

MID-EAST e-NEWS

FREE

Subscribe by email to receive this every 2 weeks!

An electronic journal of the Middle East, for those who want to be informed.

Issue No. 52 Texas

October 31st, 2005

<http://www.morethantourists.com>

Contexts

Topical

Iraq's Constitution 1
The Hariri Assassination 2

Calendar

Jerusalem in the Crusades 3
Calendar
This Month in the Middle East 4

Welcome

The full version of the Iraqi Draft Constitution is available on the web site – click on Documents. The preliminary report on the assassination of Lebanese leader, Rafik Hariri was issued this week. A timeline of events is included on page 3, but the whole document is available online also.

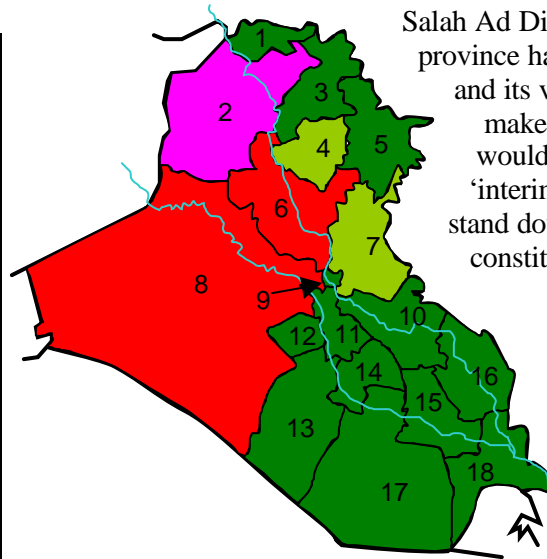
Email your responses to pkclark@pmbx.net & check the web for back issues.

Iraq's Constitution Referendum

THE RESULTS of the Iraq constitutional referendum were announced on October 25th. The two provinces where the 'No' vote exceeded the required 2/3 were Anbar and Salah Ad Din (Saladin) provinces. Nineveh province has a mixture of Sunnis and Kurds, and its vote was not strong enough to make it a third 'No' province. This would have meant that the current 'interim' parliament would have had to stand down, and a new parliament and constitutional process be begun.

Referendum Results

Provinces	Yes	No
1 Dohuk	99.30	0.78
2 Nineveh	44.92	55.01
3 Erbil	99.36	0.64
4 At Ta'mim	62.91	37.90
5 Suleimaniyeh	98.96	1.04
6 Salah Ad Din	18.25	81.75
7 Diyalah	51.27	48.73
8 Al Anbar	3.00	96.00
9 Baghdad	77.70	22.30
10 Wasit	95.70	4.30
11 Babil	94.65	5.45
12 Karbala	96.59	3.42
13 An Najaf	95.82	4.18
14 Qadisiyah	96.47	3.32
15 Dhi Qar	97.15	2.85
16 Maysan	97.99	2.21
17 Al Muthanna	98.65	1.35
18 Al Basra	96.20	3.98



THE OTHER provinces that had high 'No' votes also have a high Sunni population, mixed with Kurds in At Ta'mim, Shia and Turkmen in Diyalah.

THE CAPITAL of At Ta'mim is Kirkuk, which was overwhelmingly Kurdish before Saddam Hussein began

his policy of transferring populations. He ejected the Kurds, replacing them with Sunni Arabs. Today Kirkuk is a center of tension as Kurds to return to their ancestral homes.

THE CAPITAL of At Ta'mim is Kirkuk, which was overwhelmingly Kurdish before Saddam Hussein began



The city of Dohuk (Left) is the capital of the small Kurdish province of that name. It nestles between the hills in mountainous northern Iraq, on the border of Turkey. With the danger of traveling through Anbar province, overland travel into Iraq is often undertaken via Turkey, entering through Dohuk, in spite of the much longer distance involved. The University there was founded in 1992, after the first Gulf War, as the Kurdish region began to benefit from the protection offered by the no-fly zone imposed on the Iraqi military by the US. The higher education institutions in Iraq are increasingly interested in employing

Western professors in their educational programs.

The Hariri Assassination (Chronology)

This chronology is taken from the UN 'Mehlis Report' on the Hariri assassination. *

2004	Rafik Hariri meets in Damascus with Syrian President Bashar Assad to discuss the extension of the term of President Lahoud.
Aug.26th	
Sept.2nd	the United Nations Security Council adopts resolution 1559, calling for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.
3rd	the Rafik Hariri bloc approves the extension for President Lahoud.
3rd	the Lebanese parliament adopts the extension law for President Lahoud and forwards it to the Lebanese government for execution.
7th	Cabinet Ministers Hamadeh (Economy), Aridi (Culture), Farhat (Refugee Affairs) and Boueiz (Environment), resign in protest.
9th	Prime Minister Rafik Hariri indicates to journalists that he will resign.
Oct.1st	Assassination attempt on Marwan Hamadeh, in Beirut, Lebanon.
4th	Rafik Hariri resigns as prime minister.
11th	Pres. Bashar Assad speech condemns critics within Lebanon and UN.
19th	UN Security Council concerned that Res.1559 not yet implemented.
20th	Pres. Lahoud accepts Hariri resignation, names Omar Karamé as PM.
Nov.30th*	Demonstration in support of Syrian presence
2005	
Feb.14th	Rafik Hariri and 22 other individuals are killed in a massive blast in a seafront area of central Beirut.
25th	the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission arrives in Lebanon.
28th*	Pres. Karamé announces resignation
Mar.7th*	Large demonstration against Syrian presence
8th	Hezbollah organizes a one million strong "pro-Syrian" march.
9th*	PM Karamé is reinstated
14th	Christian/Sunni demonstration demands withdrawal of Syrian troops
18th*	Opposition calls for 'uprising' against Syrian presence.
19th	bomb explodes in Jdeideh, a northern suburb of Beirut, wounding 11.
23th	3 killed, 3 wounded in explosion in Kaslik shopping centre, N of Beirut.
25th	United Nations Fact-Finding Mission issues its report in New York.
26th	suitcase bomb explodes in northeast Beirut industrial zone, injuring 6.
Apr.1st	9 injured in underground garage in an empty building in Broumana.
7th	the Security Council forms UN International Independent Investigation Commission into Feb.14 assassination of Rafik Hariri and 22 others.
13th*	PM Omar Karami resigns (Pro-Syrian Mikati appointed on the 15 th)
19th	PM Najib Mikati announces parliamentary elections for 30 May 2005.
22nd	Generals Jamil Al-Sayyed (Internal Security Forces) & Ali Al-Hajj (Sûreté Générale) put their functions under PM Najib al Makati.
26th	the last Syrian troops leave Lebanon ending a 29 year presence.
26th	UN Verification Mission starts mission to verify withdrawal of Syrian military and intelligence from Lebanon full compliance with Res.1559.
May 6th	a bomb explodes in Jounieh north of Beirut injuring 29 people.
7th	Parliament adopts proposed changes to electoral law of 2000.
30th	Elections: The <i>Rafik Hariri Martyr List</i> , (coalition of Future Movement, Progressive Socialists, Qornet Shehwan), wins majority of seats.
Jun.2nd	journalist Samir Kassir is killed when his car explodes in east Beirut.
21st	former Lebanese Communist Party leader George Hawi is killed when his car explodes close to his home in Wata Musaytbeh.
30th	Fouad Siniora, former finance minister under Rafik Hariri, forms the new government composed of 23 ministers.
Jul.12th	Min. Defence Elias Murr wounded, two killed in Beirut car bomb attack.
19th*	Fuad Siniora becomes PM.
22nd	at least 3 wounded in Ashrafieh when bomb explodes near rue Monot.
Aug.22nd	3 injured in garage explosion nr Promenade Hotel, Al-Zalqa,N.of Beirut.
Sept.1st*	4 senior securityofficials charged with complicity in Hariri plot.
Sept.16th	one killed and ten wounded by a bomb near bank in Ashrafieh.
19th	1 killed and 2 wounded in explosion at Kuwaiti office in Beirut.
25th	car bomb injures prominent news anchor, May Chidiac, in north Beirut.
Oct.12th*	Syrian Interior Minister killed, purported to be suicide



Rafik Hariri, Lebanon Prime Minister from '92 to '98 and '02 until he resigned in October, '04. He was a multi-millionaire businessman. His construction company was responsible for much of the reconstruction in Beirut after the civil war.

In 1989 Hariri financed the negotiations that ultimately produced the Taif Accord, bringing an end to the civil war.

In mid-2004 the Syrian President had insisted that pro-Syrian President Lahoud should remain as president of Lebanon beyond the term allowed by the constitution. This sparked action in the West to promote a pullout of Syrian forces. After threats from Bashar Assad Hariri's party approved the extension of the presidency. Assad is quoted by Druze leader Walid Jumblatt as saying "*Lahoud is me. ... If you and Chirac want me out of Lebanon, I will break Lebanon.*"

After the Hariri assassination the impetus for Syrian withdrawal increased, with Lebanon's *Independence Intifada* being known in the West as the 'Cedar Revolution' and by April Syrian troops and intelligence agents had officially left Lebanon. In fact, however, Syrian agents continue to be active in Lebanese affairs. Though a large proportion of the population has been in approval of the Syrian departure, the Shiite party, Hezbollah, is supported by Syria, and remains strongly pro-Syrian in national politics.

Since the departure of the Syrians a number of bombs have exploded around Beirut, causing significant injuries and deaths. Many of these have been directed towards Christian businesses and neighborhoods.

The Mehlis report is a preliminary report on the assassination of Hariri. The committee producing the report is led by Detlev Mehliis, the German investigator for the UN.

Amongst the key figures implicated in the plot are Sheikh Ahmed Abdul Al, a Lebanese with strong ties to Syria; President Lahoud himself, who had contacts with others of those involved; Bashar Assad, president of Syria, whose interview with Hariri seemd to bring matters to a head on August 26th; Asef Shawkat, brother-in-law of Bashar Assad; Faruq Al Shara, Syrian foreign minister. In addition to these, the four Lebanese officials indicted on September 1st were General Jameel al-Sayyed, General Ali al-Hajj, General Raymond Azar and General Musapha Hamdan.

* These items added by e-NEWS.

Crusader Jerusalem

Jerusalem was conquered by the *Franks* in 1099, and occupied by them until their defeat by Saladin in 1187. The return of Jerusalem to Christian domination (after 450 years) was not a simple 'recovery' of the Holy Land by the western, Catholic, Crusaders. Prior to the Muslim conquest the region had been a valuable part of the Byzantine Empire, the successor to the Roman Empire. In the duration the Eastern and Western branches of the church had diverged, particularly after the 'Great Schism' of 1054, and there was significant animosity between the Crusaders and what would come to be known as the Orthodox church.

Though many of the buildings remained from the earlier era, others had been constructed by the Muslims, particularly the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Mosque of the Dome of the Rock. During the Crusader period these two structures were converted, respectively, into a palace and a church.

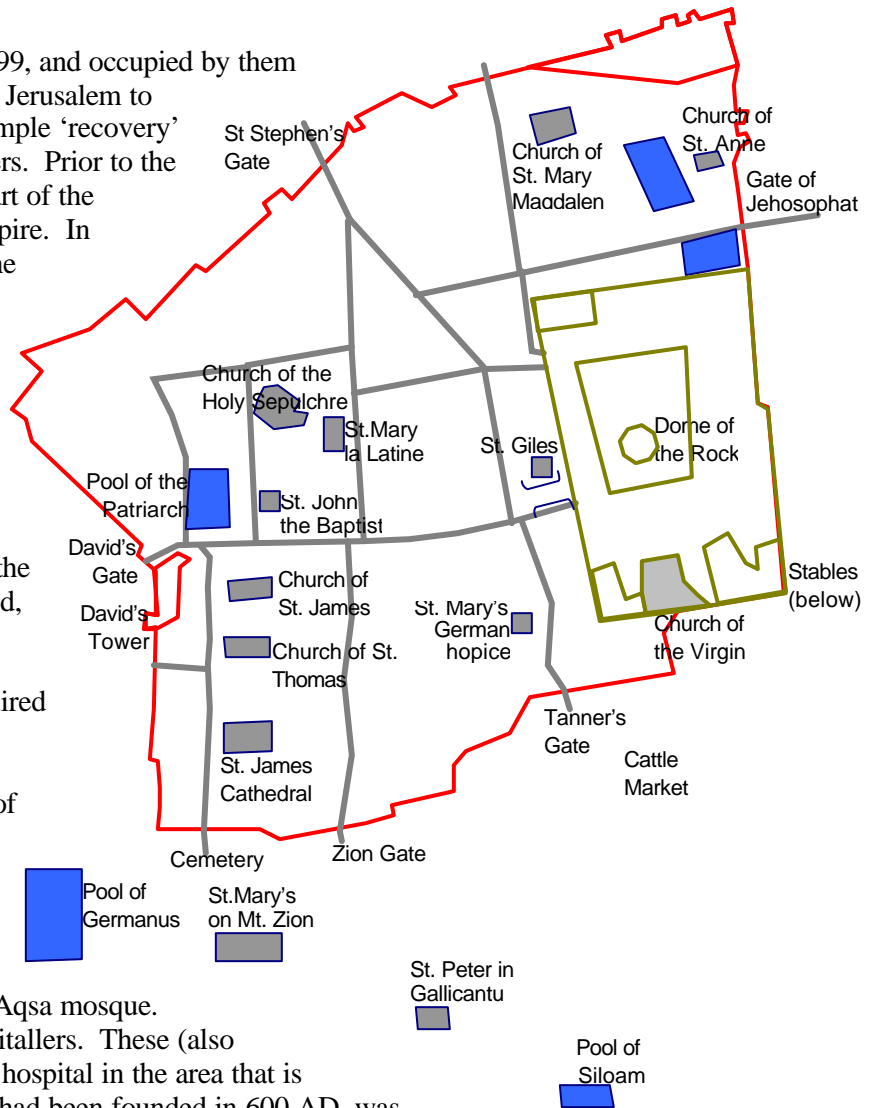
The Al Aqsa Mosque was occupied by the Crusader order known as the Templars. They acquired this name as a consequence of the building's identification by the Crusaders as "Solomon's Temple," and the name came to apply to the order of knights that took up residence there. In 1170, after murdering Thomas Beckett, the Archbishop of Canterbury, his assassins traveled to the holy land along with a contingent of Crusaders. They joined the Templars, and their tombs are located near the entrance to the Al Aqsa mosque.

Another order of knights was that of the Hospitallers. These (also known as the Knights of St. John) established their hospital in the area that is now known as the Muristan. The original hospital had been founded in 600 AD, was

richly endowed by Charlemagne in 800. The hospital was destroyed in 1005, along with the Holy Sepulchre, by Caliph Hakim, but was rebuilt in 1023, on the site of the Monastery of St. John. The Teutonic Knights were a German order, founded in Acre after the 1187 loss of Jerusalem to Saladin.

Caliph Hakim in 1005 had destroyed the emperor Constantine's earlier enormous edifice, known as the Anastasis, *Resurrection*, (see map in issue 47). The present building is the result of the Crusader construction, but with a ground plan on a much smaller scale, though much reconstruction has been done since then.

The city walls were reconstructed with the awareness that the smaller population could not defend the earlier outline. Mount Zion had in the time of David referred to the location on the Ophel where the Tabernacle had been set up, but by the time of Josephus the name had moved to the western hill, as it is today. From the time of the Crusades the churches of St. Mary and St. Peter, and the Pool of Siloam, would no longer be located inside the walls. Even the 'City of David' which had been included within defensive walls from earliest times – the Jebusites – would from now on be outside the walls of the 'Old City.'



Crosses in a street outside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre

