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• "Kirkuk, Favoured by All,"- Al-Mashriq
• Britain ready to train the Oil Ministry's cadre- Al-Bayan
• Calls for postponing the upcoming elections- Al-Bayan
• "Regards the citizen guilty until his innocence is proved." -Al-Dustur
• National conference for the Civil Society Institutions- Al-Dustur
• "Iraqi Defence Minister allegations for neighbouring countries” Al-Dustur

IRAQI MEDIA PROGRAMME SUMMARIES, 20 DEC 04
• Programme summary of Al-Iraqiyah TV news 20 Dec 04
• Programme summary of Al-Diyar TV news 20 Dec 04

IRAQI PRESS HEADLINES 21 DEC 2004
• Al-Zaman [daily, independent, Baghdad]: headlines 21-22 Dec 04:

KURDISH NEWS & UPDATES FROM IRAQI KURDISH PRESS 20 DEC 04
• Talabani threatens to send forces to protect Kurds near Kirkuk- KurdSat TV
• US consul backs KDP call for delay in Kirkuk polls – Kurdistan Satellite TV
• Paper said seats allocated prior to elections- Jamawar
• Khabat daily, issued in Erbil by the KDP, 20 December 2004
• Kurdistani Nwe daily, issued in Sulaymanya by the PUK, 20 December 2004
• www.peyamner.com 20 December 2004

IRAQI NEWS for 20-21 Dec 04

Blasts reported around Karbala- Al-Sharqiyah- Al-Sharqiyah

Al-Sharqiyah Satellite Channel, Baghdad, in Arabic, 20 Dec 04:: An explosive charge went off in an area close to the edge of Karbala on the evening of 20 December without causing casualties, Al-Sharqiyah TV reported. Earlier, a blast went off inside Karbala near Al-Sa'diyah Hotel at a location where the Iraqi police have a checkpoint. Police said there were no casualties from the incident.

Iraqi Islamic Party denounces Al-Najaf, Karbala Bombings- Dar Al-Salam Radio
Dar Al-Salam Radio, Iraqi Islamic Party-affiliated, 20 Dec 04: The Iraqi Islamic Party has issued a statement denouncing the bombings, which targeted innocent Iraqis in the cities of Al-Najaf and Karbala, Dar al-Salam radio reported on 20 December. The party called for national unity and urged Iraqis "to renounce sectarianism and anarchism".

**National Democratic Coalition has started its electoral campaign- Al-Zaman**

Al-Zaman newspaper, Baghdad, 20 Dec 04”: carried report on a statement by Taufiq al-Yasiri, secretary general of the National Democratic Coalition, led by Justice Minister Malik Duhan al-Hasan, noting that his party has started its electoral campaign. Al-Yasiri says that his party has named 200 figures representing all the Iraqis to run in the upcoming elections. Al-Yasiri adds that his party will run in the elections as an entity representing academics, independent committees and figures, artists, writers, and tribal leaders.

**Christians in Iraq will not celebrate Christmas- Al-Zaman**

Al-Zaman newspaper, Baghdad, 20 Dec 04”: published a report on a statement by Yunadim Kina Yusif, leader of the Assyrian Democratic Movement, noting that the Christians in Iraq will not celebrate Christmas this year because of the bad security situation. Yusif says that the Christian clerics decided not to celebrate this year and to be in solidarity with the victims of the attacks that targeted the churches in Iraq.

**Unidentified gunmen assassinated a tribal leader and his son in Diyalah- Al-Zaman**

Al-Zaman newspaper, Baghdad, 20 Dec 04”: published a report stating that unidentified gunmen assassinated a tribal leader and his son in Baladruz in Diyalah Governorate. The report says that the victim was a well-known and respected figure in Baladruz and he was an independent figure. (Al-Zaman, 20 Dec 04)

**US jet fighters attacked three districts in Al-Fallujah- Al-Zaman**

Al-Zaman newspaper, Baghdad, 20 Dec 04”: published a report on a statement by eyewitnesses in Al-Fallujah city noting that the US jet fighters attacked three districts in Al-Fallujah. The eyewitnesses said that these air raids were carried out after severe clashes occurred between the US forces and the gunmen in these districts. (Al-Zaman, 20 Dec 04)

IRAQI PRESS QOUTES & COMMENTS 20 Dec 2004
More projects planned for southern city-Al-Zaman

Al-Zaman [daily, independent, Baghdad edition of London-based Al-Zaman]:
2004-12-20, By Ali Allak: Reconstruction will start in earnest in the southern Province of Wasit in 2005, according to Governor Mohammed Ridha. The province south of Baghdad borders Iran on the east where tribal chieftains have recently complained about insecurity which they blame on Iranian infiltrators. But Ridha said his province, home to nearly 750,000 people, was calm. “We hope to implement scores of service projects and upgrade the infrastructure in the province in 2005. “The state of security and stability the province enjoys has made the situation here different from that in other areas in the country,” he said.

For centuries the provincial capital, Kut, was a regional center for the carpet trade from Persia and India but it lost its glamour under the former leader Saddam Hussein. The fertile area around Kut was once one of the country’s main cereal grain growing regions.

Kut was also the site of Iraq’s main Nuclear Research Facility that was looted following the 2003 U.S. invasion of the country.

Ridha acknowledge that his province suffered from “neglect and deprivation” during Saddam Hussein’s long rule.

He said he was promised to have the necessary funds ready at the start of 2005 to kick start the province’s reconstruction.

He declined to give any figures but said he would rely on local contractors and workers to do the job.

Most foreign companies and contractors have fled the country following the kidnapping and murder of scores of their staff at the hands of militant groups.

Meantime, Ridha said the provincial police force will soon add an additional 5,000 new volunteers to its ranks.

He said he would do “whatever it takes” to preserve security and turn Wasit into a model for other provinces.

“We need to consolidate the present state of calm in the province so that all citizens will feel secure and safe wherever they are in Wasit,” Ridha said.

Demonstration by Iraqi Nation Democratic Party- Al-Zaman

Al-Zaman newspaper, Baghdad, 20 Dec 04: published a report on a demonstration organized by the Iraqi Nation Democratic Party, led by Mithal al-Alusi, former official spokesman of the Iraqi National Congress led by Ahmad Chalabi, near the Syrian Embassy in Baghdad calling for handing over the Iraqi former officials who reside in Syria. The report says that the demonstration has called for handing over the Iraqi funds in Syria and stopping the Syrian intervention in the Iraqi issues.
**Attacks targeting electoral centres - Al-Zaman**

*Al-Zaman newspaper, Baghdad, 20 Dec 04*: published a report on attacks targeting the electoral centres. The report says that a severe wave of violence has targeted the electoral centres in Baghdad and the northern and western cities. The report adds that three employees working for the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq were assassinated in Hayfa Street in Baghdad. Meanwhile, the report says that a security member was killed during an attack targeting an electoral centre in Al-Saydiyah district in Baghdad. In Kurkuk Governorate, a mortar attack targeted an electoral centre without any information about the casualties.

**Electoral official: “Upcoming elections will be held as scheduled on 30 January” - Al-Mu’tamar**

*Al-Mu’tamar* [Baghdad, daily newspaper in Arabic published by the Iraqi National Congress]: published a report citing Dr Farid Ayar, the spokesman for the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq, confirming that the upcoming elections will be held as scheduled on 30 January. Ayar added that voting at the polling centres will continue from 0800 to 1700 Baghdad local time. He expressed astonishment about Prime Minister Allawi's recent statement proposing to hold them over a period of a few days. The report cites Abd-al-Aziz al-Hakim, the leader of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, SCIRI, reacting to Defence Minister Hazim al-Sha'lan's recent statement accusing the candidates of the Unified Iraqi Coalition List of being Iranian agents. After his meeting with Ayatollah Al-Sistani, al-Hakim said: "We anticipated such irresponsible and inaccurate statements; however, we do not want to rouse controversy. We trust that people will vote for the candidates who are supported by their religious leaders."

“**Chances of the various electoral lists in the upcoming elections**” - Al-Mu'tamar

*Al-Mu'tamar newspaper, 20 Dec 04*: published a report discussing the chances of the various electoral lists in the upcoming elections. The article says that the 275-member electoral lists of the Iraqi Communist Party and Islamic Party would have less of chance than the other small lists in the upcoming elections because they represent specific political ideologies while the Iraqi society is influenced by tribal, religious, and social loyalties more than by political ideology. The article predicts that President Al-Yawir's list, Iraqiyoun, would not be popular because it depends on tribal inclination, among which both Defence Minister Hazim al-Sha'lan and Al-Yawir are not popular due to their recent statements criticizing religious authorities.

“**Syrian government’s stance regarding the Iraqi elections**” - Al-Mu'tamar

*Al-Mu'tamar newspaper, 20 Dec 04*: published an article discussing and criticizing the Syrian government's stance regarding the Iraqi elections. The article says that the Syrian
Government wants the Iraqi Embassy in Syria, which has close relations with the Syrian security agencies, to supervise the election process for the Iraqis residing in Syria rather than the International Immigration Organization; a matter that would jeopardize its legitimacy.

**High-ranking official leave for Jordan to discuss connection of electricity in Iraq with Jordan and Syria”- Al-Mu'tamar**

Al-Mu'tamar newspaper, 20 Dec 04: published a report citing well-informed sources at the Electricity Ministry as saying that a high-ranking official delegation will leave for Jordan today to discuss the connection of electricity networks in Iraq with Jordan and Syria. The report says that Egypt plans to supply Iraq with electricity through the Jordanian electricity network.

**Public health services have declined in Iraq- Al-Mu'tamar**

Al-Mu'tamar newspaper, 20 Dec 04: cited Health Minister Dr Ala al-Din Alwan as saying that the public health services have declined in Iraq. During his meeting with the senior health officials in Baghdad, Alwan added that his ministry's stock of medicines is enough for less than three months. Alwan asserted that his ministry's strategic development plan for the next four years focuses on fighting corruption, providing basic health services, ensuring the safety of the food supplies, preparing health laboratories, and monitoring communicable diseases.

**Elections: the Authority's Legitimacy in the Democratic System.”- Al-Mashriq**

Al-Mashriq [Baghdad, by Al- Mashriq Institution for media and cultural investments] Editorial 20 Dec 04: carried an article entitled "Elections: the Authority's Legitimacy in the Democratic System." The author gives a historical survey of the "idea" of elections and its development, commenting on the various elections conducted in Iraq during the previous regime. He discusses the "ideal procedures," which can guarantee "fair and honest elections" in Iraq.

**Iraq's Relationship with the Geographical Neighbours- Al-Mashriq**

Al-Mashriq newspaper, 20 Dec 04: carried an article entitled "Iraq's Relationship with the Geographical Neighbours and the Salvation Trinity." The author comments on Iraq's relations with Turkey and Iran and the "influence" these two countries are trying to exert on Iraqi internal affairs.
Iraq between the Armed Operations and Terrorism- Al-Mashriq

Al-Mashriq newspaper, 20 Dec 04: published an article entitled "Iraq between the Armed Operations and Terrorism." The writer comments on the current "deteriorating" security situation in Iraq, saying that what is happening "has been carefully planned by Iraq's enemies, especially Israel." He adds that the "wholesale killing of innocent Iraqis by booby-trapped cars is designed by those enemies to kill Iraqis and lengthen the occupation period."

"Kirkuk, Favoured by All,"- Al-Mashriq

Al-Mashriq newspaper, 20 Dec 04: carried an article by Hadi Nu'man al-Hiti entitled "Kirkuk, Favoured by All," in which the writer comments on the "controversy over the Kirkuk Governorate identity." The author says that all nationalities and sects "love" Kirkuk, calling on all Iraqis to "live peacefully in it, as they have been doing for ages."

Britain ready to train the Oil Ministry's cadre- Al-Bayan

Al-Bayan [Baghdad, daily newspaper in Arabic published by the Islamic Al-Da'wah Party]: published a report citing the British ambassador to Iraq affirming that Britain is ready to train the Oil Ministry's cadre. During his meeting with Oil Minister Thamir al-Ghadban, he affirmed that his country is willing to cooperate in developing the oil sector in Iraq.

Calls for postponing the upcoming elections- Al-Bayan

Al-Bayan [Baghdad, daily newspaper in Arabic published by the Islamic Al-Da'wah Party]: published an article by Ali al-Sa'idi discussing and criticizing the recent calls for postponing the upcoming elections made by a number of Arab satellite channels, which coincided with the calls made by a number of Iraqi political forces and the escalation of terrorist attacks. The article says that the current sensitive and critical situation in Iraq has no space to accommodate further experimental policies and postponement calls that no one is authorized to decide on and neglecting the entire people.

"Regards the citizen guilty until his innocence is proved." -Al-Dustur

Al - Dustur, Baghdad, independent daily 20 Dec 04: published an editorial by Chief Editor Basim al-Shaykh saying that the Iraqi security agencies have inherited from the former regime a strange principle that "regards the citizen guilty until his innocence is proved." The article says that although no one denies the critical security situation of some political figures and state institutions, it is not the problem of the people, adding that the security forces should protect rather than oppress people on the grounds of an unstable security situation.
**National conference for the Civil Society Institutions- Al-Dustur**

*Al - Dustur, Baghdad, independent daily 20 Dec 04:* published an "exclusive" report on the first National conference for the Civil Society Institutions organized by the State Ministry for Civil Society Affairs in Baghdad. The report says that the conference discussed, over two days, four main topics: the economy, the political and legal situation, the social situation, and the media and education.

**“Iraqi Defence Minister allegations for neighbouring countries”**

*Al-Dustur*

*Al-Dustur newspaper, 20 Dec 04:* published an article by Abd-al-Rasul Zahrah praising the frankness of Defence Minister Hazim al-Sha'lan in exposing the neighbouring countries that contribute to terrorism in Iraq. The article criticizes him for his recent statement accusing the candidates of the Unified Iraqi Coalition List of being Iranian agents. The article asks if Al-Sha'lan's allegations were true, why would the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq accept an electoral list that includes Iranian nationals?

**IRAQI MEDIA Programme summaries, 20 Dec 04**

*Programme summary of Al-Iraqiyah TV news 20 Dec 04*

- Al-Najaf governor says 50 terror suspects arrested in connection with attacks in Al-Najaf and Karbala. Video report highlights his comments.
- Islamic Iraqi Party condemns Al-Najaf and Karbala bombings. Video report showing aftermath.
- Vice-President Ibrahim al-Ja'fari says Al-Najaf and Karbala attacks is attempt to obstruct polls. Video report. He says polls to be held on time. Video report covers his comments.
- Order of political parties on ballot paper decided by draw. Video report
- Prime Minister Iyad Allawi says national unity priority of government. Video report covers his comments.
- Vice-President Rozh Nuri Shawes calls on government to help cities disadvantaged by former regime policy. Video report covers his visit to Kirkuk.
- Iraqis brace themselves for polls. Video report
- Basra clerics say composition of government to be decided in fair election. Video report covers views of Sunni and Shiite clerics.
- Conference for civil society concludes its meetings in Baghdad. Video report
• Students at Basra University mark anniversary of killing of Ayatollah Muhammad Sadiq al-Sadr. Video report
• Gulf Co-operation Council summit opens in Manama with Saudi Crown Prince Abdallah Bin-Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud not attending. Video report

Programme summary of Al-Diyar TV news 20 Dec 04

• American aircraft bomb the eastern parts of Al-Fallujah. There were reports of clashes between the American forces and armed groups in the city last night. American forces kill three civilians after an explosion in northern Iraq
• Fifteen people were killed and around 50 wounded when a booby-trapped car exploded in Karbala on 19 December
• Vice President Shawes says the electoral commission should approve the postponement of the elections in Kirkuk. He says the Kurds and the political forces in the city have the right to take the position they wish if the commission fails to postpone the vote
• The electoral commission draws lots to determine the order of names on the voting cards
• Iraqi Prime Minister Allawi says the problem of fuel shortage will be solved within 24 hours. He also says the people of Al-Fallujah can return gradually to their city within two days
• Sources close to Prime Minister Allawi and to President Al-Yawir disclose that the two are holding intensive contacts in an attempt to merge their two election lists
• The patriarch of the Chaldean Church in Iraq says the church does not support any particular election list. Christians in Iraq express concern over the increase in attacks on churches
• Correspondent in Al-Musayyab reports that the multinational forces bombed a bus after it crossed a checkpoint on a bridge linking the road between Karbala and Baghdad
• The American forces open fire at a civilian car in Al-Musayyab, killing one person and wounding others
• Canada hosts conference to discuss preparations for the Iraqi elections
• The president of the Iraqi Judiciary League says Iraqi courts are unable to try the occupation forces for their daily "crimes" against innocent Iraqis
• The Iranian government spokesman says Iran will demand compensation from the next Iraqi government for the losses it suffered during the Iraq-Iran war

IRAQI PRESS HEADLINES 21 Dec 2004
**Al-Zaman [daily, independent, Baghdad]: headlines 21-22 Dec 04:**

- Abdullah II and Al Asad hold a telephone conversation over Iraq
- Bush threatens Damascus with diplomatic and economic pressures. The Iraqi government promises [Al Fallujah residents would return to their homes] in days, [US] marines talk about weeks before Al Fallujah residents could return [to their homes]
- Abu Mazin overrides Hamas and entrusts [security] bodies with Gaza security following Israel's withdrawal
- A cold spell in Iraq
- Abu Za'abal prisoners on [hunger] strike for two months
- A draft law to organize media [sector] in Algeria. Bouteflika honours pledge to take revenge against francophone newspapers
- Riyadh threatens to impose customs duties on its imports from Gulf states. Al Manama summit dogged by Saudi-Bahraini conflict
- Erdogan offers to mediate between Al Asad and Israel
- Al-Hakim accuses Al Zarqawi, Muslim Scholars Association denounce the plot. Khamenei is certain of the role of US and Israeli espionage services in attacks in Karbala and Al Najaf
- Islamist members of parliament request the questioning of Kuwaiti communications minister for overriding "the constitution".

**Kurdish News & Updates from Iraqi Kurdish Press 20 Dec 04**

**Talabani threatens to send forces to protect Kurds near Kirkuk-KurdSat TV**

*KurdSat TV, Kurdistan satellite Station, 20 Dec 04:* PUK leader Jalal Talabani on 20 December called on multinational troops to protect residents of Hawijah in Kirkuk governorate, saying if they failed to do so, he would send peshmergas to do the job, Kurdistan satellite TV reported. Talabani was addressing a group from the Kurdish Kakayee tribe who met him in Qalachwalan. He said: "Hawijah is a special case. The situation has exceeded its limits. We will no longer tolerate the murderers and chauvinists of Hawijah. Let them not provoke us any further. They [Arab settlers] themselves are newcomers in Hawijah; they only settled there in 1936 and are not natives in the area. We urge the coalition to protect the Kurds there, if they won't, then we will send 10,000 to 15,000 peshmergas to protect them".
**US consul backs KDP call for delay in Kirkuk polls – Kurdistan Satellite TV**

**Kurdistan Satellite TV 20 Dec 04:** KDP leader Mas'ud Barzani told newly appointed US regional coordinator in Kirkuk, Peter Thompson, that elections in Kirkuk should not be allowed to take place before the implementation of Article 58 of the Iraqi State Administration Law, Kurdistan Satellite TV reported on 20 December. According to the TV, Peter Thompson expressed his support for Barzani's views "and for the implementation of Article 58 of the Iraqi State Administration Law before conducting the election of the Kirkuk Governorate Council".

**Paper said seats allocated prior to elections- Jamawar**

**Jamawar: Iraqi Kurdish newspaper 20 Dec 04:** reported that the percentage of seats for the Iraqi parliament were set before the election of the Iraqi parliament. According to "a source from Baghdad", the Kurds would receive 120 seats out of 275. "It is noteworthy that the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and the Kurdistan Democratic Party will receive the majority of these seats, which have been set by the Americans," the paper added.

**Khabat daily, issued in Erbil by the KDP, 20 December 2004**

- The return of Makmoum and the other Arabized areas to Kurdistan Region is just a matter of time, the KDP leader Massoud Barzani told a large audience from Makmoum area (about 60 k south to Erbil). Barzani asserted that the TAL had drawn the broad lines for the settlement of this issue and the Kurds would not accept anything that contradicts with the TAL. Barzani further said that Iraq was comprised of two major nations and the constitution should be written in consensus. “It should not be a matter of majority-minority. “We the Kurds will determine our future by ourselves and No one will be able to impose a constitution that does not save our interests,” the KDP leader asserted. On elections, Barzani urged his audience for active participation “if there were elections”.

- Saddam created the Kirkuk problem to change the city’s cultural and ethnic identity, Iraqi National Security Advisor Muawaq al-Rubaii said in an interview with Kurdistan Satellite TV. The Advisor further said resolution of the Kirkuk issue was not so difficult if there was goodwill. “No one could keep anyone else’s properties for ever (…) The families whom Saddam used as a tool to change the identity of the city should be send back to their original places (…)The Kirkuk issue is an Iraqi one and it should be resolved with an Iraqi spirit ,” al-Rubaii confirmed.

**Kurdistani Nwe daily, issued in Sulaymanya by the PUK, 20 December 2004**

- The PUK leader Jalal Talabani warned Sulaymanya merchants to decrease prices of commodities to the level applied in Erbil, Kirkuk and Dahuk areas otherwise
The KRG-Sulaymanya would intervene. Talabani’s statement came during his reception to party affiliates from Sharbazher area north of Sulaymanya.

- Settlement of the IDPs issue and sending back Arab settlers to their original places in central and southern Iraq are two keys for Kirkuk Problem resolution, MNFI commander in Kirkuk Colonel Loyal Myles said in a special interview with the PUK media outlets. The Commander added that the ousted Baath regime brought in Arabs from southern and central Iraq to Kirkuk and detached many towns from Kirkuk and attached them to other governorates to change the Kurdish identity of Kirkuk into an Arabic one.

- A source from the PUK Organizational Center in Kirkuk announced that terrorists in Haweeja killed 4 PUK cadres Sunday afternoon. Following the incident, families of the victims escaped Haweeja fearing their lives and their houses were looted later by the terrorists and Baath Party remnants, the source added.

- The KRG-Sulaymanya rented Tasluja Cement Factory to Orascom Company for 10 years. Deputy Minister of Industry and Energy announced the details of the contract to the press in the presence of Orascom representative and the Factory’s manager and technicians.

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- A delegation of [Kurdistan] Referendum Movement (RM) will visit the United Nations HQ Wednesday to meet with the Organization’s officials and discuss with them the hand over 2 million signatures of Kurdistan people demanding the conduction of an [internationally sponsored] referendum before rebuilding the Iraqi state and asking Kurdistan people if they wanted to be part of Iraq or not. Another RM delegation will visit Geneva on 5 January 2005 for meeting with UN officials on the same issue.

- Although the IEC has licensed the poetical entities to start their electoral campaigns throughout Iraq as of mid-December and the Iraqi Arabic political entities has already started to do so, no such campaigns are seen in Kurdistan. Nothing is posted on the streets in Erbil and the media outlets do not mention details of the candidacy lists except reporting Kurdish leadership’s appeal to Kurdistan people for active participation in the voting process. In Sulaymanya, only the joint list of Kurdistan Toilers’ Party and Independents launched electoral campaign with an editorial on today’s Alai Azadi weekly. Local observers believe the Kurdish leadership still doubts timely conduction of the elections and uses “if” in its literature, in addition to lack of competition to the Kurdistani joint candidacy list that tempt the two major parties (KDP and PUK) to refrain from spending their money and energy on electoral campaign. In his address to visitors from Makhmour area and other liberated areas Sunday, Massoud Barzani urged them for active participation “if there were elections.” He sued the word “if” twice. It is worthy mentioning that the two parties are running in separate lists for provincial elections, yet they have not started their electoral campaigns.

- The Kurds are ready for any sacrifice for Kirkuk, KDP Central Committee member Arif Tayfur told today’s London-based al-Hayat newspaper. Kirkuk is
not less important than Erbil or Sulaymanya for the Kurds, Tayfur further said, recalling that the Kurds had sacrificed the Aylul (September) Revolution achievements and resumed their war against the former regime over Kirkuk [in 1974]. The London-based paper quoted Tayfur saying that some chauvinist Arab parties were involved in a conspiracy against the Kurds in Kirkuk and some [Iraqi] government officials of Baathist background help them enact the conspiracy. The KDP official accused several [Iraqi] ministries of executing the Arabization policies.

- Kirkuk Friends Organization (KFO) issued a statement Sunday “strongly condemning” the Kirkuk Office of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) for depriving 70,000 Kirkuki Kurdish citizens from voting in the forthcoming elections. The IEC Kirkuk Office should have acted impartially and independently, but it did not because it is headed by a former Baathist, who continues implementing the same old Baathist policies that aim at changing the Kurdish identity of Kirkuk, the statement added. The KFO also condemned the statement of the IEC Spokesperson, who announced that all the elections in Iraq would be held according to the announced schedule. “Overlooking the demands of Kirkuk people and the majority of its Municipal Council, as well as voices of thousands of demonstrators for postponing Kirkuk provincial election marks a dangerous start of the situation deterioration against the interests of all parties,” the KFO statement argued. The statement further demanded implementation of Article 58 of the Transitional Administrative Law (TAL), return of IDPs to their places of origin, reversing Arabization in the city and restoring its original geographical boundaries.

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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 or alsokhni@un.org