

UNCLASSIFIED

Security Notice



U.S. Embassy, Iraq

NUMBER: 08 - 106	Subject: Transitioning to Greater Iraqi Government Control	DATE: 12/31/2008
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TO: All Mission Employees

FROM: Regional Security Office

On January 1, 2009, the US-Iraq Security Agreement will enter into force, and CPA Order 17 will be suspended. With these changes, the Government of Iraq will regain control over its territory. The practical assumption of control, however, will be more gradual, done in partnership with the US and other allies. One immediate change will be the loss of civil, criminal, and administrative immunities for our contractors.

Although everyone has worked diligently to ensure that our operations, and those of our contractors, fully conform to Iraqi law, the Embassy and MNF-I felt it prudent to ask the GOI for a grace period during this transition to give us time to comply with requirements on the licensing of private security contractors, drivers licenses, vehicle registration, registration of firearms, and other specific areas.

This grace period does not, however, provide immunity from criminal prosecution or from other legal process in Iraq. Everyone is required to respect applicable Iraqi laws and regulations – including, to the maximum extent possible, in matters covered by the ministerial order. Please exercise prudence and limit all movements to mission-critical ones over the next few days as new procedures settle out.

In response to our request, GOI Interior Minister Bolani issued a ministerial order on December 30, 2008 stating that no law enforcement or other legal action will be taken against US government and affiliated contractor

personnel for an undisclosed period while a newly formed joint committee comprised of Embassy, Government of Iraq, and US military members works to develop policies and procedures to facilitate USG compliance with Iraqi laws and regulations on specified matters. The ministerial order, in Arabic with English translation, is attached to this notice.

RSO PSDs and Military Movement teams will continue to follow their current standard operating procedures. For RSO PSDs, motorcades will respect Iraqi traffic laws, to include stopping at traffic lights and flowing with traffic. If stopped by Iraqi Security Forces, the DS Agent in Charge will notify the appropriate RSO TOC (please see attached for contact numbers). Through an interpreter or an Arabic language card, he/she will identify him/herself and the motorcade as belonging to the U.S. Embassy and on official business, with instructions to make a telephone call to the TOC to report the incident.

The Departments of State and Defense, the Embassy and MNF have briefed our contractors on a number of topics including the extent of assistance we can offer them. (That information is available at BaghdadRegMgt@state.gov.)

RSO TOC contact numbers:

Baghdad:	0770-443-3836
	0770-443-3837
	0770-443-3820
	0770-443-3826
	0770-443-3830
Basra (RSO)*:	0790-130-4701
	0770-443-3097
Erbil (TOC):	0770-443-3137
Al-Hillah (TOC):	0790-331-6393
Tallil (TOC):	0780-847-4063

* Basra does not currently staff a TOC

Attachments:



ministerial order.pdf



ministerial order
English.pdf

PLEASE CONTACT THE RSO OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

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Republic of Iraq

Ministry of Interior
The Minister's Office

No: D. M. 31034

Date: 30 December, 2008

Order

The Minister has ordered:

1. The establishment of a committee to be chaired by the Director General of Operations at the Ministry, with the following as members:
 - A. The Director General of Traffic
 - B. The Director General of Nationality
 - C. The Director General of I.D's
 - D. The Director of Companies (TN: presumably "Security Companies Affairs")
 - E. Brigadier General Ziyad Taha Ali – the Minister's Office
 - F. Ministry, with the following as members:

2. The Committee's mission:

Engage in discussions with the U.S. Embassy's Regional Security Office (RSO) and the Multi-national Force's CJ3 to facilitate full compliance by all U.S Government personnel and contractors with the rules established by the Iraqi government, which govern the following:

- A. Licensing of contractors in the fields of security, as well as protection of personnel and facilities.
- B. Registration of firearms and personnel security weaponry.
- C. Vehicle registration.
- D. Licensing of pilots and aircrafts related to personnel and security operations.
- E. Customs, duties, tariffs, taxation and inspections.
- F. Entry, Exit procedures and use of U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) assets to transport members of the U.S. Forces, DOD Civilian component, US contractors, U.S. Embassy personnel, and other members of the Coalition Force.

3. Such facilitation will permit continued diplomatic and reconstruction engagement by United States Government and affiliated contractor personnel in Iraq. In the interim, no law enforcement or legal action will be taken against United States Government and affiliated contractor personnel on these matters until the Committee issues recommendations and the Ministry of Interior agrees that these issues have been resolved.
4. The Committee shall undertake its mission and report its findings to the Minister.

(Signed)

Major General 'Abd-al-Karim 'Abd-al-Hasan

CC:

- The Regional Security Office at the US Embassy; for your consideration, with appreciation;
- MOI's Deputy Minister for Information and National Investigations; Please take the necessary action and inform the Director of Security Companies of the members of the Committee and keep us informed, with appreciation;
- MOI's Director General of operations; please take the necessary action and keep us informed of the results, with appreciation;
- The Director General of Nationality; please take the necessary action in coordination with the chairman of the afore-mentioned Committee;
- The Director General of Identity Cards and licenses; please take the necessary action in coordination with the chairman of the afore-mentioned Committee;
- Brigadier General Ziyad Taha Ali, the Minister's Office; please take the necessary action in coordination with the chairman of the afore-mentioned Committee;