

**Refugee Review Tribunal
AUSTRALIA**

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

Research Response Number: IRQ23529
Country: Iraq
Date: 16 February 2005

Keywords: Iraq - al Kaabi tribe - Shi'a Muslims – Baghdad - Jabouri tribe - Sunni Muslims - Sadr City – Intifada – Baathists

This response was prepared by the Country Research Section of the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the RRT within time constraints. This response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum.

Questions

1. Please provide any available information on the al Kaabi tribe.
2. In particular, is it predominantly composed of Shi'a Muslims?
3. Are its members predominantly located in Missan?
4. Is there evidence that members of this tribe are located in Baghdad?
5. Please provide any available information on the Jabouri tribe.
6. In particular, is it predominantly composed of Sunni Muslims?
7. Is there any evidence as to the strength of this tribe in Sadr City or elsewhere in Baghdad?
8. Is there any evidence that members of the Jabouri tribe were attacked by Shi'a during the Intifada?
9. Have there been any reports of violence between the Jabouri and al Kaabi tribes?
10. Have there been reports of violence between any other tribal groups in Baghdad?
11. Please provide information on any attacks on Shi'as in Sadr City since the overthrow of the Baathist regime.

RESPONSE

1. Please provide any available information on the al Kaabi tribe.
2. In particular, is it predominantly composed of Shi'a Muslims?
3. Are its members predominantly located in Missan?
4. Is there evidence that members of this tribe are located in Baghdad?
9. Have there been any reports of violence between the Jabouri and al Kaabi tribes?

No reference to *Kaabi*, *Kabi*, *Caabi*, *Cabi*, *Carbi*, *Karbi*, *Khaabi* or *Kharbi* has been located in a search through the sources consulted.

5. Please provide any available information on the Jabouri tribe.
6. In particular, is it predominantly composed of Sunni Muslims?
7. Is there any evidence as to the strength of this tribe in Sadr City or elsewhere in Baghdad?

8. Is there any evidence that members of the Jabouri tribe were attacked by Shi'a during the Intifada?

One of the important Sunni tribes in Iraq is the al-Jaburi (alternatively Jabur, Jubour, Jobour or Juboor) whose home spans more than 400 square miles west of Mosul ('RAQ: The Role of Tribes' 2003, Council on Foreign Relations, 14 November http://www.cfr.org/background/background_iraq_tribes.php - Accessed 10 February 2005 – Attachment 1; US Department of Defense 2003, 'Clinic, Schools Open Doors in Iraq Thanks to 101st Airborne', American Forces Information Service News Articles, 28 October http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Oct2003/n10282003_200310282.html - Accessed 8 February 2005 – Attachment 2). Another sources indicate that the Jabur tribe is one of the most prominent among the ethnic Arab, Sunni Muslims who always have dominated Iraqi governments ('Go-To Guys with Suspect Pasts / Jaburi among a rising class of Iraqi VIPs' 2003, *Newsday*, 18 May – Attachment 3; Glain, Stephen J. 2000, 'Stronghold Can Backfire: Iraqi Tribes Are Key Source of Loyalty, Rebellion', *Wall Street Journal*, 23 May <http://www.iraqcmm.org/cmm/WSJ-20000523.html> - Accessed 3 February 2005 – Attachment 4). *The Boston Globe* comments that the al-Jabur is the country's largest and most powerful tribe ('Tribal Rivalry May Give Clues to Iraq's Future' 2004, *Boston Globe*, 8 June – Attachment 5). The paper also states that the Jaburi is an Arab tribe that includes both Sunni and Shia branches ('On Their Terms - U.S. soldier reaches out to understand Iraqi tribal system' 2003, *Newsday*, 21 December – Attachment 6). Other sources also support the theme when they comment that:

...some important tribes, such as al-Jubour, are a mixture of Sunnis and Shia, and although one tribe might be loyal there might be branches within that tribe that are not. Studies suggest that neither the Shia nor the Sunni population of Iraq form anything close to monolithic and coherent blocks (Faleh A. Jabar, "Clerics, Tribes, Ideologues and Urban Dwellers in the South of Iraq: the Potential for Rebellion", in Toby Dodge and Steven Simon (ed.), *Iraq at the Crossroads* – Quote from Olsen, John Andreas 2003, 'Saddam's Power Base', April http://www.dnak.org/publikasjoner/sp/2003/4_utskrift.htm - Accessed 11 February 2005 – Attachment 7; and see also Yaphe1, Judith S. 2004, 'Iraqi Identity After the Fall of Saddam', 12 April <http://www.mideasti.org/pdfs/yaphe041204.pdf> - Accessed 11 February 2005 – Attachment 8).

One of the ways to measure up the size of the tribe is by the means of the fact that the tribe is called the *al-Jaburi qabila*, one of a dozen or so tribal federations in Iraq ('Arab Tribes in Iraq' 2005, Wikipedia website, 23 January http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Tribes_in_Iraq - Accessed 3 February 2005 – Attachment 9; Yaphe1, Judith S. 2004, 'Iraqi Identity After the Fall of Saddam', 12 April <http://www.mideasti.org/pdfs/yaphe041204.pdf> - Accessed 11 February 2005 – Attachment 8).

The tribe had been out of favour with Saddam Hussein for the last 12 years of his regime because senior officers from the tribe were involved in two attempted coups against him ('Villagers enraged and baffled by American show of force' 2003, *Independent On Sunday*, 15 June – Attachment 10). For the fluctuating relationship between the tribe and Hussein, see Scott, Oliver 2004, 'Navigating Uncharted Waters: Working With Tribal Leaders in Iraq' <http://www.mepost.org/reports/IraqTribes.pdf> - Accessed 7 February 2005 – Attachment 11; and Walker, Martin 2003, 'Buying the tribes from Saddam', *UPI*, 3 April <http://www.upi.com/view.cfm?StoryID=20030403-122937-1219r> – Accessed 3 February 2005 – Attachment 12). For the dimension of political influence exerted by the tribes in Iraq, see 'RAQ: The Role of Tribes' 2003, Council on Foreign Relations, 14 November

http://www.cfr.org/background/background_iraq_tribes.php - Accessed 10 February 2005 – Attachment 1.

A map entitled “Tribes in Iraq” prepared by UN Humanitarian Information Centre for Iraq indicates that the Jaburi tribe is spread more widely than west of Mosul. It is found not only in the central region of the northern Iraq but also in the eastern side of the central Iraq (‘Tribes in Iraq’ (undated), UN Humanitarian Information Centre for Iraq, HIC Map reference 284

<http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iraq/maps/284%20A4%20Tribes%20in%20Iraq.pdf> - Accessed 7 February 2005 - Attachment 13). Another map illustrates much wider distribution of the tribe in Iraq (‘Major tribes and clans in Iraq’ (undated), healingiraq website <http://healingiraq.blogspot.com/iraq-majortribes2.gif> - Accessed 15 February 2005 – Attachment 14). A slightly different version of the tribal distribution is carried in Zeyad 2004, ‘Healing Iraq’, 1 June – four part chapters *Iraq’s tribal society: A state within a state* (p 12) http://healingiraq.blogspot.com/archives/2004_06_01_healingiraq_archive.html - Accessed 11 February 2005 – Attachment 15).

No definitive information has been located as to the strength of the Jabouri tribe in Sadre city or Baghdad. The tribe is said to have ‘hundreds of thousands of members’ (Scott, Oliver 2004, ‘Navigating Uncharted Waters: Working With Tribal Leaders in Iraq’

<http://www.mepost.org/reports/IraqTribes.pdf> - Accessed 7 February 2005 – Attachment 11).

Tribes appear to have limited influence in Baghdad (‘RAQ: The Role of Tribes’ 2003, Council on Foreign Relations, 14 November

http://www.cfr.org/background/background_iraq_tribes.php - Accessed 10 February 2005 – Attachment 1).

An in-depth analysis of the tribalism in the Iraqi context is provided in Zeyad 2004, ‘Healing Iraq’, 1 June – four part chapters *Iraq’s tribal society: A state within a state*

http://healingiraq.blogspot.com/archives/2004_06_01_healingiraq_archive.html - Accessed 11 February 2005 – Attachment 15).

In a search through the sources consulted, no report has been located that members of the Jabouri tribe were attacked by the Shi’ites during the Intifada.

10. Have there been reports of violence between any other tribal groups in Baghdad?

While no definitive report has been found of violence between tribal groups in Baghdad, a recent incident is suspected to be arising out of tribal conflict. Gunmen opened fire in a bakery in eastern Baghdad on 11 February 2005 killing eleven people. According to the AFP news agency, a police station opposite the bakery was untouched. The attack was being linked to a tribal conflict rather than to the insurgency (Booth, Jenny 2005, ‘Eleven dead in Iraq bakery attack’, *Times Online*, 11 February <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,7374-1480055,00.html> – Accessed 14 February 2005 – Attachment 16; ‘Early morning butchery at Baghdad’s ‘Happiness Bakery’ 2005, *AFP*, 11 February 2005 – Attachment 17).

11. Please provide information on any attacks on Shi’as in Sadr City since the overthrow of the Baathist regime.

No information has been located that the Shi'as were attacked in Sadr City since the overthrow of the Baathist regime.

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources: AltaVista, Google, Vivisimo & Copernic 2001 Personal Agent

ANU Research website <http://rspas.anu.edu.au/>

Asia Week <http://www.asiaweek.com/asiaweek/>

BBC News website <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

The Guardian website <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>

CNN website <http://www.cnn.com/>

Minorities At Risk (MAR) Project <http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/inscr/mar/home.htm>

Minority Rights Group International <http://www.minorityrights.org/>

<u>Databases:</u>		
Public	<i>FACTIVA</i>	Reuters Business Briefing
RRT	<i>ISYS</i>	RRT Country Research database, including Amnesty Internal, Human Rights Watch, U.S. Department of State <i>Country Reports on Human Rights Practices</i>
RRT Library	<i>FIRST</i>	RRT Library Catalogue
DIMIA	<i>BASICS</i>	Country Information
	<i>REFINFO</i>	IRBDC Research Responses (Canada)

List of Attachments

1. 'RAQ: The Role of Tribes' 2003, Council on Foreign Relations, 14 November. (http://www.cfr.org/background/background_iraq_tribes.php - Accessed 10 February 2005)
2. US Department of Defense 2003, 'Clinic, Schools Open Doors in Iraq Thanks to 101st Airborne', American Forces Information Service News Articles, 28 October. (http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Oct2003/n10282003_200310282.html - Accessed 8 February 2005)
3. 'Go-To Guys with Suspect Pasts / Jaburi among a rising class of Iraqi VIPs' 2003, *Newsday*, 18 May. (FACTIVA)
4. Glain, Stephen J. 2000, 'Stronghold Can Backfire: Iraqi Tribes Are Key Source of Loyalty, Rebellion', *Wall Street Journal*, 23 May. (<http://www.iraqcmm.org/cmm/WSJ-20000523.html> - Accessed 3 February 2005)
5. 'Tribal Rivalry May Give Clues to Iraq's Future' 2004, *Boston Globe*, 8. (FACTIVA)
6. 'On Their Terms - U.S. soldier reaches out to understand Iraqi tribal system' 2003, *Newsday*, 21 December. (FACTIVA)
7. Faleh A. Jabar, "Clerics, Tribes, Ideologues and Urban Dwellers in the South of Iraq: the Potential for Rebellion", in Toby Dodge and Steven Simon (ed.), *Iraq at the*

- Crossroads* – Quote from Olsen, John Andreas 2003, 'Saddam's Power Base', April. (http://www.dnak.org/publikasjoner/sp/2003/4_utskrift.htm - Accessed 11 February 2005)
8. Yaphel, Judith S. 2004, 'Iraqi Identity After the Fall of Saddam', 12 April. (<http://www.mideasti.org/pdfs/yaphe041204.pdf> - Accessed 11 February 2005)
 9. 'Arab Tribes in Iraq' 2005, Wikipedia website, 23 January. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Tribes_in_Iraq - Accessed 3 February 2005)
 10. 'Villagers enraged and baffled by American show of force' 2003, *Independent On Sunday*, 15 June. (FACTIVA)
 11. Scott, Oliver 2004, 'Navigating Uncharted Waters: Working With Tribal Leaders in Iraq'. (<http://www.mepost.org/reports/IraqTribes.pdf> - Accessed 7 February 2005)
 12. Walker, Martin 2003, 'Buying the tribes from Saddam', *UPI*, 3 April. (<http://www.upi.com/view.cfm?StoryID=20030403-122937-1219r> – Accessed 3 February 2005)
 13. 'Tribes in Iraq' (undated), UN Humanitarian Information Centre for Iraq, HIC Map reference 284. (<http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iraq/maps/284%20A4%20Tribes%20in%20Iraq.pdf> - Accessed 7 February 2005)
 14. 'Major tribes and clans in Iraq' (undated), healingiraq website. (<http://healingiraq.blogspot.com/iraq-majortribes2.gif> - Accessed 15 February 2005)
 15. Zeyad 2004, 'Healing Iraq', 1 June – four part chapters *Iraq's tribal society: A state within a state* (p 12). (http://healingiraq.blogspot.com/archives/2004_06_01_healingiraq_archive.html - Accessed 11 February 2005)
 16. Booth, Jenny 2005, 'Eleven dead in Iraq bakery attack', *Times Online*, 11 February. (<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,7374-1480055,00.html> – Accessed 14 February 2005)
 17. 'Early morning butchery at Baghdad's 'Happiness Bakery' 2005, *AFP*, 11 February 2005. (FACTIVA)