



IRAQI FUTURE
FOUNDATION

PRESS RELEASE
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National Meeting Takes Place to Discuss

“Violence Against Iraqi Doctors”

On the 25th of September 2004, the Iraqi Future Foundation in conjunction with Iraq’s Ministry of Health sponsored a discussion on the dangers facing medical professionals in Iraq. Though not highlighted in the media, Iraq’s doctors have been the target of kidnappings and assassinations since the Summer of 2003. Numerous members of the medical community, including Baghdad University Faculty of Medicine professors, have been abducted or killed.

The event united over 200 Iraq medical community leaders, including the Ministry of Health’s Deputy Ministers, Dr. Amar Saafar and Dr. Amer Al Khujai. The objectives of the meeting were to raise international awareness of this alarming development; to explore the motivations behind such tragic events; and to begin formulating a strategy to reduce violence against these indispensable civil servants. [A findings report will be soon be posted on our website.]

Mass exodus of Iraqi healthcare professionals during the past 20 years, thirteen years of economic sanctions, and the looting of hospitals and clinics in the aftermath of Saddam’s fall, have set back Iraq’s medical infrastructure by 50 years. If Iraq is to rebuild the nation’s health infrastructure, at one time one of the most advanced in the region, every able medical practitioner is needed, alive and well.

Helping to improve Iraq’s health services is one of the pillars of the Iraqi Future Foundation. For more information about this topic or the IFF, please send your questions to:

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