

News from the Iraq Foundation



November 2009 Activities, Issue 40

Dear Friends,

During November, IF's Executive Director worked hard to promote IF's mission, speaking at both the US Institute of Peace and the Middle East Institute on current affairs in Iraq. We are happy to report the successful graduation of the second cycle of widow trainees in Basra as part of our work to empower Iraqi widows. Throughout November, IF has conducted advocacy and coalition-building workshops as part of our Human Rights Advocacy Initiative (HRAI) project. Also as part of HRAI, we are also implementing the small grant program, which supports local NGOs throughout Iraq and enables them to conduct a wide range of human rights advocacy projects in the provinces. As part of our newly launched transparency and good governance project, IF made a substantial delivery of computer equipment and technology to aid the Iraqi Commission on Integrity. We would also like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to HRAI coalition member organization Al-Safa of the Anbar province, which was awarded the De Paul University Human Rights Superstar award in Iraq! In addition to all these exciting activities, IF's HRAI team also produced its 11th newsletter during October, 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 a Graduation Ceremony for Widows in Basra



On Tuesday, November 24, 2009, the Iraq Foundation (IF) Office in Basra successfully held the graduation ceremony of the 2nd cycle from both Basra centers, Al-Zubair and Al-Qurna. The ceremony took place at the Basra Provincial Council hall of Utba bin Ghazwan. The space was donated without charge in support of the

widows. In addition to the graduated widows and their families, IF invited officials from Basra Municipal Council, government officials, several media representatives, and a number of Iraqi NGOs to the event. The Head of Women Committee in Basra Provincial Council delivered the graduation certificates to the graduating widows.

In addition to the graduation, WEP Baghdad training continued according to schedule throughout November. IF WEP Baghdad team also held mentoring and counseling meetings with the widows graduates of the 1st and 2nd cycle.

[Learn More about the Graduation Ceremony and See Pictures...](#)

IF Holds 4th Human Rights Advocacy Workshop and 6th Coalition Building Meeting



From November 14-17 2009, IF implemented the 4th Human Rights Advocacy Initiative (HRAI) advocacy workshop and held the 6th coalition building meeting in Beirut-Lebanon.

The advocacy workshop aimed at training HRAI coalition members on shadow reports writing and was conducted by Dr. Mohammed Mattar,

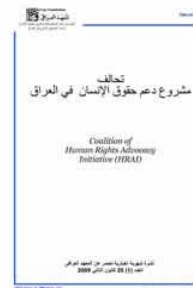
Executive Director of the Protection Project at Johns Hopkins University. 20 coalition members attended the workshop where participants discussed the shadow reporting system and mechanisms of the UN conventions. Following the training, HRAI coalition members will write a shadow report on children's rights and another one on political and civil rights.



Executive Director Participates in the US Institute of Peace and Middle East Institute Forums!

During November, IF's Executive Director Ms. Al-Rahim took part in two important forums on November 10th. The first took place at the US Institute of Peace, where Ms. Al-Rahim discussed the effectiveness of counterinsurgency efforts in Iraq and productive ways forward for Iraq and the Iraqi people. Later that day, Ms Al-Rahim spoke at the Middle East Institute's 63rd Annual Conference, where she participated in the "Iraq 2020" panel.

[Learn more about the USIP Event](#)



IF Publishes 11th Human Rights Newsletter!

The Human Rights Advocacy Initiative

On November 17, IF held HRAI's 6th the coalition building meeting aimed at reviewing the HRAI project activities and planning for the upcoming International Human Rights Day activities. Coalition members agreed to hold activities in the provinces during human rights weeks to raise awareness about and advocate for human rights. IF also informed coalition members that it will be launching an intensive TV campaign for the occasion of Human Rights day on four major TV stations.

[Learn More about the Coalition Building Meeting...](#)

IF Small Grant Awardees Implement Projects to Promote Human Rights



IF small grants awardees -third round- continued implementing their projects during the month of November. IF monitored project implementation through field visits in the provinces of Basra, Baghdad and Kut.

The Humane Organization for Human Rights from Kut held its third conference on "Preventing Violence in Schools" on November 11. The

Himam Institution for Civil Society Building, located in Basra, held its third and fourth workshops on "Promoting Children's rights" on November 9 and 18. The workshops were attended by about 30 participants each, including local officials; tribal leaders; and schools, human rights, and children's rights CSOs representatives. Discussions included a presentation of the UN convention on the rights of the child and discussed health insurance, education, progress, and life. The third workshop was held in Abu Al-Qaseeb Local District, while the fourth workshop was held in Al-Dayer District - North of Basra.

[Learn More about HRAI Small Grants ...](#)

(HRAI) published its eleventh newsletter in November 2009. These 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.

[Read Newsletter \(November 2009\)](#)

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IF Delivers Computer Equipment to Iraq Commission on Integrity



As part of IF's newly launched Provincial Accountability and Governance (PAG) project, IF made a substantial delivery of computer and technological equipment to the Iraqi Commission of Integrity (COI). In total, the



equipment will value at over \$180,000 US Dollars. IF aims to dramatically enhance the COIs technical

capacity to implement its work throughout Iraq. IF provided up-to-date computers, laser printers, projectors, backup systems, scanners, and a host of software suites designed to enhance productivity for the Commission.

[Learn More...](#)

HRAI Coalition Member Wins Human Rights Superstar Award!

Al-Safa Society for Development and Friendship with People, a long-time IF partner and HRAI Coalition member in Anbar Governorate, receives the title of Human Rights Superstar! The award was granted by the International Institute for Human Rights Law at DePaul University. Al-Safa Society's president indicated in an interview that he wanted dedicate this award to the HRAI coalition in general and the Iraq Foundation in particular, in recognition for their instrumental role in building his organization's capacity.

IF congratulates Al-Safa Society for a much deserved award!