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# IRAQIS PREPARE THE WAY FOR A NEW IRAQ

Iraqis lived for decades under vicious oppression with little hope for a better life. Iraqis living abroad have worked in various ways to help bring liberation to their homeland. Now that their brutal dictator is gone, diverse Iraqis are working together to bring their country a future worthy of its proud culture.

## Iraqis Serving Liberation and Transformation



### Free Iraqi Forces

Before the war against Saddam, the Iraqi volunteers left comfortable lives around the world to undergo four weeks of training with the U.S. Army at Tazsar Air Base in Hungary. Called Free Iraqi Forces, they served as translators and guides between Iraqi citizens and Coalition forces during hostilities. Many are still serving in Iraq, in humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and democracy building.

### Future of Iraq Project

For the past year, distinguished Iraqi exiles in many professions came together in 17 working groups, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, to generate ideas and plans for a new Iraq. Their expertise varied from public health to agriculture to public finance to oil production. They came from the United States, Britain, Canada, Europe, the Middle East and Iraqi Kurdistan and represented many ethnic and religious groups. Their goal was to use their experience in free societies and their professional expertise to suggest roadmaps for Iraq's transformation and to empower their compatriots.

## IRAQI EXPERTISE IN FUTURE OF IRAQ WORKING GROUPS

**Democratic Principles and Procedures • Public Health and Humanitarian Needs • Economy and Infrastructure • Education • Civil Society Capacity Building • Transitional Justice • Free Media • Defense Policy and Institutions • Water, Agriculture and Environment • Public Finance • Oil and Energy • Migration • Anti-Corruption Measures • Local Government • Foreign and National Security • Preserving Cultural Heritage • Public Outreach**

### Nasiriyah Meeting

Seventy leaders representing Iraq's religious, tribal, ethnic and exile groups met in Nasiriyah on April 15 to discuss the foundations of a new Iraqi government and society. They agreed, among other things, that a new government must be democratic and not based on communal identify, should espouse the rule of law, must respect diversity including the role of women, and must not have its leaders imposed from outside. The first of a series of follow-up meetings to discuss the formation of an interim government took place in Baghdad April 28.

*"I live in Canada. I was working as a mechanical engineer. I left my wife, my kids to complete this mission. No matter what happens to me, I don't care. The time has come for change."*

—Member of Free Iraqi Forces

*"I am confident that by sharing their experience of living in free and open societies and their ideas about Iraq's way forward, these Iraqis will empower their compatriots who have remained inside Saddam's Iraq..."*

—Secretary of State Colin Powell on the Future of Iraq Project