

# IRAQ

## ONE YEAR'S PROGRESS ON THE ROAD TO DEMOCRACY

*“If we must begin a military campaign... we will tear down the apparatus of terror and we will help you to build a new Iraq that is prosperous and free...*

*Unlike Saddam Hussein, we believe the Iraqi people are deserving and capable of human liberty. And when the dictator has departed, [Iraqis] can set an example to all the Middle East of a vital and peaceful and self-governing nation.”*

— U.S. President George W. Bush





U.S. President George W. Bush (center) greets Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez (left) and U.S. Civilian Administrator to Iraq Ambassador Paul Bremer (right), at Baghdad International Airport during the President's surprise visit to Baghdad on November 27, 2003. (AP/WWP, Pablo Martinez Monsivais)



The Iraqi Civil Defense Corps officially welcomed its Non-Commissioned Officers during graduation ceremonies for the first Primary Leadership Development Course. (DOD/Sgt. Susan German)

## SECURITY

The Iraqi police force continues to get larger and larger, with approximately 70,000 persons in the police service right now. In Baghdad, over the last few months, crime on the streets has declined by 39 percent; in Basra it has declined by 70 percent.

There is now an Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC), a security force whose members operate in the communities in which they live. It clearly helps the Iraqi security forces to carry out more effective security when they have individuals working in an area where they have a sense of the language and of the daily rhythm of life.

Every day Iraqi police and ICDC work side by side with coalition forces, sharing

information which leads to the arrest of terrorists and former regime elements. Forty-five of the 55 most wanted members of the former Iraqi regime have been captured or killed.

Now that we have well over 150,000 Iraqis in security forces in Iraq, including the new Iraqi army, there are more Iraqis in Iraq today protecting their own country than there are Americans protecting Iraq.



Above: Iraqi civilians fill out police force applications during the hiring process in Baghdad. (DOD)



Left: U.S. Army Col. Joseph Anderson and police station chief Mukandan Mehandi Salah pin ranks to an Iraqi police officer during the grand opening of Two West Police Station in Mosul, Iraq, Aug. 9, 2003. (AP/WWP, Manish Swarup)

## ESSENTIAL SERVICES

The Iraqi Ministry of Education has moved toward permanent and systemic education reform. The politicized education system of the former regime was dismantled. More than 2600 schools have been rehabilitated. Teacher salaries have increased by more than 1000 percent.

The Iraqi Ministry of Health (MOH) is structuring a comprehensive, self-sustaining health care system that assures quality care, is accessible, affordable, and available regardless of ethnicity, geographic origin, gender, or religious affiliation. The MOH has nearly 100,000 employees, and is helping to equip 600 facilities throughout Iraq to provide essential primary health care services. Saddam Hussein's health care budget in

2002 was \$16 million; Iraq's health care budget in 2004 will be \$950 million.

Significant repairs to the national communications fiber optic network connected 20 cities to Baghdad and 70 percent of the population.

Coalition-supported water and sanitation projects are on schedule to bring clean water to more than 20 million of Iraq's 27 million inhabitants, helping to advance Iraq's economic and social development.

The Ministry of Energy is building a fair and equitable National Power grid. Having achieved pre-war levels of electricity in October 2003, the Coalition is assisting the Iraqis to build the infrastructure for lasting additions to their energy capacity.

Iraq's Ministry of Housing and Construction is committed to



providing housing for all Iraqis. Contracts for Phase I in the plan have been signed, worth in excess of \$100 million. Each community will include schools, mosques, clinics, shopping areas, and recreational fields.



A nurse keeps an eye on a premature baby in Iraq's Et Tahrir el-Aam (General Liberation Hospital). Coalition and Coalition partner organizations have put programs in place that are expected to dramatically decrease Iraq child mortality rates. (USAID, Thomas Hartwell)



Above: Iraqi children in a school in Baghdad greet U.S. soldiers during a visit on May 5, 2003. (DOD, Spec. James B. Smith)



Left: Maj. Lawrence Tubbs speaks with the General Manager of a meat factory, Mr. Youset Dewan Said, during a Sept. 13, 2003, tour to assess the condition of factories and aid in the development of health and safety conditions beneficial to Iraqis. (U.S. Army, Sgt. Raul Elliot)

## GOVERNANCE

In an historic event for the nation of Iraq and for nations throughout the Middle East region, the Iraqi Governing Council adopted the Transitional Administrative Law (TAL), a document formally outlining a pluralistic federal Iraqi government system that ensures public and individual liberties, human rights, and a separation of powers, and launching a sovereign democratic process in Iraq.

This law and all it represents builds a bridge from a nightmarish past to a bright positive future. No longer will Iraqis live in fear for choosing a religious or political path or belief and never again will this country's great natural resources be the asset of a privileged few.

The Iraqi justice system is operational. The nation's courts are open, issuing judgments in civil cases and imposing punishment in criminal cases.

In place of Iraq's former fanatical and oppressive dictator who threatened the region and the international community, we have a democratic Iraqi nation, dedicated to the welfare of its citizens, bounded by law, eager for trade, ready to work with its neighbors, and prepared to take its rightful place in the world community.



Three aspects of the historic signing ceremony for Iraq's interim constitution, which took place in Baghdad March 8, 2004. Top: Governing Council member Samir Shakir Mahmoud signs the document. (AP/WWP, Hussein Malla) Center: The Baghdad Convention Center audience prepares for the ceremony. Bottom, right: A close-up of the new Iraqi Transitional Administrative Law (TAL).

Bottom, left: Mokhtars (mayors) from Abu Ghrayek, a subdistrict of the Babel Governate, listen to a democracy expert (not shown) as he describes the basics of the process that will allow the delegates to select 20 members from their communities to a new district council. (USAID, Thomas Hartwell)

## ECONOMY

Iraq has spent the last year building the foundation for a market economy and putting itself on the path to prosperity. Iraqis are positioned for economic growth.

Capacity-building in the oil industry has increased Iraq's average annual oil revenue, the engine of its economy, from \$9 billion to \$16 billion since June 2003, and put it on-schedule to produce an average annual oil revenue of \$20 billion by January 2005.

Communications systems have improved as a result of significant repairs to the national fiber optic network, which now connects 20 cities to Baghdad and 70 percent of the population. This year will see the introduction of modern navigation links in Iraq. Al Basrah International Airport is nearly ready for commercial operations, and Umm Quasr Port will receive more than seven million tons of cargo in the coming year.

By creating a democratic and transparent government,

deregulating its financial sector, and liberalizing international trade, Iraq has encouraged entrepreneurship, created jobs, and spurred productivity.

Small businesses are springing up in all fields throughout the country of Iraq. Merchants sell their wares in bustling, colorful marketplaces. Significant numbers of women have joined the economy. And new housing communities are being constructed. These are sure signs of Iraqi renewal.



Above, left: An Iraqi man connects gas lines to tanks at a newly re-opened propane distribution facility in Kirkuk. The re-opening marked an important milestone for local citizens because propane is the Iraqis' most widely used fuel. (US Air Force, Staff Sgt. James A. Williams)



Above, right: In Samawah, the Coalition and Coalition partner organizations are building a covered market that will improve Iraqi merchants' working conditions and protect their products from extreme weather. (USAID)



An Iraqi man fishes in the marshlands of Basrah, Iraq, Feb. 5, 2004. U.S. studies have found that some of the marshlands, destroyed by the Saddam regime during the 1990s in order to deprive opposition forces of safe havens, may be restored. (*U.S. Army, Spc. Rachel M. Ahner*)

FRONT COVER: Members of the Iraqi Governing Council celebrate after affixing their signatures on the new interim constitution in the historic signing ceremony in Baghdad on Monday, March 8, 2004. (*AP/WWP, Peter Andrews, Reuters*)

***We Iraqis have achieved an enormous amount of success so far. We now have the power to set the course toward our own chosen destiny.***

— Ms. Rend Rahim, Iraq's representative in Washington, D.C.