

***STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY IN IRAQ:  
TRAINING SEMINAR ON CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND  
HUMAN RIGHTS***

Madrid, March 2-6, 2009  
Centre for Political and Constitutional Studies, Plaza de la Marina Española, 8

Toledo, March 5

Within the framework of the social, political and institutional reconstruction of Iraq, the re-definition of the role played by civil society as a key actor in the peace-building process is a crucial element towards the stability of a country that, in the last years, has witnessed how violence has replaced dialogue and peaceful coexistence. At the same time, the increasing sectarian violence and the ongoing human rights abuses that shake Iraq reveal the need of identifying ways and mechanisms for intra and inter-community understanding, in line with the spirit of the Alliance of Civilisations and in compliance with the principles enshrined in International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law.

In the previous years, CITpax, in collaboration with the Iraqi association Al-Amal, has carried out two training seminars on prevention and conflict resolution issues addressed to Iraqi women. The first workshop took place in Sulaymaniyah, north of Iraq, in July 2006. The second workshop was held in Madrid, in May 2007, and included a rich debate on the role of women in the Spanish transitional period.

With the same aim of contributing to the strengthening of civil society in Iraq and thus, to the peace-building process, CITpax, in coordination with Al-Amal Association and the Centre for Political and Constitutional Studies (CPCS), is organising a third training seminar, which this time also addresses human rights issues besides conflict resolution techniques. A selected number of participants, representing different regions and ethnic and religious groups will participate. The objective is to train future trainers that will multiply the tools and skills considered during the workshop.

**Sponsored by:**

Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports

## AGENDA

**Sunday, March 1, 2009**

**Arrival of participants** (Hotel Las Meninas, C/ Campomanes 7, Madrid)

**Monday, March 2, 2009**

**9:30-10:30 Opening Session**

*(Available interpretation: Spanish-Arabic/Arabic-Spanish)*

**Introduction and Welcoming Remarks**

- María Ángeles Ahumada, Deputy Director for Studies and Research, CPCS
- Emilio Cassinello, Director-General, CITpax

**Speakers:**

- Thamer al-Zubaidi, Minister of Civil Society Affairs, Iraq
- Amparo Valcarce, State Secretary for Social Policy, Families, Dependency and Disabilities, Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports, Spain \*
- Silvia Escobar, Special Ambassador for Human Rights Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Spain
- Aala Ali, Member of the Board Committee, Al-Amal Association, Iraq

**10:30-11:00 Coffee**

**11:00-13:00 Session I: Conflict and Cultural Perspectives**

*(Language: Arabic)*

**Goal:** To understand the dynamics of conflict, and develop skills for working toward a solution that preserves and improves relationships

**Issues:** Approaches to conflict resolution; Escalating and deescalating conflicts; Victimization; Equity in conflict resolution; Separating persons from problems

**13:00-13:30 Lunch**

**13:30-15:00 Session II: Communication Skills and Conflict Resolution**

*(Language: Arabic)*

**Goal:** To recognize communication as the key to building good relationships and resolving conflicts and to develop skills for constructive communication

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\* To be confirmed

**Issues:** Active listening; Paraphrasing; Reframing; Summarizing; “I” Statements; Open questions

**21:00 Dinner offered by the Iraqi Embassy in Spain**

**Tuesday, March 3, 2009**

**9:00-10:30 Session I: Transitional Justice and International Criminal Law**  
(*Language: English*)

**Goal:** To consider transitional justice mechanisms for prosecuting the most heinous crimes and guaranteeing victims’ rights to justice, truth and reparation, while ensuring the commitment of former illegal armed groups in the peace-building process

**Issues:** Judicial proceedings; Truth-seeking initiatives; Reparation measures; Institutional coordination

**Speaker:** Jessica Alqmist, Researcher, CPCS

**10:30-11:00 Coffee**

**11:00-13:00 Session II: Citizens’ Diplomacy**  
(*Language: English*)

**Speakers:** John Bell, Director, Middle East and Mediterranean Programme, CITpax; Claudia Medina, Project Director, CITpax

**13:00-13:30 Lunch**

**13:30-15:00 Session III: Terrorism and Human Rights**  
(*Available translation: Spanish-Arabic/Arabic-Spanish*)

**Goal:** To study the counterbalance between state security measures and compliance with human rights standards, and how to strengthen states in order to prevent and react to actions committed by illegal armed groups

**Issues:** Programmes and actions undertaken by governments against terrorist groups

**Speakers:** Baltasar Garzón, Magistrate of the High National Court of Spain; Fernando Andreu, Judge of the High National Court of Spain

**Wednesday, March 4, 2009**

**9:00-10:30 Session IV: UN Human Rights Instruments and Human Rights Protection Mechanisms**

*(Language: English)*

**Goal:** To analyse international instruments on human rights, their impact and scope, and the different means and proceedings for guaranteeing the respect and protection of human rights

**Issues:** Civil and political rights; Economic, social and cultural rights; Judicial and non judicial mechanisms in the UN system; Regional protection mechanisms: the European Court of Human Rights

**Speaker:** Carmen Pérez González, Professor of International Public Law, University Carlos III of Madrid

**10:30-11:00 Coffee**

**11:00-13:00 Session V: Human Rights Universality. Human Rights and Islam**  
*(Language: English)*

**Goal:** To examine how human rights provisions can be implemented taking into account cultural, religious and social features

**Issues:** Universal instruments on human rights; Regional instruments on human rights in the Muslim world

**Interventions by** Salma Jabou, Counsellor on Gender Affairs at the Iraqi President's office and Bakhshan Zangana, Member of the Kurdish Parliament

**13:00-13:30 Lunch**

**13:30-15:00 Session VI: Human Rights and State-building**  
*(Language: English)*

**Goal:** To examine human rights as a cross-cutting issue in the drafting of legislation and programmes, and in the functioning of institutions within the framework of post-conflict societies

**Issues:** Adoption of legislation and public policies in line with human rights; guaranteeing the compliance of human rights by public institutions and civil servants

**Speaker:** María Ángeles Ahumada, Deputy Director for Studies and Research, CEPC

**Thursday, March 5, 2009**

**9:30-16:00 Visit to Toledo** (departure from and return to Hotel Las Meninas)

**10:30-11:00** Meeting with José Valverde, Counsellor of the Presidency office, and Emiliano García-Page, Major of Toledo

**11:00-11:30** Press conference

**12:00-14:00** Guided tour by Toledo

**14:00-15:30** Lunch

**18:00-19:30 Roundtable: The Role of Women in Transitional Periods. The Spanish and Iraqi Experiences**

*(Available interpretation: Spanish-Arabic/Arabic-Spanish)*

**Moderator:** Paloma Biglino, Director-General, CPCS

**Participants:**

- Thamer al-Zubaidi, Minister of Civil Society Affairs, Iraq
- Bakhshan Zangana, member of the Kurdish Parliament and Chair of the Women Committee
- Delia Blanco Terán, President of the Commission on International Cooperation to Development, Parliament, Spain
- Beatriz Rodríguez Salmones, Member of the Cultural Affairs Commission, Parliament, Spain
- Francisca Sauquillo, President, Movement for Peace, Disarmament and Freedom
- Carmela García Moreno, former Member of Parliament, Spain; Political Scientist

**21:00 Dinner** (Restaurante El Senador, Plaza de la Marina Española 2)

**Friday, March 6, 2009**

**12:00-13:30 Session III: Collaborative Problem Solving**

*(Language: Arabic)*

**Goal:** To facilitate collaborative problem solving in a productive and non-confrontational manner

**Issues:** Directing versus facilitating; Facilitation; Dialogue, not debate; The mediator; The recorder

**13:30-14:00 Lunch**

**14:00-16:00 Session IV: Culture, Mediation and Negotiation**

*(Language: Arabic)*

**Goal:** To work together to reach consensus about the problem, and then solve it. Collaborative problem solving recognizes people's right and responsibility to manage their own affairs. When people participate in making a decision, they support it.

**Issues:** Problem solving; Group process; Collaborative problem solving; Positions versus interests; Power; Strategies to avoid impasse; Agreements

**16:00-16:30 Coffee**

**16:30-18:00 Session V: Simulation Exercise on Conflict Resolution Techniques and Debriefing**

*(Language: Arabic)*

## ANNEX 1

### LIST OF IRAQI PARTICIPANTS:

Mr. **Thamer al-Zubaidi** is Minister of State for Civil Society Affairs of Iraq. He has been Assistant Dean of Student Affairs at the Faculty of Technical Administration and Dean of the Administration Institute of al-Rusafa. He holds a Ph.D. in Statistical Science from the Faculty of Administration and Economics of Baghdad University.

Ms. **Salma Jabou** is Counsellor on Gender Affairs at the Iraqi President's office. She is member of the Coordination Office of the Permanent Court to Resist Violence against Women. She holds an MA Degree in Chemical Engineering from the Budapest Technological University.

Ms. **Bakhshan Zangana** is a member of the Kurdish Parliament and Chair of the Women Committee. She follows up on crimes against women, pursues gender sensitive legislation, lobbies with different Iraqi Women NGO Networks on peace building initiatives, facilitates civil dialogue, and contributes to the introduction of the concept of tolerance.

Mr. **Hadi Al-Sadi** is a judge, and has previously worked as a lawyer for 23 years. He has contributed to women activities organised by the Iraqi Al-Amal Association and the Iraqi Centre for Women's Studies. He has also carried out a research project on "Children and the Lineage Decision", for a symposium on children's future in Iraq held in Baghdad in 2007 by the Family, Children and Women Affairs Committee of the Iraqi Deputies Council.

Ms. **Nussren Al-Amedi** is Director of the Al-Amal Association Office in Karbala. She has participated in the first Iraqi national conference for the political training of women, and in several workshops, including "Dialogue Techniques for Strengthening Women's Role and Affairs in Iraq" and "Training Specialists in Gender Awareness". She holds a Degree in Statistics.

Mr. **Falah Al-Alwasy** is a member of the "Culture for All" organization, where he has been Executive Manager and Editor Manager of the Al-Soaal Magazine. He is the author of the booklets "Critical Reading of a Draft for an Eternal Iraqi Constitution" and "Conflict Resolution is a Tool to Build Peace and Approve Democracy". He is also member and Executive Manager of the Alrafidain Peace Association.

Ms. **Aala Ali** is Training Coordinator of the International Research and Exchange Abroad -IREX- and a member of the Trustees Board of the Iraqi Al-Amal Association. She has been Programme Coordinator with the Olof Palme International Centre, Senior Regional Programme Officer with the International Foundation for Election System, Executive Manager of the Iraqi Al-Amal Association and

Programme Assistant for UNCHS (Habitat). She holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Salahadeen in Iraq.

Mr. **Emad Al-Saray** is a member of the Literature and Theatre Federations and the Artists and Journalists Syndicates. He is also a founding member of the Freedom of Expression Association. He is a TV presenter and correspondent for Al Hurra channel. He holds a degree in Arabic Literature and a degree in Administration of Media Companies from the American University of Beirut (AUB).

Ms. **Ferihan Germanous** is Office Manager at the Erbil branch of the Iraqi Al-Amal Association and member of the Association's board. She has been Administrative Assistant of the Iraqi Reconstruction and Employment Programme (IREP) managed by UNDP in Erbil, and Administrative Assistant of the World Food Programme (WFP) in Erbil. She holds a B.S. in Biology from Baghdad University.

#### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS:

**Amparo Valcarce**, State Secretary for Social Policy, Families, Dependency and Disabilities, Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports, Spain

**Baltasar Garzón**, Magistrate of the High National Court of Spain;

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**Carmela García Moreno**, former Member of Parliament, Spain; Political Scientist

**Carmen Pérez González**, Professor of International Public Law, University

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**Fernando Andreu**, Judge of the High National Court of Spain

**Francisca Sauquillo**, President, Movement for Peace, Disarmament and Freedom

**Jessica Alqmist**, Researcher, CPCS

**George Irani**, Consultant

**John Bell**, Director, Middle East and Mediterranean Programme, CITpax;  
**María Ángeles Ahumada**, Deputy Director for Studies and Research, CEPC



**María Ángeles Ahumada**, Deputy Director for Studies and Research, CPCS

**Paloma Biglino**, Director-General, CPCS

**Silvia Escobar**, Special Ambassador for Human Rights Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Spain

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