

News from the Iraq Foundation



December 2008 Activities, Issue 29

Dear Friends,

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you about our recent activities and accomplishments during the month of December. IF is pleased to announce the successful completion of the Anti-corruption and Transparency (ACT) project, which mobilized Iraqi public opinion against corruption and encouraged transparency and accountability in government. Working hard to promote IF's mission, Executive Director Rend Al-Rahim also appeared on Al Hurra Radio in Iraq.

As part of our Human Rights Advocacy Initiative Project (HRAI), IF launched its human rights media campaign on Human Rights Day. In addition, IF's staff in Basra conducted field visits throughout the Basra and Nassyria provinces to identify organizations that would benefit from IF's NGO Capacity Building Project (MNCB). Supporting Iraqi widows, IF launched an employment campaign for widowed women in December as part of our Widows Empowerment project (WEP).

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 Successfully Concludes Anti-Corruption and Transparency Project



IF's Anti-Corruption and Transparency project drew to a successful close on December 1st.



The ACT project, which was extended in May 2008, mobilized Iraqi public opinion against corruption and promoted

transparency and accountability in Iraq's government. Beginning in March of 2007, IF undertook many successful activities to achieve the project's goal. In addition to conferences and strategy sessions, IF held eleven in-country workshops throughout the country, two retreat-style meeting in Beirut, Lebanon, as well as designed and broadcast 25 TV and 72 radio spots, produced and distributed 3,000 brochures and provided research and studies to the Iraqi Commission on Integrity (COI).



[Learn more about ACT...](#)

IF Launches Human Rights Advocacy Media Campaign

To support our Human Rights Advocacy Initiative (HRAI), IF successfully launched a human rights media campaign on Human Rights Day, December 10. Because of the tragic displacement of Mosul's Christians which began in early October, IF decided to start the campaign with minorities' rights spots. The first wave of spots will broadcast twice a day from the 10th to the end of the month of

December. Additional spots from this first wave will run throughout January and February. Air-times are 9:00 pm and 10:30 pm daily.

Listen to the broadcasts [Television Spot](#) / [Radio Spot](#) (Arabic, WMA / WAV)...

In addition to these Television and radio spots, IF disseminated a Request for Proposal (RFP) on December 20th to provide small grant assistance and bolster Iraqi human rights advocates and strengthen the culture of civil and political liberties in Iraq. The NGO Department in the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) helped IF disseminate the requests for proposals through the ministry's NGO roster. A total of ten grants for \$3,000 dollars will be administered.

[Learn more about HRAI...](#)

IF Works to Build NGO Capacity in Nassyria, Basra, and Maysan

In addition to following-up on last month's training and capacity-building workshop, IF staff conducted field visits throughout the Basra and



Executive Director Rend Al-Rahim appeared on Al Hurra's radio to discuss the current situation in Iraq and give her views on the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) as well as future of U.S - Iraqi relations. The interview was broadcast in early December.

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Nassyria provinces to identify organizations that would benefit from our NGO Capacity Building Project, launched last August. IF successfully held its first workshop for ten Maysan-based NGOs in Sulaimaniya from November 15 to November 20, 2008. In addition to the NGOs

identified and trained in Maysan, IF is working to identify five organizations from the Nassyria province as well as five from the Basra province. These organizations will represent diverse missions and sector interest, as well as the services they provide to their communities and they will receive comprehensive capacity training.

[Learn more about NGO Capacity Building...](#)

IF Starts Employment Campaign and Continues Training Iraqi Widows in Baghdad and Basra



Serving widows in Baghdad and Basra, IF launched an employment campaign for widowed women in December. Part of our Widows Empowerment project (WEP), IF staff members are working hard to secure opportunities for widows participating in our training programs in both the private and public sector. In addition, training courses

continued in all four training locations in Baghdad and Basra. The WEP project, which began last May, is designed to empower widows with practical job and income generation skills as well as an enhanced understanding of their rights and civic responsibilities.

[Learn more about WEP...](#)

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