



Stop the Assassination of Iraqi Academics !
A campaign of The BRussells Tribunal and
Campaña Estatal contra la Ocupación y por la Soberanía de Iraq

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WEBSITES:

<http://www.brusselstribunal.org/>
Email: info@brusselstribunal.org

<http://iraqsolidarity.org>
Email : iraq@nodo50.org





Stop the Assassination of Iraqi Academics ! A campaign of The **BRussels** Tribunal and Campaña Estatal contra la Ocupación y por la Soberanía de Iraq

- **OHIO offers Iraqi scholar refuge, opportunity** *March 1, 2010*

Scholar Rescue Fund benefits GLC *By Monica Chapman*

The phone call rang in at 2 a.m. Iraqi time. On the line was a representative from the Institute of International Education's Scholar Rescue Fund calling to offer Dr. Salam Bash Al-Maliky an unthinkable opportunity: refuge from his war-torn homeland to pursue research abroad. But on that evening, the heat was especially oppressive, the generator unusually loud, and the hour ungodly. And Dr. Al-Maliky, an Iraqi scholar, spared neither mercy nor volume in his knee-jerk response: "Are you out of your mind?" From disbelief to doubt and eventually to caution, Dr. Al-Maliky's emotions ran the gamut as the potential opportunity weighed on his heart over the next few days. And despite the impassioned nature of that initial encounter, he eventually accepted an offer through the Scholar Rescue Fund to advance his research at Ohio University in the 2009-10 academic year. Dr. Al-Maliky currently serves as the Global Leadership Center's Leader in Residence and an associate professor in the Department of Civil Engineering.

A broken home

Founded in 2002, the Scholar Rescue Fund provides fellowships for established scholars whose lives and work are threatened in their home countries. While most scholars approached through the SRF respond with relief and hope, it is understandable that Dr. Al-Maliky proceeded with caution, said Jim Miller, executive director of the Scholar Rescue Fund.

"After what can be years of living in fear of threats or violence, sometimes without hope of finding a way out of the situation, doubt or disbelief seems a very natural and human response," Miller said. The international isolation that gripped Iraq between 1979 and 2003, during the reign of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, made the Scholar Rescue Fund's offer difficult to fathom, said Dr. Al-Maliky. And the nation's current state does not lend itself to trusting outside sources, he added. "I can tell many stories, especially these days," Dr. Al-Maliky said, when asked about the volatile situation in Iraq. Explosions, kidnappings, murders, hangings. The unthinkable has touched Dr. Al-Maliky's life in more ways than one.

Despite its prestigious academic reputation, Dr. Al-Maliky's home university, Mustansiriyah University, might be best known for the bombings that have ravaged its Baghdad campus in recent years. Since 2007, according to a New York Times article dated Oct. 19, 2009, bombings at the institution have killed or maimed more than 335 students and staff members, and a 12-foot-high blast wall has been built around the campus. Many Iraqi academics, including Dr. Al-Maliky's former dean, have been kidnapped and killed.



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“Additionally, thousands of scholars – estimations are more than 6,000 – have fled Iraq or are internally displaced and are unable to teach, conduct research, or carry out their academic responsibilities,” said Miller, adding, “Just this week in Baghdad, for example, two Ph.D. scholars were shot and killed.” Dr. Al-Maliky, who holds a doctorate in environmental engineering from the University of Baghdad, has served on the faculty of Mustansiriya University since 1994. And though he highly values professionalism in the classroom, he admits to dismissing class mid-lecture to check on his children, following explosions that occasionally sound across Baghdad.

It’s this climate of fear that makes it difficult to focus on academic research, he said.

Cross-continental collaboration

Dr. Al-Maliky’s expertise encompasses industrial wastewater treatment, air pollution and nuclear radiation. At Ohio University’s GLC, he will be leading a comprehensive study of depleted uranium in Iraq.

Depleted uranium, a by-product of U.S. military actions in Iraq, is an extremely dense and weakly radioactive substance commonly used in radiation shields and defensive armour plates. Used heavily during the Gulf War, the metal has been blamed for an increase in cancer and birth defects in the region, among other problems.

GLC students will be conducting on-line collaborative research with students from Mustansiriya University to investigate the effects and potential remedies for Iraq’s excess of depleted uranium. The students’ findings will be submitted to Iraq’s Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and to the Ministry of the Environment.

Though this particular study focuses on Iraq, Dr. Al-Maliky contends that the problem reaches much farther: “This is not just an Iraqi problem. This depleted uranium issue is a ghost that is silently spreading to swallow all of the region.”

The environmental implications of the study are most exciting to senior journalism major Katherine Bercik, who is enrolled in Dr. Al-Maliky’s GLC class. But the wide scope of the topic makes it hard to predict where the study will lead.

“With the GLC, we are always changing gears as the project develops,” said Bercik. “There is a lot that can be done with this project. I think it’s whatever we make it.”



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Common ground

Dr. Al-Maliky's 'experiment,' as he calls his stay in the U.S., is about far more than uranium research. It's also an opportunity to break through stereotypes, he said.

"The thought is that Americans are either arrogant or hostile or, on the other side, cold or indifferent. The amazing thing is that I found very much in common...The American personality, in general, is not that different from the Iraqi," he said, adding, "(Iraqis) are far away from being extremists. We are people who want to live in peace."

Dr. Al-Maliky hopes these sorts of social discoveries – "that Americans are neither monsters nor angels" – will impact the outlook of his wife and sons, who accompanied Dr. Al-Maliky to Athens. He also hopes to use the experience to foster better cultural understanding among his students – his current students at Ohio University, as well as future students in Iraq.

"The Middle East is kind of foggy for Americans, in general," said GLC Director Greg Emery. "And I'm pretty sure that for nearly all of our students, this might be the first time in their university experience where they're going to take a critical look at the Middle East and, in particular, a critical look at Iraq, which is part of recent American history."

Bercik calls the opportunity enlightening. Unprecedented, adds Emery. But above all, Dr. Al-Maliky asserts, this collaboration must be meaningful.

"At the end of the day, we will find that we are doing something good for all," he said.

<http://www.ohio.edu/outlook/2009-10/March/Iraq-professor-409.cfm>



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- **Silencer guns kill 67 in one day in Baghdad** By Anwar Jumaa (Azzaman 23 Feb 2010)

Last Sunday 67 corpses were brought to Baghdad morgue all shot with silencer guns, medical sources said.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said silencer guns have instilled fear and terror in Baghdad and most of the victims were civil servants, former Baathists and army officers.

The latest victim has been a university professor who was shot dead on Monday as he drove home. The sources named the victim as Dr. Thamer Kamel, head of the human rights section at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific research.

Unidentified gunmen with silencers were also reported to have killed another person in al-Qanat area. The gunmen drive in mainly four-wheel vehicles and quickly disappear from the crime scene.

Two more people were reported killed, also by silencer guns in Baghdad on Monday.

The sources said several neighborhoods of Baghdad were in the grip of silencer gun terror, the fresh type of violence which the country had not see before.

The sources said they feared the killings would once again fuel sectarian tensions which had plunged the country into a ruinous and bloody civil war almost two years ago.

The police blame organized crime for the killings.

But it is difficult to strip the new trend of violence from its political and sectarian motives as it comes only days before Iraqis go to polls to elect a new parliament and government.

Title

Education under Attack 2010 - Iraq



Stop the Assassination of Iraqi Academics ! A campaign of The **BRussells** Tribunal and Campaña Estatal contra la Ocupación y por la Soberanía de Iraq

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Education under Attack 2010 - Iraq

Between March 2003 and October 2008, 31,598 violent attacks against educational institutions were reported in Iraq, according to the Ministry of Education (MoE).⁵⁰⁸ Although overall security in Iraq had improved, the situation faced by schools, students, teachers and academics remained dangerous.⁵⁰⁹ The MoE reported 259 academics assassinated, another 72 abducted and 174 in detention between 2003 and 2008. The Ministry of Human Rights, however, reported 340 university professors and 446 students killed by insurgents and militias between 2005 and 2007. UNAMI Human Rights Reports indicate that between July 2005 and late March 2007 more than a hundred students were killed, mostly by suicide bombs, car bombs and mortar rounds targeted at universities and schools, with more than half the deaths occurring in two incidents in January 2007.⁵¹⁰

Education under Attack (2007) reported that 296 people serving as education staff were killed in 2005; and 180 teachers were killed between February and November 2006.⁵¹¹ In 2007, the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MODM) reported that at least 30 per cent of professors, doctors, pharmacists and engineers had fled the country since 2003.⁵¹²

The number of attacks on education targets reached a peak in 2006 and fell with the drop in the overall level of violence in Iraq, following the introduction of 30,000 extra US troops in June 2007.⁵¹³ By June 2008, the number of civilian deaths per month was down 75 per cent from July 2007 and the number of sectarian deaths in Baghdad had fallen from 1,600 in December 2006 to zero.⁵¹⁴ By December 2008, the number of daily attacks in Iraq had dropped by 95 per cent from 180 per day to ten, according to the US military.

Attacks on education targets continued throughout 2007 and 2008 at a lower rate – but one that would cause serious concern in any other country. In 2007, 53 academics and one student were assassinated and



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one academic went missing, presumed assassinated, according to the Brussels Tribunal Group. Nineteen of the victims were kidnapped or abducted before being killed; one was beheaded.⁵¹⁵

Analysis of English-language press reports of incidents in 2008 suggests that as many as ten academics and two intellectuals, one university student, 28 school students and two education ministry officials were killed; and one academic and one university student were injured. One academic (among those killed) and 60 students were kidnapped. Twenty academics were detained.⁵¹⁶ Threats to education institutions remained at a high level in some areas; in the case of Basra University, threats against female students were openly pinned to billboards or spray-painted on walls.⁵¹⁷

In one incident on 22 January 2008, a suicide bomber blew himself up at the entrance to al-Mutwra school in Ba'qubah, injuring 17 students and four teachers.⁵¹⁸ On 22 March 2008, armed elements blew up a school building in Saydiyah.⁵¹⁹ MNF-I, the Iraqi Army and Iraqi police units occupied more than 70 school buildings for military purposes in the Diyala governorate.⁵²⁰

In 2008, kidnapping was a serious problem for university students, particularly on the roads leading to Kirkuk city. On 20 April, nine students and two drivers were kidnapped at a fake checkpoint near Baquba. On 12 May, six university students were kidnapped by armed men near Baquba. On 24 June, four students were kidnapped on their way to Mosul university by gunmen. In addition, on 26 June five students were wounded when the bodyguards of the Minister of Education fired on student protests in Sabe' Abkar.⁵²¹

Most of the academics killed were tracked down and assassinated at their place of work, at home or in a vehicle.

In May 2008, residents and government officials of Sadr City accused the Mahdi Army of closing down 86 schools and threatening teachers, staff and families of students.⁵²²

In central and southern Iraq, there were reported threats by militia, extremists or insurgent groups against schools and universities, urging them to modify activities, favour certain students or face violence. The institutions often complied with the threats, according to the US Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.⁵²³

In the first half of 2009, English-language media and human rights reports suggest six academics, three university students and four school students were killed; upwards of 20 university students and 12 schoolchildren were injured. The reduced numbers reflected continuing falls in the level of general violence.



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By March 2009, insurgent attacks in Iraq had fallen from an average of 130 attacks per day in 2008 to about ten, according to Army Major General David G Perkins, Director for Strategic Effects at Multi-National Force, Iraq.⁵²⁴ Nevertheless, attacks on education targets continued, mostly in Mosul and Baghdad.⁵²⁵

On 11 February 2009, the morgue in Anbar, west of Baghdad, received the body of an Anbar university psychology professor, Izz al-Din Ayyoub, who was shot down near Falluja by gunmen as he left his house for work.⁵²⁶ On 26 February, a blast aimed at a police patrol wounded a number of Baghdad University students in southern Baghdad.⁵²⁷ On 26 February, gunmen reportedly killed a literature professor in Mosul.⁵²⁸ In early March, a car bomb exploded near the Medical University in Mosul killing three Iraqi soldiers and wounding ten civilians (mostly college students), the majority of whom were critically injured. There was light damage to the university building.⁵²⁹ On 14 March, Dr Murad Ahmed Shihab, a professor at the College of Administration and Economy at Mosul University, was killed by gunmen.⁵³⁰ On 17 March, a student of management and economy was reported killed by gunmen in Western Mosul.⁵³¹ On 25 March, four female schoolchildren were killed and seven others wounded when an explosive detonated near a primary school in Mosul as the children were leaving to go home. They were all under 12 years old.⁵³² On 21 April, a female university professor was assassinated in front of her home in western Mosul; police declined to give her name.⁵³³ On 24 May, an unnamed university teacher was ambushed by gunmen and shot dead in Al Andulus, Mosul.⁵³⁴ On 25 May, gunmen opened fire on three female students in Mosul as they left their school in 17 Tamouz neighbourhood, wounding all three.⁵³⁵ On 22 June, three university students were killed, and 12 other students and their minibus driver were injured when a roadside bomb was detonated during the rush hour in Sadr City, a Shiite neighbourhood of Baghdad.⁵³⁶

The UN Secretary-General reported "frequent attacks on schools, children and teachers" in Iraq between 2006 and 2007. In January 2007, members of an armed group were believed to have deliberately targeted a girls' school in western Baghdad, killing five students and injuring 21 others. In June 2007, members of an armed group reportedly abducted 30 students, aged 17 to 19, from a secondary school in Saydiyah.⁵³⁷

[Refworld note: The source report "Education under Attack 2010" was posted on the UNESCO website (www.unesco.org) in pdf format, with country chapters run together. Original footnote numbers have been retained here.]

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❑ **MP: Education in Iraq gets no enough funding in 2010** (Aswat Al-Iraq – 04 Jan 2010)

(MENAFN - Aswat Al-Iraq) The 2010 federal budget offers the country's education and higher education only 10 percent of the funding they need, a member of the Iraqi Parliament's education committee said on Sunday.

"There are attempts to increase the funding for both sectors," Lawmaker Abida al-Tae told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

She said that education and higher education in Iraq get only nine percent of the country's federal budget in 2010, and that her committee hoped to allocate 28 percent for those important fields.

"There are promises to gradually increase funding for education," al-Tae said.

• **In Iraq, a Rash of Assassination Attempts** (WP 26 Dec 2009)

BAGHDAD -- A string of assassination attempts in Baghdad and in the Sunni areas west of the capital over the past two days killed four people and wounded half a dozen others, including a prominent tribal leader and a member of a Sunni political party, police officials said.

In Baghdad, Mohammed Mehdi, a member of the Iraqi Islamic Party, was killed Saturday evening by a magnetic device known as sticky bomb near the party's headquarters in Baghdad, a party official said.

Earlier in the day, tribal sheik Mahmoud Hussein al-Obeidi was killed in the town of Abu Ghraib, west of Baghdad, when a sticky bomb detonated on his car, which was parked outside of his home, according to Capt. Hassan al-Timimee of the Fallujah police.

Obeidi, who was a supporter of the Sunni political party the Iraqi Accordance Front, was the latest political leader to be killed in a series of apparent attempts to discourage local participation in national elections scheduled for March 7.

Obeidi had no bodyguards with him because he was on his way to morning prayers, al-Timimee said.

"The past two months have seen the highest number of assassination attempts," said Maj. Raheem Zain al-Dulaimi, the Anbar police spokesman. "They've been aimed at religious figures, politicians, police officers and sheiks of the tribes."



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"In the past month, 40 people have been targeted," he said.

In Fallujah, about 35 miles west of Baghdad, another bomb detonated Saturday in front of the house of Maj. Ghazi Dura, commander of an Iraqi police counterterrorism unit in Anbar. The attack injured Dura and killed his son, according to police officials.

On Friday night, Saad al-Mashhadani, a university professor in Fallujah, was critically wounded in an attack that also killed his brother and wounded two of his security guards.

According to al-Dulaimi, 90 percent of the assassination attempts have been carried out with sticky bombs imported from "outside Iraq."

Al-Timimee, of the Fallujah police, said that the bomb that killed Obeidi "looked like an Iranian one."

In other violence in the capital Saturday on the eve of the Shiite holiday of Ashura, a bombing that targeted Shiite pilgrims in southeastern Baghdad killed two people and wounded eight, according to the Interior Ministry.

By Michael Hastings
Washington Post

Hastings is a special correspondent for the Washington Post. Special correspondent Othman Mukhtar contributed to this report.

• **Uni. professor escapes attempt on life in Falluja** December 23, 2009 - 01:23:30
ANBAR / Aswat al-Iraq: A university professor has survived an assassination attempt when a sticky explosive device targeted his vehicle in downtown Falluja, according to a local police source.

"Prof. Saoud al-Dulaimi has found the device inside his car while he was leaving his house in al-Dubbat neighborhood, downtown Falluja," the source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

"Bomb squad personnel have managed to dismantle the device without causing any casualties or damage," the source noted.

Falluja, the largest city in Anbar, lies 45 km west of Baghdad; while Ramadi, the capital city of Anbar, lies 110 km west of Baghdad.

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- **Son of uni. professor released by police** December 14, 2009 - 10:00:16

NINEWA / Aswat al-Iraq: The son of a professor at Mosul University was released a few days after he had been arrested by the police, the Ninewa Operations Command said on Monday.

“The son of Dr. Hani Malallah was released on Monday after he had been cleared of all wrongdoing...,” a source from the command told Aswat al-Iraq news agency. On Sunday (Dec. 13) evening, the same source said that Dr. Mallah, the head of the biology department in the university, had been released, but his son was still under arrest. On Monday last, peaceful demonstrations took place inside the campus, protesting the arrest of Malallah and his son during a U.S.-Iraqi raid on their house in northern Mosul. Mosul, the capital city of Ninewa province, lies 405 km north of Baghdad.

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- **Middle-East Scholars Hear of Academic Repression in Iraq and Iran** (The Chronicle of Higher Education David Glenn 24 Nov 2009)

Faculty members and students in Iraq and Iran continue to face a severely repressive climate, two exiled scholars said Saturday during a panel discussion held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association. The scholars called on faculty associations around the world to do more to promote academic freedom in the Middle East.

More than 300 Iraqi university professors have been assassinated by sectarian militias since the U.S. invasion in 2003, said Abdul Sattar Jawad, a visiting fellow at the University of Mississippi.

“The campaign to eliminate intellectuals—the people most needed to rebuild the country—continues unabated,” said Mr. Jawad, who taught at Al-Mustansiriya University and edited a newspaper in Baghdad before fleeing in 2005. He added that Iraqi universities are foolishly enforcing a mandatory retirement age of 63, a policy that he said is tearing the country’s best-trained generation from academic life.

Conditions are not much better in Iran, said Fatemeh Haghghatjoo, a research associate at the Five College Women’s Studies Research Center, in Massachusetts. Ms. Haghghatjoo served in Iran’s parliament during the reformist period that began in the late 1990s, but she left the country in 2004 as the regime intensified its harassment of scholars and journalists. She also previously taught psychology and counseling at the University of Tehran and Shahid Beheshti University.

“The cooperation of university chancellors with government security forces has spread insecurity and



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terror on campuses," Ms. Haghghatjoo said. She cited several well-publicized arrests of dissident scholars. But she added that there have been hundreds of quieter cases in which faculty members have been forced into retirement and student activists have been denied diplomas.

Both Mr. Jawad and Ms. Haghghatjoo have been assisted by the Scholars at Risk Network, a nonprofit organization based at New York University. The network's director, Robert J. Quinn, said during the panel discussion that even though most universities in the Middle East are closely intertwined with authoritarian governments, he has some hope that chancellors, deans, and department chairs there can be encouraged to protect the autonomy of the academic sphere.

In March, the network helped to sponsor a regional conference on scholars' rights in the Middle East. One product of that meeting was a new organization known as the Arab Society for Academic Freedom.

Mr. Quinn added that one of the greatest international threats to academic freedom was the prospect that authoritarian governments would invest only in science and technology education, shutting out politically sensitive fields in the humanities and social sciences. He said that when American universities open campuses overseas, they must refuse to provide a science-only curriculum.

In August, The Chronicle published a three-part series on academic freedom in Iran: Among Scholars, Resistance and Resilience in Iran Growing Isolation Frustrates Iranian Academics Iran's Million-Student Alternative In 2007, The Chronicle examined the state of academic life in Iraq: Iraq's Universities Near Collapse Out of Iraq, Into Limbo Remembering Life on Haifa Street 'Doctors, Engineers, Professors—All the Elites Have Fled'

▪ **Top Iraq university closed temporarily (NYT 20/10/2009)**

Timothy Williams, Riyadh Mohammed, New York Times

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Mustansiriyah University, one of Iraq's most prestigious universities, was temporarily closed last week by the prime minister in an effort to rid it of a shadowy student gang accused of murdering, torturing and raping fellow students, and killing professors and administrators.

The decision to close the 24,000-student university in northeast Baghdad was made after members of the group, the Students League, beat and pistol-whipped Abdullah al-Bayati, 63, an education professor, on



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campus. The professor and his wife, who also teaches there, have been publicly critical of the group.

To offer incontrovertible evidence to skeptics about the dangers of teaching at Mustansiriya University, Bayati decided to make a point: He went to Prime Minister Nouri Kamal al-Maliki's office last Tuesday wearing his bloodied clothes and with untreated gashes on his face and head.

The next day, the prime minister, once a student at Mustansiriya, ordered the university closed for one week.

Although Baghdad and most other areas of the country are now generally free of the armed militias that caused much of the violence during Iraq's sectarian warfare, Mustansiriya seems a remnant of that chaos. It is under the sway of an armed group of violent Shiite students in engineering, literature, law and other disciplines; faculty members; and campus security guards.

Abed Thiab al-Ajili, Iraq's minister of higher education, and administrators and professors at the university said in interviews that it was commonly believed that violence continued there because of ties between some of the officials in al-Maliki's Shiite party, Dawa, and the Students League through university administrators who shielded the group from prosecution.

"Political parties are causing some of the problems," said al-Ajili.

Ali al-Mousawi, an adviser to al-Maliki, denied any ties between the prime minister and the Students League. He said that before al-Bayati arrived bloodied last week, there had been insufficient cause to disband the Students League.

The Students League, campus members said, controls campus activities and security, as well as aspects of grading, admissions and even which courses professors teach.

"They have spread an atmosphere of terror at the university," said one professor, who, like most of the current and former administrators, students and professors who were interviewed, spoke on the condition of anonymity.

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/10/20/MNQT1A7UES.DTL>

This article appeared on page A - 3 of the San Francisco Chronicle

- Iraqi Campus Is Under Gang's Sway - 20 Oct 2009

The New York Times

This article appeared in the October 20, 2009 edition of the New York Times

By TIMOTHY WILLIAMS and RIYADH MOHAMMED



Mustansiriya University

BAGHDAD — Mustansiriya University, one of Iraq's most prestigious universities, was temporarily closed this month by the prime minister in an effort to rid it of a shadowy student gang accused of murdering, torturing and raping fellow students, and killing professors and administrators.

The decision to close the 24,000-student university in northeast Baghdad was made last week after members of the group, the Students League, beat and pistol-whipped Abdullah al-Bayati, 63, an education professor, on campus. The professor and his wife, who also teaches there, have been publicly critical of the group.



Nuri Kamal al-Maliki

To offer incontrovertible evidence to skeptics about the dangers of teaching at Mustansiriya University, Professor Bayati decided to make a point: He went to Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki's office wearing his bloodied clothes and with untreated gashes on his face and head.

The next day, the prime minister, once a student at Mustansiriya, ordered the university closed one week.

During Iraq's war, universities like Mustansiriya have not been spared. Since 2007, bombings at the institution have killed or maimed more than 335 students and staff members. Dozens of students and professors have been killed, and a 12-foot-high blast wall has been built around Mustansiriya.



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Abed Thiab al-Ajili, Iraq's minister of higher education, and administrators and professors at the university said in interviews that it was commonly believed that violence continued there because of ties between some of the officials in Mr. Maliki's Shiite party, Dawa, and the Students League through university administrators who shielded the group from prosecution.

"Political parties are causing some of the problems," said Dr. Ajili, who added that the prime minister had personally interfered with the internal politics of the university in the past. "I'm facing a difficult task dealing with these problems with the parties, but I am fighting."



Students look at scene of two explosions in front of Mustansiriya University on January 16, 2007.

Ali al-Mousawi, an adviser to Mr. Maliki, denied any ties between the prime minister, who leads the Dawa Party, and the Students League. He said that before Dr. Bayati arrived bloodied last week, there had been insufficient cause to disband the Students League.

"There were suspicions about many student groups, but there was no proof until the case of Dr. Bayati," he said. "It was a confirmed incident with evidence, so the prime minister made the decision."

But professors and administrators at the school solemnly give the names of colleagues and students who were threatened by the group before being found dead: Jasim al-Fahaidawi, a professor of Arabic literature, shot dead at the university's entrance in 2005; Najeb al-Salihi, a psychology professor,



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kidnapped in 2006 near the campus and found in the morgue three weeks later, shot to death; and Jasim Fiadh al-Shammari, a psychology professor fatally shot near the university, also in 2006.

The Students League, they said, controls campus activities and security, as well as aspects of grading, admissions and even which courses professors teach.



Books covered in blood at the scene of two explosions at Mustansiriyah University in 2006

“They have spread an atmosphere of terror at the university,” said one professor, who, like most of the current and former administrators, professors, students and education officials who were interviewed, spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of retribution.

The Students League has also asserted control by sharing money with some school administrators through bid-rigging of campus contracts and various other illegal means, said a university administrator whom the group had threatened to kill.

Most of the Shiite-led political parties now dominant in Iraq, including the Dawa Party, once had armed militias. Most of the armed groups have now been formally disbanded.

Mr. Maliki has won a reputation for confronting militias, for example, when he ordered government forces in 2008 to take on the Mahdi Army, the armed wing of the Sadrists, a Shiite group allied with him at the time.

But the prime minister waited to intercede at Mustansiriyah University until Oct. 14, the day after he was met at his office by the bloodied Professor Bayati.

Ali al-Dabbagh, Mr. Maliki’s spokesman, said in a statement last week that the college was closed “due to the riotous activity of some gangs and undisciplined people in the university.” The Students League was not mentioned.



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The directive included an order to suspend political activity there and to ban all student groups.

A second government statement announced that Baghdad Operations Command, a military entity that reports directly to the prime minister's office, would begin providing campus security in concert with the university's security staff, though it intended to stay outside the campus gates.

Before its temporary closing, the university had deteriorated into disorder. Two men claimed to be chancellor: one appointed by the minister of higher education, a second by the deans of Mustansiriya's colleges. The men had offices in different buildings.

And the Students League acted with near impunity, according to people on campus. In a video shot with a cellphone, league members are shown marching through campus wearing black masks and waving bright yellow flags. Students they believed to be Sunni or Kurdish were harassed and sometimes never seen again, according to current and former students. They are widely feared, even by Shiite students.

A few weeks before Professor Bayati was beaten, his wife, Sana'a al-Tamimi, 58, who teaches educational psychology, publicly denounced the Students League, saying it had come to control the university through violence. She also spoke about the murders and assaults of professors, saying the group had committed "acts of terror."

Afterward, she said, Students League members came to her campus office and threatened to kill her. They left only after several male professors intervened and pushed a large refrigerator in front of her office door.

Professor Tamimi said that in 2008, shortly after she was named an assistant dean, Students League members came to her office, threatened her and told her to quit. She resigned after just 20 days.

A school administrator said that when a new university chancellor was named this year, the Students League arrived at his office with knives and told him to step down. The chancellor quit a few weeks later, said the administrator, who said he had witnessed the confrontation.

The same administrator, who has received a death threat from the Students League, said the group killed a fellow professor two years ago because he had refused to give in to their demands.

"He was killed at the front gates of the university," the administrator said.

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- **Iraq suspends university for politics** (14 October 2009)

By SAMEER N. YACOUB (AP)

BAGHDAD — Iraq's prime minister suspended classes and banned political activities at one of Baghdad's leading universities following student protests on campus, a government spokesman said Wednesday.

Iraq also banned the student union at Mustansiriyah University, raising questions over Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's commitment to free speech.

The government maintains the school was falling under the sway of religious Shiite groups.

Studies at the university were suspended for one week, spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said in a statement posted on a government Web site.

Al-Dabbagh said the action was taken because of problems caused by "undisciplined individuals." The statement did not provide any further details.

The university has been at the center of a power struggle between al-Maliki and religious Shiite parties, which has had administrative control of the university since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion.

Earlier this week, a small number students demanded a role in governing the university, a protest that led al-Maliki to temporarily close the campus.

Iraq's Higher Education Ministry defended the action, saying it was necessary "to preserve the independence of the university."

"The aim is ... to put an end to any kind of harmful interference at the university. It should be kept free from sectarian or political influence," said Siham al-Shujeiri, a spokeswoman for the ministry.

The university has been the scene of a number of violent attacks, including a January 2007 double car bombing that killed 70 students who were lining up for bus rides home.

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- **Bomb targets house of college professor in Mosul** September 30, 2009

NINEWA / Aswat al-Iraq: A bomb went off targeting the house of a college professor in Mosul without causing any casualties, a security source from Ninewa province said on Wednesday.

“The incident took place in northern Mosul city,” the source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

He said that the explosion caused minor damage to the house.

Mosul, the capital city of Ninewa province, lies 405 km north of Baghdad.

MH (P)/SR

- **Iraq: Massive Fraud and Corruption in Higher Education** (Dirk Adriaensens, 14 Sept 2009)

(Dirk Adriaensens, member Executive Committee BRussells Tribunal 14 September 2009)

50.000 Iraqi students to study abroad.

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki told a group of educators in Washington on 25 July that his country plans to send over 50.000 students abroad over the next 5 years. The students will be studying in the U.S. and London, supposedly to rebuild the country’s once strong education system. Twenty two American universities and 21 British universities will participate. Maliki explained that *“Instead of armies and war and killing and occupation we’re moving to something more meaningful, namely economic development, education, and exchanges of students and professors.”*

The decision to send 10.000 students every year to foreign universities was originally announced at the first educational fair held in Baghdad during the 3rd week of January.

In a letter to university representatives, Nouri Al-Maliki explained the reasoning behind the Iraq Education Initiative: *“For many years, the system of higher education in Iraq was regarded as one of the finest in the Arab world. Students from many countries came to Iraq to attend our colleges and universities, however, wars and sanctions have impaired the system of education. ... Iraq needs a strategic program that will transform its education system in order to make up the time lost in developing its human resources.”*



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It is said that this scholarship program will be run by Iraq's Higher Committee for Education Development, and that there will be no discrimination based on sex or religious views of the students.

That's the official story. A noble initiative at first sight, until you look further behind the official smokescreen. There are no references in Maliki's speeches to the threats, discharges, forced migration, mass kidnappings and assassinations of Iraqi academics. Nor is the destruction of educational institutions, archaeological sites, the looting of Iraqi musea, the erasure of Iraqi, Arab and world heritage being mentioned. Further, the Iraqi government has committed to fully fund \$1 billion a year to this program and will pay for tuition and fees, as well as room and board, meaning that Iraq is now sponsoring the US and UK universities.

Sectarianism.

Nouri al-Maliki has asked the elite diaspora to return to Iraq to help rebuild the country. But the BRussells Tribunal warned on 26 April that *"those academics who return are finding jobs few and the welcome far from warm"*. The statement further alarmed the academics who are invited or forced to return, to be aware of criminal acts like kidnappings or assassinations. Why asking the Iraqi professors to return if you drive them out first, and when they eventually return they're not given their jobs back?

"Many of my academic friends tried to go back from Syria and Jordan to Iraq. The Educational Institutions refused to hire them back and refused to transfer their kids to their universities as decreed in a Higher Education Ministry decision. One of them is my sister. She tried to transfer her daughter to the University and they refused. When she confronted them with the Ministerial decision to accept the forced migrated persons' children in Iraqi State Universities, they told her: "let the minister take his decision and please get the hell back to.... [Syria, Jordan]", writes an Iraqi professor.

The decision to send 50.000 students abroad is very contradictory: on the one hand the educated class has been driven into exile or is still being assassinated and 6 years of occupation has left the education system in ruins; on the other hand 10.000 students will be sent abroad every year? Is this decision meant to further erase the collective memory and culture of Iraq? Is it serving a sectarian and an occupation agenda? An Iraqi professor answers:

I think this is what's really happening. They are sending people abroad based on their sectarian backgrounds and not their skills, intelligence, grades or performances. To avoid the competition, they are changing the names on exam notebooks to cut off the road for any "unwanted" honour student who might be from a decent anti-sectarian or anti-occupation family to have one of these scholarships".



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Nationwide fraud.

In an article published by Uruknet 4th of August: "Unfairness is better than Mercy", an Iraqi blogger describes what happened with the results of the final high school exams.

*"Few days ago the students in Iraq got the marks of the ministerial exams. To the great surprise of the students, the marks were so unfair and low (...)
Every year about 60 students from my school join medicine, pharmacy and dentistry colleges, their marks are higher than 90% but this year only 33 passed the exams ! only five from our class took marks in 90's ! it is insane.*

I took a look at the web and saw that in some schools only 7 or 8 students passed the exams and in other schools in my city NO ONE passed the exams ..I started to wonder why ?

(...) In Anbar, Mosul, Diala, al Aa'thamya the marks were so unfair, in Anbar the ministry didn't mark the papers for 27 exam sectors, and decided to re-exam them, in A'athamyia the marks are worse than everywhere else, students with their parents, professors started to demonstrate

*(...) but don't you notice that all of these places are for Sunnis ??
Everyone knows that the students are the victims of politicians disputes.
Each year, Mosul , Baghdad, and Hilla, had the best ratio of success and high marks, unlike this year".*

It seems that the students in dominantly "Shia" provinces obtained much better results than those in provinces with a predominantly Sunni population. Very strange.

"I saw an interview in Dijla TV with the person who's responsible for the ministerial exams and the marks. He said " Kerbala and Diwania have the best results ever, the students are busy studying in these places, unlike those in other cities who are busy with other things than school" and he added " I ask the students not to be nervous, if they don't have high marks, so what, they can repeat the 6th class once and twice and three times till they get it well " and then he added that during Saddam's rule the students in the south didn't take as high marks as they deserved, and now justice was settled!"

The Iraqi blogger concludes:



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(..) you didn't give the Sunnis the marks they deserve, and gave Shiite students and those who are loyal to certain parties much higher marks, but it will not make us dislike each other, what happened made us even more determined to be important people in the future, so that Iraq will be led by clever, educated and respectful Iraqis, who don't part or treat people differently”.

Here is the web page with the final results of the Ministerial exams for this year (only available in Arabic):
<http://moedu.gov.iq/result/result2009/>

Protests broke out in three Sunni Muslim cities in which conspicuously low numbers of students passed their national exams, fuelling suspicions that Iraq's Shiite Muslim-led government is discriminating against Sunnis and others, reports McClatchy Newspapers on 10 September. Alaa Makki who heads the parliament's education committee said he was troubled by allegations that the Ministry of Education discriminated against minorities, noting that students failed their exams at disproportionately high rates in Sunni Anbar province, in the Sunni city of Tikrit and in the Sunni neighborhood of Adhamiyah in Baghdad. Education Minister Khudhayir al Khuzai is a Shiite. Just 27 percent of the students passed their 12th-grade national examinations in Fallujah, a city in Anbar. "These people can't suddenly have lost their ability to study and all failed," Makki said. "There is an error, and we hope to correct it."

Sectarianism, corruption and fraud are at the root of Maliki's government, it seems. The education sector that was in shambles already is now drifting further into nationwide fraud to favour one sect and those loyal to the occupation.

An Iraqi analyst resumes: *“It is the US which introduced corruption as a system of building the 'New Iraq'. The sectarian and ethnical system of quotas introduced to gain support for the occupation, destroyed the State apparatus and Public Services. The parties which supported the invasion used all means - including false diplomas - to control the state apparatus and use it for their benefit. The result is a generalised untouchable corruption, protected by these parties and the US occupation. And now sectarianism, the quota system and breaking up the universal right of equality and justice touch even the innocent young Iraqi students who studied hard to pass their exams”*

More fraud.

And there's more damaging news for Nouri Al-Maliki' government.

Iraqi writer Shamel Abdul Kader: *(letter translated from Arabic)*



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“I received the following letter through the internet signed by 10 Iraqi students. It involves immoral acts that have been committed against those students by the High Education sector.

To explain the problem with the High Education Ministry and Scientific Research, here’s what happened. The ten following students who all live abroad, after the dire Iraqi living conditions forced them to leave their country:

- *Ahmad Shafiek Al-Samaraai. Madison College. University of Baghdad*
- *Mona Kamel Abdul Latif. Madison College. University of Baghdad.*
- *Ammar Sabah Salam. Pharmaceutical College. University of Baghdad.*
- *Mohammad Abdul Rahim Alrawi. Dental Madison College. University of Baghdad.*
- *Ali Abdul Hadi Al-Hamdani. Linguistic College. University of Baghdad.*
- *Rasha Abdul Saheb Al-Safar. Engineering College, University of Baghdad.*
- *Abdul Rahman Abdul Jalil. Art College. University of Baghdad.*
- *Mahammad Mouayad Jabar. Linguistic College. University of Baghdad.*
- *Noor Ahmad Abid Allah Al-Obaidy. Linguistic College. University of Baghdad.*
- *Arwa Abdul Muhaimen Al-Ani. Education College. University of Baghdad.*

decided to finish their graduate studies in their European and Arabic hosting countries like Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, and Egypt.

After the submission of their admission papers to the universities in their hosting countries, they were surprised by their rejection and they were being accused of submitting forged copies of their transcripts and certificates.

When those students tried to legally bring charges against the University of Baghdad for tampering with their records and transcripts, they had another surprise when the University of Baghdad sent them what was supposed to be their transcripts and documents, but they were totally different from the student’s original ones.

After intensive communications through relatives in Baghdad, they received more catastrophic news: all their study records in their colleges had been changed and their records and exams notebooks had been sold to influential politicians in the government so that these could acquire illegally post graduate scholarships without studying or going through preliminary examinations and exams.



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What does the High Education minister have to say about this dangerous manipulation of student's records? How can the efforts and grades of honourable students be sold to others with poor records and performance. What crimes have those students committed to be deprived of their diploma's, certificates, grades, and rights, which have all been sold to others?"

This has been confirmed by several sources. An Iraqi academic complains:

"I am going through hell to get my son's high school graduation transcripts from the Education Ministry in Iraq. Through the Syrian university and through the Syrian foreign ministry, the Iraqi foreign Ministry sent my son's transcripts to the Engineering college of Baghdad University to approve it. The engineering college dean is Dr Ali Alkeilidar, who is from the Dawaa Party and a pro Iranian. Instead of transferring my son's documents to the Iraqi Education Ministry, he wrote to the Foreign Office that this document has not been issued by the Engineering college (which is normal because it is a high school diploma). This letter is accusing us of submitting forged transcripts to universities outside Iraq. I have been trying for two years to prove that these are genuine transcripts that have been issued by the Education Ministry and that they are all notarized by its official offices. Can you believe those criminals? They kidnapped my son, tortured him, got me and my family out of Baghdad, and trying to deprive my kids their rights to finish their education outside the country. The Foreign Ministry, without checking the truth - intentionally or not - is trying to enlist my son's documents as forged ones!"

He concludes: *"This is another crime against people who are not part of the occupation and its corrupt government in Iraq. In my opinion, this is as dangerous as the brain drain that is ongoing through the assassinations and forced migration of Iraqi academics"*.

In Al Quds al Arabic it was reported 1st of September 2009 that the official report of the Inspector of the Higher Education Ministry has found 2769 cases of forged diplomas in the last two years, the Commission for Transparency and Public Integrity has found 1088. Others claim that there are nearly 100.000 of these false certificates and that there are offices in Bagdad where you can buy your own degree.

On Tuesday 14 November 2006 paramilitary gunmen in the uniforms of Iraqi National Police commandos raided a building belonging to the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Baghdad's Karrada district and kidnapped around 100 members of staff from two departments and around 50 visitors, according to lists compiled by the Minister of Education. Some of these people were tortured and assassinated. It is interesting to note that these staff members were a.o. responsible for the validation of diploma's. An Iraqi analyst writes: *"This event was related to diploma falsification. The directorate was cleansed to facilitate diploma fraud by government Shiite parties in order to nominate their followers in*



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state jobs. This was a turning point in the process of falsifying diplomas and the exile of Iraqi academics". There was no investigation nor were the responsible kidnappers punished. Prime Minister Maliki declared that this was not a case of terrorism, but a dispute between 'militias'. In fact, everything about this raid conforms with what we should expect of an operation conducted by Iraq's US-trained, armed and supported specialist counterinsurgency paramilitary National Police commandos, who are specifically trained to conduct cordon and search operations of this kind.

In November 2007 it was reported that the Iraqi Interior Ministry has admitted that more than 9000 civil servants , including high ranking staff in the prime minister's office, have provided purchased fake university degrees.

Mnemocide.

So which 50.000 students will be the chosen ones to have the opportunity to study abroad? Apparently those who are loyal to the parties of the puppet government or can influence the corrupted , sectarian administrators, despite the official narrative that scholarships will be allocated according to a formula based on the population of each of Iraq's 18 provinces "*so no one can say you are sending more Shias than Sunnis,*" according to special assistant to the prime minister for educational matters, Zuhair Humadi.

An Iraqi academic: "*The universities today are run by Iranian militias with the total approval of the American occupation. At the end of the day, they have the same goals and the same plans. They are trying to erase the history, national memory and culture of the country*"

Iraqi education has turned from showcase in the Arab world to "ground zero". Iraq's educational system has been totally destroyed. There's a name for this: **mnemocide**: the process of erasing and suppressing memory. Contrary to Maliki's claims, his sectarian government is actively involved in erasing what's left of 50 years of education and thousands of years of civilization. What happens in Iraq is cultural genocide and responsibility for it must lie with the US and the puppet government. The failure to protect an occupied country's national heritage, the failure to stop the brain drain, threats and assassinations of Iraqi intellectuals are war crimes under the Geneva Convention.

Corruption in Iraqi education.

As is well known and documented, corruption in the Iraqi government is rampant and serves a sectarian agenda. Corruption watchdog Transparency International rated Iraq in 2008 as the third most corrupt country in the world after Somalia and Myanmar.



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On 26 July 2004 Iraq's minister of education said the country's education system is so corrupt that there is little he can do about it, although he would like to do a lot.

Corruption throughout Iraq's educational system is so rampant that he said he would like to get rid of just about everyone involved in it.

Has the situation improved since 2004?

On 12 May 2009 the Commission of Education and Higher Education in the House of Representatives in the current Maliki Government criticised the existence of corruption cases in the implementation of projects.

The BBC noted on 18 May 2009 that a recent report by Iraq's anti-corruption committee, which is a result of the committee's investigation into some 12,000 complaints of government corruption, says that among the worst offenders are - in no particular order - the ministries of defence, interior, finance, education and health.

"Haramia," or "thieves," is the new name given to local contractors who receive money to fix up schools, then allegedly do such a poor job that they can put most of the money in their pockets. Where is Maliki's control?

Electronic Iraq underscores the fact that "hundreds of health, education and infrastructure projects have been delayed because of corruption and the smuggling of oil." Education and health projects are the most affected, as hundreds of schools require repair and hospitals are hit by shortages of equipment and medicines, said the Electronic Iraq article. Where is Maliki's control?

Painkillers for cancer (from the Ministry of Health) cost \$80 for a few capsules; electricity meters (from the Ministry of Electricity) go for \$200 each, and even third-grade textbooks (stolen from the Ministry of Education) must be bought at bookstores for three times what schools once charged. Where is Maliki's control?

Maliki demonstrates open hostility to independent corruption investigations.

The Prime Minister of occupied Iraq is making a lot of promises in the press about tackling corruption.



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But should we believe the Prime Minister of a sectarian Quisling government in a country ravaged by war, occupation and corruption?

According to a secret report prepared for US Congress in 2007, that reviewed the work (or attempted work) of the Commission on Public Integrity (CPI), an independent Iraqi institution, and other anticorruption agencies within the Iraqi government, Maliki's government is "not capable of even rudimentary enforcement of anticorruption laws," and, perhaps worse, the report notes that Maliki's office has impeded investigations of fraud and crime within the government.

Moreover, it concluded that corruption is "the norm in many ministries."

The report depicts the Iraqi government as riddled with corruption and criminals--and beyond the reach of anticorruption investigators.

But US State Dept. employees testified in May 2008 that the U.S. "allowed corruption to fester at the highest levels of the Iraqi government," resulting in the loss of billions in U.S. tax dollars .

Further extracts of this damaging CPI report as mentioned in *The Nation's* article proves the untenable state of affairs in this "blossoming democracy":

*(...) Anticorruption cases concerning the Ministry of Education have been particularly ineffective....
"Several ministries, according to the study, are "so controlled by criminal gangs or militias" that it is impossible for corruption investigators "to operate within [them] absent a tactical [security] force protecting the investigator."*

(...) Part of the problem, according to the report, is Maliki's office: "The Prime Minister's Office has demonstrated an open hostility" to independent corruption investigations. His government has withheld resources from the CPI, the report says, and "there have been a number of identified cases where government and political pressure has been applied to change the outcome of investigations and prosecutions in favor of members of the Shia Alliance"--which includes Maliki's Dawa party.

(...) Maliki has also protected corrupt officials by reinstating a law that prevents the prosecution of a government official without the permission of the minister of the relevant agency.

*(...) In another memo obtained by *The Nation*--marked "Secret and Confidential"--Maliki's office earlier 2007 ordered the Commission on Public Integrity not to forward any case to the courts involving the*



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president of Iraq, the prime minister of Iraq, or any current or past ministers without first obtaining Maliki's consent. According to the U.S. embassy report on the anticorruption efforts, the government's hostility to the CPI has gone so far that for a time the CPI link on the official Iraqi government web site directed visitors to a pornographic site.

(...) CPI staffers have been "accosted by armed gangs within ministry headquarters and denied access to officials and records." They and their families are routinely threatened. Some sleep in their office in the Green Zone. In December 2006, a sniper positioned on top of an Iraqi government building in the Green Zone fired three shots at CPI headquarters. Twelve CPI personnel have been murdered in the line of duty.

On 1 August 2009 it was reported that Iraqi government officials may have colluded in the kidnapping of five Britons, including two Scots, two years ago in an attempt to prevent high-level corruption being exposed.

U.S. officials say, Iraqi government officers, from Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki on down, have embezzled not only uncounted billions of dollars from their own treasury -- but also billions in U.S. aid, in total \$ 18 billion. That's about equal to the annual budget for Colorado.

Whistleblowers face retaliation, abuse, and even imprisonment for reporting fraud.

We read Maliki's anti-corruption statements, his speeches about the importance of Iraqi education, but corruption has never been worse. We don't hear about results of investigations into assassinations of Iraqi academic personnel, nor do we hear about attempts to improve the security situation for Iraqi educators, nor do we hear Maliki criticizing Iraqi militia's and death squads, including his own. Nor do we hear Maliki criticizing the occupation forces for destroying archaeological sites. What we read is that Maliki is the ringleader of a corrupt, sectarian, anti-secular and despotic government.

A Transparency International Report has stated that the corruption in Iraq will probably become "*the biggest corruption scandal in history*".

And the US are knee-deep involved in this corruption.

An Iraqi writer states: " *In reality, Maliki has neither the capacity nor the desire to fight corruption. The whole political process is based on corruption. Iraqis know that it is Maliki's government and Maliki himself who impedes all investigations and punishment of crimes and corruption, with the support of the occupation. He protected the Minister of Trade, who was accused of corruption, and didn't allow an*



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investigation. Through his allies in the Parliament he prevented the Parliament from questioning Ministers about corruption. His power is used to bar the CPI and other investigating institutions from doing their job. For example, news circulates that the chief of the Financial Watch, Mr Turki, who declared that there are 1088 false diplomas, even in the high ranks of the Iraqi Administration, and that the responsible persons should be punished, is now being accused of committing crimes during the previous regime and an arrest warrant is issued against him. It is evident that this accusation is meant to silence him.”

A despotic occupation

It is widely claimed that Mr Maliki’s government governs only inside the Green Zone. Outside this protected zone his death squads and special police forces roam the streets, the new Iraqi army terrorizes the population, there is no security nor law, only the law of the jungle.

The NYT f.i. reported on 3 September that a gang of robbers tied up eight guards — some of whom they knew — at the Zuwiya branch of the Rafidain bank in Baghdad and executed them point blank with silenced guns. Then they made off with at least two carloads of cash worth \$4.3 million. They did not have to worry about the police because, in that neighbourhood, they were the police, many of them bodyguards for one of the nation’s most powerful men, Vice President Adel Abdul Mahdi.

Should we put our trust into the Prime Minister of a corrupt puppet government that:

- Organizes nationwide corruption, fraud and crime.
- Falsifies national examinations scores, tampers with students diploma’s, selects students to study abroad based on religious background and intimidates returning educators?
- Approves of mass executions of Iraqi citizens. On a single day in June 19 people were hanged in Baghdad. In a recent report Amnesty International says that more than 1,000 Iraqis face execution, often on the basis of confessions, which, it says, are sometimes made under torture.
- Approves of imprisoning and torturing tens of thousands of civilians and political prisoners without any charges or fair trials.
- Approves of journalists being prominent victims of Iraq’s judicial system. In July a reporter was arrested for photographing a Baghdad traffic jam, after his pictures were deemed “negative” for



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mocking Mr Maliki's assertion that life in the capital was improving. Last year Iraq dropped to 158th place out of 173 in a press-freedom table drawn up by Reporters Without Borders

An article (*in Arabic*) claims that the salary of a Member of the Iraqi Parliament is US\$ 360 thousand annually. Because of additional payments for participation in Parliament Sessions, protection and travel etc., the total budget is *US\$ 1.44 Millions* per member plus additional payments to the Head of Parliament. Let's hope this is not true.

The starting salary of a university graduate (B.Sc.) is US\$400 per month. Annual = US\$ 4,800

The article concludes: "*does anyone wonder why so many stay in Parliament even though more than 50% live outside Iraq and come for a visit to attend Parliamentary sessions?*"

The US are helping Mr Maliki to rub up his government's reputation. The Defence Department pays private U.S. contractors in Iraq up to \$300 million over the three years 2009-2011, to produce news stories, entertainment programs and public service advertisements for the Iraqi media in an effort to "engage and inspire" the local population to support U.S. objectives and the Iraqi government. That's the news you and I will read in the mainstream media.

At last..... DEMOCRACY !!

What history teaches us

It's the US who brought these thugs to power and thus bear full responsibility for the dramatic state of affairs in contemporary Iraq. They work hand in hand with Mr. Maliki. 130.000 US troops and 645.000 Iraqi security forces are needed to secure Al-Maliki's position. This situation in Iraq is very reminiscent to what happened in Yugoslavia during WWII.

(...) Ante Pavelić (*who lived in exile since 1929 and returned to Yugoslavia with the German occupiers in 1941*) first met with Adolf Hitler on 6 June 1941. Mile Budak, then a minister in Pavelić's government, publicly proclaimed the violent racial policy of the state on 22 July 1941. They started building concentration camps in the summer of the same year. Ustaše activities in villages across the Dinaric Alps led to the Italians and the Germans expressing disquiet. As early as July 10, 1941, Wehrmacht General Edmund Glaise von Horstenau reported the following to the German High Command, the Oberkommando der Wehrmacht (OKW):



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“Our troops have to be mute witnesses of such events; it does not reflect well on their otherwise high reputation... I am frequently told that German occupation troops would finally have to intervene against Ustaše crimes. This may happen eventually. Right now, with the available forces, I could not ask for such action. Ad hoc intervention in individual cases could make the German Army look responsible for countless crimes which it could not prevent in the past.

A Gestapo report to Reichsführer SS Heinrich Himmler, dated February 17, 1942, stated that:

“Increased activity of the bands [of rebels] is chiefly due to atrocities carried out by Ustaše units in Croatia against the Orthodox population. The Ustaše committed their deeds in a bestial manner not only against males of conscript age, but especially against helpless old people, women and children. The number of the Orthodox that the Croats have massacred and sadistically tortured to death is about three hundred thousand.

Do these quotes ring a bell? The name Ante Pavelić, who returned to Yugoslavia on the back of German and Italian tanks, can be replaced by f.i. Chalabi, Allawi or Al Maliki. Ustaše can be replaced by the Special Police Commandos, Badr brigades, the Mehdi army, Peshmergas. Germans and Italians can be replaced by Americans and British. Pavelic and his militias murdered between 300.000 and 700.000 Serbs, Jews, gypsies, resistance fighters. The Yugoslavians were killing each other ! But who was responsible? The Germans of course, no? They let these crimes carry out by their Croatian sectarian stooges and gave them the money, arms, training and power. The Germans were “*expressing disquiet*” over these Croatian barbarians, just like the US are expressing disquiet over Maliki’s government’s crimes, his death squads and his corruption. The atrocities stopped when the Germans and Italians were defeated and left the country.

It’s time for president Barack Hussein Obama to learn some lessons from history: he should unconditionally withdraw his troops from Iraq, and pay reparations for the harm his country has inflicted upon the Iraqi people. Only then real democracy can be built.

Recommendations

In the meantime, here are some recommendations to save what’s left of the sector of Higher Education in Iraq:



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- instead of sending 50.000 students abroad, convince the Iraqi academic community in exile to return by giving them back their jobs, by providing enough guarantees for their security so they can do their job without fear and without government interference.
- The same applies to exiled students. Give them scholarships and a chance to finish their studies at home, while providing them a safe environment.
- The Iraqi government that will fund this \$1 billion a year program, can spend this money more effectively by organizing decent education in Iraqi universities and finance the creation of schools and universities for the youngsters of the 4.7 million refugees and displaced in refugee areas and hosting countries.
- To the US Colleges and Universities that will host Iraqi students: instead of supporting the inflow of 10.000 Iraqi students a year, first give the exiled students the chance to finish their studies in your institutions until the Iraqi government can provide enough security for them to return. The costs for their studies should be paid by the US and UK governments which illegally invaded Iraq. Universities should not be complicit in this “*billion dollar fraud*”.
- Iraqi laws to facilitate the return of educators and students should be rigorously implemented. The US government, their occupation forces and the Iraqi government bear full responsibility for this.
- A serious independent investigation should look into corruption and fraud with diplomas and certificates, as mentioned in this article.
- Money, assigned to the education sector, that has been diverted to “security” should be relocated to education.
- A serious independent investigation should also look into corruption of the contracts for reconstruction works and refurbishing of Iraqi schools and universities.
- Education should be rigorously delinked from sectarianism. There should be no sectarianism, racism or gender discrimination in nominations in the universities and sectarian and racist activities should by all means be kept out of universities.
- The system of sectarian quotas and criteria in nominating and appointing academics should be cancelled. Human rights standards and individual liberties for the students, especially gender



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equality, should be guaranteed.

- Stop the interference in the activities of the universities by religious fascist groups and death squads and guarantee the liberty of thinking and research in Iraqi universities.
- UNESCO and other organizations should take a clear stand against these Human Rights violations.

These are just basic recommendations. But only when these conditions are met there will be a chance for the once highly respected Iraqi education sector to start recovering from wars, sanctions and occupation. Sending 50.000 students, loyal to the occupation, abroad to study, who assimilate the Western values and then return to implement a Western style democracy while erasing what's left of Iraqi and Arab culture, is not an option.

Dirk Adriaensens (*member of the BRussells Tribunal executive committee. He contributed to the forthcoming book "Cultural Cleansing In Iraq", to be published by Pluto Press*)

URL: <http://www.brusselstribunal.org/AcademicsFraud140909.htm>

Once Seen As A Model, Iraq Struggles To Rebuild Its Education System (RFERL September 08, 2009)

by Antoine Blua

Despite the brutality of its former regime, Iraq was once seen as a model of education in the Arab world. The country boasted some of the region's highest literacy rates, justifying the Arabic saying, "The Egyptians write, the Lebanese publish, the Iraqis read."

Today, up to one-quarter of Iraq's adults are illiterate.

Years of war and instability have left their mark. Rather than focus on education, many Iraqis give priority to basic survival, while a decline in the skills of the country's teachers has taken its toll on those students who do seek to learn.

International Literacy Day on September 8, which is sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), is an opportunity to address these issues.



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This year, the UN agency is putting the spotlight on literacy's importance for civic participation, citizenship, and social and human development.

The message will be delivered in Iraq, where economic sanctions imposed in the 1990s and six years of occupation and violence have dramatically affected the education system.

Rural Girls Suffering

Nour Dajani, education program specialist for the Amman-based UNESCO office for Iraq, says the country today counts as many as 5 million people who cannot read or write.

Literacy is obviously dependant on school attendance, which stands at 86 percent in Iraq.

Dajani calls the rate "reasonable" under Iraq's current situation, but she says it is much lower among internally displaced populations and girls living in rural areas.

"Young children are forced to leave school either to help their families, or because of displacement there are no schools around, or because of security problems the parents are afraid to send the girls to school," Dajani says.

"The lowest rate of primary enrollment is among rural girls. It's around 68 percent. However, that rate decreases when they shift from elementary education to secondary education. It's around 15 percent," she says.

Illiteracy is also of particular concern among the more than 1.5 million Iraqi refugees estimated to live in neighboring Syria and Jordan.

Syria provides free access to school for Iraqi children, but 2009 witnessed a significant drop in the number of Iraqi children enrolled in Syrian public schools.

"According the [Syrian] Ministry of Education, over 49,000 Iraqi students were officially enrolled for the school year 2007-2008, compared to 32,500 in 2008-2009," says Farah Dakhllallah, public information officer for the United Nation's refugee agency (UNHCR) in Syria.

"The longer that the Iraqis are staying in Syria, the more vulnerable they're becoming financially because they're running out of savings," Dakhllallah says, "so children have to drop out of school to support their families."



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UNESCO's Dajani says continued instability also affects the performance, attendance, and qualification of teachers in Iraq. She says they sometimes have two or three shifts, limiting the timing of schooling.

Weak Teaching Standards

Nihad Abbas, deputy minister of education for scientific affairs, tells RFE/RL's Radio Free Iraq that educational institutions are burdened by a decline in the capabilities of teachers.

"The fact is that we need to develop our teachers and our teaching standards. The standards of our teachers are currently very weak. Even those recently appointed have not been subjected to testing, with reliance solely on their college scores," Abbas says.

"This of course involves many negative aspects, which means that our educational standards are below par. This is the reason behind the low rate of passing grades [from secondary school to university]."

Abbas says private schools are achieving better results than public schools because they are employing retired teachers, who are better qualified.

The head of the Education Committee in the Iraqi parliament, Ala'a Makki, says the root cause of the low teaching standards is to be found in the higher education institutions from which the teachers graduate.

"In general, the standards at the educational colleges have slipped," Makki says. "The resulting low standard among teachers is responsible for lower standards among students. Furthermore, the Education Ministry is unable to provide enough workshops and teaching seminars."

Globally, according to UNESCO, a staggering 776 million adults worldwide still lack basic reading and writing skills. Two-thirds of them are women. Some 75 million children are out of school and many more attend irregularly or drop out.

Radio Free Iraq correspondent Muhammad Kareem contributed to this report from Baghdad; translations by Ayad Al-Gailani

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[http://www.rferl.org/content/Once Seen As A Model Iraq Struggles To Rebuild Its Education System/1817721.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/Once%20Seen%20As%20A%20Model%20Iraq%20Struggles%20To%20Rebuild%20Its%20Education%20System/1817721.html)



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- The Destruction is So Deep (September 03, 2009)

One of the old story that I heard was about the former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill was when one of his advisers told him that corruption had invaded most of the ministries. The story says that Churchill asked him "how about the ministries of education and justice?". The adviser said "they are fine until now". Churchill answered him "then England is fine"

I do not know for sure whether the story is real or no but what I care about is its idea or main point. It gives an idea about the importance of the two ministries.

During my work, I heard different stories about corruption including these two ministries. I heard about judges who released insurgents and criminals and I heard about teachers who gives high marks for money but all I heard were stories without evidences but the story of the Monday was somethings different.

I saw one of the my friends who teaches English language in of the high schools. After few minutes of talking about the main issue that all Iraqis talk about , I mean security situation and life troubles, I asked him about his work and thought to hear some complains because of the lazy students but the story he told me was something completely new for me and killed any hope to have a new good life in this country.

He told me that one of his student is the son of his educational inspector. My friend told me that this student could not pass the exams because he knows nothing about English language. The educational inspector duty is to check whether the teacher is doing his duty correctly and to help him in passing over any problems to improve the level of the students but this one is completely different.

In addition to neglecting his own son, he threatened to send my friend to jail because he did not give the success mark for his son. The educational inspector said "I will send this teacher to jail and if he believes that anyone can help him then he is wrong"

It looks that our problem is so deep because people who are supposed to apply law consider themselves as exceptions.

I know that any building starts from the base and the base of building a new country starts from schools where the youngs get either the rights principles or the wrong ones. For sure, having people like this inspector would never install the right bases



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- **U.S. forces wound professor north of Hilla** May 17, 2009

BABEL / Aswat al-Iraq: A professor working at al-Qadissiya University in the province of al-Diwaniya was wounded on Sunday morning when U.S. forces opened fire on him to the north of al-Hilla city, a police source in Babel said.

“U.S. troops opened fire on a Caprice vehicle carrying al-Qadissiya university professor Abdulhussein Abbas, at al-Mahaweel district, (16 km) north of Hilla, leaving him wounded,” the source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

Aswat al-Iraq failed to contact the U.S. side for comments on the incident.

Hilla, the capital city of Babel province, lies 100 km south of Baghdad.

AmR (P)/SR

☐ **A university professor killed in Mosul**

Sunday, March 15th 2009 3:07 PM

Mosul (AKnews) - Iraqi police on Saturday said that a university professor has been killed in Mosul city, northern Iraq.

“Unknown gunmen killed Dr. Murad Ahmed Shihab, professor at the college of administration and economy at Mosul University, situated in east of Mosul,” Mosul police told Kurdistan News Agency (AKnews).

Targeting university professors and academics has become a pattern phenomenon in Mosul city due to the lack of security.

<http://209.85.229.132/search?q=cache:tYkAwmMv5aIJ:www.aknews.com/en/aknews/3/27549/+professor+Iraq+killed+2010&cd=5&hl=en&ct=clnk&client=safari>



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In Iraq -- A Generation with No Education (IRC 15 July 2008)

International Rescue Committee, Q&A, Staff.

OneWorld.net note: "We're really afraid that there's going to be a generation of children who missed out on primary and secondary education," says international relief worker Aidan Goldsmith while discussing the challenges facing internally displaced Iraqi children as a result of the ongoing conflict.

Short Notes on Q&A with : Aidan Goldsmith

-- Resolving the Iraqi refugee and displacement crisis could take up to 10 years, predicted Abdul-Khaliq Zankana, head of the Iraqi government's Migration and Displacement Committee, last month. In the meantime, recommended Zankana, the government should dedicate 5 percent of the country's oil revenues to helping displaced Iraqis.

-- Many camps for displaced Iraqis lie in border regions between Iraq and neighboring countries, on so-called "no-man's land." Some of these camps have been in place for dozens of years, housing previous generations of refugees from Iraq and Iran.

-- Children's educational needs are frequently overlooked after major upheavals such as war or natural disaster, points out Goldsmith. Following China's Wenchuan earthquake, several relief efforts were launched to deal specifically with children's needs.

Iraq -- Q&A with International Rescue Committee Program Director Aidan Goldsmith

The International Rescue Committee restarted programs in Iraq in November 2007 and Aidan Goldsmith recently arrived to head up the relief effort. He shares his thoughts on the bleak humanitarian situation in Iraq and how the IRC is working to improve conditions for some of the most vulnerable families.

Five years after the start of the war in Iraq, how would you describe conditions for Iraqi people who have been displaced by violence?

Over 2.5 million people are internally displaced by the ongoing conflict and they need help now more than ever. It would not be a stretch to describe the situation for ordinary Iraqis as dire and as time goes on, the circumstances are not improving. Both uprooted families and the communities hosting them have few services that are functioning. There are pressing needs in all essential services including water, shelter, sanitation, food, health care and work opportunities. Women and children are especially vulnerable.



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Violence against them is on the rise and they are suffering in all sorts of ways as a result of the deteriorating health and education systems.

Are children able to go to school amid the ongoing violence?

Schools that are open are strained beyond capacity. In areas with huge influxes of internally displaced people, students now have to go to classes in shifts. What this means is that children are now getting little more than three hours of schooling a day, in classrooms with as many as 60 pupils. The reality for many of the kids is even if they are attending school, they have very little opportunity to learn.

In volatile areas of the country, it is not uncommon for parents to keep their children home from school because of violence on the streets. They are afraid their children could get caught in the cross fire.

Our concern is that the longer kids are out of school, the less likely they will return and that's a situation that we want to avoid. Children who drop out of school or can't go because of violence are missing out on the only social and emotional support systems available to them. Among other things, they will have fewer work opportunities down the line.

We're really afraid that there's going to be a generation of children who missed out on primary and secondary education. That's going to have a major impact on Iraq's future recovery.

What is the IRC doing to help children who have fallen behind in their schooling?

We're starting programs in northern and southern Iraq that aim to help children catch up on missed schooling. We're especially targeting displaced children because they are having the most trouble keeping up.

This summer, we are running accelerated learning classes for three months at Qalawa Camp in Suleimanyah in Northern Iraq. Families have been living there for as long as two years. Most of the children there have been in and out of school depending on the levels of violence in their communities of origin. Many of these kids have restarted school in Suleimanyah, but are now way behind for their age. So we want to do everything we can to help them catch up. There are hundreds of children in the camp and absolutely nothing for them to do over the summer, so this program will also provide recreational activities, sports and art classes.



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We also just received a donation from Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt to rehabilitate three congested schools in Najaf and Karbala that are hosting more than 2,000 displaced children. So we hope to begin work on new classrooms and other renovations this summer and launch accelerated learning programs for children who are behind in their studies soon after.

We've identified more than a dozen other schools in and around Najaf that need help to accommodate influxes of displaced kids and we're looking for assistance to do that.

We've already completed construction of new classrooms at an overcrowded school near Erbil in Northern Iraq. The school's student population had more than doubled in size as more and more displaced families fled to the area.

You've spent time speaking with Iraqi families. How come they are not returning home?

Despite the fact that they are living in abysmal conditions, the vast majority of displaced Iraqis do not want to return to their communities out of fear of the violence that awaits them. Many of the displaced have had family members killed as a result of sectarian violence or have witnessed events too horrible to recount. Their fear is genuine and runs deep. Also, many of their homes have either been destroyed or occupied by other families since fleeing, so they don't necessarily have anywhere to return to.

What impacts you the most about the stories you hear from the people you are assisting?

The most heartbreaking thing is how much their lives have changed for the worst. Baghdad used to be a thriving city where people of all ethnicities lived together in relative peace. Many of the Iraqis I have spoken to cannot believe how divided and violent the country has become. Iraqis were hard working and highly educated. So many families have lost everything including loved ones, homes and businesses as a result of the conflict. They have lost faith in the government and feel the authorities have provided little help, leaving them to fend for themselves in squalid conditions. Thankfully community members that are hosting them have been generous in providing things like clothing and household items. But generally, they are living day-to-day, waiting to see what happens, and with little optimism that anything will change soon. It is not surprising that many are traumatized and living with a profound sense of hopelessness.

http://news.newamericamedia.org/news/view_article.html?article_id=e28402de2c3b4634c0435df8e309b1d5

- Theological university and seminary leave unsafe Baghdad and head north (01/04/2007)



Babel College and the Chaldean major seminary were officially transferred to Kurdistan after months of closure following kidnappings and threats leveled at Christians. The decision had already been in the pipeline for some time: between September and December, the rector and vice-rector of the seminary were kidnapped in Baghdad.

Erbil (AsiaNews) – From Dora, the traditional Christian neighbourhood in Baghdad, to the eastern part of the Iraqi capital and finally to Kurdistan: this is the “required route” that some eminent Christian institutions in Iraq have been forced to follow to survive. The kidnapping of priests, attacks and threats have pushed the Chaldean Patriarchate in Baghdad to transfer Babel College – the only Christian theological university in the country – and St Peter’s major seminary close to Erbil.

The move had been in the pipeline for some time – the buildings that will host these institutions in Ankawa had already been identified and rented – but the decision to transfer was made official only today, 4 January. It was the bishop of Erbil, Mgr Rabban al Qas, who informed AsiaNews. He is hosting the students in the bishop’s house until works are completed.

From Dora to Ankawa, the “forced move” of Babel College and the major seminary started on 1 August 2004. On that day, the Chaldean Church of St Peter and St Paul near the major seminary was one of four churches in the capital hit simultaneously by car bombs. Fifteen people were killed and the church and seminary were damaged. Since then, as some diaspora Iraqis recall in their blog, Baghdad Hope, Christians no longer felt safe and started to move – first slowly and then at an increasingly frenetic pace – to safer neighbourhoods like Baghdad Jadida (New Baghdad). The major seminary has been closed since the beginning of summer. In September, the vice-rector, Fr Salem Basel Yaldo, was kidnapped when he ventured out of the building, which he rarely did. In December, the rector was taken, Fr Samy Al Raiys, and kept in captivity for a week. For months, Babel College was also closed and the reopening of its courses was postponed for the umpteenth time after the kidnapping of Fr Samy who was supposed to preside over the imminent inauguration of the academic year. The rector disappeared as he was going to the Church of Mar Khorkhis (St George), Baghdad Jadida, where the college and seminary were supposed to be shifted to. But the excessive danger led to a drastic decision: move to the north of the country.

This transfer together with the inauguration in mid-November of the Syrian-Catholic seminary in Bakhdida (Qaraqosh) reveals that the north of Iraq, under Kurdish control, is currently the only safe place for Iraqi Christians.



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- **The destruction of Iraq's education** (Dirk Adriaensens, 18 June 2008)

"The Education system in Iraq, prior to 1991, was one of the best in the region; with over 100% Gross Enrolment Rate for primary schooling and high levels of literacy, both of men and women. The Higher Education, especially the scientific and technological institutions, were of an international standard, staffed by high quality personnel". (UNESCO Fact Sheet, March 28, [2003](#))¹.

Occupation and destruction of educational institutes

As a result of U.S. ongoing Occupation of Iraq, today Iraq is more illiterate than it was five or a twenty-five years ago, because the U.S. Administration and U.S. forces occupying Iraq began to root and destroy every aspect of Iraq's education.

Iraqi educational system was the target of U.S. military action, because education is the backbone of any society. Without an efficient education system, no society can function. Iraqi schools and universities were bombed and destroyed.

Looting.

The [director](#)² of the United Nations University International Leadership Institute has published a [report](#)³ on 27 April 2005 detailing that since the start of the war of 2003 some 84% of Iraq's higher education institutions have been burnt, looted or destroyed.

Like most higher education institutions across Iraq, Baghdad University escaped almost unscathed from the bombing. In the subsequent looting and burning, 20 of the capital's colleges were destroyed. No institution escaped: the faculty of education in Waziriyya was raided daily for two weeks; the veterinary college in Abu Ghraib lost all its equipment; two buildings in the faculty of fine arts stand smoke-blackened against the skyline. In every college, in every classroom, you could write "education" in the dust on the [tables](#).⁴

¹ http://portal.unesco.org/es/ev.php-URL_ID=11216&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

² http://www.la.unu.edu/about_staff_reddy.asp

³ <http://www.unu.edu/news/ili/Iraq.doc>

⁴ <http://www.brusselstribunal.org/academicsArticles.htm#weed-out>



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Ongoing violence has destroyed school buildings and around a quarter of all Iraq's primary schools need major rehabilitation. Since March 2003, more than 700 primary schools have been bombed, 200 have been burnt and over 3,000 [looted](#).⁵

Between March 2003 and October 2008, 31,598 violent attacks against educational institutions were reported in Iraq, according to the Ministry of Education (MoE)

Occupying schools.

"it certainly is our policy to not establish military headquarters or other operations in protected areas under the Geneva Convention," said Lt. Col. Gary Keck, a spokesman for the Department of Defense in Washington, when a journalist asked why the US army occupied a girls' and boys' school of a town in northern [Iraq](#).⁶

At a UN press briefings in Amman on 30 April 2003, the question was asked: "Do you know of any other schools that are still occupied & would you ask them of making a point to stay away from the schools, so they can be rehabilitated?"

Answer: S. Ingram: *I am not aware of any other places that this situation holds. I remember the incident you referred to, there was a school in the north & some contacts were necessary to persuade the US troops there to leave the premises, which they subsequently did. I am not aware of any other places where schools are being [occupied](#).*⁷

A clever answer: *"I'm not aware"*. Because occupying schools is exactly what the US Army did (and still do) on a regular basis. I heard and read numerous stories of Iraqi protests after US Forces occupied schools and educational institutions.

The origins of armed resistance in Fallujah f.i. can be traced almost precisely to April 28, 2003, when U.S. troops, who had arrived in the city five days earlier, massacred 17 apparently unarmed protesters. The April 28 protest had demanded an end to Fallujah's occupation and, more specifically, that U.S. troops vacate the al Qaid primary school, where classes had been scheduled to resume on [April 29](#).⁸

⁵ <http://www.islamic-relief.com/ecamp/orphans-iraq/education-iraq.htm>

⁶ <http://www.csmonitor.com/2003/0404/p07s01-woiq.html>

⁷ <http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/iraq/infocusnews.asp?NewsID=509&sID=9>

⁸ <http://www.worldpress.org/Mideast/2183.cfm> and <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2004/mar/17/iraq.rorymccarthy>



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And it is still continuing. On the 29th of February 2008, the Association of Muslim Scholars (AMSI) published a press release condemning the American occupation forces for the seizure of an Islamic Secondary School in [Baghdad](#).⁹

On the 1st of May 2008, the Iraqi News Agency “Voices of Iraq”, reported that: “The U.S. military withdrew from a building of the education department in Sadr City in eastern Baghdad, which they used it as a barrack last month.”¹⁰

MNF-I, the Iraqi Army and Iraqi police units occupied more than 70 school buildings for military purposes in the Diyala governorate alone.

The [Hague IV Conventions](#)¹¹ on Laws and Customs of War on Land, 1917, make explicit, in Article 56, that educational institutions are to be regarded as private property, and thus must not be pillaged or destroyed, that occupying forces in war are bound to protect such property and that proceedings should follow their intentional damage, seizure or destruction. Article 55 reinforces this duty relative to all public buildings and capital. Further, an occupying power is obliged, according to Articles 43 and 46, to protect life and take all steps in its power to reestablish and ensure “public order and safety”.

In addition, [The Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict](#)¹² (ratified by the Republic of Iraq in 1967) creates a clear obligation to protect museums, libraries and archives, and other sites of cultural property. Paragraph 1 of Article 4 notes: “The High Contracting Parties undertake to respect cultural property situated within their own territory as well as within the territory of other High Contracting Parties by refraining from any use of the property and its immediate surroundings or of the appliances in use for its protection for purposes which are likely to expose it to destruction or damage in the event of armed conflict; and by refraining from any act of hostility, directed against such property.”

De-Baathification

The ruling that most directly impacted upon the universities, educational institutes and staff after the invasion is CPA *Order Number 1: De-Baathification of Iraqi Society*, issued on 16 May 2003. Section 2 reads:

⁹ <http://heyetnet.org/en/content/view/2670/33/>

¹⁰ http://www.iraquupdates.com/p_articles.php?refid=DH-S-01-05-2008&article=30525

¹¹ <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/lawofwar/hague04.htm>

¹² http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=13637&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html



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Full members of the Baath Party holding ranks of...Regional Command Member,...Branch Member...Section Member,...and Group Member... are hereby removed from their positions and banned from future employment in the public [sector](#).¹³

When Baghdad University and Iraq's other colleges re-opened in September 2003, around 2,000 senior staff had been told to stay at home, Dr Kubaisy, a former professor in Baghdad University's college of medicine, estimated. Although they were Ba'ath party members, none was connected to the former regime's security apparatus. "It's collective punishment. It's conviction without any charge," Dr Kubaisy said. "I'm becoming a bit paranoid but I think the Americans intend to force Iraqi brains to go [abroad](#)"¹⁴. Dr. Husam al-Rawi, a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects and a former head of the architecture department in Baghdad University stated: "Instead of targeting a thousand or a few hundred people, they targeted [80,000](#)."¹⁵

Senior Journalist Robert Fisk about the consequences of the de-baathification on 14 July 2004:

"In the early weeks of his occupation proconsulship, Paul Bremer fired all senior academics who were members of the Baath party. "They went home and tried to leave the country," another Baghdad arts professor complained. "But those who stayed are now mostly too frightened to return because they have been named - and they fear for their lives."

Yesterday morning, I visited one arts department at the university to find it entirely empty of staff. Each teacher's room was closed with a large [padlock](#)."¹⁶

The killing spree of Iraqi academics started in April 2003. The first wave of assassinations coincided with the invasion of the country.

Hit lists.

On the 11th of April 2003, a number of Iraqi scientists and university professors sent an SOS e-mail complaining American occupation forces were threatening their [lives](#).¹⁷

The appeal message said that looting and robberies were being taken place under the watchful eye of the occupation soldiers.

¹³ <http://web.mit.edu/cis/www/miteimes/OpeningDoors.pdf> and http://www.iraqcoalition.org/regulations/20030516_CPAORD_1_De-Ba_athification_of_Iraqi_Society_.pdf

¹⁴ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2003/aug/30/internationaleducationnews.iraq>

¹⁵ <http://www.csmonitor.com/2003/0626/p06s01-woiq.html>

¹⁶ http://news.independent.co.uk/world/middle_east/story.jsp?story=540648

¹⁷ <http://www.islamonline.net/english/news/2003-04/12/article02.shtml>



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The occupation soldiers, the e-mail added, were transporting mobs to the scientific institutions, such as Mosul University and different educational institutions, to destroy scientific research centers and confiscate all papers and documents to nip in the bud any Iraqi scientific renaissance.

The e-mail also noted that occupation forces had drawn up lists of the names, addresses and researches of the Iraqi scientists to assist them in their harassment tasks in light of the chaos and anarchy¹⁸ that sit in after the toppling¹⁹ of the Iraqi regime on April, 9.

At an April 4 Pentagon media briefing, Army Major General Stanley McChrystal boasted that the contribution of special forces to the US operation had been “unprecedented.” Another senior official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said more than 10,000 special operations troops were involved in Iraq—the largest number for any US war since [Vietnam](#).²⁰

On the 18th of April 2003, IslamOnline.net & News Agencies reported that some 150 Israeli commandoes were inside Iraq on a mission to assassinate 500 Iraqi scientists, a retired French general told the French TV Channel 5 on Friday, April 18.

He asserted that Israel was seeking to liquidate 500 Iraqi armament scientists who were involved in the country’s biological, chemical and nuclear weapons, reported the Israeli *Maariv* newspaper which carried the [news](#).²¹

In June 2006 it was discovered that a hit list was being circulated among Iraqi assassins, calling for the murder of 461 scientists, university officials, engineers, doctors and journalists in Iraq (see [Hit list names hundreds of Iraqi scientists](#)²²),²³

Scientists arrested or killed.

Dr. Huda Salih Mahdi Ammash was taken into custody by coalition forces on the 4th of May 2003. A U.S. Central Command news release issued after her capture described Ammash (*Mrs. Anthrax*) as: "a Ba'ath Party Regional Command member and weapons of mass destruction scientist. She was No. 53 on the U.S. Central Command 'Iraqi Top 55' list." But Andrew Dwinell, the co-publisher of South End Press, says United Nations weapons inspectors did not believe Ammash aided in the production of biological weapons

¹⁸<http://www.islamonline.net/english/news/2003-04/11/article13.shtml>

¹⁹<http://www.islamonline.net/English/News/2003-04/09/article09.shtml>

²⁰<http://www.wsws.org/articles/2003/apr2003/cia-a08.shtml>

²¹<http://www.islamonline.net/English/News/2003-04/18/article09.shtml>

²²<http://www.scidev.net/News/index.cfm?fuseaction=readnews&itemid=2948&language=1>

²³<http://www.scidev.net/en/news/cash-injection-for-iraqi-scientist-rescue-fund.html>



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or other weapons of mass destruction and that Ammash's detainment was politically [motivated](#)²⁴. "The U.S. government is trying to silence Dr. Ammash's outspoken criticism of the U.S. role in causing cancers and other illnesses in Iraq through its own use of biologically hazardous weapons such as radioactive depleted uranium."

Dr. Ammash, an environmental biologist and professor and dean at Baghdad University, received her Ph.D from the University of Missouri. She has earned international respect for her publications, particularly her documentation of the rise in cancers among Iraqi children and war veterans since the Gulf War. In "Iraq Under Siege" she writes: "Iraqi death rates have increased significantly, with cancer representing a significant cause of mortality, especially in the south and among [children](#)²⁵." Dr. Ammash's other publications include: "Impact of Gulf War Pollution in the Spread of Infectious Diseases in Iraq," (Soli Al-Mondo, Rome, 1999), and "Electromagnetic, Chemical, and Microbiological Pollution Resulting from War and Embargo, and Its Impact on the Environment and Health," (Journal of the [Iraqi] Academy of Science, 1997).

Dr. Ammash has not been charged with any crime; the US authorities have refused her legal access. Eventually they had to release her. Others were not so lucky: Dr. Mohammed Al azmirli was tortured to death in US custody after his arrest in April [2003](#).²⁶

It was reported on 26 February 2004 that a senior Iraqi scientist who had been involved in Iraq's nuclear program was found murdered in Baghdad, according to U.S. officials. It was the ninth assassination of Iraqi scientists in the previous four months, reported Geostrategy-Direct, the global intelligence news [service](#)²⁷. The last killing was that of Iraqi aeronautical scientist Muhyi Hussein. The official comment of the US afterwards was a typical example of disinformation, given the fact that the Iraqi scientists already knew their lives were threatened by the US invaders: "*Although the reason for the assassination campaign is unclear, U.S. officials believe the killings represent an effort to conceal the scope of Iraq's nuclear program.*"

The LA Times reported on the 21st of January 2004: Gunned down only 12 hours after advocating direct elections on an Arab television talk show, Abdul Latif Mayah was the fourth professor from Baghdad's Mustansiriya University to be killed in the last eight months, his death the latest in a series of academic slayings in post-Hussein Iraq. "His assassination is part of a plan in this country, targeting any intellectual

²⁴ <http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/912256/posts>

²⁵ <http://www.casi.org.uk/discuss/2003/msg02406.html>

²⁶ <http://www.commondreams.org/headlines04/0528-07.htm>

²⁷ http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=37299



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in this country, any free voice," said Salam Rais, one of Mayah's students. "He is the martyr of the free world."²⁸

The New York Times reported On the 7th of February 2004 that hundreds of intellectuals and midlevel administrators had been assassinated since May 2003 in a widening campaign against Iraq's professional class, according to Iraqi officials.

"They are going after our brains," said Lt. Col. Jabbar Abu Natiha, head of the organized crime unit of the Baghdad police. "It is a big operation. Maybe even a movement."

American and Iraqi officials say there is no tally of all the professionals assassinated. But Lt. Akmad Mahmoud, of the Baghdad police, said there had been "hundreds" of professionals killed in Baghdad. Mr. Saadi, the Baghdad city council member who works closely with the police, estimated the number at from 500 to 1,000.²⁹

The Independent-UK states on 7 Dec 2006 that "more than 470 academics have been killed. Buildings have been burnt and looted in what appears to be a random spree of violence aimed at Iraqi academia ³⁰."

The Iraqi minister of education has said that 296 members of education staff were killed in 2005 alone. According to the UN office for humanitarian affairs 180 teachers have been killed since 2006, up to 100 have been kidnapped and over 3,250 have fled the country^{31 32}. The BRussells Tribunal's list of murdered Iraqi academics contains 372 names until 01 June 2008 ³³.

Brain drain.

On 6th April 2004, Al Jazeera reported: "Occupied Iraq is suffering a new brain drain as intellectuals flood out of the country to avoid unemployment and an organised killing campaign. In recent months assassinations have targeted engineers, pharmacologists, officers, and lawyers. More than 1000 leading Iraqi professionals and intellectuals have been assassinated since last April, among them such prominent figures as Dr Muhammad al-Rawi, the president of Baghdad University. The identity of the assailants remains a mystery and none have been caught." "Media reports suggest that more than 3000 Iraqi

²⁸ <http://www.brusselstribunal.org/academicsArticles.htm#another>

²⁹ <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/02/07/international/middleeast/07ASSA.html?ex=1391490000&en=1d4f662cec46b775&ei=5007&partner=USERLAND>

³⁰ <http://www.brusselstribunal.org/academicsArticles.htm#meltdown>

³¹ <http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=1929>

³² <http://www.azzaman.com/english/index.asp?fname=news\2007-03-15\kurd1.htm>

³³ <http://www.brusselstribunal.org/academicsList.htm>



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academics and high-profile professionals have left Iraq recently, not to mention the thousands of Iraqis who are travelling out of the country every day in search of work and [safety](#).”³⁴

On the 30th of April 2004, the Christian Science Monitor noted that Dr. Saad Jawad still speaks out. But like other university professors across Iraq, he is increasingly afraid that saying what he thinks - or saying anything political at all - could get him killed. "To tell the truth, at the time of Saddam Hussein, we used to speak to our students freely," says Jawad. "Ministers, for example, were criticized all the time. But now, a lot of people are not willing to say these kinds of things because of fear."

Over the past year, Baghdad's intelligentsia has seen a wave of killings: scientists, professors, and academics, executed in carefully planned assassinations, the article claims.

It's hard to estimate the toll, but US occupation authorities put the number of "intellectuals and professionals" assassinated at up to five a month, not counting another five to 10 monthly attempts. By some counts, as many as 40 of Iraq's leading scientists and university professors have been killed since last April. The Iraqi police say 1,000 of the country's intellectuals may have been executed in the past [year](#).³⁵

Ripping open an envelope containing a small, hard object, Sadoun Dulame discovered the unwanted gift Iraq's academics have learned to dread.

"They sent me a bullet," he said, describing the letter he received last month. "They said in Arabic: 'You cost us just one bullet, no more, so shut your mouth'."

Death threats and assassinations are teaching Iraqi academics to watch what they say.

Some academics believe there is a deliberate attempt to scare academics away from Iraq in a "brain drain" that will undermine the country's institutions, although there is no clear consensus on who might be behind such a plan. "I believe there's a big campaign to intimidate and liquidate the intellectuals and well-educated people in the country," said an academic at the university in Mosul, a city in northern Iraq where five lecturers have been murdered.

"The interim government should take responsibility for stopping this bloody campaign," he said.

There are no figures for how many of Iraq's 17,000 lecturers have left since the fall of Saddam, but education officials say they fear the number may rise if intimidation continues.

The government estimates that at least 80 per cent of the killings of lecturers are for political reasons, but says the chances of tracking down the culprits are slim.

³⁴ <http://english.aljazeera.net/English/archive/archive?Archived=2811>

³⁵ <http://www.csmonitor.com/2004/0430/p11s01-woiq.html>



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"So far we haven't even caught one of the killers," Higher Education Minister Tahir Bakka told Reuters. "That makes it hard to determine which group might be responsible.", the Jordan Times reported on [18 July 2004](#) ³⁶

According to Zuheir Al-Maliki, a judge at the Iraqi Central Criminal Court, only three recent cases of kidnapping had been investigated. One such incident involved members of the Iraqi National Congress (INC) chaired by Ahmed Chalabi. The recent raid on INC offices in Baghdad was partly in response to one doctor's claim that three INC members, Sabah Nuri, Aras Habid and Amer Mohamed, had been involved in his [kidnapping](#).³⁷

Fakhri Al Qaisi, assistant dean of the College of Dentistry, told *Gulf News* on 6 January 2006: "Professors in all medical departments are panic-stricken, while many others have fled to neighbouring and other countries."

"It is noted that most dentistry section professors have received letters of threat. The assassinations are linked to Israeli Mossad," Al Qaisi said.

He claimed that the Iraqi National Congress Party began abducting physicians and university professors after the US occupation, a time when assassinations increased dramatically and that the party was backed by the Mossad.

The questions being asked by common Iraqis in the street and by politicians are whether Mossad really exists in Iraq and, if so, where its operations centres are and which Iraqi parties are supporting it?

Omar Al Hajj, a professor at the University of Technology said: "*Death squads accused of killing Iraqi professionals and scientists are the same forces that invaded Iraq, looted its museums and stole its banks.*"

*"They are also the same parties, which abduct businessmen and foreigners for high [ransoms](#)."*³⁸

On Dec 2, 2007 hundreds of university students and professors took to the streets in Amara city protesting the abduction of a technical institute dean and urging the government to put an end to mounting attacks against Iraqi intellectuals.

"Today's demonstration denounces attacks against the Iraqi intelligentsia, which security forces remain unable to halt...", a professor from Missan University, Dr. Bassim al-Rubaie, told the independent news agency Voices of Iraq (VOI).

"Supported by foreign bodies, organized gangs from all over Iraq are seeking to empty Iraqi universities

³⁶ <http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/1173739/posts>

³⁷ <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2004/694/re7.htm>

³⁸

http://archive.gulfnews.com/articles/print_friendly_version.jsp?global_name=/channels/gulfnews.com/articles/06/07/29/10055723.html



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and institutes of professors. Other gangs aim at financial gains from the release of hostages," al-Rubaie indicated.³⁹

Here's a message from an Iraqi professor, who has been able to escape the Iraqi Armageddon:

I am a female Iraqi academic forced to leave Iraq on 2 August 2006. On 17 July 2006 I was kidnapped, tortured and threatened to be killed with my daughter if didn't leave Iraq within few days. I have a PhD in (omitted) and was a member of staff at (omitted), University of Technology in Baghdad, Iraq.

I had no time to contact the Iraqi Academic Association to report the incident because I hid when received the threat until I fled Iraq.

Thank you for your effort to document the assassinations and threats to Iraqi academics. The real situation in Iraq is much worse than anything mentioned in the news or any report. Not all the incidents were documented in your website. Personally, I knew many academics at University of Technology were threatened and forced to flee Iraq after the occupation and for one reason or another they might not have the time to report the threats to the Iraqi Academic Association. Among them Head of Control and Systems Eng. Dept., Prof Dr Ali Althamir, Spectrum specialist at Applied Sciences Dept., Dr Mohammad Radhi, a member of staff at Building and Construction Dept., Dr Ghanim Abdul Rahman and many others.

The universities, which are directly linked to Iraq's future, are on the verge of [collapse](#)⁴⁰.

The destruction of Iraq's Middle Class

The Ministry of Displacement and Migration said that at least 30 per cent of the total numbers of professors, doctors, pharmacists and engineers in Iraq have fled to neighbouring countries like Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and United Arab States (UAE) but some have travelled to as far as the US, Canada, Australia and Britain. He noted that the numbers of academics fleeing the country or killed could be higher and the ministry has no latest [figures](#)⁴¹.

³⁹

<http://www.aswataliraq.info/look/english/article.tpl?IdLanguage=1&IdPublication=4&NrArticle=61871&NrIssue=2&NrSection=1&search1=search>

⁴⁰ <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=7070116>

⁴¹ <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=62983>



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Academics are not the only middle class people being killed: during the first 4 months of 2006, 311 teachers were killed, 182 pilots, 416 senior military officers, and 20.000 people were kidnapped.

Indisputably, the war in Iraq is the deadliest war for journalists in recorded history. According to the BRussells Tribunal tallies, the death toll of media professionals in the Iraq war stands at **318**, since the invasion until [June 2008](#).⁴²

Killed Media Professionals of Iraqi Nationality

Journalist, reporter	169		
Cameraman	24		
Photographer	6		
Administrative	37	(incl. staff employees, directors, producers)	
Translator	12		
Driver	15		
Security guard	12		
Technician (incl. soundman)	13	Killed Media Professionals of Iraqi Nationality	288

Non-Iraqi Media Professionals, killed in Iraq	24	Media Professionals of non-Iraqi Nationality who died in Iraq of non violent causes	6
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Total Media professionals killed in the Iraq war:	312
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Total Media professionals who died in the Iraq war:	318
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MALE	288
FEMALE	30

Iraq war deadliest conflict in history for media professionals.

⁴² <http://www.brusseltribunal.org/JournalistKilled.htm>



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Year	Iraqi media workers killed	Non Iraqi	Total
2003	6	20	26
2004	51	6	57
2005	55	1	56
2006	87	2	89
2007	80	1	81
2008	9	0	9
Total:	288	30	318

List updated:

4/06/2008

On the 20th of March 2008, Reporters Without Borders reported that hundreds of journalists were forced into exile since the start of US-led [invasion](#).⁴³

The International Medical Corps reports that populations of teachers in Baghdad have fallen by 80% and medical personnel seem to have left in disproportionate [numbers](#) ⁴⁴.

Medical NGO “Medact” reported on 16 January 2008 that up to 75 percent of Iraq's doctors, pharmacists and nurses have left their jobs since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. More than half of those have emigrated.⁴⁵

The Iraq Index, compiled by the Brookings Institution in Washington, released on 16 April 2007, estimated that up to 40 percent of Iraq's professionals had fled the country since [2003](#) ⁴⁶. They claim that 2,000 Iraqi physicians had been murdered under US occupation until [april 2006](#).⁴⁷

Hundreds of legal workers have left the country. At least 210 lawyers and judges killed since the US-led invasion in 2003, in addition to dozens injured in attacks against them.⁴⁸

Religious personalities, Christians, Yezidis and Muslims alike, are being killed in great numbers. Here is a list of assassinated Sunni [Imams and Mosque workers](#).⁴⁹

⁴³ <http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/91864>

⁴⁴ <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/AMMF-727BUF?OpenDocument&rc=3&emid=ACOS-635P5D>

⁴⁵ <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSL16828588>

⁴⁶ <http://www3.brookings.edu/fp/saban/iraq/index.pdf>

⁴⁷ <http://www.brusselstribunal.org/ArticlesOnIraq.htm#doctors>

⁴⁸ <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=71864>

⁴⁹ <http://www.brusselstribunal.org/mosqueAssassinated.htm>



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On Tuesday 14 November 2006 paramilitary gunmen in the uniforms of Iraqi National Police commandos raided a building belonging to the Ministry of Education in Baghdad's Karrada district and arrested around 100 members of staff from two departments and around 50 visitors, according to lists compiled by the Minister of Education.

The raid took place in broad daylight, 1km from the Green Zone, in an area that contained several high-security compounds, including the department where passports are issued. According to a [BBC correspondent](#) the Karrada area, occupying an isthmus in the River Tigris, is 'well protected with a heavy presence of Iraqi troops and several checkpoints'.

Several of the personnel were killed or tortured. Until now, the fate of many of these kidnapped persons remains unknown.

Violence on the Campus.

The exodus of academics has dramatically lowered educational [standards](#)⁵⁰. But the brain drain and assassination of academics are not the only reason for the collapse of the educational system.

On top of the killings of education personnel, educational institutions and students are targeted.

On 11 December 2006, a car bomb exploded in a car park of Al-Ma'amoon College in Al-Iskan district in Baghdad, killing one person and injuring four. One student was killed and another 6 injured in a roadside bomb explosion on the same morning in front of the Al-Mustansiriyah [University](#)⁵¹.

On 16 January 2007, [at least 65 students were killed](#)⁵² and 110 others injured in a double attack on targeting Al-Mustansiriyah University in Baghdad.

On 29 January 2007 an attack against a girls' school in Baghdad left five students dead and more than 20 [injured](#)⁵³.

⁵⁰ <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=62983>

⁵¹ <http://www.uniraq.org/FileLib/misc/HR%20Report%20Nov%20Dec%202006%20EN.pdf>

⁵² <http://www.brusseltribunal.org/academicsArticles.htm#double>

⁵³ <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=66296>



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Mohammed Abdul-Aziz, a statistician at the Ministry of Education, told IRIN that at least 110 children had been killed and 95 injured since 2005 in [attacks on schools](#)⁵⁴. These numbers do not include children killed or injured on their way to or from [school](#).⁵⁵

The intimidation campaign against educational institutes persists.

On 3 December 2007 unknown gunmen opened fire on a teacher in Ali al-Hadi preparatory school in al-Qebala region in western Basra, killing him on the spot in front of his students," "The dead man was a mathematics teacher in the school," the source [told](#).⁵⁶

On 31 January 2008 unknown gunmen kidnapped five university students in Mosul, Ninewa police said. The source noted "the students were getting back to their homes in al-Sharqat district, 80 km south of [Mosul](#)"⁵⁷.

On 6 April 2008 Gunmen kidnapped 42 university students near Iraq's northern city of Mosul. They were freed later [that day](#).⁵⁸

In May 2008, residents and government officials of Sadr City accused the Mahdi Army of closing down 86 schools and threatening teachers, staff and families of students.

Insecurity threatens Iraq's education

"Education in my area is collapsing," said on 05 October 2006 a teacher from a high school in Amariya who quit four months earlier. "Children can't get to school because of road blocks. The parents of others have simply withdrawn them from the school because of the fear of kidnapping.

"If children have to travel by car, we are much less likely to see them. When I left, we had 50% attendance. We see parents when they come in to ask for the children to have a 'vacation', and they admit they are too scared to let them come.

"Between September 8 and 28 two members of the staff were murdered. The staff was supposed to be 42. Now there are [only 20](#)."⁵⁹

⁵⁴ <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=66296>

⁵⁵ <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=70697>

⁵⁶ http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24667

⁵⁷ http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/26818

⁵⁸ <http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/1997505/posts>

⁵⁹ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2006/oct/05/highereducation.internationaleducationnews>



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Violence since the U.S.-led invasion has driven thousands of students away, with enrollment off by more than half at some universities in 2006 alone, [officials said](#)⁶⁰. Universities in other parts of the country are open, but [have become deserted](#)⁶¹.

The situation of total absence of law and security has also led to a worsening situation because of threats from inside the classrooms. Hassan Khalid Hayderi, 54, is a professor of mathematics at Basra University, 550km south of the capital, Baghdad. He and his family are leaving Iraq because he has received death threats from students demanding easy exams and better marks. *"The situation is even worse for women teachers. You barely find them giving lessons because most of them either have fled the country or have been forced to leave the colleges. Today, they are suffering without a job to support their kids. The government isn't doing anything to protect us. In the southern areas especially you depend on [local] tribes to give you the minimum of protection but with violence increasing, even tribal leaders are becoming [useless](#)."⁶²*

The violence against education institutions and teachers has also prompted a sharp decline in school attendance. According to recent statistics from the Ministry of Education, only about 30 percent of Iraq's 3.5 million school-aged children are currently attending classes, compared to 75 percent in the previous [school year](#)⁶³.

According to a report released in 2006 by NGO Save the Children, 818,000 primary school-aged children, representing 22 percent of Iraq's student population, were not attending [school](#).⁶⁴

A joint study by the Iraqi Ministry of Education and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) found that of those who do not attend school, 74 percent are female. Aid agencies estimate that thousands of Iraqi parents do not send their daughters to school for cultural reasons and because of the general insecurity in the [country](#).⁶⁵

They add that schools and universities are likely to continue emptying throughout 2007 if there is no let up to current levels of violence and the displacement it causes.

In 1982, UNESCO awarded Iraq a prize for eradicating illiteracy⁶⁶. At the time, Iraq had one of highest rates of literacy for women. In 2004, UNESCO estimated that the literacy rates for adults—after a year of

⁶⁰ <http://www.washingtontimes.com/world/20070118-101338-1968r.htm>

⁶¹ <http://www.wsws.org/articles/2007/jan2007/stud-j31.shtml>

⁶² <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=71201>

⁶³ <http://www.ei-ie.org/en/article/show.php?id=56&theme=statusofteachers>

⁶⁴ <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=70697>

⁶⁵ <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=70697>

⁶⁶ <http://www.wsws.org/articles/2007/jan2007/stud-j31.shtml>



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American occupation and 12 years of UN-sponsored sanctions—stood at 74 percent. A UNESCO survey conducted in January 2007 estimated that only 37 percent of women in the countryside are now literate.

A December 2007 [UNICEF report](#)⁶⁷ concluded that:

- Many of the 220,000 displaced children of primary school age had their education interrupted.
- An estimated 760,000 children (17 per cent) did not go to primary schools in 2006.
- An average 25,000 children per month were displaced by violence or intimidation, with their families seeking shelter in other parts of Iraq.
- In 2007, approximately 75,000 children had resorted to living in camps or temporary shelters.
- Hundreds of children lost their lives or were injured by violence and many more had their main family wage-earner kidnapped or killed.
- Only 28 per cent of Iraq's 17 year olds sat their final exams in summer, and only 40 per cent of those sitting exams achieved a passing grade (in south and central Iraq).

A comprehensive study on women's and families' living conditions, carried out by Dr. Souad Al Azzawi in [August 2007](#)⁶⁸, concluded that 20% of the students in the studied families were failing school. Major causes include emotional damage as a result of having one or more family members killed and an inability to focus.

50% of the students in the studied population were school dropouts. Major causes of quitting include a lack of security and forced displacement or migration. Male student dropouts are higher in number than females.

She concludes:

“Inside Iraq, the higher number of failing male students is largely due to the fact that they are being targeted for kidnappings, imprisonment, raids, assassinations, etc. so they constantly have to move or go into hiding. In refugee areas, male students tend to miss school attendance in order to help support their families financially by taking on menial labour jobs.”

⁶⁷ http://www.unicef.org/media/media_42256.html

⁶⁸ <http://www.brusselstribunal.org/pdf/WomenUnderOccupation.pdf>



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She continues: “ Male school dropouts make up 54.6 % of the total male students in the studied population. Female school dropouts are 45.2 % of the total female students in the studied population. Again, we notice that the percentage of male student dropouts is higher than female student dropouts because the males do not stay in their residential areas and keep away from militias and American troops and police. It is also noticed that the condition of children in forced displacement families inside of Iraq are worse off than the children of the families who migrated outside the country because the latter have their children register in school once again in neighbouring countries while the former prefer keeping them out of school for their own safety.”

Toilets and material

Damage to school buildings does not just mean classrooms and corridors, many schools are not able to open or have seen a huge drop-out rate because of poor sanitation facilities.

School toilets need to be clean, private and fully functional. Unclean or deteriorated facilities also affect children’s morale and their enthusiasm to attend school. UNICEF studies have shown that girls are less likely to continue going to school if there are no proper sanitation facilities.

Children who attend school have no choice but to use the poor facilities. Most school toilets do not have running water or drainage facilities. This leaves children more vulnerable to health disorders and infections.

As well as damage to school buildings, there is also a huge lack of resources and many schools do not have enough desks, chairs, books or blackboards.

Without furniture in the classroom or basic teaching aids, children find it hard to learn and follow what their teacher is saying.

According to UNICEF, primary school attendance rates have decreased to 60% because of the lack of essential teaching aids and poor sanitation [facilities](#).⁶⁹

A case study: Baghdad’s College of Dentistry.

The college of Dentistry - University of Baghdad was established in the year 1953.

⁶⁹ <http://www.islamic-relief.com/ecamp/orphans-iraq/education-iraq.htm>



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It was a department of the Medical College. In 1958 it became a separate College belonging to the University of Baghdad. It was in this year that the first group of new dentists was graduated.

The College started with 4 dental chairs and it slowly became independent by relying on new Iraqi teaching staff. Now the college is composed of two buildings and contains about 400 dental units.

The Teaching Hospital of the College was founded in 1991, and the hospital possesses many laboratories, clinics and new centers.

The college's staff includes 305 members of the teaching staff (30 professors, 51 assistant professors, 71 lecturers and 153 assistant lecturers), 106 technicians and dental assistants and 190 employees.

The higher studies of the College were established by the Diploma degree which was introduced in 1973, the M.Sc. degree was introduced in 1986, while the Ph.D. degree started in 1995.

The College also participates in teaching and training students enrolled in the Iraqi Board of Maxillofacial surgery.

The College runs continuing education courses in all the fields of [dentistry](#).⁷⁰

Iraq's healthcare system was once a showcase for the rest of the Middle East. Its dentists often studied in Britain or the US, and the country's dental schools boasted high standards.

But more than a decade of international sanctions, followed by years of war, have left healthcare in Iraq no better or even worse than that seen in developing countries.

Throughout the war, Baghdad University's College of Dentistry has continued to house students, with more than 50 currently pursuing their [degree](#).⁷¹

Hassan Abd - Ali Dawood AL-Rubai, Dean of the College of Dentistry at Baghdad University was assassinated while he was leaving the college with his wife, on 20th of December 2004.

Fakhri Al-Qaysi, Dentist in dentistry college, Baghdad was critically injured in an assassination attempt on 15 November 2005 and left the country.

⁷⁰ <http://www.baghdentistry.com/work/about.html>

⁷¹ <http://www.arabianbusiness.com/515183-business-as-usual>



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Others followed.

On 24 April 2007, a bomb hidden in a student's locker exploded at the Dentistry College as students were preparing to attend classes, killing at least one student and wounding several [others](#).⁷²

Munther Murhej Radhi, dean of Baghdad University's Dental College was murdered in his home on [23 January 2008](#).⁷³ According to an article in the Washington Post about this case, more than 80 faculty members from the university had been killed since the U.S.-led invasion in [2003](#).⁷⁴ (Comment of the author of the article: "Iraqi government and police as well as U.S. troops have practically been doing nothing to stop the murderous campaign against these intellectuals.

*Most of the killings are not investigated and university officials, refusing to be named, say they are not aware of any of the alleged killers being brought to [justice](#)."*⁷⁵)

On 02 Feb 2008 gunmen attacked a convoy of Abdul-Kareem al-Mohammedawi, deputy dean of Baghdad's dental college, killing two guards and wounding two others in the Zayouna district of [eastern Baghdad](#).⁷⁶

On Friday 8th Feb 2008 a spokesman for the Iraqi ministry of higher education said U.S. forces raided the Faculty of Dentistry, al-Mustansiriya University, in central Baghdad.

Taqi al-Musawi, the president of al-Mustansiriya University, confirmed the incident.

"The forces broke the faculty gates and destroyed its laboratories," he noted.

"They did not arrest the guards but seized their weapons," the president also said.

He strongly denounced the incident, pointing out the attack was the second of its kind in less than ten [days](#).⁷⁷

On Sunday the 17th of Feb. 2008 Iraqi "security" forces broke into the college of dentistry-Baghdad University. They arrested the former dean of the college Prof.Dr.Osama Al Mulla, Prof.Dr.Riyadh Uttman, and 3 college employees and took them all to unknown place. They've also beaten one [student](#).⁷⁸ Iraqi blogger Lubna commented on this incident: "There's a systematic plan to empty Iraq silently from it's brains. The game goes like this : *THEY threaten the BRAIN. The BRAIN leaves Iraq. If the BRAIN refuses to leave, then THEY kill the BRAIN ! And so many BRAINS had to leave Iraq because of the threats*

⁷² http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/16778

⁷³ http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/26584

⁷⁴ <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/01/23/AR2008012303402.html>

⁷⁵ http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/26584

⁷⁶ <http://uk.reuters.com/article/qc05/idUKL3055213520080202>

⁷⁷ http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/27146

⁷⁸ <http://dijlarq.blogspot.com/2008/02/brains-as-targets.html>



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they've received. So they had to choose between their lives and staying in their country. The cultural structure of our society is beings slowly disrupted day by day, and that -in my opinion- is the greatest loss of my Iraq."

An eye-witness of the raid recalls: "The army took 2 doctors and 3 guards, they placed them in the Humvees and no one knows where they are now...I reached the college immediately after they took the doctors".

"I asked around and reached the true (or what people believe is the true) story. Sunday morning between 10 and 11am a patrol of Humvees for the Iraqi Army or the national guards parked at the gate of the dentistry college and soldiers wearing uniforms entered the college and arrested (or I'd better say Kidnapped) 2 doctors....Dr.Osama AlMola (orthodontist, the chief of orthodontic department and former temporary dean) and Dr.Ryiah AlKaisy (a pathologist and the chief of the pathology department) with three other post graduate students (some say 3 of the college guards) and no one knows where did they take them, at the afternoon they headed to Dr.Fakhri Alfatlaoy's clinic (orthodontist and former dean's assistant for the students affairs) and kidnapped him from his clinic because he wasn't in the college at the time they raided the [college](#)."⁷⁹

An Iraqi citizen wrote to President Bush:

Dear President Bush

The war on Iraq and the Iraqi people has caused untold misery to millions of Iraqis, worse than Hitler inflicted on Europe and the Jews. All of this planned holocaust will paint your administration and other nations that supposed to be free and democratic and being much worst than any Nazi.

This morning, 2-17-2008, College of Dentistry, Baghdad University was raided by Military type persons in 8 Hummers and kidnapped 7 professors to destinations unknown, similarly as it was done about a year ago at the Ministry of Higher Education.

Your war and your Surge have failed and is failing if such atrocities are allowed to take place. YOU opened a Pandora Box and unleashed the worst nightmarish terror of death and destruction on a nation and its people, your name will be linked forever with this modern day Holocaust.

⁷⁹ last-of-iraqis.blogspot.com/2008/02/dentistry-college-ordeal.html



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this to inform you and hope that you still have time to save your name and your country's regard in the whole world.

Emad.

On 3 March 2008 Amnesty International made the following [statement](#):⁸⁰

Fear of torture or ill-treatment

IRAQ Ussama al-Mulla (m)]
Ryadh al-Qaysi (m)] professors at Baghdad University's
Faculty
Fakhri 'Abd Fatlawi (m)] of Dentistry
Four other Baghdad University staff members (names unknown)

Ryadh al-Qaysi and Fakhri 'Abd Fatlawi, professors at Baghdad University's Faculty of Dentistry, and four other Baghdad University staff members who were arrested on 17 February, have been released. However, one professor, Ussama al-Mulla, remains in the custody of the Iraqi security forces and is at risk of torture and ill-treatment.

On 17 February, armed men wearing Iraqi security uniforms entered the Faculty of Dentistry. They went to the office of the Dean of the Faculty and threatened him at gunpoint, telling him they had arrest warrants for 10 university staff. The three professors were arrested, along with four other staff members. The staff members were originally taken to al-Salihya police station in Baghdad. The whereabouts of Ussama al-Mulla are currently unconfirmed.

The arrest warrants were apparently issued by an official body, and related to the investigation into the murder of the previous Dean of the Dentistry Faculty.

At the time of the arrests, a number of students who protested against the arrests were detained in a room within the faculty and beaten by the same security forces before being released.

⁸⁰ <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/MDE14/007/2008/en/MDE140072008en.html>



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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Torture and ill-treatment of detainees is widespread throughout police stations and detention centres under the control of the Iraqi security forces. Amnesty International has received numerous reports about detainees being tortured by Iraqi security forces. Former prisoners who were held in police stations and pre-trial detention facilities controlled by the Ministry of Interior have reported torture such as routine beatings with hosepipes, cables and other implements, prolonged suspension from the limbs in contorted and painful positions for extended periods, electric shocks, the breaking of limbs and being forced to sit on sharp objects.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic, English or your own language:

- welcoming the release of Riyadh al-Qaysi, Fakhri 'Abd Fatlawi and four others;
- calling for assurances that Ussama al-Mulla is being treated humanely in detention and is not subject to torture or other ill-treatment;
- seeking clarification of the reasons for Ussama al-Mulla's arrest and continuing detention, and asking if any charges have been brought against him;
- requesting assurances that he has access to his family, a lawyer of his own choosing and any necessary medical care;
- calling for his immediate release unless he is to be brought to trial promptly and fairly on recognizable criminal charges.

This case, which can be called exemplary for the rest of Iraq, shows that normal education under the occupation is impossible.

Actions to protect Iraqi Intellectuals.

The first organised attempt to create awareness about these murders, was made by the International Coalition of Academics Against Occupation who published an appeal on [25 July 2004](#)⁸¹:

“Even after the 'transfer of authority' the U.S. Government remains in de facto military occupation of Iraq. The idea that the escalation of violence can be put to an end by the 'interim' government, while 140,000 U.S. troops remain in control of major Iraqi cities like Mosul and Baghdad, is far from the reality on the ground.

⁸¹ <https://listhost.uchicago.edu/pipermail/iraqcrisis/2004-July/000783.html>



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Overlooked by the U.S. Press is the escalating assassination of Iraqi academics, intellectuals, and lecturers. More than 250 college professors since April 30, 2003, according to the Iraqi Union of University Lecturers, have been the targets of assassination.”

From September 2004 onwards, press reports about these assassinations appeared on a regular basis. Many can be read at the BRussells Tribunal [website](#).⁸²

The second attempt to ring the bell about the destruction of the Iraqi Higher education came from the BRussells Tribunal, who started a campaign in December [2005](#).⁸³ in cooperation with the Spanish Campaign Against the Occupation and for the Sovereignty of Iraq (CEOSI) [84](#).

They launched a petition which until now is signed by some 11.000 academics and intellectuals worldwide:

“A little known aspect of the tragedy engulfing Iraq is the systematic liquidation of the country's academics. Even according to conservative estimates, over 250 educators have been assassinated, and many hundreds more have disappeared. With thousands fleeing the country in fear for their lives, not only is Iraq undergoing a major brain drain, the secular middle class - which has refused to be co-opted by the US occupation - is being decimated, with far-reaching consequences for the future of Iraq.

Already on July 14, 2004, veteran correspondent Robert Fisk reported from Iraq that: *"University staff suspect that there is a campaign to strip Iraq of its academics, to complete the destruction of Iraq's cultural identity which began when the American army entered Baghdad."*

The wave of assassinations appears non-partisan and non-sectarian, targeting women as well as men, and is countrywide. It is indiscriminate of expertise: professors of geography, history and Arabic literature as well as science are among the dead. Not one individual has been apprehended in connection with these assassinations.

According to the United Nations University, some 84 per cent of Iraq's institutions of higher education have already been burnt, looted or destroyed. Iraq's educational system used to be among the best in the region; one of the country's most important assets was its well-educated people.

⁸² <http://www.brusseltribunal.org/AcademicsResources.htm>

⁸³ <http://www.brusseltribunal.org/Academics.htm>

⁸⁴ http://nodo50.org/iraq/2004-2005/docs/represion_3-01-06.html



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This situation is a mirror of the occupation as a whole: a catastrophe of staggering proportions unfolding in a climate of criminal disregard. As an occupying power, and under international humanitarian law, final responsibility for protecting Iraqi citizens, including academics, lies with the United States.

With this petition we want to break the silence.

1. We appeal to organisations which work to enforce or defend international humanitarian law to put these crimes on the agenda.
2. We request that an independent international investigation be launched immediately to probe these extrajudicial killings. This investigation should also examine the issue of responsibility to clearly identify who is accountable for this state of affairs. We appeal to the special rapporteur on summary executions at UNHCHR in [Geneva.](#)⁸⁵

The response was overwhelming. Many renowned intellectuals, among them 4 Nobel Laureates vowed to help create awareness and try to stop the extermination of Iraq's [academics.](#)⁸⁶

The BRussells Tribunal established a [list of the assassinated](#)⁸⁷ in order that mandated human rights authorities investigate the killings and find a way to protect Iraq's academics and cultural wealth. Despite serious attempts to try to make Human Rights bodies investigate these killings and take actions, nothing has been done until now, no case has been seriously investigated in Iraq.

Since the campaign started, the BRussells Tribunal received many mails in support of this action, and a lot of comments and useful information, from inside Iraq.

An internationally renowned Iraqi professor wrote:

“Dear Friends,

While the world is celebrating Christmas and new year, three more Iraqi scientists were assassinated last few days.

Dr Nawfal Ahmad / Prof. of fine Art in Baghdad Univ.

Dr Mohsin Sulaiman Al-Ajeely/professor of Agriculture in Babel UNIV.

⁸⁵ <http://www.brusseltribunal.org/Academicspetition.htm>

⁸⁶ <http://www.brusseltribunal.org/AcademicsPetitionList.htm>

⁸⁷ <http://www.brusseltribunal.org/academicsList.htm>



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Dr Kadhim Mashhoot Awad / prof of soil chemistry in Basrah Univ. who has been found cut into pieces after taken by the police from his house. He was one of the finest scientists in his major, and worked as a Dean for the Agriculture college in the university. The other two were shot dead by a bunch of armed gunmen.

Best wishes.”

Another Iraqi professor wrote:

Merry Christmas and happy new year to all of you in the BRussells Tribunal. The appeal for action looks fine. You have done a great effort. I think it is very important to launch the appeal now where the real murderers of the academics of Iraq are pinpointed by the international community. In Iraq, everybody knows that the Badr Brigade, the armed militia's of Islamic Revolution in Iraq are among the assassins of the academics in Iraq. Those armed forces turned into national guards of the Interior Ministry, so they have a license to kill now!! The petition idea is very good, but the response from the Iraqi academics will not be so great since the real criminals are still free to kill any of us under the blessing of occupation. Killing the educators and the academics would make it easier for the illiterate religious fanatics to govern uneducated people, terrified for their lives. Finally, I just wanted to tell you that I left the PhD programme and I am working in a Private university to keep away from being killed too.

Since the petition started, hundreds of Iraqi academics from inside the country and / or recently in exile have signed the petition, despite the danger this could bring to them.

Another professor wrote:

“We, as University lectures, are going through exceptional conditions in which any one of us may get killed intentionally or otherwise. It became normal that we greet one another when we meet, we wish each other safety and thank God to be still alive. Messages of threats to kill became something very usual. I myself got threatened after being elected Head of the Department of (omitted for safety reasons) at the college and was consequently obliged to move to another college.

Below are some facts concerning Iraqi academics:

- 1. Murdering involves University and other academic institutes as well, teachers of different ages specializations, and political and religious beliefs.*
- 2. Assassins are professional people, and we never heard till now that one murderer got arrested.*
- 3. Murdering takes place everywhere: on the road, at work, and home as well.*
- 4. Nobody has taken responsibility, and reasons have not been clarified.*
- 5. Murdering is carried out by fire-shooting, some got killed with 3 and others 30 bullets.*



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6. *The number of those killed in the university of Baghdad alone has exceeded 80 according to formal reports.*

7. *people are afraid to ask for details about those crimes.*

8. *Many of the killed are friends, one is Prof. Sabri Al-Bayati, a Prof. on Arts was killed on 13/6/2003 near the college. Another is Prof. Dr. Sabaah Mahmood Dean of the college Al-Mustansiriyah University who was killed near the college 2003. Prof. Dr. Abdullateef al Mayaahi was killed with more than 30 bullets. He occupied the post of Director of the centre of Arab studies in the Mustansiriyah University. I suggest that you correspond with the presidents of Universities to get data and details of these killings from the presidents of the universities of Baghdad, Mustansiriyah, Basrah, Kufa, Mosul.....*

9. *Many famous professors, doctors have left Iraq to save their lives.*

Best Regards and happy new year to you and your family.

We hope to have continuous communication.”

An example of an assassination by US forces is f.i. Prof. Dr. Mohammed Munim al-Izmerly. (Read [Suspicion Surrounds Death of Iraqi Scientist in U.S. Custody, 29 May 2004](#)) . He was an Iraqi chemistry professor, tortured and killed by the American Interrogation team, and died in American custody from a sudden hit to the back of his head caused by blunt trauma. It was uncertain exactly how he died, but someone had hit him from behind, possibly with a bar or a pistol. His battered corpse turned up at Baghdad's morgue and the cause of death was initially recorded as "brainstem compression". It was discovered that US doctors had made a 20cm incision in his skull.

We received a mail about this particular case from a US citizen who wrote us:

“I have found information for individual information on victims in two cases:

** al-Rawi - president of Baghdad University and Saddam Hussein's physician*

** Prof. Dr. Mohammed Munim al-Izmerly - chemistry professor apparently involved in poisoning human subjects.*

These two cases are not particularly strong in helping gain "sympathy" for the victims. While it is true that everyone has fundamental human rights, no matter how criminal his/her actions may have been, calling someone apparently involved in testing poisons on human subjects a "distinguished Iraqi chemistry professor" without any caveats is likely to make many people distrust the whole list.”

We asked an Iraqi professor for more information about these 2 cases, and received the following answer:

“Good Day.



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The information about the two Iraqi Scientists are false allegations. Dr Mohamed Al-Rawi was a fine MD and head of the university of Baghdad. He worked, like other well known specialists in Ibin Sena hospital in the middle of the Presidential Palace Area (currently called the Green Zone). Some of his colleagues are still working in that Hospital.

Generally, they treat all the cabinet and Presidential Palace Staff and personnel and their families, who are still working in the green zone after the occupation. This hospital and others can call any specialist when they have no choices in their staff members, even from other Iraqi cities. The only well known doctor associated with Saddam Hussein name was Dr Alaa Bashir, who is still alive and kicking, but out of Iraq. So the whole idea is Brain Drain Iraq from its brilliant figures, so the Mollahs of Tehran would be able to rule it easily. The same thing is applicable on Dr Al-Izmeri. The occupation was desperate for one confession that Iraq's program of WMD was still active, but with all the torture they couldn't get that out of him. His family in London accused the Pentagon officially of killing him during interrogation based on false allegations. I would like to remind our friend about the terrible accusation of Huda Ammash, of associating her with biological weapons which is totally untrue, and after holding her in detention for three years, they released her because everything they have accused her of, was all occupation propaganda. Accept my best wishes.”

First conclusion: there seems to be a pattern of systematic liquidation of the Iraqi middle class that refuses to cooperate with the occupation. The shooting of peaceful academics is done by many different forces who share the same interest in further dismantling the Iraqi state.

Other conclusion: the violence against the Iraqi academics is not a sectarian Sunni-Shia issue. Neither are Baathists the only victims. Every Iraqi who opposes the occupation and its puppet government is a possible target.

Were the assassinated academics Baathists? They were educators. The term “de-Baathification” was a war slogan used by the US and its allies in a bid to destroy the Iraqi national state⁸⁸ — its administrative apparatus⁸⁹, public services⁹⁰, properties⁹¹, archives⁹², registries of public and private ownership⁹³, natural resources⁹⁴, revenues⁹⁵ and reserves⁹⁶ (leading Iraq to the brink of economic collapse⁹⁷ and abject

⁸⁸ <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2005/767/op8.htm>

⁸⁹ <http://www.brusselstribunal.org/AIRahoo.htm>

⁹⁰ <http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/0811/p01s03-woiq.html>

⁹¹ http://www.halliburtonwatch.org/news/property_missing.html

⁹² <http://www.thememoryhole.org/history/iraq-natl-library.htm>

⁹³ <http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/KIR307A.html>

⁹⁴ <http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/iraq/dfi/2004/0510resolution.htm>



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poverty⁹⁸) as well as its economic foundations⁹⁹, laws¹⁰⁰ and judicial system¹⁰¹, museums¹⁰², libraries¹⁰³, army and police¹⁰⁴, health¹⁰⁵ and education¹⁰⁶ systems, art¹⁰⁷, print media¹⁰⁸, radio¹⁰⁹ and television¹¹⁰, etc.

This destruction is not a consequence of war but rather a studied plan¹¹¹ prepared before the invasion. Strictly speaking, and according to definition under international law, this destruction is genocide¹¹².

The liquidation of Iraqi academics has nothing to do with them being Baathist or not. It follows from the imperial¹¹³ character of the invasion of Iraq, and the attempt to render null and void¹¹⁴ Iraqi sovereignty. The real division in Iraq¹¹⁵ is between those who go along with this project and those who oppose it¹¹⁶. The US imperial project, based on privatization¹¹⁷ and ruin¹¹⁸, indeed outright looting¹¹⁹, plunder¹²⁰ and confiscation¹²¹, and in direct violation¹²² of international law, has created the objective and political conditions for the rise of puppet government-controlled death squads¹²³ and US-drafted mercenary security contractors¹²⁴ that kill and terrorize Iraqi academics and others with impunity¹²⁵. It is the biggest heist¹²⁶ in history, and it is backed with murderous force.

One particular reaction was important, because it showed that the Iraqi academics indeed want to oppose this situation, but are obstructed by the Quisling-government from doing so.

⁹⁵ <http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/iraq/contract/2005/0318cow.htm>

⁹⁶ <http://www.halliburtonwatch.org/news/ws011706.html>

⁹⁷ http://www.truthout.org/docs_2006/022006H.shtml

⁹⁸ <http://www.wsws.org/articles/2006/feb2006/iraq-f21.shtml>

⁹⁹ <http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/iraq/attack/law/2004/0112freemarket.htm>

¹⁰⁰ <http://www.commondreams.org/headlines04/0217-06.htm>

¹⁰¹ http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/middle_east/ian-june03/iraq_05-13.html

¹⁰² <http://www.wsws.org/articles/2003/apr2003/muse-a16.shtml>

¹⁰³ <http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/IRAQ/mela/melairaq.html>

¹⁰⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/2003/05/24/top1.htm>

¹⁰⁵ <http://www.brusselstribunal.org/DahrReport.htm>

¹⁰⁶ <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2004/694/re7.htm>

¹⁰⁷ <http://www.pnnonline.org/article.php?sid=4525>

¹⁰⁸ <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/12/02/AR2005120201454.html>

¹⁰⁹ http://www.dxing.info/profiles/clandestine_information_iraq.dx

¹¹⁰ <http://www.ifex.org/20fr/layout/set/print/content/view/full/33956?PHPSESSID=caf28d2a1819f3bbeea55d3bfeb31f38>

¹¹¹ <http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/oil/2005/cruededesigns.htm>

¹¹² http://www.aljazeera.com/cgi-bin/review/article_full_story.asp?service_ID=6634 and

<http://www.brusselstribunal.org/pdf/NotesOnGenocideInIraq.pdf>

¹¹³ <http://www.brusselstribunal.org/pdf/WTIJuryFinalJuly26.pdf>

¹¹⁴ <http://www.converge.org.nz/watchdog/05/05.htm>

¹¹⁵ <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2005/756/re11.htm>

¹¹⁶ <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2005/745/re2.htm>

¹¹⁷ <http://www.alternet.org/waroniraq/24307/>

¹¹⁸ <http://www.aina.org/news/20060204121313.htm>

¹¹⁹ http://www.onlinejournal.com/artman/publish/article_332.shtml

¹²⁰ <http://www.brusselstribunal.org/Moshen.htm>

¹²¹ http://nodis3.gsfc.nasa.gov/displayEO.cfm?id=EO_13290

¹²² <http://www.thenation.com/doc/20031124/klein>

¹²³ <http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=viewArticle&code=FUL20051110&articleId=1230>

¹²⁴ <http://www.alternet.org/waroniraq/18967/>

¹²⁵ <http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article5475.htm>

¹²⁶ <http://zmag.site.zmag.org/Jan2004/gupta0104.html>



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“That’s great. OK I will give you some names. In fact the list is so big I will do a scan and send it to you as I wish we can do something about that, and I am ready to work with you on that, but please keep my name secret for security reasons ..

Give me a couple of days. Then you’ll receive a list of more than 100 Iraqi professors who were murdered. As well as I have my own stories about that.

The head of our dept. was killed a month ago. I arranged for a rally in the university and I invited all the media. I wrote a press release, I tried to make it official, I mean not only among the students. And you know what? Many important people in the university and the government told me we should not show the weakness of our government. I became very disappointed. I didn’t know how to work on that and if no one helps you it will be useless ...

I hope we can raise our voice this time.”

That’s why solidarity campaigns are very important: create awareness about the atrocities that are taking place, support the academic community in Iraq in their efforts to raise their voice against the killings of their educators, and safeguard them from further decimation.

- Dr. Khalid al-Naid

Easter 2007: the following message arrived in the BRussells Tribunal mailbox, sent by Dr. Saad Jawad, professor of political science at Baghdad University, head of Iraq's University Professors Association, and member of our Advisory Committee.

This is in memory of the brutal assassination of Dr. Khalid al-Naid, Dean Assistant, Medical College, al-Nahrain University

With great sadness and sorrow and on behalf of Khalid's family, I'm writing to inform you of his murder by militias on Thursday 29th March 2007, twelve hours after he arrived from Australia. He arrived in Baghdad on the evening of Wednesday 28th and could not go to see his wife and newly born son Tariq who was born when he was with you in Australia.

The next day he went to the Nahrain Medical school to report his return and do some paper work. His wife and newborn son were supposed to come from their grandfather's house across sectarian city divides to see him.

He only stayed in the Medical School for 3 hrs and left with a colleague. He was picked at the gate and taken by the Militia which controls the area of the Medical School. His body was dumped few kilometres away with five bullets in his head and neck.

I am his cousin and Godfather. His wife's son and the rest of the family would like the world to



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know how cruel and lawless Iraq has become. Scientist are a prime target and Khalid was threatened with death a year or so ago but he always said: "I have harmed no one, and never believed the cruelty of a civil war."

His marriage was a mixed one and his priorities in life revolved around his scientific work.

Khalid's father, the late Prof Hamdi was the Dean of Baghdad Medical School and my Mentor. We would like to have any additional information from you relating to his latest work as we plan to write to scientific and other news organisations on the realities in today's Iraq. It is entirely up to yourselves if you feel you would like to report this murder to the Scientific press in Australia.

May god bless Khalid and give his wife Manal and his son Tariq the strength to carry on .

Another horrendous murder, another Iraqi intellectual's life wasted.

- Prof Dr Majid Naser Husien al-Ma'amoori

I am sorry to bother you again. I know it is sad news but I have no other choice because you are the only organization to document the assassinations of Iraqi academics.

Prof Dr Majid Naser Husien al-Ma'amoori was killed just outside Veterinary College, Baghdad University on 17 Feb 2007.

Kind regards

Dr. Ali

- Professor Dr Tala Al-Jalili and Professor Jaffer Hasan Sadiq

On April 16 2007 Dr. Ismail Kaidar Jalili¹²⁷, Chair and Secretary General of National Association of British Arabs (NABA)¹²⁸ wrote the following message:

We'd like to report the assassination of 2 academics in Mosul today Monday 16th April 2007

2:37

The assassination of Professor Dr Tala Al-Jalili, Dean of Faculty of Political Sciences

¹²⁷ <http://www.al-jalili.com/index.htm>

¹²⁸ <http://www.naba.org.uk/>



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in Mosul University this morning Monday 16th April 2007 in front of his faculty at AL-Majmou'a Al-Thaqafiya, east (left) bank of Mosul.

12:14

*The assassination of **Jaffer Hasan Sadiq, Professor at the Department of History, Faculty of Humanities, Mosul University** in front of his house in Al-Kafaa'at district, north east of Mosul City.*

The number of assassinations has not decreased since the **BRussels** Tribunal started its campaign.. To the contrary. Since the beginning of 2006 more than 100 academics have been assassinated, according to our sources. And as the cases above show: an end of the killings is not in sight.

The Occupation is responsible

Iraqi professors direct most of their ire towards the failed U.S. occupation. Dr. Bakaa, who was also president of Iraq's second largest university, Al Mustansiriyah University, from 2003 to 2004, says he had received almost no additional funding for academic life since the occupation. Buildings destroyed during the first Gulf War were rebuilt in two months under Saddam's regime, yet the Americans have repaired nothing, he said. When professors are threatened or killed, there is never any investigation.¹²⁹

"Iraqi professors are being killed by everyone, and nobody has told us if any killers have been caught. Nothing has been done," Dr. Saad Jawad says. "One U.S. soldier was kidnapped and Baghdad is on full alert, but the killing of an Iraqi professor? Nothing happens."¹³⁰

The incident on Tuesday 14 November, when paramilitary gunmen in the uniforms of Iraqi National Police commandos raided a building belonging to the Ministry of Education in Baghdad's Karrada district and arrested around 100 members of staff from two departments and around 50 visitors, in broad daylight, 1km from the Green Zone, exposed the extent of the danger facing educators, and particularly those in higher education. An unknown number of those arrested was later found killed, and again, there was no investigation.¹³¹ Again, there was ample evidence of involvement of Iraqi official bodies, creating chaos and mayhem instead of establishing security. It is equally clear that US authorities in Iraq have no interest in carrying out an investigation or restraining the killers.

¹²⁹ http://www.diverseeducation.com/artman/publish/article_6690.shtml

¹³⁰ http://www.diverseeducation.com/artman/publish/article_6690.shtml

¹³¹ <http://www.brusselstribunal.org/PressRelease221106.htm>



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Witness 1:

A Testimony Of An Iraqi Academic¹³²

Baghdad / November 2006

Yesterday there was very heavy rain in Baghdad. Our college and many regions in Baghdad (specially the poor and deprived) were covered with water (almost sank). I had to walk through lakes of muddy water, just to get out of the college and return home. This is not new, since the gulf war of 1991 when drainage systems were damaged and left without repairing till now. Let us imagine this depressive scene:

"Hundreds of professors, instructors and students walk silently through dirty waters, under gray cloudy rainy sky, just because they are Iraqis, and they have to lose their dignity everyday in various ways, as a cheap price in benefit of globalization plans".

However, I still believe strongly in what "Hemingway" said in *The old Man and the Sea* : "Man could be destroyed, but never defeated".

I lived all my life (in Iraq) with terror and tyranny, so I think nobody can document this truth, except those who lived it. What happened inside us is much more than estimation and imagination. We (Iraqis) are accustomed to be victims and hostages for no obvious reason. We are survivors everyday. We have developed a very dialectical truth: *"Although they (Fascists & Americans) succeeded in destroying everything vivid inside us, nothing vivid actually has been destroyed. We lost the pleasure of life forever, but we still keep and maintain many high meanings of life".*

I am typing now with the help of a small noisy smoky electricity generator, with fading light. There is no electricity in Baghdad for 18 – 20 hours a day. I feel very deprived and persecuted, but I shall never give up!

Let us start from the beginning:

* * *

In the moment of dramatic collapse of Baath regime at April 2003, a promising civil progressive movement began to develop, aiming at restoring liberty, justice and civil rights, especially inside

¹³² <http://www.brusselstribunal.org/ArticlesIraq3.htm#Testimony>



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universities and other cultural institutions. But the Americans started immediately, continuously till now, to block that rational stream, by adopting the following policy:

- 1) Encouraging leaders of religious groups and parties (from different sects) to be influential politicians, regardless of their ignorance, selfishness and closed minds; in parallel with dismissing secular trends (liberals, socialists, technocrats ...).
- 2) Fabricating terrorism inside Iraq (religious terrorism has no roots in our enlightened Iraqi society, even among religious groups). The Americans gave green light to the governments of Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia to export thousands of brainwashed "terrorists" who do not have any idea about social and intellectual fabric of the Iraqi society.
- 3) Doing nothing to stop (if not involving in) the planned assassinations of brilliant doctors and academics.
- 4) Fabricating continuous crises of severe shortages in electricity power, water supply, and fuel.

This subtle strategy, simultaneously with "democratic" slogans, has succeeded in:

- 1) Dividing the Iraqi Identity into several weak conflicted sub identities (sectarianism & ethnocentrism).
- 2) Absence of collective humanistic rationalistic voice, which is substituted by pre-state, primitive emotions.
- 3) Keeping the people busy with their physiological and security needs (No time to think or protest).
- 4) Transforming social energy that should be directed to restore fairness, liberty, and human dignity, into motives of violence and aggression towards imaginary enemies.

So, the final result is very familiar (nothing new beneath the sun) : It is again the old story of how capitalism exploits, humiliates man, and sucks bloods of people, just to accumulate new mythical wealth. Americans are very pragmatic, heartless and faithful to this principle. But the problem is: "Why this deceived world (except conscious elite) does not want to wake up?!"

* * *



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Iraq as a nation is not "artificial invention" of the Brits. Iraq is one of the oldest societies in history. When the Brits occupied the country, they (implicitly) helped the Iraqi people to restore their social identity after long centuries of the Turkish tyranny, and gradually accomplished independence as an unified country of multiple races, religions and sects, as many nations in the world. There is a very strong feeling of the Iraqi identity among our people (obvious patriotism). We have common social memory, folklore, arts, songs, architecture, and political movements. Most of Iraqi families and tribes consist of several races and sects.

In every residence area in Baghdad, you can find mosques besides churches. It is very usual that a man from "Shiite" sect marries a woman from "Sunni" sect, and vice versa. Also, there are some cases of marriage between Muslims and Christians. This tolerance was spread widely even among religious people.

The tragedy and crises of Iraqi identity began with American occupation 2003 as mentioned, specifically when the American authority imposed an Iraqi Governing Council established according to various races, religions and sects, not according to participation of political, cultural, and civil progressive rational movements.

The Americans insisted on starting this dangerous tradition which was unfamiliar in our modern political history. Our people are very conscious victims, completely aware of this dirty game (Blood for Petrol), but they are powerless in front of the American stormy strategy.

The majority of our people are peaceful, cultured, motivated to adopt normal secular values. They like and are proud of their desirable main identity: the "*Iraqi identity*".

In spite of the complete crime committed in Iraq, I still feel optimistic, and many others do so. I do believe that our social fabric will resist this conspiracy for a long time, and never surrender easily. We are a civil and cultured unified community, not tribes in the desert!

I agree there is a serious danger that the Iraqi people may incorporate this sort of ethnic/religious mindset into their way of thinking. But, in the same time, there is an obvious intentional collective resistance against this sort of thinking. I do feel (as an instructor in university) that students (regardless of their origins) become more insistent on the word "Iraqi" through discussions and conversations. Further, they tend to avoid other ethnic or religious terms, or underestimate them. Nobody can imagine our conditions in university: studying and doing the exams, with explosions around us. Yet, my students surprised me every time by their clever scientific answers, as if they were living in normal and ideal conditions. Their answers reinforce my belief of the Iraqi immortal spirit.



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* * *

Our conditions in Baghdad become more and more dangerous day after day. The clashes are everywhere, even in the streets surrounding our college. To put you in the picture, imagine this: We are in Bab Al-Moadham University Compound (Central Baghdad where the old Campus of Baghdad University is), completely and daily surrounded by fire belts of bombs, car bombs, almost daily clashes in light weapons among different groups and squads. For example: in the sectarian fighting in Al-Fadhil area (close to the Compound), during the last 3 months, the Iraqi security forces and the Americans were raiding the area, turned Bab Al-Moadham into a real battle field. Unknown numbers of civilians and students were killed, gun bullet fires pierce through the walls and windows glass of our offices many times. We had to hide always when we enter or leave the college, or we have to conceal our selves temporarily, or run away through back doors, to evade the clashes that often reach the college gate. The way from home to college, and vice versa, is an absolute adventure, where each one of us faces his destiny alone, in a daily infinite philosophical test of the meaning of a ripped off life, and an absurd death.

Many of our academic colleagues have been killed or threatened, often by unknown hands. Others are insulted or frightened by prejudiced Islamic students. Two months ago, some armed strangers hysterically raided the campus, from Bab Al-Moadhem gate, which was not the first time, supported by the university guards!! They roamed the college corridors and rooms, shouting, calling the names of some professors from a list they were holding in their hands, threatening them of death if they show up in the college. This aggression was the worst in the College of Languages, which was closed for 2 weeks after. Many administrative officials resigned after they got open threats. May be these activities are not categorized as assassinations, but they give a summary image of the gravity of the physical threat, the humiliation, and the mind liquidation to which the Iraqi university professor is exposed nowadays. But we still struggle quietly and patiently to maintain what could be maintained of the academic & secular values inside the university.

The campaign of assassinations against the Iraqi minds, takes many different shapes beside the physical assassination: the scientific blockade imposed on our almost closed university libraries, the religious groups' control of the decision making bodies in the universities, terrorizing the professors by the oral and written threats, forcing them into silence, isolation and immigration, in addition to the horrible corruption. For example, during the last 3 years, the Ministry of Higher Education announced tens of PhDs scholarships in different Arabic and Western universities, I could not get any of them, in spite of the fact that I am the first (got the highest degrees) in the college, in my BA and MA degrees (I got excellent in both degrees, which, according to the Iraqi educational system means that I got more than 90 on a 100



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scale). As an instructor, I am considered one of the distinguished. Those scholarships often went to others who have nothing to do with the academic milieu, and have no academic achievements whatsoever.

* * *

The Iraqi civil people still struggle to maintain their collective identity, where the militias and stupid politicians still fabricate this unnecessary violence. This is a very rare historical moment that the community is psychologically unified, while it is led compulsorily by irrational political factors to crumble.

The Iraqi people are peaceful, homogeneous, and open minded (in general). So, what happens now is a temporary offense resulting from sever US occupation. Perhaps it will take an unknown period of time, perhaps we will be victims of this madness, but eventually our social fabric shall prove its hardness! This is not a wishful thinking; it is prediction from a social researcher.

In moments like this, I fell freer (internally) because I become more certain of how our rational, secular and humanistic values, which we have adopted since our early intellectual beginnings, are quite true and brilliant!

Witness 2:

University Professors in Iraq and Death Anxiety¹³³

(Prof. Faris K. O. Nadhmi)

Professor of Psychology.

(Baghdad Oct 2006)

Spinoza "1632-1677" wrote in hopeful insight: *"A free man scarcely thinks of death, because his wisdom is to contemplate life, not death"*

But what if death thinks of the free man non-stop, follows him in the cities streets, lurks in the ally to his home, comes out even in his sleep and deepest apprehensions, while he is keeping to his room , thinking of any meaning of life?! What if a whole nation waits in a queue with an invisible end, but with a guillotine at the beginning, going up and down with the time pendulum?

Is it a universal irony or psycho-historic that the "death anxiety" is connected with "eternity anxiety" for the Iraqis, and with the tragic search for a coherent explanation of the existence-annihilation absurdum?

¹³³ <http://www.brusselstribunal.org/DeathAnxiety.htm>



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When Gilgamesh found out he is two thirds god and one third human destined to die, like his friend Enkido
He sadly said:

*Death frightened me, so I wandered aimlessly about,
If I die, would not my destiny be like Enkido's,
To Otonabishtim, I took the way, and hurried
To ask about the life-death enigma!*

Death Psychology

Apart from death essence, its religious or philosophical root, whether it is annihilation or a face of another life, modern psychology dealt with death as "total stopping of consciousness or feeling, the brain stops its work as a maestro of all lower sense and movement, and upper mind functions" , studying clinically and on the ground, the responses of those who lost a supporter or a loved one...responses that can be sadness and mourning , or depression and suicide, explaining the movement and feelings phenomenon which accompany these responses, its effect on psychological , body, and professional health, their negative attitudes to death, what in general we call "death anxiety" which Dickstein defined as "conscious contemplation in the reality of death, and the negative estimation of this reality"

Some psychiatrists went further. Milan Klein found that the fear of death is the origin of all anxieties, the root of all human aggressive behaviours. Freud (1856- 1939) wrote on death and war : "we can not really imagine our death, and if we do, we do it as living audience, that is why psychology analysis school confirms that deep inside man has an unconscious feeling and belief in eternity".

Death anxiety has three dimensions: fear of dying, fear of what happens after death, fear of the life stopping. On the other hand, four aspects of death could be distinguished: fear of death of the ego, dying of the ego, others death, others dying. Accordingly, four independent factors were generated: fear of the unknown, suffering, loneliness, and personal vanishing.

Death Anxiety in Iraq

These four aspects and factors of the psychology of death anxiety, became now the most impressing phenomenon in the Iraqi reality, in deed we can say that most daily life details were diverted and deformed in their biological, social, and psychological contents to suit the idea of death inevitability, and its overwhelming dominion. The Iraqi individual, no matter what his class or affiliation is, realizes that the highest or most precious goal of life becomes just "to survive", "not to die", instead of "to live", with full realization that death means assassinations, explosions, and rains of lost bullets.



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The educated and the technocrat are among the first who look for "not to die". It is extremely difficult to get precise numbers, but events and studies indicate that medical doctors and academics are especially targeted. In a report for Human Rights Watch in November 2005, some academics explained that it is a way of eliminating the educated elite in Iraq. One of the Iraqi universities vice president said "the victims are among different scientific interests, political directions, and religious sects, the only thing common among them is their distinguished scientific achievement. I think this is a plan to evacuate Iraq of its scientific backbone".

According to the Iraqi Ministry of Health, between April-2003 to June 2006, 720 medical doctors and health professional were killed. Other unofficial estimations said that 2000 Iraqi doctors emigrated from the country running away from killing and kidnapping.

According to another previous study by the Iraqi Ministry of Health, up to April 2005, 160-300 Iraqi medical doctors were kidnapped by armed groups which killed 25. Until that date, 1000 doctors left the country, an average of 30 monthly.

In a statement of "the Voices of Iraq" news agency, the head of the University Teachers Associations in Iraq, said that up to summer 2006, 172 university teacher were killed, But if we add the numbers of lecturers and the consultatives, it would exceed 300. This number does not include the medical doctors, engineers, religious teachers with higher degrees in religious studies.

Dr. Ismael Al-Jalili, a consultative doctor, indicated in a study presented in the International Conference about the assassination of the Iraq Academics, held in Madrid in April 2006, statistics show that 80% of the assassinations targeted people working in the universities, and that half of them are either professors or professor assistants, that half of the assassinations happened in Baghdad university, third of them were in Basra, then Mosul and Al-Mostansiriya University. The study mentioned that 62% of the assassinations were PhDs.

One third of them are specialized in natural sciences and medicine, 17% are practicing doctors, and three quarters of those who were exposed to attempted assassination were actually killed. This "systematic" killing, confirms Dr. Jalili's belief that these assassinations and kidnapping are similar to the Salvador death squads, which was in fact, series of assassinations supervised by the American CIA in many Latin American countries.

Without going into analyzing the political and security dimensions, these data and statistics present a primary indicator of the destructive psychological impacts that anxiety puts on university professors because of kidnapping and killings. Studies done in relatively stable eastern and western societies, show



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that death anxiety is in direct proportion with depression, unsociability, over sensitivity, tension, obsessions, phobias; but it is in contrary proportion with self confidence, social skills, extroversion, endurance, self respect, self accomplishment, positive attitude to ones' self, strong ego, sense of the aim of life.

Other studies show that the more intelligent a person is, the less he is frightened of death, that the middle class are more afraid of dying pains, that the more educated a person is the less he is afraid of death, and that women are more afraid of death than men. There is no agreement on the relation between death anxiety and age or religion.

As a pioneer contribution in investigating the psychological paths that death anxiety would take within the Iraqi educated personality, we put a 15 point scale, to be answered in 5 different answers each, ranging between " totally agree" and "totally disagree", applied to Baghdad and Mustansiriya university professors, who have MA, MSC, and PhD, of different ages and scientific degrees (professor, assistant professor, teacher and assistant teacher), the results were as follows:

- *All professors suffer death anxiety
- *Afraid of painful death (91%)
- *Thinking of death of loved ones (81%)
- *Afraid of body deterioration that accompany slow death (72%)
- *Worried about dying very painfully (69%)
- * Feeling that death is every where (66%)
- *Terrified of seeing a dead body (66%)
- *Obsession of getting killed any minute (66%)
- *Thinking of my personal death (53%)
- * Prefer not to attend a dying friend (53%)
- *Would avoid death no matter whatever it takes (50%)
- * Think of death directly before going to bed (47%)
- *Death is better than a painful life (38%)
- *Feel closer to death than to life (31%)
- *Extremely afraid to die (31%)
- *Terrified by the idea of decomposition after death (28%)



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Conclusions:

*Death anxiety is spread among this sample of Iraqi university professors, regardless of age and scientific degree which signifies that its effect is widely spread. Women, though, were more worried about death than men, a result consistent with the psychological literature mentioned above which says that women feel less secure; hence her death anxiety is higher. Gender rules, too, demand that men should be "brave" and do not show fear or anxiety in this sense. In addition to that, women's death anxiety is related to themselves personally and to their husbands, too.

*The fear of dying painfully is high among the sample individuals, then loved ones death, signifying psychological agony and tense feeling of threat that a professor has on his way from home to class.

*More than two thirds of the sample have anxiety of painful death and of seeing a dead body, in addition to compulsive thoughts that death is surrounding them and that they are exposed to death any minute. This signifies that obsessive and oppressive elements are pervading the university professors' thinking.

*Quarter-half of the sample's thoughts were centred on avoiding death, thinking of it, fearing it, and how close to it... signifying a relative carelessness about the conventional concept of death if mentioned without the idea of pain and threat of killing.

* * *

The essential task of the academic personality is to create life in its highest aims, beginning with lectures, scientific research, whether theoretical or inside laboratories or fields, and to accumulate the eternal truths in the human mind library. Is it possible for such a creator of life to coexist with deep and objective anxiety of assassination and death pain??

The Iraqi situation every day now proves that death anxiety does not prevent the Iraqi universities academics of their deep civilized awareness that desperately defending life culture is the only effective way to pull out death's treacherous fangs, and to rehabilitate the concept of "eternity" as an alternative to all cultures of annihilation and elimination.

Who is eliminating Iraq's middle class?

Nor the Iraqi puppet government, nor the Iraqi police, nor the US occupation forces can guarantee security, education, healthcare, electricity or any other basic needs. To the contrary: there are plenty of indications that the US and UK can be held responsible for many of the "terrorist" activities, and



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involvement in death squads activities. After all, these killings are comparable to other counter-insurgency operations the US was involved in for the past 50 years.

A. Militias.

Long before the invasion, the US and its allies were involved in the training and arming of tens of thousands of militias and anti-Iraq collaborators. The most conspicuous of these militia groups are:

1. The Iraqi National Congress (INC) led by Ahmed Chalabi.
2. The Iraqi National Accord (INA) led by Iyad Allawi, the U.S./Britain most preferred 'strongman'.

Both groups constitute of Iraqi expatriates (including ex-Ba'athists), trained and armed by the U.S. and Britain.

3. The Badr Brigade, the armed wing of the Da'awa/SCIRI religious 'parties' led by Abdul Aziz al-Hakim, Ibrahim al-Jaafari and Nuri al-Maliki. This group constitutes of thousands of Iraqi expatriates and illegal Iranian immigrants expelled from Iraq in the 1980's. The group is trained and heavily armed by Iran and the U.S.

4. The Kurdish militia (the Peshmerga) led by warlords were trained and armed by the U.S. and Israel.¹³⁴

5. The Sadr movement (known as the Mehdi Army), led by Muqtada al-Sadr. The movement has been accused of many crimes and sectarian killings since the Sadr movement entered the political process.

Since the invasion, each militia group has mutated into several groups of death squads and criminal gangs such as the Wolf Brigade, the Karar Brigade, the Falcon Brigade, the Amarah Brigade, the Muthana Brigade, the Defenders of Kadhimiyah, and the special police commandos. They are armed and financed by the U.S. and its allies, and fully integrated into the Occupation. Each group is carefully used by the occupying forces for terrorising the Iraqi civilian population in a campaign designed to erode the civilian population's support for the Iraqi Resistance against the Occupation. U.S. military sources have openly admitted that the population, where support for the Resistance is high, "is paying no price for the support it is giving to the [Resistance] ... We have to change that equation", (Newsweek, 14 January 2004). In other words, Iraqi civilians are deliberately targeted for rejecting the Occupation.¹³⁵

¹³⁴ <http://www.countercurrents.org/iraq-hassan041206.htm>

¹³⁵ <http://www.countercurrents.org/iraq-hassan041206.htm>



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These militia's also operate often alongside the US forces against the Iraqi resistance. But they're not the only ones involved in the killings of Iraq's academics.

B. Mossad.

According to Osama Abed Al-Majeed, the president of the Department for Research and Development at the Iraqi Ministry for Higher Education, it is the Israeli secret service, Mossad who perpetuates the violence against Iraqi scientists. The Palestine Information Center published a report in June 2005 and claimed that Mossad, in cooperation with U.S. military forces, was responsible for the assassination of 530 Iraqi scientists and professors in the seven months prior to the report's publication.

C. British terrorists in Iraq.

An article in the Sunday Telegraph¹³⁶ points towards clear evidence British special forces are recruiting, training terrorists to heighten ethnic tensions. An elite SAS wing with bloody past in Northern Ireland operates with immunity and provides advanced explosives¹³⁷. Some attacks are being blamed on Iranians, Sunni insurgents or shadowy terrorist cells such as "Al Qaeda"¹³⁸. It is led by Lt. Col. Gordon Kerr, heading the Special Reconnaissance Regiment (SRR), a large counter-terrorism force made up of unnamed "existing assets" from the glory days in Northern Ireland and elsewhere¹³⁹. And America's covert soldiers are right there with them, working side-by-side with their British comrades in the aptly named "Task Force Black," the UK's Sunday Telegraph reports.¹⁴⁰

This confirms what many have speculated for a long time, that Britain and the US are deeply involved in bombings and attacks inside Iraq.

D. Facilities Protection Services (FPS).

There is also the claim of Iraq's¹⁴¹ interior minister Jawad al-Bolani, speaking to a small group of reporters in Baghdad on October 12 2006, who blamed the Facilities Protection Service, or FPS, a massive but unregulated government guard force whose numbers he put at about 150,000.¹⁴² "*Whenever we capture someone, we rarely find anyone is an employee of the government ministries,*" Bolani said. "*When they*

¹³⁶ <http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/february2007/040207cell.htm>

¹³⁷ <http://www.brusselstribunal.org/BritishBombers.htm#britishbombers>

¹³⁸ <http://www.brusselstribunal.org/BritishBombers.htm#terrorists>

¹³⁹ <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article382396.ece>

¹⁴⁰ <http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article17048.htm>

¹⁴¹ <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/world/countries/iraq.html?nav=el>

¹⁴² <http://www.brusselstribunal.org/SecurityCompanies.htm>



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*are, they've turned out to be mostly from the FPS, with very few individual, actual incidents involving anyone from the Ministry of Interior or Ministry of Defense."*¹⁴³

Private US and UK security firms are closely allied to Mr. Bremer's 'Facilities Protection Service' programme in Iraq. [Newsweek](#)¹⁴⁴ (24.04.06) suggested 146,000 belong to this 'security' force. And recent figures put the number at 200,000. The former Interior Minister, Bayan Jabr, associated the FPS with the endemic 'death squads' operating inside the police forces, which are hastening the disintegration of Iraq ¹⁴⁵. So definitely these mercenaries are involved in covert operations.

E. Special police commandos.

According to Greg Jaffe of the Wall Street Journal, the "special police commandos" are being used throughout Iraq and have been conducting criminal assassinations known as the "Salvador option" with the full knowledge of U.S. forces. At the end of 2003, when it became clear that the US would face tough resistance against their occupation, part of a secret \$3 billion in funds—tucked away in the \$87 billion Iraq appropriation that Congress approved in early November 2003—went toward the creation of a paramilitary unit manned by militiamen associated with former Iraqi exile groups. Experts said in 2003 already that this could lead to a wave of extrajudicial killings, not only of armed rebels but of nationalists, other opponents of the U.S. occupation and thousands of civilian Baathists—up to 120,000 of the estimated 2.5 million former Baath Party members in Iraq. According to an article published in New York Times Magazine in September 2004, Counsellor to the US Ambassador for Iraqi Security Forces James Steele was assigned to work with a new elite Iraqi counter-insurgency unit known as the Special Police Commandos, formed under the operational control of Iraq's Interior Ministry.

From 1984 to 1986 then Col. Steele had led the US Military Advisory Group in El Salvador, where he was responsible for developing special operating forces at brigade level during the height of the conflict (...) The Police Commandos are in large part the brainchild of another US counter-insurgency veteran, Steven Casteel, a former top DEA man who has been acting as the senior advisor in the Ministry of the Interior. Casteel was involved in the hunt for Colombia's notorious cocaine baron Pablo Escobar, during which the DEA collaborated with a paramilitary organization known as *Los Pepes*, which later transformed itself into the AUC, an umbrella organization covering all of Colombia's paramilitary death squads. ¹⁴⁶

¹⁴³ http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/10/13/AR2006101301447_pf.html

¹⁴⁴ <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/12335716/site/newsweek/>

¹⁴⁵ The jumping off point for this research was E. Knickmeyer's *Washington Post* story [Iraq Nears Consolidation of Paramilitary Unit \(11.05.06\)](#) and [Iraq Begins to Rein In Paramilitary Force \(14.05.06\)](#)

¹⁴⁶ <http://globalresearch.ca/articles/FUL506A.html>



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Negroponte has certainly learned his job well in El Salvador, before he was appointed ambassador to Iraq. He transferred his methods of systematic liquidations, employed in the dirty wars in Middle and Latin America during the 70's and 80's, to Iraq. Many Latin American mercenaries who belonged to dead squads in Chile, Nicaragua, El Salvador etc.. were recruited by private companies and are now operating inside Iraq.

On April 30 2006, the Organisation for Follow-up and Monitoring wrote¹⁴⁷: “After exact counting and documenting, the Iraqi Organisation for Follow-up and Monitoring has confirmed that 92 % of the 3498 bodies found in different regions of Iraq have been arrested by officials of the Ministry of Interior. Nothing was known about the arrestees' fate until their riddled bodies were found with marks of horrible torture. It's regrettable and shameful that these crimes are being suppressed and that several states receive government officials, who fail to investigate these crimes.”

F. The occupation forces.

The British medical journal The Lancet reported on 11 October 2006 that the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq has led to the deaths of between 426,000 and 794,000 Iraqis. “While recision about such figures is difficult, we can be confident that the excess deaths were above 390,000, and may in fact be as high as 940,000. The vast majority (92 per cent) of the excess deaths were due to direct violence. (...)” 31 percent of those killed were actually slain by U.S. and "coalition" forces¹⁴⁸.

Iraqis in the volatile al-Anbar province west of Baghdad are reporting regular killings carried out by U.S. forces that many believe are part of a 'genocidal' strategy¹⁴⁹.

Harassment from U.S. forces is a greater threat to the work of the Iraqi Red Crescent than insurgent attacks, a senior official of the Red Cross-linked humanitarian organization said¹⁵⁰.

So the occupation forces certainly aren't in Iraq to protect the Iraqi people. Much to the contrary.

G. Criminal gangs.

The last group in this list are the ordinary criminal gangs, who do f.i. kidnappings for ransom money. They play a marginal, but instrumental role in the current instability in Iraq. Because none of the crimes

¹⁴⁷ <http://www.brusselstribunal.org/IraqUNHRC.htm>

¹⁴⁸ <http://www.uruknet.org.uk/?s1=1&p=27386&s2=13>

¹⁴⁹ http://www.dahriamailiraq.com/hard_news/archives/iraq/000556.php

¹⁵⁰ <http://www.globalpolicy.org/empire/un/2006/1216redcrescent.htm>



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committed are investigated, the victims have the impression that law and order are non-existent in the “new Iraq”. So most of them flee the country with their families. I mention ordinary criminality at the end of this list because ordinary criminals – and there are a lot of them in Iraq - are the only group that is (*at first sight*) not structurally linked to the occupation and its stooges. But these bandits can do their crimes with impunity, under the eyes of 750.000 security forces, without fear of being caught or prosecuted. This feeds the suspicion among the Iraqis that the occupier at least tolerates these crimes in order to create as much chaos as possible, for the sole purpose to defeat the resistance.

Conclusion

All these actors help to destroy the Republic of Iraq, kill and expel its people, annihilate its middle class, all this with the active (or tacit) support of the US occupation authorities, in a campaign of counter-insurgency that resembles the many “dirty wars” of the US during the past 50 years.

So instead of bringing stability to Iraq, the US occupation is doing everything it possibly can to create chaos and terror, to incite civil war and sectarian strife, in order to defeat the National Popular Resistance and to break the aspirations of the Iraqi people to live in a sovereign state and decide its own future.

Consequently the only possible road to a solution is the total and immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops from Iraqi soil. US forces must negotiate an immediate withdrawal with the Iraqi resistance¹⁵¹. The peace movement has to understand that these demands are crucial to achieve a peaceful solution¹⁵².

¹⁵¹ <http://www.brusselstribunal.org/WayOut.htm>

¹⁵² <http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=viewArticle&code=20070318&articleId=5103>