# Refugee Review Tribunal

## AUSTRALIA

## RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

**Research Response Number:**     IRQ17307
**Country:**                      Iraq
**Date:**                         28 April 2005

Keywords: Iraq – Al Rumaitha – Security situation – Shi'a Groups – Women – "High Council for the Liberation of Iraq"

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## Questions

**1. Please provide a snapshot of the current security situation in the area of al Rumaitha.**
**2. What group or groups control the area?**
**3. If Shi'a, are they conservative regarding the behaviour/dress of women, and how is this manifesting itself?**
**4. Please provide any information regarding "Mahadi Alwadi" or the "High Council for the Liberation of Iraq", focusing on its attitude towards Shi'a who don't support it.**

## RESPONSE

**1. Please provide a snapshot of the current security situation in the area of al Rumaitha.**

Little information was found in the sources consulted addressing the current security situation in the area of Al-Rumaitha, a district located in the Governorate of Al-Muthanna in southern Iraq. (Maps detailing the area of area of al Rumaitha are attached ('Iraq Governorates and Districts' 2003, Humanitarian Information Center website, 1 June http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iraq/maps/103%20A4%20laminated%20map%20governorate%20and%20district.pdf – Accessed 11 April 2005 – Attachment 1; 'Building Industry in Iraq Undated, Humanitarian Information Center website http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iraq/maps/285%20A3%20UN%20Habitat%20building%20material%20map.pdf – Accessed 12 April 2005 – Attachment 2)). In the past, media reports indicated that supporters of the radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr were active in the region in 2004; and up until a ceasefire agreement was reached between the interim Iraqi government and  Moqtada al-Sadr "to end fighting in the  holy city of Najaf" on 27 August 2004, his Mahdi Army was believed to have been responsible for a number of attacks on Dutch and Japanese troops in the district capital, Ar-Rumaythah, and the governorate capital, As Samawah ('Dutch soldiers come under fire in southern Iraq' 2004, *Agence France Presse*,

17 August – Attachment 3; 'Danger zone: An inflow of insurgents and a videotape showing detailed' 2004, *Asahi Shimbun*, 26 August – Attachment 4; 'Al-Sadr loyalist in Samawah confirms cease-fire with US-led forces' 2004, *Asian Political News*, 14 September – Attachment 5; de Vreji, H. 2004, 'First Dutch soldier killed in Iraq', Radio Netherlands website, 11 May http://www2.rnw.nl/rnw/en/currentaffairs/region/middleeast/irq040511.html?view=Standard – Accessed 28 April 2005 – Attachment 6).

Reports addressing the security situation in the area of Al-Rumaitha after September 2004 are, to some extent, unclear. In October 2004, for instance, an *Agence France Presse* report indicated that a military convoy was targeted in Ar-Rumaythah, the district capital; but it failed to identify those responsible or suspected of the attack ('Dutch soldier wounded in explosion targeting convoy in Iraq' 2004, *Agence France Presse*, 7 October – Attachment 7). Similarly, in March 2005, BBC Monitoring reported that an Iraqi newspaper had filed a report indicating, without more, that a "bomb was exploded near Al-Rumaythah"; and, again, that local district officials from Al-Rumaitha had reported that a "rocket that was targeting Karbala pilgrims" had been defused ('Iraq Press highlights 22 Mar' 2005, BBC Monitoring, sourced from *Al-Mashriq*, 24 March – Attachment 8; Iraqi Press highlights 29 Mar 05' 2005, BBC Monitoring, sourced from *Al-Mada*, 30 March – Attachment 9).

In 2005, political and media sources addressing the security situation beyond Al-Rumaitha in the Governorate of Al-Muthanna reported that the governorate was "relatively calm". In announcing the decision to send additional troops to the area, the Australian Prime Minister, John Howard, stated in February 2005, for instance, that:

> The security position in this part of the Iraq is plainly different from the security position that obtains in other areas of Iraq, such as the Sunni Triangle ('Worst danger far from new base More security among Shiites' 2005, *Herald-Sun*, 23 February – Attachment 10).

Similarly, on 7 March 2005 the ABC's Middle East correspondent reported that the situation in Al Muthanna was "relatively quite"—noting that previous instances of violence in the governorate took place when "Shi'ite militias were doing battle with US forces…in the towns of Najaf and Kufa". A follow-up report, filed on the 8 March 2005, also cited a military source as saying that the security situation in Al Muthanna "has been improving" ('ABC-British to work closely with Australian forces in Muthanna province, Iraq' 2005, ABC Online website, 8 March http://www.abc.net.au/cgi-bin/common/printfriendly.pl?http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2005/s1318322.htm - Accessed 13 April 2005 – Attachment 11).

Fresh reports from Australian news sources, reporting on the situation in southern Iraq ahead of the arrival of Australian troops to the region, draw a much more cautious picture of Al Muthanna. They indicate, among other things, that local representatives of two radical Shiite groups warned Australian troops against coming to the region ('Radio Australia - News - Militia chief wants Australians out of Iraq' 2005, ABC Radio Australia website, 19 April http://www.abc.net.au/cgi-bin/common/printfriendly.pl?http://www.abc.net.au/ra/news/stories/s1348216.htm - Accessed 19 April 2005 – Attachment 12; 'AM—Moqtada al-Sadr says Australian troops not welcome in Al Muthanna' 2005, ABC Online website, 23 April http://www.abc.net.au/cgi-

bin/common/printfriendly.pl?http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2005/s1352127.htm -
Accessed 26 April 2005 – Attachment 13).

In addition, they indicate that "Australian military commanders are concerned that any one of
a number of Muslim militias may try and take control of security" in Al Muthanna; that
Australian troops are being deployed to the region at a time when "the security situation in
the country has taken a grim turn for the worse"; and that Al Muthanna might be affected by
"the political instability still plaguing Iraq" ('AM—Australian troops prepare for dangerous
situation in Al Muthanna' 2005, ABC Online website, 21 April http://www.abc.net.au/cgi-
bin/common/printfriendly.pl?http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2005/s1350255.htm -
Accessed 22 April 2005 – Attachment 14; 'AM—Moqtada al-Sadr says Australian troops not
welcome in Al Muthanna' 2005, ABC Online website, 23 April http://www.abc.net.au/cgi-
bin/common/printfriendly.pl?http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2005/s1352127.htm -
Accessed 26 April 2005 – Attachment 13; 'Militants warn Aust troops to leave Iraqis
unharmed' 2005, ABC Online website, 23 April
http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200504/s1352040.htm - Accessed 26 April 2005 –
Attachment 15).

Reports from Dutch sources, including the Netherlands Institute of International Relations,
also indicated in January 2005 that the security situation in Al Muthanna had worsened ('Fed:
Dutch troops end Iraq mission' 2005, *Australian Associated Press General News*, 22
February – Attachment 16).

Previously, in July 2003 a Dutch group known as the Review of International Social
Questions (RISQ) also argued that the Dutch government had "misinformed" the Dutch
Parliament about the security situation in Al Muthanna ahead of the deployment of Dutch
troops to the region. In a report, dated 21 July 2003, the group made a number of
observations, which may still be relevant:

> Here, we take issue with the government's account of the recent war effort in South Iraq and
> its repercussions for the safety of civilians and army personnel in the area. In particular, we
> contest the government's claim that "no significant fighting has taken place in the province of
> Al Muthanna"…
>
> The assertion that no significant fighting took place in the area is so blatantly belied by open
> sources, that one wonders if any of the Ministers ever reads a newspaper. The capital of the
> province, As Samawah, is strategically located on the road from Basra to Baghdad, providing
> access to a bridge over the Euphrates river. , on its march to Baghdad, the US army
> anticipated some resistance there…
>
> Despite such incidents, the Dutch government persists in depicting Al Muthanna as a remote,
> barely inhabited desert where no noteworthy events have occurred.  In fact, the majority of
> the province's population lives on the banks of the Euphrates river along the road between
> Najaf and Nassiriya (about 100 kilometers, respectively, to the north and south).  Inhabitants
> of the capital As Samawah maintain close relationships with these cities and, somewhat
> farther away, Kerbala and Basra.  Thus, As Samawah but also smaller towns such as Al
> Khidr, directly partake in regional social and economic activities and were, as far as recent
> military activities are concerned, part and parcel of the 'theatre of operations' ('van den Berg,
> M.H.J. 2003, 'Dutch Parliament and Troops misinformed about depleted uranium in south
> Iraq', Review of International Social Questions website, 21 July
> http://www.risq.org/article131.html - Accessed 13 April 2005 – Attachment 17).

**2. What group or groups control the area?**

Information was not found in the sources consulted identifying the relevant group or groups in control of the area of Al Rumaitha, although information was found for Al Muthanna.

As indicated in the sources consulted, the governorate is home to "a disparate collection of Shia militias", including the Badr Brigade and the Mehdi Army; unspecified "local power blocs"; and over 12 tribal factions ('Radio Australia - News - Militia chief wants Australians out of Iraq' 2005, ABC Radio Australia website, 19 April http://www.abc.net.au/cgi-bin/common/printfriendly.pl?http://www.abc.net.au/ra/news/stories/s1348216.htm - Accessed 19 April 2005 – Attachment 12; 'AM—Australian troops in Al Muthanna aim to keep locals onside' 2005, ABC Online website, 20 April http://www.abc.net.au/cgi-bin/common/printfriendly.pl?http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2005/s1349447.htm - Accessed 22 April 2005 – Attachment 18; 'AM—Australian troops prepare for dangerous situation in Al Muthanna' 2005, ABC Online website, 21 April http://www.abc.net.au/cgi-bin/common/printfriendly.pl?http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2005/s1350255.htm - Accessed 22 April 2005 – Attachment 14; Walker, J. 2005, 'Diggers told to tread softly', The Australian online edition, 22 April http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5744,15046584%5E31477,00.html – Accessed 22 April 2005 – Attachment 19).

Matt Brown, the ABC's Middle East correspondent, reporting from Camp Smitty in Al Muthanna, appears to indicate in a collection of reports that the various groups are vying for power in the governorate ('AM—Moqtada al-Sadr says Australian troops not welcome in Al Muthanna' 2005, ABC Online website, 23 April http://www.abc.net.au/cgi-bin/common/printfriendly.pl?http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2005/s1352127.htm - Accessed 26 April 2005 – Attachment 13; 'AM—Australian troops prepare for dangerous situation in Al Muthanna' 2005, ABC Online website, 21 April http://www.abc.net.au/cgi-bin/common/printfriendly.pl?http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2005/s1350255.htm - Accessed 22 April 2005 – Attachment 14). Of note are his comments concerning the strength of the Mehdi Army in Al Muthanna, relative to the local the provincial government:

> MATT BROWN: Moqtada al-Sadr's man here in Samawa City said the Australian troops must leave. He makes no distinction between the American forces that are still dominating Iraq and the Australian troops who are in the process of arriving in Kuwait, preparing to come into this province and set up a base camp. 450 of them will come into this province over the next couple of weeks…
>
> You're seeing the competition for power played out in this province. The Medhi Army, the followers of Moqtada al-Sadr – his political organisation – are relatively small fish in this province. They are not the dominant power in this province.
>
> But they are flexing their muscles; they are making their claim to legitimacy. They want to be a significant power here and while ever there are occupation forces here, bolstering the local infrastructure, bolstering the people who are running the provincial government, they have less influence and at the very first level, that's what this is about ('AM—Moqtada al-Sadr says Australian troops not welcome in Al Muthanna' 2005, ABC Online website, 23 April http://www.abc.net.au/cgi-bin/common/printfriendly.pl?http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2005/s1352127.htm - Accessed 26 April 2005 – Attachment 13).

From other reports, it appears that support for Moqtada al-Sadr in Al Muthanna was strongest in 2004 (de Vreij, H. 2004 'Stay friendly, get tough or get out?', Radio Netherlands website, 18 August http://www2.rnw.nl/rnw/en/currentaffairs/region/netherlands/ned040818.html?view=Standard – Accessed 13 April 2005 – Attachment 20; 'AM—Australian troops take over from Dutch at Muthanna in Iraq' 2005, ABC Online website, 7 March http://www.abc.net.au/cgi-bin/common/printfriendly.pl?http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2005/s1317296.htm - Accessed 13 April 2005 – Attachment 21).

Information was not found in the sources consulted addressing the relative strength of other groups in Al Muthanna—including the military arm of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), the "Badr organisation" [or corps, or brigade], whose head claimed that his men were in control of Al Muthanna and its capital, As Samawah, in an ABC report, dated 19 April 2005 ('Radio Australia - News - Militia chief wants Australians out of Iraq' 2005, ABC Radio Australia website, 19 April http://www.abc.net.au/cgi-bin/common/printfriendly.pl?http://www.abc.net.au/ra/news/stories/s1348216.htm - Accessed 19 April 2005 – Attachment 12).

**3. If Shi'a, are they conservative regarding the behaviour/dress of women, and how is this manifesting itself?**

Shia groups like the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (Sciri), its armed wing, the Badr Organisation, and the Mahdi Army, cited in the response the question 2, are noted, more or less, in the sources consulted for their religious conservatism (e.g., Mite, V. 2003, 'Iraq: SCIRI says it will seek to introduce "Islamic Order"', Global Security website, 4 June http://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/iraq/2003/06/iraq-030604-rfel-164005.htm - Accessed 27 April 2005 – Attachment 22; Sherwell, P. 2004, 'A village laid waste: this is al-Sadr's law for unfaithful', *The Telegraph* online edition, 18 April http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/03/14/wirq14.xml&sSheet=/portal/2005/03/14/ixportal.html - Accessed 27 April 2005 – Attachment 23).

The following sample of reports detail some of their attitudes, including their attitudes towards women; and, in some instances, the manifestation of these attitudes in Bagdad and parts of southern Iraq. The reports add to those already cited in RRT *Research Response IRQ172066*, dated 8 March 2005, which provide information on the "Islamification" of southern Iraq (RRT Country Research 2005, *Research Response IRQ172066*, 8 March – Attachment 24).

- A article in *The Times* (London), dated 23 March 2005, reports that students were beaten to death in Basra by a groups Islamists, including alleged followers of Moqtada al-Sadr, for holding a picnic in a park (Philp, C. 2005, 'Death as "immoral" picnic in the park; Iraq', The Times, 23 March – Attachment 25).

- A report by *Newsweek*, dated 7 March 2005, recounts the experience of Fulla Khalil, an Iraqi woman who "noticed a creep change in her central Bagdad neighbourhood after followers of cleric Moqtada al-Sadr took control of a Shiite mosque there". As reported:

  > "The looks toward me changed," says Khalil, who works at the office of the Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq. "I felt like I was being monitored." The

young men in her apartment complex stopped talking to her; an elderly guard stopped walking her to her apartment door. About three months ago, the threats started.

The first warning came from a young man she used to know inside the apartment complex: don't wear tight pants or leave your hair uncovered. Khalil ignored him. Roughly a month later, a second warning was passed to her father: don't let your daughter wear blouses. The last warning came about two weeks ago and was given directly to Khalil: stop working for the women's organization or we will kill you. She tried talking to men in her complex who occasionally attend the militant mosque, hoping to get the death threat repealed. They refused to talk to her. "These people have a reactionary view," says Khalil, cracking her knuckles nervously. "You can't talk to them in a normal way." Khalil avoids hanging out in her complex now, and tries to sneak back and forth to work without being noticed…

Already in the heavily Shia south of Iraq, Sharia is routinely applied in the courts despite the Saddam-era laws giving women greater rights, says Aseel Abdul Khaleq, a woman lawyer who handles family cases. "They have the same law as Baghdad but they're using Sharia law. The next government will apply Sharia to the maximum extent." Even in Kirkuk, a religiously diverse community in the north, women have been sprayed with acid for not covering up properly, says Songul Chapook, a politician from Kirkuk who has survived several assassination attempts. She has finally given in and wears a headscarf, although she insists on a loud pink one. "We have to put the men of religion out of government," she says. "If we don't act now, we could lose our rights forever." For Iraq's independent-minded women, hemmed in between Sunni terrorists and Shia hard-liners, the struggle for Iraq's soul could last generations (Dehghanpisheh, B. *et al* 2005, 'Iraq's Hidden War; Extremists have shot women activists in the streets and killed them in private. Other threats are more insidious--and may be growing', Newsweek, 7 March – Attachment 26).

- An *Irish Examiner* article, dated 5 February 2005, indicates that "British officers have reports of illegal Sharia law courts in mosques and claim sections of the Badr organisation militiamen turned politicians are trying to enforce strict religious codes" in southern Iraq (Stringer, D. 2005, 'Extremists target Iraq secular life', *The Irish Examiner*, 5 February – Attachment 27).

- An earlier report by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, dated 4 June 2003, also indicated that the Badr organisation's political wing, the Supreme Council the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), had called for the "imposition of Islamic law, or Sharia, in Iraq" - without specifying "what imposing Sharia in Iraq would mean for women's rights, as well as on what punishments might be instituted for alcohol use, thievery, adultery, and other behavior often strictly regulated under Sharia law" (Mite, V. 2003, 'Iraq: SCIRI says it will seek to introduce "Islamic Order'"', Global Security website, 4 June http://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/iraq/2003/06/iraq-030604-rfel-164005.htm - Accessed 27 April 2005 – Attachment 22).

- Subsequent reports indicate that the SCIRI and the Badr Organisation were responsible for closing down liquor stores in Basra and imposing "veiling on women high-school and college students", "often by force" (Cole, J. 2005, 'Theocracy now', *American Prospect*, 1 March – Attachment 28; Shadid, A. 2005, 'Political Islam put to the test in southern Iraq', *The Washington Post*, 25 January – Attachment 29).

Reports from Bagdad also indicate that the Badr organisation was accused of being responsible for orchestrating attacks on women's beauty salons (Youssef, N. A. 2004, 'Beauty salons now targets; some say militants aiming to force women into more conservative lifestyle', *The Tallahassee Democrat*, 5 September – Attachment 30).

- A report, dated 18 April 2004, reports that the Mahdi Army had also established Sharia law courts in areas under its control. According to Yahya Shubari, a "young commander of the Mahdi Army" cited in the report, the Sharia courts "are run by judges sent from Najaf" and impose, among other penalties, "80 lashes for stealing and drinking alcohol". Reporting from Qawliya, the article also notes the existence of a "pro-Sadr tract…entitled A Muslim Woman's Education", which "forbids women to dance, even with their husbands, and says young girls should not learn nursery rhymes as they must not sing" (Sherwell, P. 2004, 'A village laid waste: this is al-Sadr's law for unfaithful', The Telegraph, online edition, 18 April http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2004/04/18/wirq218.xml - Accessed 27 April 2005 – Attachment 23).

**4. Please provide any information regarding "Mahadi Alwadi" or the "High Council for the Liberation of Iraq", focusing on its attitude towards Shi'a who don't support it.**

The High Council for Liberation of Iraq—also known as the Supreme Council for the Liberation of Iraq and the Supreme Council for a Free Iraq—is described by Andrew Terrill of the US Army War College as a "small", but "deeply radical organisation…with possible ties to Iraqi Hizb'allah". According to his report, *The United States and Iraq's Shi'ite Clergy: Partners or Adversaries*, the group "has organized demonstrations against the United States and threatened 'dire consequences' if one of its leaders is not released". Also, that its previous newspaper "was closed down for incitement by U.S. authorities" in 2003; and that it "is now publishing a new newspaper called *Sada al Ummah* (Echo of the Nation)" (Terrill, A. 2004, *The United States and Iraq's Shi'ite Clergy: Partners or Adversaries*, The Global Security website, sourced from The Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College, February, pp. 30, 49 http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/report/2004/clergy.pdf - Accessed 27 April 2005 – Attachment 31).

Other reports indicate that the organisation is headed by Mahdi al-Awadi (Mahdi al-Awwadi, Said Al-Hawadi), who was described in a Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty report of 21 June 2003 as an "Iraqi exile". That report also indicates that *Voice of the Mujahedin* radio reported on 17 June 2003 that "the US-led administration" ha allegedly closed the organisation's "newly established television station and a newspaper in Al-Najaf…and arrested the staff of both facilities on charges of promoting incitement against occupation troops" ('U.S. reportedly closes local television and newspaper' 2003, *Iraq Report*, Volume 6, Number 27, 21 June, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty online edition http://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/iraq/2003/06/27-210603.htm - Accessed 13 April 2005 – Attachment 32).

Mahdi al-Awwadi now appears to be in Iraq. In two interviews from Al-Najaf, broadcast on Doha Al-Jazirah in April and May 2004, al-Awwadi made clear his group's opposition to the presence of the "occupation forces" in the cities of Al-Najaf, Karbala and Al-Kufah

('Shiite leader on situation in Al-Najaf; says 'Armed Cells' under construction' 2004, Darpa Tides website, sourced from FBIS, 6 April, cache of http://cobalt.carebridge.org/~tides/TIRR/D-TIRR158.htm - Accessed 15 April 2005 – Attachment 33; 'Shiite Leader Warns of "Fatwa" That Will "Turn Things Upside Down" in Iraq' 2004, Darpa Tides website, sourced from FBIS, 7 May, cache of http://tides.carebridge.org/TIRR/D-TIRR190.htm - Accessed 28 April 2005 – Attachment 34).

Other reports indicate that the High Council for Liberation of Iraq has an office in Al Najaf. Also, that pilgrims making a pilgrimage to the city have been observed holding portraits of al-Awadi (Richissin, T. 2003, 'Shiite pilgrims see promise of new Iraq on Islam's path', *The Baltimore Sun* online edition, 1 May http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/nationworld/iraq/bal-te.najaf01may01,0,2517126.story – Accessed 13 April 2005 – Attachment 35; 'Freedom exposes internal divisions for Iraqi Shias' 2003, *The Daily Excelsior* online edition, 23 April http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/web1/03apr23/inter.htm - Accessed 13 April 2005 – Attachment 36).

Another article, appearing on the website of the Bagdad Bulletin, dated 17 August 2003, reports on al-Awadi's views concerning the women and the veil. As reported by Kathleen McCaul:

> It is early evening in Souk Sahat in Maysaloon. The heat of the day has calmed and many women are out shopping. One unveiled lady wearing a calf-length skirt and short sleeve shirt talks to another in a traditional black abiya. A group of different colored veils gather around a watermelon stall. Waiting at a bus stop is a woman wrapped completely in gray with sunglasses and gloves.
>
> There is no prevailing style for women in Baghdad, but since the fall of the ex-regime, many more women are wearing hijabs. One reason for this is increased reports of women being kidnapped and raped…
>
> The rise in religious feeling has also added to the pressure women feel to cover up. In June, the BBC reported radical clerics had demanded women wear the veil, and that one Iraqi UN staff member had received a letter at home saying she would be killed unless she started covering her hair. There have been no recent reports of this, but many religious leaders have recently become leaders of political parties and believe the veil is integral to a woman's morality.
>
> "The veil is an Islamic law, Mohammad makes this clear to all women and girls," said Said Al-Hawadi, leader of the Supreme Council for the Liberation of Iraq.
>
> Al-Hawadi said he does not believe in enforcing the veil but warns of dire consequences for any Muslim woman foolhardy enough to shake it off.
>
> "It is her problem if she refuses to wear it - in Islam the woman who doesn't cover up is going to hell," he said…
>
> The veil has also become an important political statement for Al-Hawadi since the fall of the ex-regime.

"The abiya [burqa] is a resistance against the occupation, it is your personal jihad," he said (McCaul, K. 'Covering Up', Bagdad Bulletin online edition, 17 August, cache of http://www.baghdadbulletin.com/pageArticle.php?article_id=137&cat_id=9 – Accessed 13 April 2005 – Attachment 37).

Little else was found in the sources consulted concerning Mahadi Alwadi" or the "High Council for the Liberation of Iraq", or its attitude towards Shi'a who do not support it.

**List of Sources Consulted**

Internet Sources**:**
Google search engine
UNHCR          *REFWORLD*          UNHCR Refugee Information Online


Databases**:**
Public          *FACTIVA*          Reuters Business Briefing
DIMIA          *BACIS*          Country Information
                    *REFINFO*          IRBDC Research Responses (Canada)
RRT          *ISYS*          RRT Country Research database, including
                              Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch,
                              US Department of State *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.*
RRT Library     *FIRST*          RRT Library Catalogue

**List of Attachments**

1. 'Iraq Governorates and Districts' 2003, Humanitarian Information Center website, districts' 2003, Humanitarian Information Center website, 1 June. (http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iraq/maps/103%20A4%20laminated%20map%20governorate%20and%20district.pdf – Accessed 11 April 2005)

2. 'Building Industry in Iraq Undated, Humanitarian Information Center website. (http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iraq/maps/285%20A3%20UN%20Habitat%20building%20material%20map.pdf – Accessed 12 April 2005)

3. 'Dutch soldiers come under fire in southern Iraq' 2004, *Agence France Presse*, 17 August. (FACTIVA)

4. 'Danger zone: An inflow of insurgents and a videotape showing detailed' 2004, *Asahi Shimbun*, 26 August. (FACTIVA)

5. 'Al-Sadr loyalist in Samawah confirms cease-fire with US-led forces' 2004, *Asian Political News*, 14 September. (FACTIVA)

6. de Vreji, H. 2004, 'First Dutch soldier killed in Iraq', Radio Netherlands website, 11 May. (http://www2.rnw.nl/rnw/en/currentaffairs/region/middleeast/irq040511.html?view=Standard – Accessed 28 April 2005)

7. 'Dutch soldier wounded in explosion targeting convoy in Iraq' 2004, *Agence France Presse*, 7 October. (FACTIVA)

8. 'Iraq Press highlights 22 Mar' 2005, BBC Monitoring, sourced from *Al-Mashriq*, 24 March. (FACTIVA)

9. 'Iraqi Press highlights 29 Mar 05' 2005, BBC Monitoring, sourced from *Al-Mada*, 30 March. (FACTIVA)

10. 'Worst danger far from new base More security among Shiites' 2005, *Herald-Sun*, 23 February. (FACTIVA)

11. 'ABC-British to work closely with Australian forces in Muthanna province, iraq' 2005, ABC Online website, 8 March. (http://www.abc.net.au/cgi-bin/common/printfriendly.pl?http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2005/s1318322.htm - Accessed 13 April 2005)

12. 'Radio Australia - News - Militia chief wants Australians out of Iraq' 2005, ABC Radio Australia website, 19 April. (http://www.abc.net.au/cgi-bin/common/printfriendly.pl?http://www.abc.net.au/ra/news/stories/s1348216.htm - Accessed 19 April 2005)

13. 'AM—Moqtada al-Sadr says Australian troops not welcome in Al Muthanna' 2005, ABC Online website, 23 April. (http://www.abc.net.au/cgi-bin/common/printfriendly.pl?http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2005/s1352127.htm - Accessed 26 April 2005)

14. 'AM—Australian troops prepare for dangerous situation in Al Muthanna' 2005, ABC Online website, 21 April. (http://www.abc.net.au/cgi-bin/common/printfriendly.pl?http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2005/s1350255.htm - Accessed 22 April 2005)

15. 'Militants warn Aust troops to leave Iraqis unharmed' 2005, ABC Online website, 23 April. (http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200504/s1352040.htm - Accessed 26 April 2005)

16. 'Fed: Dutch troops end Iraq mission' 2005, *Australian Associated Press General News*, 22 February. (FACTIVA)

17. 'van den Berg, M.H.J. 2003, 'Dutch Parliament and Troops misinformed about depleted uranium in south Iraq', Review of International Social Questions website, 21 July. (http://www.risq.org/article131.html - Accessed 13 April 2005)

18. 'AM—Australian troops in Al Muthanna aim to keep locals onside' 2005, ABC Online website, 20 April. (http://www.abc.net.au/cgi-bin/common/printfriendly.pl?http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2005/s1349447.htm - Accessed 22 April 2005)

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