

# AMERICAN CONTRACTOR

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The American Contractor Newsletter  
information on Iraq and other topics

**Iraq Dates**

4 March 2010 Early voting of Parliamentary Elections

7 March 2010, Iraq Parliamentary Elections

June 2010, U.N. Tarsov Mandate Extended

October 2010, National Census (was rescheduled from Oct 2009)

## Possible Delay in Elections

On 18 January with the recent headline in the Al-Bayna Jadidah newspaper Baghdad.  
Postponing The Upcoming Elections Is Possible Due To A Delay In Procedures Carried Out By The Government  
Accountability And Justice Commission

There is no need to be alarmed just yet! The Kurdish Coalition Parliament member Furiad Rawanduzi, has been quoted saying "I don't think that the delay is deliberately intended because many constitutional departments experienced delays in their formation. Time is short, and there is a large number of individuals being included in the DeBaathification Law."

The count so far as the names as reached 511 and have read where it possibly could reach 800 names on the ban list from the Justice and Accountability Commission. The issue is for the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC), the Iraq's Election organizer, to determine who exactly is going to be involved on the actual voting ballot. The candidates that are on the ban list have 72 hours to file an appeal with the Justice and Accountability commission and will wait for the decision.

## The End of the Current Legislative Session

Yes, there is an end to the current Iraq Parliament session and it ended on 31 December 2010. However, the Iraq Constitution stipulates the Parliament can continue for 30 days more and end on 31 January. The Iraqi Parliament members will still be paid for the full month of January 2010, which I am sure they are not complaining about and look forward to all those great benefits of being a member of the Iraqi Parliament. As most of them know that they will not be reelected to another term, so they are maximizing their membership in Parliament to collect on all those benefits.

You are probably wondering what is going to happen after 31 January, do they all just go home and wait until the Parliamentary elections and collect unemployment benefits? That would probably not be such a bad idea since they could not get any major legislation passed with the exception of the Investment Law Amendments in November 2009 and that was with threats of no Direct Foreign Investments (FDI) if they did not pass that particular piece of legislation. The Iraqi government either hosted and or attended Investment Conferences in Berlin, Paris, London, Baghdad, Washington, D.C. as I've documented in previous newsletters and if they were serious about reconstruction those amendments needed to be passed.

What you will see happen is the President of the Iraqi Parliament will hold several meetings with different political blocs of Parliament members and attempt to set a date on which day the current Parliamentary session will come to an end. The Parliament Speaker Ayad Al-Samaraie, will be hosting the meetings and determining by agreement when the last day will be for them. I would guess it will be sometime late in February, and if I was a member knowing that I would attempt to get the date as close to March 7 as possible. Therefore, I could keep drawing a full salary and maintain those amenities.

## The Iraq Constitution and Saddamist Ba'ath

You have been reading about the list of banned candidates in the upcoming elections by the Accountability and Justice Commission which announced that approximately 511 names and possibly could reach 800 names who are forbidden from participating in the Iraq elections. Reports are saying that all Baath party members are not allowed to participate at all in those elections.

Let's look at what the Iraq Constitution says about the Baath Party...

*Any entity or program that adopts, incites, facilitates, glorifies, promotes, or justifies racism or terrorism or accusations of being an infidel (takfir) or ethnic cleansing, especially the Saddamist Ba'ath in Iraq and its symbols, under any name whatsoever, shall be prohibited. Such entities may not be part of political pluralism in Iraq. This shall be regulated by law.*

*Article Seven  
The Iraq Constitution*

Under the previous regime Iraqi's had no choice in becoming members of the Baath party and may not necessarily be Saddamist Ba'ath party members as stated in the Iraq Constitution. It was announced the Ministry of Defense, Abdul Qadr Al-Ubaidi, name was on the list and he is an acting MoD Minister and fortunately for him his name has been removed from the list as I suspect many more names will be removed from the banned list from the Accountability and Justice Commission.

Early reports came out and said all the secular Sunni's were on the banned lists and a Washington Post article stating that most of the names are of Shia sect. I would think there is a big difference in the Saddamist Ba'ath party members and those Iraqi's that were forced to join the Baath Party just so they can have a job with the previous regime and feed their family.

This banned list is all a ploy from the Iranian government to marginalize the secular Iraqi's Sunni and Shia from participating in the elections because the Iranians are afraid that once you are elected it is going to be four more years before you can elect them out of office. Iran would very much like to see Iraq move in the direction of Islamic policy instead of moving towards a secular society in the upcoming elections. The time line is approximately ten days in order for the elections to proceed on time. How long will the appeal process take to investigate all 511 names on the banned list. I am hearing it could be upwards around 800 names to adjudicate all those appeals. The current delay is the campaigning can not start without knowing the outcome of the banned members appeal process.

Another issue is that the Accountability and Justice Commission has never been approved by the Iraqi Parliament when it was formed after it was renamed from the Debathification Committee in 2005.

## Iraq Info and Updates

The number one question I receive is "when will the Iraqi Dinar RV". To be perfectly honest, to all my avid readers of the American Contractor blog web site, I do not know when the Iraqi government will decide to change the Iraqi dinar currency and or the Iraqi currency exchange rate. What I do know is that it is not going to happen in February 2010! I am 100% sure of this and it is based on information from my vast network of contacts that I have accumulated over the past several years working and living abroad. In order for this to happen, there are what we call trip wires that need to be in place before any appearance of any RV is to occur which by the way, if you have been reading you would know what those mechanisms are and that they have not occurred as of yet.

American Contractor brings you a different perspective on what is occurring inside Iraq and will try not to intentionally deceive anyone about what is actually going on inside the Republic of Iraq. The American Contractor web site and the newsletters which started several years ago are commentary and my opinion. I saw a need to draw attention to a different perceptives on Iraq to bring a balance to the hype that seems to be propagated on the Dinar forums. Most of it is all hype and a great psyops campaign to get you to spend more money and buy the product their selling.

If you want a good credible source for information on Iraq join the mailing list by clicking on the link below. The publishing schedule has been slow and hopefully it will improve as time goes on. American Contractor wanted to put out this publication to my ever growing reader base.

Thanks for reading and as always more will follow...

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