

Iraq Turkmen Journal

Summary of Iraqi Turkmen News & Point of view



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Civil Defense in Kirkuk closes 15 cafes and affirms: to prevent catastrophic incidents



BY IRAQITURKMENASPECT ON MARCH 15, 2024

The Civil Defense Directorate in Kirkuk province announced on Friday, March 15, 2024, the closure of 15 coffee shops and cafes due to their failure to comply with civil safety regulations and the absence of fire extinguishing materials in these locations, aiming to prevent catastrophic incidents during the month of Ramadan.

The spokesperson for the Civil Defense Directorate in Kirkuk, Major Qais Abdul Razzaq, stated, "According to instructions from the General Civil Defense Directorate and in implementation of the recommendations of the Minister of Interior, the Civil Defense Directorate conducted inspections of all coffee shop and cafe centers that witness gatherings during the blessed month of Ramadan, where we submitted recommendations to the Kirkuk Governorate management regarding these centers for not adhering to the conditions specified by the Civil Defense."

He pointed out that "15 centers did not implement the instructions and recommendations for safety, and after the closure decision was issued, which is implemented by the Tourism Security and Police Centers, they were closed to prevent any disasters because some of these cafes used sandwich panel material, which is rejected in construction operations because it is highly flammable and not allowed to be used in buildings."

He confirmed that "the closure decision continues for a period of 15 days, and when the cafe owner complies with the conditions, we lift the closure decision. If the safety conditions are not met, the closure decision continues for the same period, and remains so until the implementation of civil safety conditions."

It is worth mentioning that cafes in Kirkuk witness a high turnout, especially during Ramadan for the purpose of playing the game of "Mahybes" and "Chinese", which is a popular game consisting of multiple cups placed inside a tray and glued with a sugary substance to prevent them from moving during rotation, and placed in front of the opposing team, which starts searching for the "Mahybes" under the cups.

The Academic Association of Iraqi Turkmens hosted a collective iftar dinner



BY IRAQITURKMENASPECT ON MARCH 15, 2024

The Academic Association of Iraqi Turkmens hosted a collective iftar dinner, attended by the President of the Iraqi Turkmen Front and the head of the Unified List of the Iraqi Turkmen Front, Mr. Hassan Turan, on Friday, March 15, 2024.

During the Ramadan evening and collective iftar dinner, which was attended by elite members and academic talents of the Turkmen community, the President of the Iraqi Turkmen Front spoke about the ongoing negotiations regarding the formation of the local government in Kirkuk. Turan addressed the Turkmen vision to achieve consensus through participatory formulas, emphasizing the importance of joint administration in



Kirkuk to fulfill the aspirations of the Turkmen people while ensuring the preservation of their strategic constants.

The head of the Iraqi Turkmen Front discusses common files with the Turkish Foreign Minister in a special meeting in the capital Baghdad.



BY IRAQITURKMENASPECT ON MARCH 14, 2024

The head of the Iraqi Turkmen Front and the head of the Unified Iraqi Turkmen Front list, Mr. Hassan Turan, met with the Turkish Foreign Minister, Mr. Hakan Fidan, on

Thursday, March 14, 2024, in the presence of the head of the Turkmen parliamentary bloc, MP Ershad AL-Salehi, during the official visit program of the Turkish Foreign Minister to the capital Baghdad.

During the meeting, the situation in the region and the bilateral relations between the two sisterly countries were reviewed, along with the frameworks of common cooperation. Both sides affirmed the enhancement of dialogue and joint coordination in the interest of the two sisterly peoples in various files and areas that concern both countries.

Turan provided an overview of the situation of the Turkmen component in Iraq and the efforts made to defend the rights of the Turkmen people in the upcoming events.

The Martyr (Kirkuk Grand) Mahybas Championship sponsored by the Kirkuk Youth and Sports Directorate



BY IRAQITURKMENASPECT ON MARCH 13, 2024

On March 13, 2024, 12 teams from Kirkuk competed in the Ramadan Mahybas Championship at the Sulaf Club Hall in the Al-Qadisiyah First District, with the goal of forming a team to represent the province.

This year, the opening match was held between teams from the Al-Qadisiyah and Al-Khidr districts, with Al-Qadisiyah winning with 13 points against Al-Khidr's five points.

A Day in Elton Koprusu City in Pictures

Numerous photos were taken in Elton Köprüsü City on March 12, 2024, to document the atmosphere and beautiful scenery in the city during this day. The photos included scenes of the main streets and narrow alleys, as well as tourist landmarks and historical buildings that characterize the city. The pictures also featured snapshots of the daily life of the city's inhabitants and their various activities in markets, cafes, and parks





Koburlu Visits Kirkuk Health Department and Discusses Supporting the Health Sector



BY IRAQITURKMENASPECT ON MARCH 12, 2024

Mr. Ahmed Ramzi Koburlu, a member of the Kirkuk Provincial Council for the Iraqi Turkmen Front, met with the Director of the Kirkuk Health Department, Dr. Ziad Khalaf, to discuss the health situation in the province and ways to cooperate for the service of Kirkuk residents.

During the meeting, they discussed the obstacles and problems faced by healthcare personnel and the barriers hindering the development of healthcare institutions in the province.

Mr. Ahmed Ramzi Koburlu emphasized that the entitlements of health employees regarding the distribution of land plots should be distributed in general, as these lands are among the simplest rights of Kirkuk health employees for their service and dedication in completing their work during the COVID-19 pandemic and previous periods.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Musa Rafat, Director of the Administrative and Financial Department of the Kirkuk Health Department, Dr. Ali Adnan, Director of the Inspection Department, and Dr. Ali Saki, Director of the Operations Department.

Representatives of ten Turkmen political parties in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq have decided to boycott the parliamentary elections scheduled for June 10, 2024.



BY IRAQITURKMENASPECT ON MARCH 12, 2024

In a statement to the media, representatives of these Turkmen parties affirmed that "those who oppose coexistence are once again undermining the political and social structure without benefiting from democracy and history."

The statement pointed to the concern of Turkmen formations in parliament about losing seats, emphasizing that "the decisions completely contradict the constitution and come with political justifications, and canceling the quota seat allocated to minorities in parliament contradicts the constitution."

The statement further stated: "We call on the United Nations representative and all representatives of countries, consulates, embassies, the President of Iraq, the Speaker of the Parliament, and the Iraqi Prime Minister to do their duty and prevent this injustice." Representatives of some Turkmen parties added in their statement: "We call on the President of the Kurdistan Region and the Prime Minister to intervene to help the Turkmen and not allow the violation of their constitutional rights."

The statement concluded by saying: "We have decided to boycott the sixth session of parliamentary elections until the quota seat system is restored."

It is worth noting that the Turkmen Front will participate in the upcoming elections for the regional parliament.

The Turkmen poet and writer Fadel Alu Oglu passed away in the town of Tal Afar in Nineveh Province at the age of 67 after a struggle with illness on March 11, 2024.



BY IRAQITURKMENASPECT ON MARCH 11, 2024

Fadel Abbas Alu Oglu Al-Bayati was born in the Al-Saw neighborhood south of Tal Afar in 1957. He completed his elementary and secondary education in Tal Afar. He pursued higher education and obtained a Bachelor's degree in Sociology. He began writing poetry in the Turkmen language in 1974.

He had two published poetry collections titled "Dost" and "Koze La R Sultanî" (The Voice of the Sultan). He also contributed to the newspaper "Al-Yawr - Al-Watan," which was published during the previous regime in the Turkmen language.

The Iraqi Turkmen Front confirms broad participation in the regional parliament elections

Minister of the Region, Mr. Aydin Marouf, along with Turkmen Front leaders, on Monday, March 11, 2024. During the meeting, the ongoing preparations for the regional parliament elections were reviewed, emphasizing Turkmen participation to ensure the rights of the component. The attendees affirmed working towards achieving Turkmen representation in the new parliament and elevating the Turkmen voice as the second component in the region, reflecting the history and role of the Turkmen component in the area.



BY IRAQITURKMENASPECT ON MARCH 11, 2024

First National Forum for the National Human Rights Plan 2021-2025 - Iraq



Under the auspices of Mr. Mohsen Al-Mandlawi, Acting Speaker of the Parliament, the Human Rights Committee, chaired by MP Arshad Al-Salehi, organized the First National

Forum for the National Human Rights Plan 2021-2025 in the Constitutional Hall today, Monday. The meeting was attended by committee members, the Ministers of Justice, Migration, and Displacement, an advisor to the Prime Minister, as well as various executive, judicial, diplomatic, and international figures.

The forum began with a speech by Mr. Al-Mandlawi, who stated, “Human rights are a supreme value that humanity cannot continue without safeguarding and protecting.” He pointed out that Iraq has witnessed transformations affecting the reality of human rights since the dawn of civilizations, passing through dark stages, most notably the despotic rule that witnessed the worst forms of violations and abuses of human rights. He added, “After 2003 and the dawn of a new era, Iraqis breathed freedom, inspired by the hope of democracy, which is a guarantee of their rights. The biggest challenges were the emergence of the dark ISIS gangs that violated human rights at all levels.”

Mr. Al-Mandlawi emphasized, “The official stance of the Iraqi state since the change and until now has been and remains to enhance capacities in the field of human rights.” He stressed the Parliament’s keenness to resolve the Commissioners Council of the High Commission for Human Rights and to promote the culture of human rights, as well as parliamentary oversight of executive officials in implementing them correctly. He also emphasized the Council’s commitment to fulfilling Iraq’s local and international obligations in enhancing human rights.

MP Arshad Al-Salehi explained that holding the First National Forum for the National Plan aims to support the Parliament’s presidency and the Human Rights Committee in fulfilling Iraq’s commitments to the United Nations and the international community. He highlighted the Committee’s efforts to solidify and protect human rights by translating international commitments into effective and productive measures, as well as monitoring the implementation of the national human rights plan.

During the meeting, Mr. Khalid Shwani, the Minister of Justice, outlined the provisions of the national plan related to implementing international resolutions to which Iraq has acceded. He stated that the Human Rights Department compiled recommendations and the roadmap for the national plan and distributed them to government institutions. He added that the Ministry of Justice is actively working to promote human rights principles and improve Iraq’s position in the international community.

Ms. Ivan Faiq, the Minister of Migration and Displacement, emphasized their ministry’s efforts to implement the national plan’s recommendations regarding vulnerable groups of displaced persons, through their return to their former areas and addressing the effects left by the terrorist ISIS gangs. She called for concerted efforts, both governmental and international, to contribute to the issue of return and the closure of displacement camps, noting the challenges facing the ministry’s work.

Mr. Zaidan Khleif, the Prime Minister’s Advisor on Human Rights, clarified that the Prime Minister is keen on implementing the national human rights plan, including the

return of displaced persons, empowering women, supporting minorities, and disbursing compensation for displaced persons according to a Cabinet decision to grant 4 million dinars, among other issues. He indicated that the government is proceeding with opening administrative units and service departments in Sinjar district and initiating work to create suitable conditions for the return of displaced persons to the district.

The forum concluded with the reading of recommendations and agreement to send them to relevant ministries and authorities for consideration.

Kirkuk Vision 2024-2028

“Kirkuk as a Model for Coexistence, Partnership, and Cultural Diversity”



The Kirkuk Vision 2024-2028 initiative aims to make Kirkuk a model of coexistence and prosperity. Led by the Iraqi Turkmen community in Iraq, it addresses urgent challenges, promotes inclusivity, and outlines plans for governance, economic growth, and social harmony. Through collaboration and shared responsibility, it seeks to ensure equitable development and stability, emphasizing key areas such as security, land disputes, and cultural preservation. Ultimately, the initiative aims to foster a thriving, inclusive Kirkuk, setting a precedent for progress and unity in the Iraq and the region.

The Turkmen component in Kirkuk province, on the 10th of January 2024, announced the launch of the “Kirkuk Vision 2024-2028” initiative under the slogan “Kirkuk as a

Model for Coexistence, Partnership, and Cultural Diversity” for development opportunities and prospects for prosperity.

The Unified Iraqi Turkmen Front block stated in a distributed statement that “out of national responsibility and in view of the urgent challenges facing Iraq and the region, and to meet the needs of Kirkuk citizens, the Turkmen component in Kirkuk province announced the launch of the (Kirkuk Vision 2024-2028) initiative under the slogan ‘Kirkuk as a Model for Coexistence, Partnership, and Cultural Diversity... Development opportunities and prospects for prosperity’.”

It added: “The people of Kirkuk deserve to enjoy security, peace, and a prosperous future for all, according to promising future visions that provide fair solutions to the problems facing the province through decisions and procedures adopted by the ‘Kirkuk Vision 2024-2028’ initiative,” indicating that “this initiative seeks to address the political, administrative, security, and social situations and provide a decent life for all citizens of the province, including Turkmen, Kurds, Arabs, and Christians without discrimination, achieve social peace, preserve the social fabric, and provide services deserved by the province’s citizens in accordance with the constitution and the law.”

It clarified that “the ‘Kirkuk Vision’ initiative adopts a realistic plan that considers the constitution and the Law/directions of the federal government through ministerial approaches via implementable mechanisms, including a series of measures to correct the administrative path, enhance the economic and service reality, address existing problems, and achieve a real renaissance towards a bright future for the province’s residents, ensuring that Kirkuk becomes a model for good governance and at the forefront of supportive cities contributing to partnership, dialogue, development, and stability, as well as becoming attractive for investment and tourism due to its diversity in culture and folk heritage.”

The statement continued: “The ‘Kirkuk Vision’ initiative includes a strategic vision and a government program based on implementing the plan from the beginning of forming the local government according to priorities and taking into account urgent challenges, mobilizing available resources and Kirkuk competencies in state institutions to provide the best services to citizens in all sensitive and important sectors affecting the daily lives of citizens, under the direct supervision of the Prime Minister, (and facilitation by the United Nations Mission in Iraq) and the participation of political forces, state administration alliance, social, tribal, civil society activities, media, experts, competencies, and elites.”

It emphasized: “Because we believe that the ‘Kirkuk Vision’ initiative is the pivot in which the local government carries out its executive role, commits to its duties, and implements its provisions, representing the fundamental criterion for evaluating its performance, the responsibility for the success of the local government is a shared responsibility that includes all active forces, by strengthening the values of citizenship, partnership, and coexistence among the province’s components.”

It pointed out that “the ‘Kirkuk Vision’ initiative presents a summary overview of the main axes that constitute the general framework of the local government in Kirkuk and can be considered a comprehensive national vision and a public policy aimed at achieving a sustainable reality for the dignified living of the province’s residents, enhancing social cohesion and recovering from past negatives with a new participatory vision, where everyone bears their national responsibilities towards Kirkuk residents, according to the main axes below:

First: The Axis of Power Sharing (Implementing Joint Administration)

Second: Security and Military Axis

Third: Agricultural Land Axis (Property Disputes)

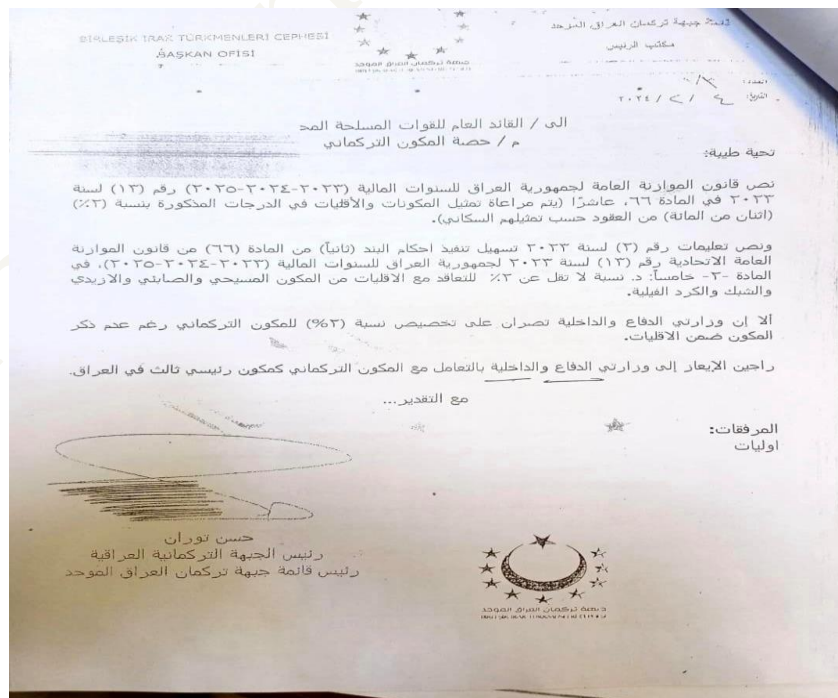
Fourth: Economic and Investment Axis (Services, Projects, Health, Agriculture, Industry)

Fifth: Energy, Oil, Land and Air Transportation Axis

Sixth: Culture, Tourism, Coexistence, and Civil Peace Axis.”

The Turkmen component as the third main component in military formations

BY IRAQITURKMENASPECT ON MARCH 7, 2024



Based on the negotiations and requests of the head of the Iraqi Turkmen Front and the head of the Unified Turkmen Front list, Mr. Hassan Turan, the Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces has directed all military institutions to treat the Turkmen component as the third main component in military formations.

The Azerbaijani ambassador visits Kirkuk and meets with Turkmen politicians



Mr. Riad Sari Kehia, the head of the Turkmeneli Party, received His Excellency the Azerbaijani Ambassador to Iraq, Nasser Mohammed Ov, and his accompanying delegation at the party's headquarters in Kirkuk.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the fraternal relations between the two brotherly peoples and the importance of mutual cooperation that serves the historical and cultural relations between the two countries.

In a statement, Mr. Sari Kehia expressed his pleasure at the visit, emphasizing that the Turkmen are the main and common factor between Iraq and the Republic of Azerbaijan. He affirmed their commitment to work diligently to achieve a new horizon of mutual cooperation.

The meeting was also attended by Mr. Karim Zeinal, the General Coordinator of the Unified Turkmen Front List, the head of the Turkmenistan Decision Party, Mr. Sabah Al-Salhi, the president of the Kirkuk Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Suleiman, the president of the Kirkuk Industrialists Union, Dr. Mohammed Qattan, the president of the Turkmen Doctors Organization, and several Kirkuk dignitaries.

Also present were members of the party's political bureau, the Kirkuk branch manager, and the head of the party's youth and student office.

The leader of the Iraqi Turkmen Front continues dialogues to form Kirkuk's local government

The leader of the Iraqi Turkmen Front and the head of the United Iraqi Turkmen Front list, Mr. Hassan Turan, received a delegation representing the Prime Minister, including the head of the Supreme Coordination Committee among the Provinces, Mr. Ahmed Al-Fatlawi, and Dr. Hazem Watan, the Prime Minister's Advisor for Political Affairs, on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at the Baghdad branch of the Iraqi Turkmen Front.



BY IRAQITURKMENASPECT ON MARCH 5, 2024

The meeting, which was attended by the leader of the Turkmen Loyalty Movement, Mr. Firyard Rawanduzi, discussed the political and general situation in the country. The meeting addressed the issue of forming Kirkuk's local government and presented a joint vision to reach consensual participatory solutions that ensure the aspirations of Kirkuk's people are met and maintain the national achievements. The participants confirmed their commitment to constructive dialogues and efforts to overcome the current difficulties and challenges in forming a local government that represents the people of Kirkuk.

Articles:

A donkey in a lion skin

By: Ahmed AL-Hermizy

When I was a young child, I read a beautiful story of children's stories, but there is so much wisdom in it that I still remember it, the story says; A donkey walking in the big forest, accidentally found a lion skin that the hunters had put on the ground to dry, the donkey took it and wore it to look like a lion. Then it walked in the forest with its new costume, until it reached the village. When the people saw the donkey, they feared and thought he was a real lion, fleeing in every direction to disappear. The donkey was very happy when it saw that, so that the donkey proudly moved between the villages and forests. It ate and drank whatever it wanted without fearing anyone, whilst everyone was scared and turned away. In the midst of admiration of itself, the donkey likes to bray (because braying is the usual habit of the ass that cannot leave), his voice was barely raised until the people and animals knew that it was a donkey, resting assured after their fear. Someone come 11 forward to confirm this, dragged it from its neck, and hit the donkey with a stick because it was a cause of discomfort for people and animals. Then the man told the donkey, "Come to the barn to carry weights, I knew you from your voice, donkey!!!" How many writers and politicians at this time of chaos, are wearing the lion's skin, but upon uttering words, the dress of deceit is revealed!

Iraq Facing History and State Experiences

BY IRAQITURKMENASPECT ON MARCH 11, 2024



Dr. Torhan Al-Mufti

History can be defined simply as the events and material transformations over different periods of time. Following this comes historiography, which represents the phase of documenting history. Therefore, understanding past periods and events requires knowledge of history through historiography.

Beginning with the history of Iraq, or what is known as Mesopotamia, one is amazed by the scale of the states formed and the number of nations that shaped this civilization (Mesopotamian civilization) over the past eight thousand years. Notably, administratively and politically, this civilization formed the first empire (the Akkadian Empire) and the first decentralized and federal systems (the period of city-states). It was among the first regions to witness regional conflicts and major events (conflicts between different civilizations of the ancient world) according to those historical records. This region faced internal problems and battles (the fall of the Assyrian Empire and the fall of the late Babylonian state, to name a few), often leading to the fragmentation and division of the Mesopotamian civilization. This continued through the Christian and Islamic eras, with this civilization once again leading the world through the Abbasid state and its capital Baghdad. The actual authority of this geographical area ended after the Mongol invasion, leading to the establishment of the Iraqi Kingdom in 1921, under significant and profound conditions and transformations. It is sufficient to look at the letter of the late King Faisal I, who stated in its preamble, "In my belief, there is no Iraqi people yet," to understand the extent of the disruptions in the country due to centuries of power struggles, despite this region once ruling the world several times for long periods. All these events point to one thing: the importance of not neglecting the study of history.

Moreover, administrative and political events in the rest of the world, especially in contemporary history, should not be overlooked due to their similarity in behavior to the events in Iraq's contemporary history. For example, it is essential to study the circumstances of Yugoslavia's division and the Czechoslovakia split. The security and administrative situation in Mexico for years and the centers of power in Egypt during the Nasser and Sadat eras are also crucial to examine.

After this central narrative of events (cosmic events that have affected the world and Iraq), it is essential not to forget the words of great philosophers about the importance of history and knowledge of historical events. The German philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel (died 1830) said, "Those who forget history must repeat it." Karl Marx (died 1883) said, "History repeats itself twice, the first time as a tragedy and the second time as a farce." Finally, the Spanish philosopher George Santayana (died 1952) said, "Those who do not read history are doomed to repeat it."

What is required now? Everyone interested in Iraq's situation and its future must re-examine history, whether they are familiar with it or not. In these lines, we will attempt to make some comparisons between historical events and contemporary Iraq (with a proportional measure).

Events:

1. The change of the previous regime in 2003 and Iraq's entry into a phase of submission under occupation according to international laws. This situation resembles dozens of countries that experienced similar events, with numerous examples, such as the formation of the Republic of Turkey

after World War I and the complete change of the administrative-political system there.

2. The civil war (2005-2010) in Iraq, akin to the civil war in Lebanon, and later evolving into what can be termed the “Yugoslav phase,” characterized by the intensity of the war and its tools, using all means to facilitate Iraq’s fragmentation by drawing on the map of Iraqi components, based on bloodshed (“blood map”). This phase failed due to the high momentum of these civil wars, contrary to the intended division of Iraq. Iraq entered a relatively calm period for about two years before another phase began.
3. Following what was termed the “Arab Spring” and the emergence of extremist armed groups, leading to the emergence of ISIS and the control of large areas of Iraq, erasing Iraq’s national identity, and producing other denominations on Iraq’s geography, it became clear that Iraq entered a phase similar to the “Mongol invasion” through attempts to erase Iraq’s identity, cultural imprint, and the country’s compositional mixture. This period ended in 2017 with the collapse of ISIS and a clear decline in terrorist operations.
4. After the collapse of ISIS, power centers emerged in the country, contributing to stabilizing the country. However, the emergence of these power centers weakened the state’s power. Despite their contribution to the state’s stability, these centers (whether political, administrative, or armed) sometimes clashed with state decisions, reminiscent of the era of power centers in Egypt during the rule of Nasser and Sadat.
5. The emergence of demanding protests in Iraq in 2019 marked a significant turning point in the country, causing a significant rift in political methods of governance, with governments becoming lengthy or brief, and populist decisions likely to negatively impact the country’s capabilities in the near future. The fourth phase continued alongside this phase, leading Iraq into what we term the “Czechoslovak phase,” indicating fears and misunderstandings about fundamental issues in the country’s administration. Political problems overshadow solutions, producing administrative problems. Despite good intentions to find solutions, the general atmosphere and the accumulation of problems lead to such events, even with good intentions. This culminates in the current semi-political suffocation between different political forces, compounded by military interventions from various regional and superpower countries, turning the country into an arena for settling scores among those countries. These developments may soon push some dominant political parties to adopt a new administrative approach by creating new federal entities and considering confederations within the corners of the constitution, ultimately leading to abandoning the constitution and gradually disintegrating Iraq, as seen in Czechoslovakia.

Certainly, we have not covered the period preceding the regime change in 2003, as that period, especially from the coup in 1958, represented a breakdown of Iraq’s sanctity and

constitutionality, with the emergence of “militarized” systems that plunged Iraq into confusion, adventures, killing, hunger, partisan sectarianism, and nationalism, leading to the complete collapse of the state by 2003. This period closely resembles all experiences of countries with militarized systems, with Egypt’s coup in 1952 being the closest example.

What we are in now: Iraq is currently going through a very critical stage, closer than ever to choosing a new administrative-political path due to the crises in politics, security, and regional issues. This situation makes everyone face the challenge of preserving the country’s unity and protecting its components. In such circumstances and amidst numerous and violent variables, no variable can be overlooked, regardless of its size (as most fires start from small sparks). Iraq’s experience is not far from that of Czechoslovakia.

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