



# Iraqi Media Monitoring

From the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)

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## ***IRAQI NEWS, 29 Dec 2004***

- Two 'prominent' Al-Zarqawi militants arrested, 'terror cell' broken
- Al-Qa'idah member claims attack on SCIRI leader
- Shi'i group calls for removal of Saddam officials from security forces
- Basra governor notes arrangements for election
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- Al-Yawar discusses elections with Islamic Party, tribal leaders
- List of operations by Al-Zarqawi's group posted
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## ***IRAQI PRESS COMMENTS on 29 Dec 2004***

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## ***IRAQI PRESS HEADLINES, 29 - 30 Dec 2004***

- Al-Zaman [daily, independent, Baghdad edition of London-based Al-Zaman] 30 Dec 04:
- Al-Adalah [Baghdad, twice-weekly newspaper in Arabic published by the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI)] 29 Dec 04:
- Al-Dustur [Baghdad, daily independent newspaper in Arabic] 29 Dec:
- Al-Sharq al-Awsat [Baghdad edition of London-based daily Al-Sharq al-Awsat, Saudi-owned] 29 Dec:

### ***PROGRAMME SUMMARIES, 29 Dec 2004***

- Al-Diyar Satellite Channel In Arabic, Baghdad
- Al-Sharqiyah Satellite Channel, Baghdad, in Arabic
- Al-Iraqiah Satellite Channel, Baghdad, in Arabic,

### ***KURDS / TURKOMANS NEWS, 29 Dec 2004***

- Kurdish leader demands bigger share of national budget
- Hundred and thirty Kurds beheaded this year – report
- Only official security forces should police elections - Turkoman daily

### ***IRAQI NEWS, 29 Dec 2004***

#### ***Two 'prominent' Al-Zarqawi militants arrested, 'terror cell' broken***

**Al-Sharqiyah, Baghdad, in Arabic 1500 gmt 29 Dec 04:** Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Barham Salih said on 29th that Iraqi security forces have arrested two prominent members of Abu-Mus'ab Al-Zarqawi group, Iraqi Al-Sharqiyah TV reported. He named them as Abu-Marwan, 33, chief aide to Abu-Talhah, commander of Al-Zarqawi group in Mosul and his brother, Rida al-Bazyani. They were arrested a few days ago on a charge of running Al-Zarqawi's operations in Baghdad. Salih added that a terrorist cell was detained in Al-Najaf on 27th comprising three Iraqis, two Saudis and a Moroccan. Documents, plans and maps to booby-trap cars were seized.

#### ***Ansar al-Sunnah announces 'three-day curfew'***

**"suda 13" On 29 December, posted a statement on the Al-Izah forum from the Ansar al-Sunnah Army** declaring a three-day curfew beginning 30 December "to avoid causing casualties among innocent civilians." The statement warned Iraqis to stay away from "all military targets," specifying US forces as well as the Iraqi national guard and police, and said that all Iraqi polling places and their occupants will be targeted during the elections.

#### ***Al-Qa'idah member claims attack on SCIRI leader***

**The Lion's Den forum: On 29 December,** "Abu-Abd-al-Rahman" posted a statement in The Lion's Den forum by "Abu-Maysarah al-Iraqi, a member of Al-Qa'idah of Jihad in the Land of the Two Rivers [Qa'idat al-Jihad fi Bilad al-Rafidayn]," taking responsibility for the assassination attempt on Abd-al-Aziz al-Hakim, leader of The Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI). "Abu-Maysarah al-Iraqi" has been identified in other jihadist website posts as the official spokesman for Al-Qa'idah of Jihad in the Land of the Two Rivers and frequently posts their statements

## ***Shi'i group calls for removal of Saddam officials from security forces***

**(Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq website 29 Dec 04)** : In a statement issued by the Central Information Office of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), the group condemned the "treacherous, criminal and rancorous hands of the remnants and claws of the defunct regime" for the attack on SCIRI leader Abd-al-Aziz al-Hakim on 27 December. The statement - issued on the group's website - also demanded that any members of the former regime be removed from the new security forces in Iraq, saying: "We reiterate our categorical rejection of any decision that may be taken to reinstate these criminal murderers and forces of darkness to any of the organs of our new Iraqi state."

## ***Basra governor notes arrangements for election***

**Al-Diyar TV, In Arabic, Baghdad, 29 Dec 04:** Basra Governor Hasan al-Rashid told Iraqi Al-Diyar TV on 29 December that he believed the elections will take place as scheduled on 30 January, "especially in the southern regions" which have a stable security situation. "It is possible to hold the election and provide all the security measures in a good and appropriate manner that will ensure safe polls," he added. The governor noted that a branch of the electoral commission is taking care of the administrative arrangements for the election. "We helped the commission designate some centres and provide protection for them," he said, adding that there are 34 centres in the governorate. The commission distributed Form No 1 and it is checking name lists. The work of the commission and its committees at the designated centres will continue until 15 December. Rashid pointed out that some families and agents have not received the voter forms because the printing house did not produce enough forms.

## ***Independent Democrats announce platform***

**Al-Zaman, Daily Newspaper, Baghdad, in Arabic 28 Dec 04:** The Independent Democrats Grouping headed by Adnan Pachachi declared its election platform on 27th, stressing its belief that it is "inadmissible to cede Iraq's unity or compromise it or its federal status which represents a formula for establishing diversity within this unity and consecrating the sense of brotherhood among the Arabs, Kurds, Turkomans and other ethnic groups." In its platform, the grouping expressed "strong rejection of all forms of religious prejudice," saying that "sectarianism endangers the unity of Iraq." The grouping said that it "seeks to establish a state that is based on elected institutions which express the free will of the public and adopts constitutional legitimacy, the principle of the separation of powers, and equality before the law." The grouping's electoral list comprises 76 candidates, including Adnan Pachachi, Mahdi al-Hafiz, Maysun al-Damluji, Ayham al-Samarra'i, Umar al-Faruq al-Damluji, Layla Abd-al-Latif al-Tamimi, Sa'd Abd-al-Razzaq, Jalal al-Mashitah, Mishkat al-Mu'min, Muhyi al-Samarra'i, Mahdi al-Rahim, Fawziyah Abd-al-Kazim al-Atiyah, and Hisham al-Madfa'i.

## ***Al-Yawar discusses elections with Islamic Party, tribal leaders***

**Al-Sharqiyah Satellite Channel, Baghdad, in Arabic 29 Dec 04 :** Iraqi President Ghazi al-Yawar on 29 December met the secretary-general of the Iraqi Islamic Party and discussed with him his party's withdrawal from the Iraqi elections scheduled for 30 January, Iraqi Al-Sharqiyah TV reported. The Iraqi president also met the Iraq Notables Council delegation representing the tribes in Iraq and discussed with them the current situation in the country. According to the report, the Iraqi president stressed the need to consolidate national unity, close ranks and thwart attempts to foment sedition among the Iraqi people. He also stressed the need to hold the elections on the set date.

## ***List of operations by Al-Zarqawi's group posted***

**"George al-Muwahid" posted on the [Usamah's Memo forum at [www.almjalah.net](http://www.almjalah.net), 29 Dec 04,]** a 28 December list of operations from the Al-Qa'idah of Jihad Organization in the Land of the Two Rivers. Usamah's Memo forum at [www.almjalah.net/vb](http://www.almjalah.net/vb), previously known as Usamah's Islamic Forums , recently dropped its password requirement and is dominated by participants who are strongly pro-Al-Qa'idah.

### **A translation of the statement follows:**

"Yesterday's News from the Al-Qa'idah Organization in the Land of the Two Rivers

Relying on God, the mujahidin battalions of the Al-Qa'idah of Jihad Organization in the Land of the Two Rivers launched the following attacks yesterday, 28 December 2004:

### ***In the city of Tikrit, the battalions undertook the following:***

1. Attacked the Al-Uwaynat police station at the entrance to Tikrit.

In the city of Al-Kushayfah the battalions carried out the following:

1. Attacked the Al-Kushayfah police station, killed its occupants, destroyed the building, and took the weapons [that were in it].

### ***In the city of Al-Ishaqi the battalions carried out the following:***

1. Attacked the Al-Ishaqi police station and killed five of the renegade police officers.
2. The Emergency [Forces] Centre was attacked and blown up, killing all inside.

In the city of Balad the battalions undertook the following:

1. Attacked an election centre, blew it up, and killed its guards.
2. Attacked the main guarded entrance to Balad from the Al-Dulu'iyah side and killed its occupants.

3. Launched a missile attack (RPG BKC) on the Badr Brigade's headquarters.

***In the city of Al-Dulu'iyah, the battalions attacked the following:***

1. Attacked three of the pagan guards' [National Guard] centres and killed 12 of them.

***In the city of Samarra, the battalions undertook the following:***

1. A lion launched a martyrdom operation against the American forces' headquarters, the pagan's guards [National Guards], then destroyed the building, burned three of the enemy's vehicles, killed a number of American soldiers and National Guards, and hit the headquarters with (RPG -C5K) missiles.

***In Al-Durah City, the battalions initiated the following:***

1. They invaded the city's police headquarters, killed police officers, took their weapons, and blew up the building.

2. Hit an American tank and killed its crew and attacked two of the pagan [national] guards' cars and killed everyone in them.

**Al-Qa'idah of Jihad Organization in the Land of the Two Rivers, 17 Dhu-al-Qi'dah 1425 Hijri corresponding to 28 December 2004"**

***Forum moderator urges Iraqi insurgents to plan Mosul battle, obstruct elections:***

**"Bu-Umar,"** On 28 December, the moderator of the Arab Dialogue Forum at [www.hdrmut.net](http://www.hdrmut.net) posted his analysis of the Iraqi insurgency urging the "resistance" to use Mosul for the "decisive battle against the occupation." "Bu-Umar" said that the US military will not succeed in Mosul because of the city's huge area and its location close to Syria and Turkey, as the US would not want any of "its rockets to fall on the neighbouring countries and cause embarrassment." He advised that the battle of Mosul should be planned well, including its media component. "Bu-Umar" concluded by calling on Iraqi insurgents to "look seriously at the future starting with making the day of 30 January a day of destroying as much as possible to obstruct the elections by any means . . . thwarting the elections is a strategic point for the resistance that should be prepared for carefully without regard to the region."

***Al-Najaf governor declares electoral list***

**Al-Najaf News Network 29 Dec 04:** Al-Najaf Governor Adnan al-Zarfi announced his electoral list - called Allegiance to Al-Najaf - at the hall of Al-Najaf Tourist Hotel, the

Al-Najaf News Network reported on 29 December. The principal objectives of the list were given as follows:

1. Providing security
2. Facilitating the election process
3. Implementing the reconstruction process of Al-Najaf.

The list also emphasized cooperation with the central Euphrates governorates, religious tourism plans, the issue of foreign investment, among other issues. The Allegiance to Al-Najaf list was formed by the Islamic Al-Da'wah Party in Iraq.

### ***Chalabi says Islam has major, but limited role in Iraq***

**Al-Sharqiyah Satellite Channel, Baghdad, in Arabic, 29 Dec 04:** Ahmad Chalabi, leader of the Iraqi National Congress (INC) party, in an interview on 24 December on Iraqi Al-Sharqiyah TV said that Islam had a limited role to play in Iraq, and that Iraq would not be an Islamic state. "Islam is the religion of the majority in Iraq and the Islamic civilization played a great role in Iraq. In the State Administration Law, we said that Islam is the state religion and the source of legislation, and that no legislation will be passed if it contravenes the Islamic principles. The same language was used in the Iraqi Unified Coalition plan. This is the limit of the role of Islam at present." Regarding Iraq's oil resources, Chalabi called for establishing a national oil company "whose shares must be owned by all the Iraqi people."

### ***IRAQI PRESS COMMENTS on 29 Dec 2004***

#### ***“The era of totalitarian regimes has gone for good”-Baghdad***

**Baghdad [Baghdad, daily newspaper in Arabic published by the Iraqi National Accord Movement] 29 Dec:** [From commentary by Mustafa al-Qaradaghi] "Behind many acts of killing, assassination and violence witnessed by Iraq today are intelligence services of neighbouring states terrified by the US project, let alone the remnants of Al-Qa'idah and the former regime. Many governments and political regimes in the region should understand that even if the US project fails, the era of totalitarian regimes has gone for good with the fall of the worst such regime in the region, and that today it is the time of free peoples that will rise up, sooner or later, against their executioners, whether the winds of change blowing from new Iraq hit them or not."

## ***"The actual battle has begun between two main lists: the US list, and the Iranian list"- Ishraqat al-Sadr***

**Ishraqat al-Sadr [Baghdad, weekly newspaper in Arabic published by the Sadrist Movement] 29 Dec:** [From commentary by Ali al-Basri] "The actual battle has begun between two main lists: the US list, so-called Iraqi list, and the Iranian list, known as the united or national list. The first list has waged its war with a pre-emptive strike against the second list, with Defence Minister Hazim al-Sha'lan taking command of the battle for many reasons, among them, this minister is the biggest mouthpiece and puppet of America. The war is expected to intensify in the next few days, and it is more likely that liquidations will be carried out by either party against the other. The attempted assassination of Al-Sistani's representative in Karbala two days ago was only the first spark of this war. It was a message from one party to the other. An election that starts with a war of words and assassination attempts will be a failure. Rather, it will be bloody election, God forbid, in which the wounded people would be the only victim and the first and last losers."

## ***The importance of holding amicable dialogue in Iraq- Al-Ufuq***

**Al-Ufuq, daily Newspaper, publishes on page 4 a 300-word article by Najah Muhammad Ali** discussing the importance of holding amicable dialogue in Iraq. The article says that as election day approaches, the most dangerous issue is that some parties tend to "settle their political disputes with their opponents by physical liquidation and killing." The article says that although the Iraqi Government has the right to maintain its control and impose security for the upcoming elections, it should not violate people's human rights. On the other hand, those opposing the political process in Iraq including those insisting on their right to resist should understand that there is no unanimity regarding the military approach for resistance in Iraq.

## ***The means for eliminating wide-spread corruption- Al-Bayan***

**Al-Bayan [Baghdad, daily newspaper in Arabic published by the Islamic Al-Da'wah Party]** publishes on page 3 a 300-word article by Zuhayr Mujali Sa'd discussing the means for eliminating the wide-spread administrative corruption in the state institutions. The article says that the political parties' interference in the education sector is a mean reason for corruption. The article proposes launching a national campaign for the education of public servants on the danger of corruption on the future of their country. It also calls for establishing an efficient monitoring system to fight corruption in the society.

### ***“The reconstruction process in Iraq”- Al-Furat***

**Al-Furat, comprehensive & political daily, by Al-Furat Establishment for Press:** runs a 300-word front-page editorial by Chief Editor Shakir al-Juburi discussing the reconstruction process in Iraq. Al-Juburi says that when the people heard about the reconstruction funds, they were shocked by the results and wondered where these funds are. Al-Juburi says that the government did not question any official or employee involved in the finance corruption. Al-Juburi says that there are exaggerated funds allocated for painting and rehabilitation. Al-Juburi adds that many officials are not able to react because many powerful people are involved in taking advantage of the reconstruction process.

### ***"Bloody Prince Exists."- Al-Mada***

**Al-Mada [Baghdad, daily, independent newspaper published by Al-Mada Media, Culture and Arts Corporation] ."** The editorial says that after Bin Ladin's tape that assigned Al-Zarqawi as the prince in Iraq, Zarqawi is no longer a fabricated figure. The editorial adds that many groups did not believe that this man existed and they thought that Al-Zarqawi was a fabricated US story. The editorial adds that Al-Qa'idah, which insulted the history of the Mujahidin in Afghanistan, is in Iraq looking to create civil war. The editorial notes: "Bin Ladin has graduated from the US intelligence service, from which secret place Al-Zarqawi has come?"

### ***IRAQI PRESS HEADLINES, 29 - 30 Dec 2004***

#### ***Al-Zaman [daily, independent, Baghdad edition of London-based Al-Zaman] 30 Dec 04:***

- ◆ Iraq safe from Asian tsunami. Hundreds of thousands killed in several countries
- ◆ Unknown individuals blow up house in Al-Ghaziliyah after they lured three rescue patrols to it
- ◆ Mosul students demonstrate to demand exams' postponement
- ◆ Iraqi Deputy Premier Barham Salih tells Al-Zaman: Leading members of Al-Zarqawi group arrested in Mosul, cell made up of two Saudis and Moroccan dismantled in Al-Najaf
- ◆ [Iraqi Defence Minister Hazim] al-Sha'lan: Guards, army forces to be merged 6 January
- ◆ Arrests carried out in Al-A'zamiyah, Al-Mahmudiyah, Balad. National guards, gunmen clash in Samarra
- ◆ Al-Yawar to meet Chirac in Paris mid January
- ◆ Explosive device diffused in front of girls secondary school in Al-Nu'maniyah.

***Al-Adalah [Baghdad, twice-weekly newspaper in Arabic published by the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI)] 29 Dec 04:***

- ◆ Senior SCIRI member: Terrorist attacks aim to sow sedition, obstruct political process
- ◆ UN chief strongly denounces attack on SCIRI leader (news agencies quoted)
- ◆ Iyad Allawi: Armed groups work under joint command; some of its leader are in Syria (Radio Sawa quoted)
- ◆ Kuwaiti FM: Iraqi election is prelude to restore Iraqi people's unity (KUNA quoted)
- ◆ Baghdad governor: Terrorist operations hamper project implementation IOM identifies polling centres outside Iraq
- ◆ Sabotage attack on Baghdad-Basra railway line
- ◆ Egypt ready to sign agreements to sell electricity to Iraq (news agencies quoted)
- ◆ Iraqi criminal court: Jordanian lawyer's statements promote lies
- ◆ Trade Ministry: Ration card system to remain effective next year
- ◆ Economists to discuss development challenges, opportunities in Iraq.

***Al-Dustur [Baghdad, daily independent newspaper in Arabic] 29 Dec:***

- ◆ Thirty thousand Iraqis to perform pilgrimage this year
- ◆ Calls for restoring National Oil Company, giving share to each Iraqi
- ◆ Threat to kill its secretary-general behind withdrawal of Islamic Party from elections
- ◆ Iraqi special tribunal rejects allegations against court, its members
- ◆ US occupation forces arrest 50 Iraqis in Al-Yusufiyah south of Baghdad (news agencies quoted)
- ◆ National Guard commander escapes assassination
- ◆ Leader of Iraqi Nation Party Mithal al-Alusi survives attempt on his life, blame Syrian intelligence for attack
- ◆ First batch of Al-Fallujah residents return home
- ◆ Vote counting for Iraqis abroad to be held at poll centres
- ◆ Iraq, Egypt sign scientific agreement
- ◆ Bin-Ladin calls for boycott of elections in Iraq
- ◆ Daughter of [former Iraqi president] Abd-al-Salam Arif accuses US soldiers of killing her brother, husband, son
- ◆ Democratic Gathering announces its political programme, holds multi-national forces responsible for security in Iraq

- ◆ Fifteen members of Al-Sadr Movement arrested in Al-Hillah; officer killed, four National Guards, three civilians wounded in Ba'qubah; Tikrit police station attacked.

***Al-Sharq al-Awsat [Baghdad edition of London-based daily Al-Sharq al-Awsat, Saudi-owned] 29 Dec:***

- ◆ Powell urges Iraqi Sunnis to run in elections (AFP quoted)
- ◆ Attacks leave 41 Iraqis dead including 32 policemen, National Guards Iraqi government begins implementing Al-Fallujah reconstruction plan (AFP quoted)
- ◆ In slip of tongue, Powell delays election for five months (AFP quoted)
- ◆ Election commission denies collecting electoral cards in one centre (AFP quoted)
- ◆ Five thousand more US troops in Baghdad to secure elections in Baghdad (AFP quoted)
- ◆ Iraqi special tribunal approves Lebanese lawyer's request to defend [Saddam's personal secretary] Abd-Hamud
- ◆ Iraq trains staff to investigate into 283 mass graves from Saddam era
- ◆ Human rights minister: One million people reported missing; We need quarter of a century to account for them.

***PROGRAMME SUMMARIES, 29 Dec 2004***

***Al-Diyar Satellite Channel In Arabic, Baghdad***

- ◆ Sounds of several explosions were heard around the Green Zone in Baghdad this morning. No more details are available.
- ◆ Three American soldiers were killed in a car-bomb explosion in Samarra yesterday. An American general says additional 5,000 American soldiers will be deployed in Baghdad to provide security during the elections
- ◆ Iraqi government says it began implementing a plan to reconstruct Al-Fallujah and resettle the city's refugees
- ◆ spokesman for electoral commission denies that the votes of the Iraqis abroad will be sorted out and counted in one country, namely Jordan
- ◆ International Immigration Organization, which monitors the voting of Iraqis abroad, says 11 countries agreed to facilitate the voting for Iraqis on their territories
- ◆ Video interview with Basra Governor Hasan al-Rashid on the election and the situation in Basra
- ◆ According to a Kurdish official, unknown individuals broke into Arbil museum and looted some of its contents

- ◆ official investigating the oil-for-food corruption case says most of the illegal funds that Saddam Husayn obtained came from smuggling operations
- ◆ Iraqi police say a powerful explosion destroyed a house in Baghdad during a police raid. At least 28 people, including seven policemen, were killed in the explosion
- ◆ Iraqi police said yesterday gunmen killed a senior member of the Communist Party south of Baghdad one day after his abduction
- ◆ Iraqi National Guard official says more than 50 people were arrested in a large campaign in Al-Yusufiyah south of Baghdad
- ◆ US Embassy in Baghdad warns Americans in Iraq against growing threats and violence by the New Year
- ◆ Arab institute for training and statistical research accepts applications for higher diploma in applied statistics
- ◆ Basra governor says Basra airport will open for civilian and commercial flights in the next few days
- ◆ Video report on a conference on the Iraqi marshlands and ways to develop them

### ***Al-Sharqiyah Satellite Channel, Baghdad, in Arabic***

- ◆ Deputy Premier Barham Salih says Iraqi security forces arrested two prominent figures in Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi network
- ◆ Baghdad was rocked by four violent explosions in the Green Zone at dawn today
- ◆ Iraqi Interior Ministry says a powerful blast destroyed a house in a district in western Baghdad during a police raid, killing 28 people
- ◆ Iraqi interior minister visited police centres in Baghdad today in an attempt to lift Iraqi policemen spirits in the aftermath of a raid on a house in western Baghdad, where several policemen were killed
- ◆ Multinational forces said today that Iraqi security forces foiled three attempts to attack Iraqi police centres in Ninawa governorate in northern Iraq. Two police centres in Mosul came yesterday under mortar attack carried out by armed gunmen
- ◆ Two policemen have been wounded in an attack by armed men in the east of Balad
- ◆ Iraqi president met today the secretary general of the Iraqi Islamic Party and discussed with him the issue of Iraqi elections. He also met Iraq Notables Council delegation representing the tribes in Iraq
- ◆ Iraqi government says it has allowed the residents of a second district in Al Fallujah to return to their homes
- ◆ Education Ministry says those fired for political reasons and those who left their jobs have been reinstated in their positions, over 20,000 new teachers have been appointed

- ◆ bodies of a contractor, an Iraqi engineer as well as a Turkish driver working for the US Army have been found on the road connecting the cities of Tirkit and Al-Tuz
- ◆ Governor of Ninawa says the deterioration of the security situation in the Governorate in the last few days would not happen again in the future, pledged to maintain security throughout the Governorate
- ◆ Iraqi oil exports in the north of the country came to a halt today following sabotage acts
- ◆ Ukraine defence minister says his country will completely withdraw its forces from Iraq by the end of 2005
- ◆ Iraqi Transport Ministry says three airports were allotted for the transportation of Iraqi pilgrims to Saudi Arabia
- ◆ US congressional investigator and head of an independent inquiry said most of the money that Saddam Husayn illicitly obtained by cheating on UN sanctions on Iraq came from oil smuggling outside the UN oil-for-food program
- ◆ Iraqi Independent electoral commission said sorting ballots of Iraqis abroad will be carried at the same polling centres where they will cast their votes.

### ***Al-Iraqiah Satellite Channel, Baghdad, in Arabic,***

- ◆ National Guard arrests 58 terror suspects, some of them Syrians and Egyptian, in Baghdad
- ◆ Leader of terrorist group, Abu-Marwan, arrested in Mosul
- ◆ Attempts to attack police stations in Mosul foiled. At least 15 terror suspects arrested in Mosul by multinational force
- ◆ Fallujah reconstruction plan launched by government ministries
- ◆ Thirteen killed in blast in home west of Baghdad. Video report covers blast, car bomb targeting members of National Guard in Ba'aqubah
- ◆ Cars laden with explosives found by multinational force in Hila
- ◆ Minister of Defence Hazim al-Sha'lan says National Guard to be integrated into army
- ◆ Interim National Assembly discusses environmental issues
- ◆ Spokesman for Independent Electoral Commission says more than 7,000 candidates to run in January polls
- ◆ Iraqis say media is not doing enough to inform public about election
- ◆ Iraqis in Suleymaniyah hope polls will be turning point in Iraq history
- ◆ Iraqi women play important role in political process. Video report highlights comments by female students about their future political role
- ◆ Studio interview with Dr. Majid al-Sab'awi, a legal expert. He says Iraqi legal experts capable of monitoring election
- ◆ Education department in Najaf appoints new teachers
- ◆ Mosul university rector says re-equipping university key objective

- ◆ Health teams launch tuberculosis prevention campaign in Basra
- ◆ Tidal wave caused by Asia quake kills more than 80,000 people
- ◆ Ukrainian premier defiant after election defeat
- ◆ Business bulletin: Oil exports from Basra resumed. Allocations made to modernise Basra university ...

## **KURDS / TURKOMANS NEWS, 29 Dec 2004**

### ***Kurdish leader demands bigger share of national budget***

**(Al-Ta'akhi 28 Dec 04):** The head of the Kurdistan regional government, Nechirvan Barzani, declared that the regional government would refuse the 17 per cent share of the Iraqi budget that has been allocated to the Kurdistan region, Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) newspaper Al-Ta'akhi reported on 28 December. In a website statement quoted by the newspaper, Barzani said: "We demand an equitable ratio for the Kurdistan region from the total revenues of the state of Iraq and demand that our budget share should not be less than 20 per cent of the general federal budget... Negotiations are still continuing with the federal government to address this issue." He also reportedly accused the head of the Independent Higher Commission for Elections in Kirkuk of being biased against the Kurds

### ***Hundred and thirty Kurds beheaded this year – report***

**(Hawlati 29 Dec 04):** Kurdish newspaper Hawlati on 29 December carried a report which said that 130 Kurdish citizens were beheaded in 2004 by extremist groups. Quoting an annual report from the Human Rights Ministry of Sulaymaniyah administration, the newspaper added that scores of citizens had been freed for a large ransom after they were abducted and tortured by the extremist groups.

### ***Only official security forces should police elections - Turkoman daily***

**(Turkomaneli 27 Dec 04):** Turkoman newspaper Turkomaneli on 27 December announced its opposition to the use of what it called "armed militias" as a guarantee of security during the voting in the elections. Quoting media sources which said that such forces were likely to be used, the newspaper said that they were against the use of militias for this purpose, particularly in the Kirkuk Governorate, the town of Tall Afar and Tuz, "because of the sensitivity felt by residents in these areas towards any kind of militias. However," the article continued, "if resorting to an additional force is inevitable because the Iraqi police are unable to deal with the security in the aforementioned areas, then the additional force should be formed from Turkomans, to help us ensure that the fairness of the elections and the residents in the Turkomani areas are protected."

***KurdSat TV, HEADLINES NEWS on 29 Dec:***

- ◆ PUK leader Jalal Talabani briefs Kirkuk-bases PUK officials
- ◆ Talabani meets families of four Kurds recently killed in Al-Hawijah at his head quarters in Qalachwala
- ◆ Talabani meets delegation of Brotherhood and Democratic Dialogue Council in Kirkuk on 28 December at his head quarters
- ◆ PUK-led regional government human rights minister says it is currently busy exhuming bodies in a mass grave near Dabashan area
- ◆ Kirkuk governor, US consul in Kirkuk and US forces commanders hold new conference on developments in the city
- ◆ Human Rights ministry provides winter aid to residents in Jalawla and Ba'qubah
- ◆ regional government signs contract with Lebanese company to build Cement factory in Bazyan area in Sulaymaniyah

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*NB: This is not an official document. The information contained therein was compiled by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, Information Office. If you have any questions/suggestions, please contact us at (+ 962 550 -4631/4703 or Cell. + 962 77 619 731 [jarrar@un.org](mailto:jarrar@un.org) or [alsokhni@un.org](mailto:alsokhni@un.org)*