



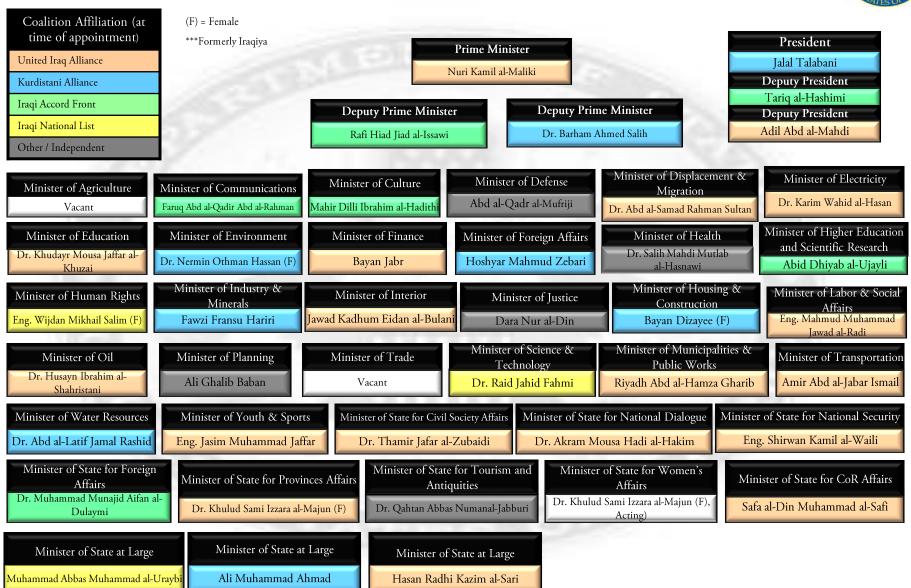
Elections take place in Iraq's Kurdish Region

UNHCR Ceases Medical Aid to Iraqis in Jordan Due to Budget Issues:

• The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced July 21 that due to a budget shortfall, it is temporarily suspending medical aid to 600 Iraqi families in Jordan. The agency requested \$48 million for 2009, but nearly half of this amount is still unavailable. UNHCR is seeking continued contributions from donor countries and anticipates obtaining additional funds from countries by the end of 2009 to address the shortfall.

POLITICAL - Government of Iraq

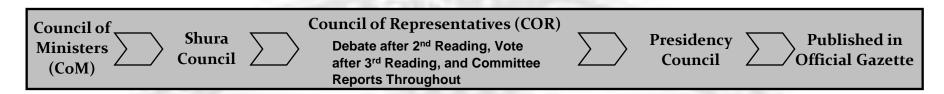




POLITICAL – Key Legislative Issues



Legislative Process



- <u>Hydrocarbons Package</u>: The Framework Law was resubmitted to the Oil and Gas Committee on October 26, 2008 and then returned to the Council of Ministers. There has been no progress on the other three laws in the package.
- NGO Law: This law will regulate the operations and funding of Non-Governmental Organizations operating within Iraq. It received its first reading in the Council of Representatives on April 20, 2009.
- National Elections Law: A draft of a proposed national elections law is in committee but has not been finalized.

POLITICAL - Refugee Update



- Regional governments report hosting as many as 2 million Iraqi refugees.
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates that over 2.8 million Iraqis are displaced inside Iraq.
- In FY08, the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration contributed \$287.08 million to international organizations and nongovernmental organizations to assist displaced Iraqis inside the country and in the region.
- The U.S. admitted 13,823 Iraqi refugees in FY08 (which ended September 30).
- Since the program's inception in FY07, 30,559 Iraqi refugees have been admitted for U.S. resettlement; in FY09 alone, the U.S. seeks to admit a minimum of 17,000 Iraqi refugees.
- As of March 2009, a total of 375 Special Immigrant Visa (SIVs) have been issued for Iraqi translators and interpreters since FY08 (under the Section 1059 program).
- As of March 2009, a total of 641 SIVs have been issued for Iraqis since FY08 (under the Section 1244 program).
- Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced July 24 that the United States is contributing more than \$100 million in new assistance this year to support the return and reintegration of displaced Iraqis.



Oil prices are rising, but exports and production remain below 2009 targets

Crude Oil Update:

3.00

Price averages in world markets closed with the following prices:

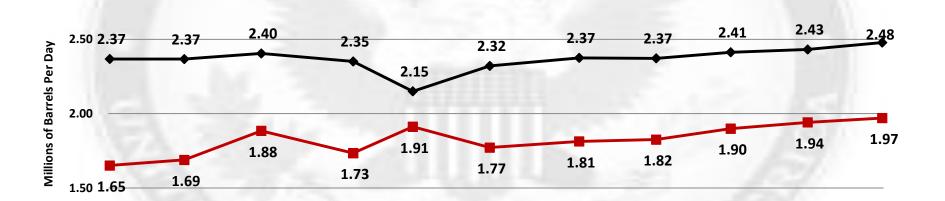
Basrah Light at \$66.75/barrel

Dated Brent at \$67.07/barrel

WTI Cushing at \$65.10/barrel

Oman/Dubai at \$65.82/barrel

Iraq Crude Oil Production and Exports





2007: \$41.0 Billion

2008: \$61.9 Billion

2009 (ytd): \$ \$18.05 Billion*

UNCLASSIFIED



Some provinces push for more say in gas tendering while Iraq considers ways to boost oil production

Provincial Leaders Call for Greater Roles in Iraq's Oil and Gas Contracting:

The governors of Anbar and Diyala provinces recently called for greater provincial say in the process of auctioning off Iraq's gas fields after the two fields offered up in the first oil and gas bid round went untendered. The Akkas gas field in Anbar received one bid and the Mansuriyah field in Diyala received no bids. Anbar governor Qassim al-Fahdawa said his province has no objection to deals made by the Ministry of Oil but said the province must be partners in the deal-making when they involve Anbar. Diyala governor Abdul Nasser al-Mehdawi told Reuters Diyala may pursue the right to negotiate with foreign companies independently or take part in the government's contracting process by acting as a broker, bringing companies to the central government. Ministry of Oil spokesperson Asim Jihad said the Ministry welcomes the attendance of provincial officials, but said only the Ministry may be involved in talks with foreign firms. The Iraqi government is still negotiating a national hydrocarbon law to clearly delineate federal, regional, and provincial powers in the management of the oil sector.



Some provinces push for more say in gas tendering while Iraq considers ways to boost oil production

Indian Firm to Provide Equipment in Gas Development:

• On July 27, BGR Energy Systems announced its oil and gas equipment division had received a contract valued at \$80.5 million from the Government of Iraq to provide equipment for the development of the Akkas and Mansuriyah gas fields. According to a statement issued by the company, the contract will be completed in 18 months and replaces the contract awarded to the company in 2006 for the design and supply of a gas processing complex for the Kormor gas field, which is in Kurdish territory.

U.S. Ambassador Says Iraq Needs to Do More to Develop Oil Sector:

• The U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Christopher Hill said July 21, the Government of Iraq needs to do more to develop its oil sector, adding that he hoped American companies would be selected to help in the process of increasing oil production. "I think it's been politically accepted in Iraq that they need to invite foreign oil companies and we hope they'll continue that. And frankly, I hope we'll get some American companies in there," the ambassador said, emphasizing that American troops are in Iraq to help the country rebuild its economy, not to lay claim to Iraqi oil.



Some provinces push for more say in gas tendering while Iraq considers ways to boost oil production

Iraq's Cabinet Approves Draft Law Resurrecting National Oil Company:

Press reporting said July 29, Iraq's Council of Ministers (COM) approved a draft law which will reinstate the Iraq National Oil Company (INOC) and submitted the law to the Council of Representatives (COR) for final approval. The COR ended its 2009 spring legislative term July 27 and is on a six-week recess. INOC was originally set up in 1964 but shut down in 1987 by Saddam Hussein. Senior government energy advisor Thamir Ghadhban confirmed the law had been passed by the cabinet and would be sent to the COR for approval, explaining that under the law INOC will be comprised of a board of directors and run by a chairman with ministerial powers. Ghadhban characterized the law as a "modern law that gives the company wide powers" but added it did not specify which fields INOC would run. Those fields, he said, would be determined by the yet to be created federal oil and gas committee. INOC will serve as the parent company for the three current Iraqi oil operators, the South Oil Company, North Oil Company, and Missan Oil Company.



Some provinces push for more say in gas tendering while Iraq considers ways to boost oil production

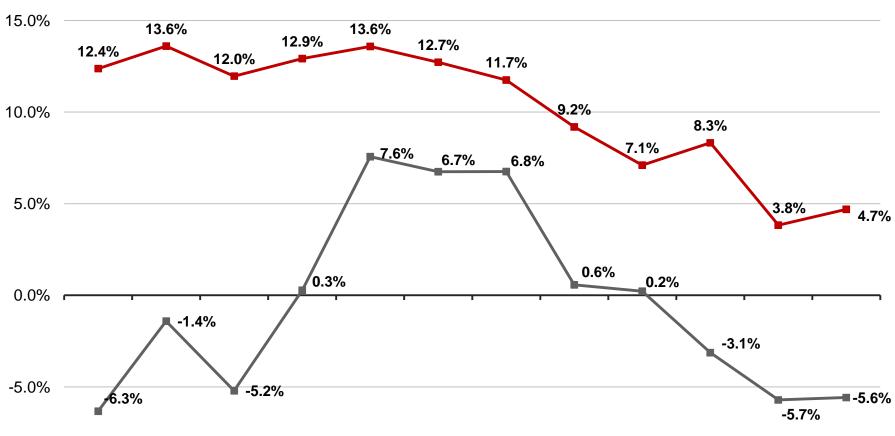
BP and CNPC in Iraq to Discuss Rumaila Plans, While Partnership Structure May Be Restructured:

• Iraq's Minister of Oil Husyan al-Shahristani met representatives of BP and China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) to discuss plans for raising production levels at the Rumaila field. According to a statement released by the Ministry, Shahristani asked the companies to boost output to 2.85 million barrels of oil a day from the 950,000 barrels currently produced daily. Representatives from the companies also met with local provincial leaders in Basrah July 23. An industry source said July 24 that CNPC and BP may renegotiate the structure of their joint venture so BP can limit its exposure in Iraq while retaining a stake in the field. "Terms that are bad for BP are not necessarily bad for Chinese companies," the source said. "CNPC has never seen a better field than this one."

ECONOMIC - Fiscal and Monetary Affairs







-10.0%

Jun-08 Jul-08 Aug-08 Sep-08 Oct-08 Nov-08 Dec-08 Jan-09 Feb-09 Mar-09 Apr-09 May-09

--- Core Inflation (excludes fuel, electricity, communications, and transport prices) --- Overall Inflation

ECONOMIC – Fiscal and Monetary Affairs



Sound economic policies will help ensure Iraq maintains security and stability

Economic Indicator	This Week	Last Week	Last Month	Last Year
Iraqi Commercial Bond Sales				
Price (USD)	\$65.66	\$64.30	\$65.95	\$66.08
Yield	9.88%	10.10%	9.83%	10.96%

ECONOMIC - Public Sector



Iraq takes initiatives to improve living conditions for Iraq's neediest citizens and to support studies abroad

GOI and UN Launch Joint Essential Services and Housing Project:

• The Government of Iraq and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) launched a joint project July 27 which aims to improve the delivery of essentials services and the provision of housing for Iraq's most vulnerable groups. The urban development project, valued at \$70 million of which \$49 million is unfunded, will provide technical assistance and capacity-building support for ministries and local authorities in relevant areas such as housing, infrastructure, essential services and urban governance. Announcing the program in a televised address, UN-HABITAT Executive Director Anna Tibaijuka also reminded the international community of its obligation to help Iraq achieve its economic and social goals which are part of the larger Millennium Development Goals.

ECONOMIC - Public Sector



Iraq takes initiatives to improve living conditions for Iraq's neediest citizens and to support studies abroad

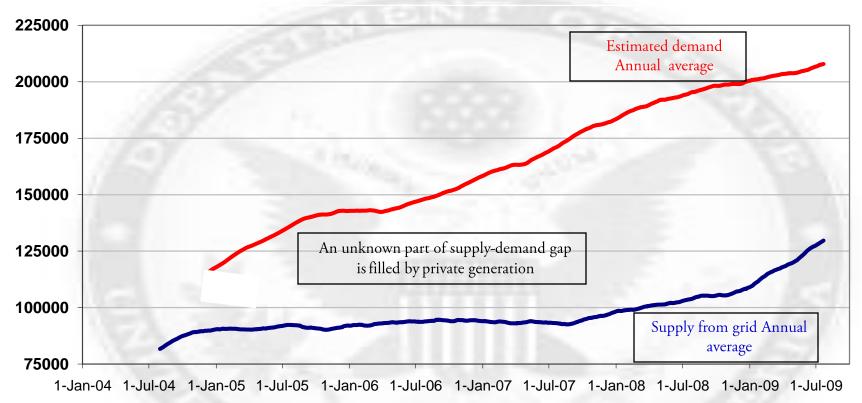
PM Maliki Announces Iraqi Scholarship Program:

• Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki reaffirmed Iraq's intention of sending up to 10,000 students annually to colleges in United States, Britain, Canada, and Australia over the next five years as a part of a new scholarship program funded by the Iraqi government. The program was re-announced July 25 in Washington, D.C. at the Academy for Educational Development, which is a nonprofit organization that will help advise the Iraqi government as it places students abroad. "Today with stability and security back in Iraq, we are moving forward," Maliki affirmed during his announcement. The program has been hailed as a turning point by Zuhair Humadi, an adviser to PM Maliki.

Public Services – Electricity



GOI needs to strengthen policy actions to manage demand and usage patterns



- Electricity supply from the grid July 15-21was 30% above 2008 and met 63% of estimated demand, compared with 51% for the year earlier period.
- On March 23 the weekly average percentage of estimated demand met reached 76%, its highest level in three years. Since then,, estimated demand has increased more rapidly than supply, reducing the level of demand met to 63%.

UNCLASSIFIED July 29, 2009

Beyond Baghdad





Iraq Army Medic Training in Dhi Qar

"...we will help Iraq's institutions strengthen their capacity to protect the rule of law, confront corruption, and deliver basic services."

President Barack Obama

Recent Highlights

Dhi Qar

Medics from the Iraqi Army (IA) attended a recent "train the trainer" course in Dhi Qar province. The medics were taught combat life saver (CLS) skills from U.S. Forces and will pass along the training to their own medics. The trainees were taught how to treat and stabilize various injuries that could potentially occur in a combat situation. These immediate life saving skills are critical for the IA as the presence of U.S. Forces begins to drawdown.

Basrah

Ninety students at Basrah University will receive state-of-the art data networking training and certification. This Quick Response Fund (QRF) financed training program will help to bring skilled Iraqi employees to multinational corporate investors.

Anbar

A number of joint Iraqi-American business ventures are being explored due to the PRT's 'Doing Business in the Global Marketplace' workshop series. Construction of a western style grocery store is being discussed after a Ramadi business group contacted two American food retail chains. Talks are also progressing between Ramadi business owners and U.S. based suppliers of greenhouses, irrigation equipment, farm equipment, and solar energy technology. A U.S.-Iraqi ship salvaging partnership at Umm Qasr port has also been facilitated.

DIPLOMATIC – Political Engagement



UN Secretary-General releases report regarding Iraqi war reparations

UN Secretary-General Issues Report on Iraq's Obligations Under Chapter VII:

• UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon released a report to the Security Council July 27 detailing facts relevant to Iraq's obligations under UN Chapter VII of the UN Charter. Ban mentioned Iraq's bilateral discussions with Kuwait on reparations, including the Iraqi government's idea of converting Iraq's outstanding payments into investments. "I strongly encourage Iraq and other stakeholders to actively discuss alternative solutions to the issue of outstanding compensation and debt payments, including through investments, in the mutual interest of Iraq's people and the region as a whole," Ban wrote. Even though Secretary-General Ban did not explicitly back a reduction in the payments to Kuwait, he said that any new solution should "help Iraq meet its reconstruction needs and be beneficial to the region as a whole." Last week, Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, during his July 22 visit to the United Nations, called for reducing the UN Chapter VII sanctions imposed on Iraq. PM Maliki urged the United Nations to support an Iraqi government request to reduce or cancel Iraq's reparation payment to Kuwait so the money could be used for investments inside Iraq.

DIPLOMATIC – Political Engagement



UN Secretary-General releases report regarding Iraqi war reparations

Secretary Gates Makes Unannounced Visit to Iraq:

• Defense Secretary Robert Gates made an unannounced visit to Iraq July 28. Secretary Gates held meetings with Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, Defense Minister Abd al-Qadr al-Mufriji, and Kurdistan Regional Government's President Masoud Barzani. The meetings were expected to focus on ongoing Arab-Kurdish tensions, the normalization of U.S.-Iraqi relations, and Iraq's interest in modernizing its armed forces.

PM Maliki and Secretary Clinton Convene HCC Meeting:

• Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Prime Minister Maliki convened the second meeting of the Higher Coordinating Committee (HCC) as part of the Strategic Framework Agreement July 24. PM Maliki stated that the U.S. and Iraq are entering a new phase of relations, moving beyond security cooperation to strengthen diplomatic relations as well as building ties in commerce, culture, science, education, and law enforcement. Secretary Clinton stated that U.S. will continue to help Iraq strengthen its judicial and corrections systems and aid the Iraqi government in its efforts to repatriate Iraqi refugees. Secretary Clinton also mentioned that the Department of State will partner with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to host the U.S.-Iraq Business and Investment Summit scheduled to take place in October 2009.

SECURITY – Situation Update



Security conditions remain stable a month after the U.S. withdrawal from Iraqi cities

Secretary of Defense Announces Possible Acceleration of Military Drawdown:

U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates told reporters that conditions in Iraq have improved to the extent that the U.S. military drawdown from Iraq may accelerate. Current plans have two U.S. brigades redeploying before the end of the year. The accelerated drawdown could mean a third U.S. brigade would redeploy before the end of this year, leaving 11 brigades remaining in Iraq. Secretary Gates reported that any drawdown would depend on continued security progress and that the decision would only be made after Multi-National Force-Iraq (MNF-I) Commander General Raymond T. Odierno advised it. "I don't want to put the general of [on] the spot, because it really depends on circumstances that may or may not happen," Gates said. "But I mention it only because I think it is an indicator of his view that things are going pretty well following June 30." In his 10th visit to Iraq since becoming Secretary of Defense, Gates met with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki and Defense Minister Abd al-Qadir al-Mufriji in Baghdad and Kurdish Regional Government President Masoud Barzani in Erbil.

SECURITY – Situation Update



Security conditions remain stable a month after the U.S. withdrawal from Iraqi cities

MNF-I's Detainee Population in Iraq Under 10,000:

• The total population of detainees in Coalition Forces' custody dropped to under 10,000 as of July 27. "One year ago, we had 21,000 detainees in our theater internment facilities," said Brig. Gen. David Quantock, Joint Task Force 134 (JTF-134) commanding general. "Today, we have less than half of the July 2008 numbers. We plan to continue reducing that number through releases and transfers in accordance with the Security Agreement." The Security Agreement mandates that all detainees are to be released or transferred to Iraqi custody pursuant to an arrest warrant. Since the Security Agreement went into effect January 1, U.S. Forces have released 4,532 detainees and transferred 855 detainees to the Iraqi government.

SECURITY – Situation Update



Security conditions remain stable a month after the U.S. withdrawal from Iraqi cities

Iraqi Security Forces Enter Camp Ashraf:

• Iraqi Security Forces forcibly entered Camp Ashraf, the location of 3,400 members of the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq (MEK) in Iraq's Diyala province July 28. There have been media reports of injuries and fatalities. The Government of Iraq (GOI) said they want to establish a police post in the camp. "It is our territory and our right to enter, to impose Iraqi law on everybody," a MOD spokesman told al-Arabiya television. The GOI assumed security responsibility for Camp Ashraf and its residents earlier this year with the full transfer of security responsibility from Coalition Forces to Iraqi Army forces occurring on February 20, 2009. The GOI has provided written assurances that it will treat Ashraf residents humanely, in accordance with the Constitution, laws, and international obligations of Iraq, so long as they remain in the country.

SECURITY – Security Transition



GOI working with international community to bolster ISF capabilities

Iraqi MOD and NATO Sign Training Agreement:

• Iraqi Minister of Defense Abd al-Qadr al-Mufriji and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Claudio Bisogniero signed a bilateral accord allowing NATO to continue training Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). "The agreement will provide the legal basis for NATO to continue with its mission to assist the government of the Republic of Iraq in developing further the capabilities of the Iraqi Security Forces," a NATO spokesman said.

Remaining British Troops to Withdraw to Kuwait at End of July:

• The remaining British Forces in Iraq will withdraw to Kuwait by the end of July after Iraq's Parliament failed to pass a deal allowing them to stay. Iraq's Parliament adjourned July 27 until September 20, the end of Ramadan, leaving an agreement unfinished that would allow almost 100 British troops to remain in Iraq, charged with aiding the Iraqi Navy in protecting valuable oil platforms. "Unfortunately, owing to procedural delay, the Iraqi parliament has not yet ratified our agreement," said Jawwad Syed, a spokesman for the British Embassy in Baghdad. "As our existing permissions expire on July 31, we are withdrawing the Royal Navy trainers to Kuwait while we discuss the position with the Iraqi authorities," he said.

CONTACT INFORMATION



This brief draws from multiple sources. References are cited on the following pages.

For additional information, please see:

- Department of State, Section 2207 Report on Iraq Relief and Reconstruction http://2001-2009.state.gov/p/nea/rls/rpt/
- Department of State, Section 1227 Report on Iraq http://2001-2009.state.gov/p/nea/rls/rpt/
- Department of Defense, Section 9010 Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq http://www.defenselink.mil/home/features/Iraq Reports/index.html

Please forward all questions and/or comments to:

NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov

NOTES AND SOURCE CITATIONS (1 of 2)



Slide 4:

• Washington Post, July 27, http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/26/AR2009072601381.html; RFE/RL Radio Free Iraq, July 23, http://www.rferl.org/content/Election_Monitors_Arrive_In_Iraqs_Kurdish_Region_/1783683.html; Reuters, July 29, http://www.reuters.com/article/featuredCrisis/idUSLT393938

Slide 5:

- New York Times, July 29, http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/29/world/middleeast/29kurds.html?ref=world
- New York Times, July 23, http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/24/world/middleeast/24turkmen.html?_r=1&ref=middleeast

Slide 6:

AFP, July 21, http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5g1gIKjexzYOwwwnJ-qq5W27y0NeA

Slides 7-9:

Department of State, NEA/I Political Section, NEA-I-POL-DL@state.gov

Slide10:

Department of State, NEA/I Economic/Assistance Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov

Slide 11

Reuters, July 22, http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSLM65692820090722?sp=true

Slide 12:

- Reuters, July 22, http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSLM65692820090722?sp=true
- Reuters India, July 27, http://in.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idINBMB00604020090727
- Reuters, July 21, http://www.reuters.com/article/OILPRD/idUSN2125405720090721

Slide 13:

Wall Street Journal, July 29, http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20090729-702788.html

Slide 14:

- Bloomberg, July 22, http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601207&sid=au145C0UhW88
- Reuters, July 23, Reuters July 23, http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN2232879220090723?sp=true
- Reuters, July 24, http://sg.news.yahoo.com/rtrs/20090724/tbs-iraq-955c2a1.html

Slide 15:

•Department of State, NEA/I Economic/Assistance Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov

NOTES AND SOURCE CITATIONS (2 of 2)



Slide 16

Department of State, NEA/I Iraq Policy and Operations Group NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov

Slide 17:

■UN News Centre, July 27, http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31592&Cr=&Cr1

Slide 18:

AP, July 26, http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hyAsJZ4_vFIybY8EiSAyAhZTJglQD99LMUCO0

Slide 19:

■Department of State, NEA/I Economic/Assistance Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov

Slide 20:

Source for Stories:

-July 14, 2009, MNF-I, http://www.cjtf7.army.mil/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27257&Itemid=225

■-PRT Weekly Summary 12 – 19 July, 2009

-Source for President Obama's Quote: http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-of-President-Barack-Obama-Responsibly-Ending-the-War-in-Iraq/

Slide 21:

Reuters, July 28, http://www.reuters.com/article/featuredCrisis/idUSN27537668; AFP, July 22, http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iNdUXgl4w31cyjOj25RXODqKsZWA

Slide 22:

Reuters, July 28, http://www.reuters.com/article/AIRDEF/idUSLS64563020090728?pageNumber=2&virtualBrandChannel=0

•HCC Secretary Clinton and PM Maliki Remarks, July 24, http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/july/126445.htm

Slide 23:

MNF-I, July 29, http://www.mnf-iraq.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27438&Itemid=21

Slide 24:

Defenselink, July 29, http://www.defenselink.mil//news/newsarticle.aspx?id=55295

Slide 25:

Department of State, NEA/I Political MilitaryNEA-I-PM-DL@state.gov

Slide 26:

•MNF-I, July 27 http://www.mnf-iraq.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27427&Itemid=21

Reuters, July 28, http://www.reuters.com/article/newsMaps/idUSTRE56R29L20090728