

# MID-EAST e-NEWS

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Issue No. 55 Texas

December 15th, 2005

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## Welcome

As you receive this, early results will be coming in from the Iraq election. Use this page to count the votes received and/or the seats allocated to each coalition list. Voting appears to have been high, with Sunnis turning out in large numbers, having boycotted the January election.

In all 307 parties, 9 coalitions and 6,655 candidates registered to participate in the election.

Email your responses to [pkclark@pmbx.net](mailto:pkclark@pmbx.net) & check the web for back issues.

## Iraq Elections

In e-News 34 we discussed how the election works in Iraq. In today's election five major coalitions represent the political parties amongst whom coalition votes will be distributed.

**UNITED IRAQI ALLIANCE** (around 20 parties, including the Al-Sadr Bloc, Islamic Daawa Party, Islamic Union for Iraqi Turkomans, Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, and the Turkoman Loyalty Movement). The two main leaders of this group are the current PM **Ibrahim Jaafari**, and **Abd al-Aziz Hakim**. Out of the 275 seats in the current parliament, the UIA has held 140 since the January election.

**KURDISTAN ALLIANCE** (8 primarily Kurdish parties, but including the Chaldean Democratic Union Party and the Turkoman Brotherhood Party). The KDP – Kurdish Democratic Party – of **Massoud Barzani**, and the PUK – Patriotic Union of Kurdistan – led by **Jamal Talabani**, are both included in this group, but the Kurdistan Islamic Union has withdrawn for this election and will be standing independently.

**IRAQI NATIONAL LIST** (15 parties, including a number of socialist/secular groups such as the Arab Socialist Movement, Democratic al-Qasimi Grouping, Independent Iraqi Sheikhs Council, League of Iraqi Turkoman Tribes and Notables, and The Free Unity Party). This group is led by **Iyad Allawi**, who was prime minister under the provisional government. It is a disparate group of secular parties, many with a socialist agenda. Iraqiyun, the party of provisional president, **Ghazi al-Yawer** is also included in this list.

**IRAQI NATIONAL CONGRESS LIST** (9 parties, including Democratic Iraqi Grouping, Iraqi Constitutional Movement, Iraqi Constitutional Party, Iraqi National Congress, Turkoman Decision Party). This party, led by deputy PM **Ahmed Chalabi**, withdrew from the government coalition last month, objecting to calls for the institution of an Islamic state in Iraq.

**IRAQI ACCORD FRONT** (Comprised of 3 Sunni parties, Iraqi Islamic Party, General Council for the People of Iraq, Iraqi National Dialogue Council). Names to look for: **Mohsen Abd al-Hamid**, **Adnan al-Dulaimi** and **Khalaf al-Ullyan**. The group wants to repeal laws aimed at de-Baathification and the dissolution of Iraq's army.

Parties standing independently include:

<b>Al-Rafidayn National Movement</b> - Younadem Yusuf Kana	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Democratic Society Movement</b> - Hamid al-Kifai	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Free Officers and Civilians Movement</b> - Najib al-Salihi	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Future Iraq Grouping</b> - Ibrahim Bahr al-Uloum	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Iraqi Front for National Dialogue</b> - Saleh al-Mutlaq	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Iraqi National Peace List</b> - Laith Kubba	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Iraqi Nation List</b> - Mithal al-Alusi	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Iraq Pledge Coalition</b> - Rand Rahim Francke	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Kurdistan Islamic Union</b> - Salah al-Din Mohammad Baha al-Din	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>National Democratic Coalition</b> - Abid Faisal al-Sahlani	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Nationalists Grouping</b> - Hatim Jasim Mukhlis	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>National House of Commons List</b> - Khadr Abd al-Aziz Hasan al-Duri	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Parliament of the Iraqi National Forces</b> - Hazim Shaalan	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Rally of Independent Iraq's Capabilities</b> - Ali al-Dabbagh	<input type="checkbox"/>

Much of this information came from the BBC Web Site at [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/4511450.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/4511450.stm)

## Tunisia

In ancient times the city of Carthage was a significant power in the Mediterranean. It had been founded by the



Phoenicians in about 800 BC. During the series of three Punic Wars (*Punic*=‘Phoenician’) fought by Rome, Carthage was led for a time by Hannibal, who successfully led a force across the Alps to attack Rome itself. After the third war Carthage (149-146 BC) was despoiled by the Romans, and ceased to be a significant city. Augustine lived and taught there during the 4<sup>th</sup> Century. The invasions of Germanic tribes reached this northern tip of Africa in AD 439, but Carthage was recaptured by Byzantine Rome in 534. Thynes (modern Tunis) had already replaced the destroyed Carthage as the region’s commercial and trade center. Byzantine Tunis became Muslim during the Arab wars of conquest in 698.

During the early Muslim period Tunisia was ruled by a sequence of dynasties including the Aghlabid (800-909), Fatimid (909-972 from Egypt), Zirides (972-1159, ruled from Mahdia, subservient to the Fatimids), Almohads (1159-1230, including the Maghreb and Spain), Hafsids (1230-1574, based in Tunis). In 1574 Tunisia becomes part of the Ottoman Empire.

After 1050, war between the Fatimids and a Zirite rebel, Moizz, led to the ruin of the region as the Berbers had to flee inland. During the period of the Crusades a Norman, Roger of Sicily, captured Mahdia in 1148 and took control of the Tunisian coast for a period, until the Almohads regained it in 1160.

Barbarossa, the pirate, captured Tunis in 1534, but was soon expelled by the Spanish. During the 18<sup>th</sup> Century the *beys* (local governors) had a measure of autonomy from Constantinople. The Husaynid beys were the first dynasty that ruled (Husayn bin Ali, 1705-1740). Piracy continued, however, and was even supported by the Tunisian chiefs during Ottoman rule. During the late 1700s the American colonies paid bribes to the Tunisian government as insurance against pirates, but in the first decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century the US Navy acted against the corsair bases along the North African *Barbary Coast*.

Next Issue: The last 100 years.

Islam

Hadith

The Hadith (or Hadis) consists of reports about the sayings and customs of Mohammed, and what he encouraged in his presence or forbade. The Sunna specifically refers to the actual practices of Mohammed, whereas the Hadith would apply more widely to directions for behavior that Mohammed gave, or actions that he is said to have condemned.

"Indeed the Quran without the Hadis remains unintelligible in many cases in the work-a-day life of a man. It is the very injunction of the Quran to follow the Prophet in all his deeds and sayings. Therefore if the Quran is believed, there is no other alternative but to believe in the Hadis of the Prophet. [And then, quoting Sura 33:36] *'It behoves not a believing man and a believing woman that they should have any choice (in their matter) when Allah and His Apostle have decided a matter; whoso disobeys Allah and His Apostle, he surely strays off a manifest straying.'*"

Some examples (with sources):

*"The Apostle of God said: 'When a fly falls into a vessel belonging to anyone of you, then let him immerse the whole of it Afterwards let him throw it out, for verily (!) in one of its wings is healing, and in the other disease.'"* (Al-Bukhari, Abu Da'ud in Mishkat II).

*"Jabir reported that Allah's Messenger commanded the licking of fingers and the dish saying: 'You do not know in what portion the blessing lies.'"* (Sahih Muslim).

Mohammed said: *"The angels do not enter a house in which there is a dog or pictures."* (Hadis of Abu-Talhah).

*"Every maker of pictures is in the fire. Allah will appoint for him, for every picture which he has drawn, a person who will punish him in hell."* (Hadis of ibn-Abbas).

Much of this article was drawn from [www.answering-islam.org](http://www.answering-islam.org)

Lebanon update

On December 12<sup>th</sup> Detlev Mehlis issued his second report on the investigations into the assassination of Rafik Hariri. The German proescutor was appointed by the UN to obtain information from witness and those suspected of involvment. The first report (summarized in e-News 52) identified senior Lebanese and Syrian officials as being implicated in the planning of the assassination. A number of the Lebanese suspects have already been arrested.

The second report not only provides additional evidence of Syrian government involvement, but recounts how the Syrians have repeatedly impeded the progress of the investigation, including "procedural maneuvering and contradictory feedback" and the destruction of documents.

On the same day that this report was received by the UN another important figure in Lebanese politics was assassinated – again by a car bomb placed on his route to work. Gebran Tueni is a legislator in the Syrian parliament. From a Melkite family (though his mother is Druze) he represented a Christian area of Beirut. His father owns the An Nahar newspaper, where Tueni was a senior editor.

As If You Were There...

The image is an aerial photograph of the region around the Dead Sea, with various biblical sites and verses labeled. The Dead Sea is visible at the bottom of the image. The labels include:

- Rabbah Ammon, now Amman, where David ordered Uriah slain** (2 Sam. 12:26)
- Mt. Nebo (Moses looked over the Promised Land).** (Deut. 32:48)
- At Medeba, Joab battled the Amorites & Ammonites** (1 Chron. 13:7)
- Dibon, the Mesha Stele was found in 1868. (e-News 18)** (2 Ki. 3:4-27)
- Aroer, southern outpost of the Amorites, occupied & strengthened by Gad** (Deut. 2:36)
- The Arnon (now Wadi Mujib), for a time Moab's northern border** (Num. 21:13)
- The 'Plains of Moab, where the Israelites waited to cross the Jordan with Joshua.** (Num. 33:48)
- Here the River Jordan enters the Dead Sea.**
- Herod's harbor, En Zara, and the oasis of Callirrhoe. In the wadi to the north are the Hammamat Main hot springs**
- Macherus (Herod's castle), where John the Baptist was killed, according to Josephus.** (Matt. 14:1-12)

The image also features a "Google" logo in the bottom right corner.

This Month

Nov	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Dec	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	
<b>Europe</b>	UK approves extradition of suspect to US															Belgium arrests 14 in terror network														
<b>USA</b>																Saudi prince-\$20m to 2 Univs. for Islamic studies														
<b>Africa</b>	Darfur: Rebels fighting increases, refugees lose hope as world seems to forget															6.8 Earthquake in Tanzania rift valley														
<b>Asia</b>	Meskhetian Turks flee Russia for US															2 suicide bomb attacks in Bangladesh														
	9 Thai killed by militants in S															Bangladesh bomber arrested														
	US vacates Uzbek air base															Kazakh election, President wins with 91%														
																Kazakh pipeline opens to China														
<b>Pakistan</b>																Al Qaeda leader Rabia killed														
<b>Afghan.</b>	Suicide bomber kills 2															Bomb kills 12 in Jandola, Waziristan														
	Blast hits NATO peace convoy															Bomb hits US vehicle-2 die														
																Video of corpse burning sparks outrage														
																Clash between Afghan/Pakistan forces closes border at Spin Boldak														
																3 police & mayor killed in Kandahar prov.														
																6.7 quake on Pakistan-Afghanistan border														
																Justice Action Plan to investigate abuse claims														
																Taleban attack in Helmand, 7police die, 7 Taleban														
<b>Arabia</b>	Teacher accused of blasphemy															Elections for Jeddah Chamber of Commerce include women														
<b>Iraq</b>	5 US killed in Ubaydi ambush															4 election workers shot														
	2 mosque bombs kill 80 Shiites in Khanaqin															Marine killed by rocket														
	Baghdad hotel bomb kills 8															Suicide bus bomb kills 32														
	8 Mosul insurgents die in building rather than surrender-Zarqawi not among them															Roadside bomb kills 10 US in Fallujah														
	Saddam trial resumes. Election draws much interest & participation (over 70% in N)															Egyptian translator killed														
	US Deaths: 10/31:2,019 11/14: 2,052, 12/5: 2,119 12/13: 2,136															8 arrested in plot to kill Saddam judge														
	Civilian Deaths: Pentagon estimate: 26,000-30,000															Allawi attacked by mob in Najaf														
	Iraqi leaders meet in Egypt															Factions want timetable for US pullout														
	Suicide bombs kill 49 at market, funeral															Ambush kills 19 Iraqi soldiers														
	Sunni Sheikh & 3 sons killed															Kidnappings of 4 Christian activists														
	6 killed by gunmen nr Hawija															Saddam trial resumes														
	Bomb kills 31 women/children at toy giveaway															Attacks kill 7														
																Protests against Al Jazeera														
																Saddam argues with judge, witnesses														
																Bogus ballot papers found in truck														
																Men caught transporting 72 bombs														
																Candidate Dulaimi killed in Ramadi														
																Fallujah mufti killed by gunmen														
																French engineer kidnapped														
																Suicide bomb kills 3 in Shiite cafe														
																Marine operation sweeps Hit														
																Kurds sign deal for oil with Norway														
																43 police killed in Baghdad academy														
																3 US killed in attacks														
																Witnesses (behind curtain) describe torture														
																Sunni cleric call for hostage release														
																Saddam refuses to appear in court														
<b>Iran</b>	Nuclear processing continues															Earthquake in S. kills 10 nr Bandar Abbas														
																Military plane hits Tehran apartment														
																Russia to sell weapons to Iran														
																Pres. questions holocaust, calls for move to Europe														
<b>Syria</b>																UN Mehlis enquiry disputed by Syria														
<b>Lebanon</b>																Syrians withdraw confessions														
																Hariri inquiry extended 6 months														
																Mass grave found at Syrian base														
																Tueni killed by car bomb														
																Tueni (anti-Syria lawmaker) returns from exile														
																Schools/businesses close in mourning														
<b>Jordan</b>	Zarqawi threatens King Abdullah															Zarqawi disowned by his tribe, Bani Hassan														
	Zarqawi family renounces him															4 Islamists put on trial for plot to kill Americans														
<b>Egypt</b>	Muslim Brotherhood gains 34 seats															400 M.B. members held														
	M.B. takes 47 more seats in 2nd round															50 M.B. members arrested in vote plot														
																Police seal polling stations to prevent MB supporters voting-8 die in violence														
																Mubarak names 5 women & 5 Copts to parliament														
<b>Israel</b>	Sharon quits Likud to form new party															Sharon names new party 'Kadima'														
	Plans to meet with Abbas cancelled.															Sheetrit: 'not a single additional house' in WB settlements														
																Netanya suicide bomber kills 5														
																Mofaz leaves Likud for Kadima														
																15 arrested, border sealed														
																WB/Gaza crossings reopened														
																Israel joins Red Cross (w/ 'Red Crystal')														
																Soldier stabbed at Qalandiya checkpoint														
<b>WB &amp; Gaza</b>	2 from Martyrs Brigade killed at Jenin checkpoint															Islamic Jihad militant surrenders in Jenin														
																15 militants return to Gaza, Israel objects														
																Greenhouse project in operation-harvest due in early Dec. - sales depend on open export routes														
																Gaza border opens to Egypt, monitored by EU														
																Missile kills militant in Gaza														
																Gunmen disrupt Fatah primary in Gaza														
																Missile kills 2 in Jabaliya camp														
																Gunmen attack Ramallah election office														
																Air strike kills 4 in targeted assassination														
																Hamis win elections in Nablus														