

# News from the Iraq Foundation



## February 2009 Activities, Issue 31

Dear Friends,

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you about our recent activities and accomplishments during the month of February. IF is pleased to announce the launch of a new project in the town of Mdaina, which aims at providing literacy and technical training to over 350 Iraqis. IF continued its work promoting human rights by printing and distributing 2,500 posters to Iraqi civil society organizations and government institutions throughout the country. In addition, IF's Human Rights Advocacy Initiative team produced its second newsletter, highlighting the human rights situation in Iraq. Staff also held a workshop in Sulaimaniya to build and grow the capacity of Iraqi NGOs in Maysan and Nasiriyya. Promoting our Widows Empowerment project, Iraqi staff met in Iraq with the Foundation's Chief Operating Officer, Selwa Gailani Kanna, to evaluate the project's work and plan for future training and project activities.

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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## New Project: IF Launches Mdaina Education Project

IF is pleased to announce the launch of a new project in February to provide literacy and technical training programs to the Southern marshlands of Mdaina, located in the Basra governorate! The [Mdaina Education Project \(MEP\)](#), which will continue until June 2009, is funded by a grant from the United Nations Development Programme. This will provide literacy training to illiterate and semiliterate adults and targeted computer training to small business owners and teachers as well as select technology personnel. In addition, a computer center will be established, which will host the literacy and computer training programs as well as serve the larger community of Mdaina as computer labs.

As a result of this project, 250 adults will benefit from increased literacy and 50 teachers, 50 small business owners as well as six IT experts will gain valuable skills and an increased technological capacity that will enhance their employment skills and income generation opportunities.

[Learn more...](#)

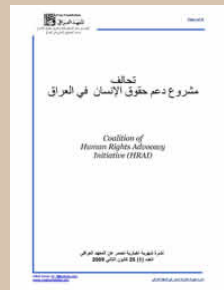
## IF Disseminates Human Rights Posters



During the month of February, IF started disseminating posters aimed at spreading the culture of human rights throughout the country. Part of the Human Rights Advocacy Initiative (HRAI), 2,500 posters were printed and are being disseminated to civil society organizations and state institutions throughout Iraq. The

posters produced in February aim to raise awareness about minority rights.

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



### IF Publishes 2nd Human Rights Newsletter!

The Human Rights Advocacy Initiative (HRAI) published its second newsletter in February. The newsletter reports on the human rights situation in Iraq. Formed in May 2008 by the Iraq Foundation, the goal of the HRAI project is to empower Iraqi human rights leaders to be better advocates for human rights. Published in Arabic, HRAI's monthly newsletters are available on our website.

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## IF Holds NGO Capacity Building Workshop in Sulaimaniya



From February 21 to 26 2009, IF successfully held its second MNCB workshop in Sulaimaniya. The workshop aimed at building the capacity of ten NGOs from the Basra and Nasiriyya provinces. The female participation in the

workshop was remarkable and the participants were very engaged and showed a great deal of enthusiasm.

The training agenda included the following: strategic planning, project proposal design and project management, advocacy and networking, governance and management, and financial planning. The training material was tailored to the needs of the participants. It included short movies and pictures and engaged the participants in such a way that they expressed great satisfaction with the quality and the depth of the material covered.

[Learn more...](#)

## IF Staff Meets to Support Iraqi Widows in Baghdad and Basra



To support the Foundation's Widows Empowerment Project (WEP), project staff from Baghdad and Basra met with IF's Chief Operating Officer Ms. Selwa Gailani in northern Iraq. The meeting, which was held from February 24

- 26th, evaluated the project's impact and reviewed the implementation of the project's trainings in all four training centers, located in Baghdad and Basra. The WEP project is designed to enhance the Iraqi widows' understanding of their rights and civic responsibilities to be better able to participate in the democratic process and civic life and provide widows with practical job and income generation skills.

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