IRAQI NEWS, 26 DEC 2004

- Twenty one Iraqi national guards said abducted on 26 Dec 04
- Iraqi minister says some detainees have links to neighbouring countries
- Iraqi police seize "large amounts" of weapons in Karbala, Al-Musayyib
- Five Iraqis said to have been policemen shot in Al-Ramadi
- Jihadist al-Faruq Brigades claim attacks on Mosul bases using mercury warheads
- Al-Sistani's representative notes "tampering" with election forms

IRAQI PRESS COMMENTS ON 27 DEC 2004

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- The role of neighboring countries in the stability of Iraq-Al-Bayan
- Iraqi Shiites being part of a Shiite triangle comprising Iran has no grounds- Al-Mu'tamar
- "The Arab Countries' Policies and the Danger of Iraq's Arabic Nationality"- Al-Adalah
- "Between the two Banks,"- A-Mashriq
- “The development of the private sector industry and investment in Iraq”- Al-Dustur
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IRAQI NEWS, 27 Dec 2004

Twenty one Iraqi national guards said abducted on 26 Dec 04

Al-Sharqiyah Satellite Channel, Baghdad, in Arabic, 27 Dec 04: Unidentified gunmen have kidnapped 21 members of the Iraqi National Guard who were heading from the city of Hit to Al-Qa'im, near the Syrian borders. They were led to an unknown location. A source in the Iraqi National Guard said that the unidentified men kidnapped the guards last night, when they were intercepted by vehicles and led to an unknown location. He said: National Guard patrols are currently carrying out an intensive search operation for the kidnapped men.

Iraqi minister says some detainees have links to neighbouring countries

Al-Sharqiyah Satellite Channel, Baghdad, in Arabic, 27 Dec 04: Iraqi Interior Minister Falah al-Naqib has accused some neighbouring countries of interfering in Iraq's affairs. He said that some government sides support the state of chaos in Iraq. In statements to Al-Sharqiyah, Al-Naqib explained that he would present the Iraqi people with a recorded video tape of groups confessing to their operations in Iraq. He pointed out that the Iraqi security services had also arrested groups linked to the governments of countries neighbouring Iraq. He said that during the meetings of the interior ministers of the countries neighbouring Iraq recently held in Tehran, he informed the Syrian and Iranian interior ministers of issues relating to security and Iraq's in

Iraqi police seize "large amounts" of weapons in Karbala, Al-Musayyib

Al-Diyar Satellite Channel In Arabic, Baghdad, 27 Dec 04: Iraqi Al-Diyar TV on 27 December reported that police in Al-Musayyib, Babil Governorate, found large amounts of weapons, torpedoes and mortars hidden in a farm. Investigations are still continuing. A police officer said that they found some torpedoes hidden in a field, covered by grass and weeds. An Iraqi police official in Karbala said that two Iraqis were arrested in two separate operations the previous day. He said that explosives and mortars had been found in their possession. Rahman Mushawi, official spokesman for Karbala Police Directorate,
said: "Our elements arrested the driver of an Iraqi pickup who was transporting 3,000 mortar rounds." He added that the arrest took place in Al-Ikhaybar region. He said the driver admitted he intended to sell the bombs to potential resistance men from Al-Fallujah. Mushawi also said that the police arrested a second Iraqi while in possession of batteries, wires, and devices used in detonating booby-trapped cars and explosive charges. He said the arrest took place in the centre of Karbala. He said the two detainees will be interrogated to find out the parties they are working for.

Five Iraqis said to have been policemen shot in Al-Ramadi

Al-Sharqiyyah Satellite Channel, Baghdad, in Arabic, 27 Dec 04: Unidentified gunmen have shot and killed five men in the city of Al-Ramadi today, leaving their bodies in the street with a handwritten note stating that the men were members of the police. The note mentioned the names of the five victims, but it was not possible to confirm whether they were members of the police. Residents in the area reported hearing gunshots at night in an area near the scene of the attack. Details of the identity of the five victims were not available. [Video shows five bodies in the street]

Jihadist al-Faruq Brigades claim attacks on Mosul bases using mercury warheads

Jihadist al-Faruq Brigades, Media Commission for the Mujahidin in Iraq

On 27 December, "Al-Khilafah al-Rashida" posted to The Lion's Den bulletin a statement issued by the "Jihadist al-Faruq Brigades -The Media Commission for the Mujahidin in Iraq," in which the group claimed responsibility for attacking US bases in Mosul using missiles with red mercury warheads. The statement also refuted US information on the attack on Al-Ghizlani Camp Mess Hall. Another group, Ansar al-Sunnah Army claimed responsibility for the attack on Al-Ghizlani Camp and posted a video of the operation The Lion's Den forum at www.alm2sda.net/vb is dedicated to the promotion of Sunni jihad and recently reappeared after a long absence.

Translation of the statement follows: "On the tenth day of Thu-al-Qi'dah 1425 Hijri corresponding to 22 December 2004, Al-Nida batteries launched Al-Ghadab 3, a new missile with a dirty warhead and a destruction capability equivalent to fifteen tons of TNT, against the American Q West base southwest of Mosul. A second missile of the same category was launched against IIAF [as appeared in English] Shia-American joint base south west of the proud Tal Afar. The volcano of the two rivers began hurling its heavy debris. These missiles have hit chosen strategic targets inside these bases and caused very high losses on the enemy side and their agents according to reports from reconnaissance and secret eyes. The reaction of the enemy was in the form of the horrific
bombing against the noble Al-Fallujah where approximately 200 cluster bombs of all sizes, other ammunition both blind and smart, in addition to hundreds of laser guided smart bombs, thousands of deafening bombs, and seven special giant bombs were launched. The US tried to cover up the mistake of announcing the Mosul attack by ridiculous attempts to minimize this strike saying it was caused by an explosive belt and the pictures that the Zionist media showed were images of a dining hall of soldiers located 400 meters away from the officers and non-commissioned officers building which was targeted. The building, protected by military concrete blocks, was turned into rubble and all that remained were human bodies' parts so small and scattered over a large area it was difficult to identify or collect them. The hole in the ceiling of the dining hall resulted from a concrete block of a medium size that broke off the conference building and was thrown because of the high pressure produced by the dirty warhead (2500 tons of pressure) causing it to fall through the ceiling fabric and break into pieces against the concrete wall of the hall on the other side. The casualties among the enemy in the [dining] hall was due to the huge pressure and disturbance in the air caused by the unconventional jihadist warhead which causes death through brain, and internal bleeding, and damage of the internal ear. God is great, God is great and victory to God, His messenger and the victorious by God's will, and to the fierce soldier of God. How sweet victory is!

**Al-Sistani’s representative notes "tampering" with election forms**

*Al-Diyar Satellite Channel In Arabic, Baghdad, 27 Dec 04:* Iraqi Al-Diyar TV on 27 December reported that Qasim Hajr al-Musawi, representative of higher religious authority Sayyid Ali al-Sistani, has warned against tampering with the application forms of the general Iraqi elections, scheduled for 30 January, by rancorous elements that do not want the Iraqi people to enjoy their right to live in freedom, democracy and stability. He said some elements are buying voting forms at high prices from citizens who do not realize their role and responsibility towards their people and homeland. These elements then burn the forms in public places and parking lots. Al-Musawi stressed the importance of preserving these voting forms from loss or damage because they represent the dignified life and the prosperous future for Iraq and the Iraqis

**IRAQI PRESS COMMENTS on 27 Dec 2004**

“*Al-Jazirah channel proved its partiality and distance from the professionalism*” - Al-Dustur

*Al - Dustur, independent daily published by former journalist Basim al-Sheikh, 27 Dec 04:* carries on page 6 a 400-word article by Ali A'jam criticizing Al-Jazirah satellite
channel for repeatedly saying that we regret to our viewers that we cannot cover the Iraqi news because Allawi's government closed Al-Jazirah office in Baghdad and showing films of Prime Minister Allawi referring to the channel together with former Information Minister Al-Sahaf criticizing it. The article says that by showing that the former regime was similar to the current rule in Iraq, Al-Jazirah channel proved its partiality and distance from the professionalism it claims.

**The role of neighboring countries in the stability of Iraq-Al-Bayan**

*Al-Bayan [Baghdad, daily newspaper in Arabic published by the Islamic Al-Da'wah Party] 27 Dec 04:* carries on page 3 a 400-word article by Haydar Ghazi discussing the role of neighboring countries in the stability of Iraq. The article wonders why some of the neighboring countries are choosing Iraq as the field for settling their accounts, wagering on the failure of the political process in the country, forgetting that stability in Iraq would boost the stability in the entire region. The article criticizes the media, especially the Arab channels, for magnifying the negative aspects while neglecting the positive aspects regarding the situation in Iraq in their news broadcasting.

**Iraqi Shiites being part of a Shiite triangle comprising Iran has no grounds- Al-Mu'tamar**

*Al-Mu'tamar [Baghdad, daily newspaper in Arabic published by the Iraqi National Congress] 27 Dec 04:* carries on page 6 a 400-word article by Tayri Butris criticizing the Jordanian foreign minister for affirming his king's recent statement that there is a plan to form a Shiite triangle comprising Iran, Iraq, and Syria. The article says that perhaps, Iran has such a plan, but accusing the Iraqi Shiites of being part of it has no grounds. The article says that the goal of such statements is to force the Shiites either to surrender to the terrorists or to seek Iran's support. The article says that "Iraq would slip out of its Arabic Environment if it helped bring dictatorship back into the country."

**"The Arab Countries' Policies and the Danger of Iraq’s Arabic Nationality"- Al-Adalah**

*Al-Adalah [Baghdad, twice-weekly newspaper in Arabic published by the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI)], 27 Dec 04:* runs an article by Ghassan al-Rubay'i :The writer attacks the Arab leaders for their statements, which declare that the Iraqis are "ordered by the Iranians." He says that the Iraqis are "pure Arabs," and these statements have a "negative" influence on the Arabic nationality of Iraqis.
"Between the two Banks,"- A-Mashriq

A-Mashriq [Baghdad, by Al-Mashriq Institution for media and cultural investments] Editorial (27 Dec 04): carries on page 4 a 400-word article by Safi al-Yasiri entitled "Between the two Banks," in which the writer comments on the political situation in Iraq. Al-Yasiri says that there are two sides in Iraq, the government and the opposition, which are "fighting and not complementing each other, as it should be in the democratic countries." He adds that the "silent majority" are "swimming" between these two "banks."

"The development of the private sector industry and investment in Iraq"- Al-Dustur

Al-Dustur, independent daily published by former journalist Basim al-Sheikh, 27 Dec 04: publishes on page 9 a 400-word report on the meeting of Deputy Prime Minister Barham Salih with a delegation representing the private sector in Iraq to discuss the means for the development of the private sector industry and investment in Iraq. The report cites Raghib Rida Blaybil, chairman of the Iraqi Businessmen Union and member of the delegation, calling for establishing a $500 million fund for the boosting of private sector projects in the country.

People of Al-Fallujah after returning back: "The situation there is bad" - Al-Zaman

Al-Zaman [daily, independent, Baghdad edition of London-based Al-Zaman]: publishes a 400-word front-page report on a statement by many people from Al-Fallujah city after returning back to their houses. The people say they have buried 150 bodies found among the houses. The people add that the situation there is bad and does not encourage returning back. The people criticize the government because it allocated modest funds to reimburse them.

PROGRAMME SUMMARIES, 27 Dec 2004

Programme summary of Iraq's Al-Diyar TV news 27 Dec 04:

- About 30 people were killed or wounded in a car explosion outside the Baghdad office of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq.
- Speaking to the Kuwaiti News Agency, Iraqi Vice President Ibrahim al-Ja'fari says Iraq wants to establish good relations with the neighbouring countries.
- The Iraqi foreign minister says in Beijing that 2005 will be a difficult year for Iraq. He says the elections will be held on 30 January as scheduled.
- Leader of the Iraqi Islamic Party announces withdrawal from the election race.
Al-Sistani's representative Al-Musawi warns against tampering with the Iraqi ballot forms by people who do not want the Iraqis to live in freedom and democracy. He notes that people are buying election forms and burning them in public places.

The Iraqi Defence Ministry says that the National Guard killed at least 37 armed men and arrested a similar number south of Baghdad yesterday.

The American Army says one American soldier was killed in Samarra Sunday night. Three American soldiers were wounded and their truck destroyed in Mosul yesterday.

Al-Musayyab police finds weapons and mortars hidden in a field... Armed group fires mortar rounds at the American base in Al-Musayyab. One child was martyred and a number of houses were damaged.

Iraqi police official in Karbala said yesterday two Iraqis were arrested while in possession of large amounts of explosives.

Al-Najaf police chief says in a press conference that his accusation that Syria was involved in Al-Najaf bombing was based on the confessions of one of the suspects.

Jordan says it will make efforts in the next Arab interior ministers meeting in Tunis to implement the resolutions that call for preventing armed men from infiltrating the border into Iraq.

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Programme summary of Al-Iraqiyah TV news 27 December 04:

- Iraqi Islamic Party pulls out of election race;
- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hoshyar Zebari says no change in poll plan.
- Iraqis say terror acts no obstacle to election. Video report covers Iraqis in Diala commenting on January polls... More forums on election held in Karbala. Video report covers Iraqis mixed feelings about polls...
- Baghdad college of media studies holds election forum...
- National Guard commander in Muthana announces new security plan during polls. Video report covers public satisfaction with new security measures in Muthana...
- Recorded interview with Baghdad chief of consultative council of city of Baghdad, Muhammad Baqir al-Suhail. He explains various forums held to inform public about election...
- Basra police say security plan being carried out ahead of January polls...
- Iraqis want more information about candidates standing election...
- Car bomb blast outside Baghdad office of Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq kills nine and hurts 39; Three children and woman killed in mortar attack in Beiji; soldier from multinational force dies of wounds in attack in Samarra...
- Hardware and machines belonging to former military industry agency seized in Baghdad...

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• Mosul governor tells Al-Iraqiya security has improved following arrest of terror suspects...
• More families return to Fallujah. Video report highlights comments by locals complaining about power and water shortages...
• Baghdad locals call for speedy solutions to rubbish and sewage problems. Video report covers public grievances...
• Business bulletin: Forum on trade via Internet held in Baghdad. Northern oil pipeline set ablaze...

Programme summary of Iraqi Al-Sharqiya TV news 27 Dec 04:

• Iraqi Interior Ministry implements new plans to bring about security in Baghdad...
• Car bomb attack on SCIRI leader's office in Baghdad this morning kills 13, injures 66...
• Iraqi interior minister meets SCIRI leader Abd-al-Aziz al-Hakim at his office in Baghdad, discuss the mob attack... Twelve Iraqi killed, four of them National Guard members in separate attacks north of Baghdad...
• Ministry of Planning presents three year plan for the rebuilding of Iraq...
• Unknown armed men blow up oil pipe near Bayji... Oil Ministry invites security companies to submit tenders for security contracts to protect oil installations and pipes...
• Iraqi Islamic Party announce withdrawal from elections...
• Unknown men kidnap 21 members of the Iraqi National Guard on their way from Hit to the Syrian border...
• Council of Ministers agrees to exempt raw materials and production requirements from duty...
• US soldier killed, another injured in bomb explosion in Samarra...
• Iraqi interior minister accuses some neighbouring countries of interfering in Iraqi affairs...
• Iraq and the IMF discuss Iraq's debts to the organization...
• Three children, one woman killed, four more injured in Bayji following mortar attack...
• Unknown armed men kill five Iraqis in Al-Ramadi claiming through a note that they were police officers...
• Three hundred and eighty one engineers, officials complete their training in the field of water resources

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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