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Police protection in general in Iraq- is it effective/ not effective? Any evidence of informers amongst police who give terrorist groups information?

In a section titled “Recent Security Developments in Iraq” (paragraph 168) a *UN High Commissioner for Refugees* eligibility guidelines document states:

“Overall, the security situation has significantly improved since the third quarter of 2007, although the impact at the local level has been uneven. The ISF is increasingly gaining strength and capability to provide security, but major challenges remain, including sustained attacks by armed groups, infiltration and militia affiliations, corruption as well as lack of leadership, training, equipment and personnel, making it still dependent on US support.” (UN High Commissioner for Refugees (April 2009) *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers*, p.81)

The introductory section of the 2010 *United States Department of State* country report on Iraq states:

“Insurgent and extremist violence, coupled with weak government performance in upholding the rule of law, resulted in widespread and severe human rights abuses. Although their influence and ability to attack has significantly weakened since 2007, terrorist groups such as AQI and other extremist elements continued to launch highly destructive attacks, attempting to fuel sectarian tensions and undermine the government's ability to maintain law and order. Extremist and AQI attacks continued against ISF and government officials. AQI and other extremists also conducted high-profile bombings targeting urban areas, particularly prominent government buildings, Shia markets, and mosques, and killing Shia religious pilgrims. Religious minorities, sometimes labeled ‘anti-Islamic,’ were often targeted in the violence. Insurgents also carried out a number of attacks against other civilians. During the year, despite some reconciliation and easing of tensions in several provinces, the government's human rights performance consistently fell short of according citizens the protections the law provides.” (United States Department of State (11 March 2010) *2009 Human Rights Report: Iraq*)

A *Reuters* report states:

“Khalaf says police corruption and collusion with insurgents runs deep. On Monday, a police officer in the town of Samarra, 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad, was sentenced to 51 years in prison for leaking information about fellow officers to al Qaeda. On Tuesday, a number of senior police officers in Baghdad's Bayaa district were arrested in connection with a brazen gold heist in an otherwise heavily-guarded shopping street in which 14 people died. ‘There are many police officers and local officials cooperating with al Qaeda,’ said Khalaf. ‘Their aim is to target innocent people, those who fought al Qaeda before, and to stop them from returning to work.’ Asked about Khalaf's case, LTG Barbero said the U.S. was helping the Interior Ministry in ‘vetting’ recruits, adding: “The lesson I take from that is we must maintain

pressure on the (insurgent) networks." But Khalaf said he no longer knew whom to trust." (Reuters (28 May 2010) *Death and betrayal stalk police in Iraq*)

An Al Jazeera report states:

"But soon US troops will leave and those who are meant to protect are viewed with suspicion. 'The Iraqi police is infiltrated by armed groups,' Abdel Hussein Ali Damouk, Diyala's police chief, told me. 'We have made a number of arrests including officers. We are now checking the background of each policeman ... the problem was they were hired by security agencies without any security checks because we needed a force in place as soon as possible.'" (Al Jazeera (30 May 2010) *Police infiltrated in Iraq province*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre 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. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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