

News from the Iraq Foundation



April 2010 Activities, Issue 45

Dear Friends,

April was a busy and productive month at the Iraq Foundation (IF), and we are pleased to report on several exciting projects and activities. IF's Executive Director spoke at a USIP event on Iraq's recent election from her extensive experience in Iraqi politics. As part of our efforts to promote good governance in the provinces and fight corruption, IF held 21 workshops throughout Iraq targeting members of the provincial government and provincial councils as well as local civic leaders during April. In addition, IF assisted the US Embassy Basra-based Provincial Reconstruction Team in providing support for a group of six Iraqi civic and political leaders as well as journalists from Basra to participate in anti-corruption and transparency meetings in the US, Germany, Lebanon, and Baghdad.

Supporting our efforts to empower Iraqi widows, IF continued training activities in both Baghdad workshops to provide these women with the skills they need to improve their lives and better provide for their families.

In addition to all these exciting activities, IF's HRAI team also produced its 16th newsletter during this period, which reports on HRAI coalition activities and the human rights situation in Iraq.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions about our projects or activities!

Sincerely,

Joseph Sandor
Communication Officer
Iraq Foundation

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IF Holds 21 Anti-corruption Meetings throughout Iraq's Provinces



As part of the Iraq Foundation's Provincial Accountability and Governance Project (PAG), which aims to fight corruption and promote good governance and transparency in Iraq's provinces, IF conducted 21 workshops throughout Iraq targeting members of the

provincial government and provincial councils as well as local civic leaders. These workshops began last month and to-date, IF has provided a total of 30 workshops across Iraq.

These workshops target two different groups: civic leaders and provincial government officials. Each workshop targets 30 participants. Civic leaders participate in the two-day workshop on the Iraqi anti-corruption legal and regulatory framework. Provincial council members and provincial government officials receive a one-day training on codes of conduct. A total of 30 workshops will be delivered in 15 provinces throughout Iraq. In March provincial council workshops and civic leader workshops were held in Baghdad, Babil, Wassit, Kurkuk, and Salah Al-Din.

[Learn more about the Provincial Council Workshops...](#)

[Learn more about the Civic Leaders Workshops...](#)

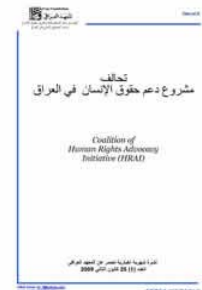
IF Continues Training Iraqi Widows in Baghdad!



IF's fourth and final training cycle continued during April in both of our training centers in Baghdad. Each training center serves 25 widows for a total of 50 women. To date, IF has provided training for 200 disadvantaged Iraqi widows in Baghdad and 270 widows in Basra on a set of skills that empowered them politically, and increased their economic independence. IF has planned a joint graduation ceremony on May 12, 2010 for participating widows from both the third

IF's Executive Director Rend Al-Rahim participated on the US Institute of Peace panel "High Stakes: Iraq's Elections and What They Mean for the Country's Future" on April 20. Sharing her expertise on Iraqi politics and the recent election, Ms. Al-Rahim spoke on a range of important topics, including voter turnout, election credibility, the resurgence of sectarian political discourse, and other far-reaching consequence of the country's recent election. This event was co-sponsored by the Institute for the Study of War.

[Learn more about the event...](#)



IF Publishes 16th Human Rights Newsletter!

The Human Rights Advocacy Initiative (HRAI) published its



and fourth training cycles in Baghdad. Although the formal training cycles have concluded in Basra, IF continues to provide workshops as part of our on-going mentoring activities in both Basra centers.

[View Pictures from IF's 4th Cycle Training In Baghdad...](#)

IF Provides Support to Basra-based Anti Corruption Group



As part of IF's efforts to promote transparency and good governance throughout Iraq, IF provided logistical support for a group of six political officials, civic leaders and journalists traveling from Basra. The trip, which was

initiated by the US Embassy's Basra-based Provincial Reconstruction Team aimed to provide participants with the opportunity to meet with officials from various countries that work on anti corruption issues and promote good governance. IF's Senior Project Manager in Baghdad, Suhailia Al-Asadi, also participated in some of the group's meetings while in the US. The group's program included travel to Baghdad, Washington, DC, Florida, Berlin, and Beirut. While in Washington, DC, IF hosted a luncheon event for the group to discuss our work in the field of anti-corruption and transparency and learn about the participants activities in Basra.

IF Takes Applications for Youth Camp!

IF is still accepting applications for our up-coming Youth Camp as part of IF's Post Election Democracy Project (PEDP).

IF aims to bolster Iraqi youth's understanding of civic and democratic processes, and their leadership across sectarian lines to resolve community and national level disputes peacefully.

To achieve this goal, we are partnering with the American University of Iraq, Suleymanieh, to create an intensive 5-day youth camp for talented, civic minded students from universities throughout Iraq. In total, IF will train 100 students per year for three consecutive years in four groups of

sixteenth newsletter in April 2010. The newsletter combines the reports of three to four coalition members on various types of human rights violations across Iraq. It also reports on the HRAI and the coalition's networking and advocacy activities. Published in Arabic, HRAI's monthly newsletters are available on our website.

[Read Newsletter \(April 2010 / PDF Arabic\)](#)

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25. If you or someone you know is interested, please follow the link below to apply.

[Apply for Post Election Democracy Project Youth Camp!](#)