

# AMERICAN CONTRACTOR

**3 November 2009**

## **IRAQ IMPORTANT DATES**

**October 26-31, 2009**  
**Iraq Constitution Conference, Heidelberg,**  
**Germany**

**November 1, 2009**  
**Release of Financials; Parliament Members**

**November 5-6 2009 Investment Conference**  
**Berlin Germany**

**November 11, 2009 Oil Minister**  
**al-Shahristani, Questioning at Iraq**  
**Parliament**

**November 16-18, 2009 Paris Iraq**  
**Investment Conference**

**December 7-9, 2009 Iraq Petroleum**  
**Conference London U.K.**

**December 20, 2009 Iraq Japan Investment**  
**Conference**

**December 31, 2009 – Development Fund for**  
**Iraq (DFI) expires (will be extended)**

**December 2009 – Article 140 Vote**

**January 2009, 2nd Round Oil Auctions**

**January 16, 2010 – Iraq Referendum Vote**  
**(SOFA Security Agreement) (Maybe)**

**January 16, 2010 - Iraq National Elections**  
**(maybe)**

**June 2010, U.N. Tarasov Mandate Extended**

**October 2010 – National Census**  
**rescheduled**

**FACTORY**

**OPEN**

**NORTHERN**

**IRAQ**

**Pharmaceutical  
Factory inaugurated  
in Northern Iraq**

**The opening of the  
Awa Medica Phar-  
maceutical Factory in  
Erbil on 20 October.**

**The modern factory  
would manufacture  
medication to world  
standards**

**The Prime Minister  
of the Kurdistan  
Region said at  
the inauguration  
“the project would  
contribute to the  
economy and It  
would provide the  
Kurdistan Region  
and Iraqi people  
with good quality  
medication at low  
cost.”**

### **Foreign Interference**

The U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, has just made the decision to send his personal assistant Oscar Fernandez, to Baghdad to conduct a Threat Vulnerability Assessment (TVA) of Iraq due to the foreign interference that is plaguing Iraq. Fernandez will conduct his own investigation into the terror blasts of 25 Oct and 18 August and report back to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

### **Elections Law**

The Iraqi Parliament has been postponed because of the continued dispute with Kirkuk and many other disagreements that all entities involved can not agree on a new 2009 Elections Law. Just recently an Arab news reporter says “Agreement on the issue of Kirkuk’s elections at the parliament developed to the extent of exchanging accusations among deputies and holding each other responsible for obstructing the Elections Law.”

The Parliaments legal Committee, Parliament Speaker, first deputy speaker, and representatives of different parliamentary blocs all recently attended a meeting in hopes of agreeing on two proposals.

A proposal for adopting the 2004 Elections registers and the other was using the recommendation of the United Nations Envoy who called for using the 2009 elections registers after updating them. The process of updating the 2009 elections registers is currently ongoing. Even with all these different groups and Speakers together still could not agree on any of the two proposals.

They even suggested amendments to the U.N. envoy proposal that called for forming a committee that would examine the registers after the elections and decide the legitimacy of Kirkuk deputies and the results.

When the groups wanted to have a vote on either proposal the Kurdish deputies threatened to walk and calling for the UN envoy amended proposal.

The Iraqi Parliament did meet on 29 October and did not bring up the vote for the new elections law. There has been warnings if the Iraqi government returns to the old 2005 elections law and doing so will adopt automatically the closed list system. A closed list system is where the vote will be to a certain party and not to an individual as an open list system.

During all meetings the census that the election must go on at the date that has been set. Kirkuk may for the second time this year not able to participate in the National Elections due to the disagreements with adopting a current election law.

The Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) representatives have already announced the proposals put forth by the Political Council for National Security cannot be implemented with regard to holding elections in Kirkuk because the IHEC cannot depend on 2004 registers as those were organized by non-iraqi’s.

The UN is suggesting that Kirkuk elections should go ahead in January 2010 with the election results be valid for one year so a new election

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U.S. Army General

can be held at a later date. To add to the confusion Salim al-Juburi, deputy head of the legal committee, has said the UN commission changed the content of its proposal today, saying the election results should be valid for one year only in Kirkuk and then new elections should be held according to registers that would be prepared during this year.

The IHEC has warned it needs enough time to organize the Parliament elections in January 2010 and saying that the Parliament should send the points, on which the deputies have agreed on, by the beginning of next week. The IHEC also said if the Parliament is late for more than one more week in passing a law then the voting may be postponed.

Just so you all know the political bloc The Kurdistan Alliance Bloc, as well as other deputies have boycotted the Iraqi's Parliament session for voting on the proposals for the Election Law. The session was attended by 100 deputies out of 275. Now you have the Kurdistan Alliance Bloc, denying that it is delaying the passage of the amendments to the elections law. Deputy Khalid al-Shuwani said in a joint news conference with members of the Kurdistan Alliance that the Arab and Turkoman deputies presented unconstitutional and illegal proposals that violate the federal courts verdicts regarding the inclusion of the Kirkuk issue into the law so as to block the electoral, political, and constitutional process across Iraq under the pretext of Kirkuk.

It is possible the vote in January could be delayed to later in 2010.

### **U.S. Dollar and Iraq**

Inside Iraq all contracts written by contractors and other entities are numerated in U.S. dollars even as the U.S. Army is ending the practice of giving U.S. cash as payments to contractors.

A quote from a U.S. Army Gen. Phillip McGhee said “What we are going to do effective October 1, is we will write the contracts in U.S. dollars and they will be paid through the Iraq and Afghan banking system in local currency.”

You can read the news article here.

### **CZECH Bank in Iraq**

The Iraq Finance Minister held meetings with Czech Industry Minister Martin Riman, on a possible Czech-Iraqi bank operating in Iraq. Both are still working out the details.

### **British Investments**

The Iraq-British Council of Businessmen, just recently just finished with meetings in Baghdad. This is the extended meetings after the London Investment Conference that were held last April.

# **BAGHDAD HIGHLIGHTS**

3 November 2009

- \* Iraq Parliament has one week to pass the amendments to the Election Law
- \* Iraqi Companies want to partner with Foreign firms
- \* Iraq International Fair resumed after six years 400 hundred companies 32 Foreign companies participate
- \* Prime Minister Maliki results of investigation to be announced soon
- \* French Aeroports de Paris International wins contract for Euphrates Airport

## **2009**

**will be known as the year of the Iraq Investment Conferences**

December 20, 2009

Iraq-Japan Investment Conference

November 16-18, 2009

Iraq-Paris Investment Conference

November 5-6, 2009

Iraq-Germany Investment Conference

October 20-21, 2009

U.S. - Iraq Investment Business Conference

April 29-30, 2009

London-Iraq Investment Conference

## **UPDATE: INVESTMENT LAWS**

**The Iraqi Parliament has approved the First Draft Amendment to Investment Law 13 of 2006.**

**Exemptions from taxes and fees for ten years**

**Investors the rights to employ Foreign workers**

**Prevention of Nationalization or confiscation of Investment Projects**

**Non-Iraqi's to own Real Estate for housing project purposes**

What do all these Iraqi Banks have in common?

Commercial Bank of Iraq

Bank of Baghdad

Al Warka Investment Bank

Dar Es-Salam Bank

Trade Bank of Iraq

Ashur International Bank

Credit Bank of Iraq

Iraqi Middle East Investment Bank

Tigris and Euphrates Bank

**All these Iraqi Banks have full electronic funds transfer (ETF) capability and all nine banks assist contractors, organizations, companies to repatriate all funds or profits to any where in the World...they are doing this as I write this text.**

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