



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JUL 26 2007

Dear Ms. Ros-Lehtinen:

Thank you for your letter of July 24. In response, and as a follow up to Ambassador Crocker's comments before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on July 19, we are pleased to provide to you with greater detail on the passage of legislation by the Iraqi Council of Representatives (CoR).

Progress on reconciliation is a shared responsibility between the executive and legislative branches of the Iraqi Government. While reconciliation has not moved as rapidly as we would like, we must not diminish the importance of what the CoR has accomplished as a functioning democratic institution.

In a little over a year, the Council of Representatives has passed more than 50 pieces of legislation, despite a climate of heightened sectarian violence and an attack on the CoR parliamentary building that left one parliamentarian dead. Attached please find a list of specific pieces of legislation that were adopted by the CoR since June 2006. Allow me to highlight a few of the legislative milestones.

The Fuel Import Liberalization Law, which was passed by the CoR September 6 and signed by the Presidency Council, allows private imports of refined fuel products. In passing this law, the Iraqi Parliament set the stage for the private importation of critical fuels such as gasoline and diesel. The CoR also passed a National Investment Law, which aims to promote private sector (including foreign) investment in Iraq; the law was approved by the Presidency Council on November 30.

The Honorable
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen,
Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives.

The CoR passage of the Regions Formation Law on October 11, 2006, which allows Iraq's provinces to hold referenda to create larger federal regions, was extremely controversial, with some Sunni and Shi'a leaders fearing that it could lead to the break-up of Iraq. Supporters ultimately agreed as a compromise that the process of forming regions could not begin until April 2008.

On January 23, the CoR passed the law establishing the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC), which replaces the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq (IECI), and on February 27, President Talabani signed it into law. The CoR approved Commission members and alternates on April 28, and the Prime Minister's Office is currently preparing to draft legislation that should set a date for the provincial elections.

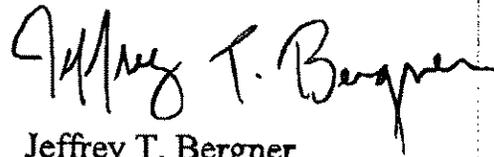
On January 24, the CoR passed the Military Court Procedures Law, the first of two laws required to establish a criminal justice system for the Iraqi military, which will include due process protections and judicial review. After some modifications requested by the Presidency Council, and amended by the CoR, this set of laws is ready for implementation.

On February 8, after weeks of deliberations, the CoR extended its session for over a month and passed the 2007 budget by an overwhelming majority. The \$41.1 billion budget enjoyed support from political representatives of all communities in Iraq. This budget, over \$10 billion of which is dedicated to reconstruction and capital investment, promotes both short-term economic activity and sustainable economic progress. Iraq's Presidency Council approved the budget on February 25.

The challenge of enacting legislation is more than securing approval from the Council of Representatives. In some cases, the Iraqi Presidency Council has blocked enactment of certain bills approved on the floor of the CoR by delaying confirmation, as allowed by the Iraqi constitution.

We take every opportunity to press the Iraqi Government to overcome divisive issues and promote national reconciliation. We also commend the Iraqis on the progress they have made as they build their nascent democracy while we also recognize that they still have far to go. Please feel free to contact us further on this or any matter of concern to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeffrey T. Bergner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

Jeffrey T. Bergner
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

I. Completed Legislation Drafted by Government of Iraq, Council of Representatives (CoR)

No.	Law	Date Passed
1.	CoR Bylaws	6/14/06
2.	International Agency to Guarantee Investment (Law to Join	6/23/06
3.	CoR Member Replacement	6/26/06
4.	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA)	7/16/06
5.	Correction Facilities	7/25/06
6.	Fuel Import Liberalization	9/6/06
7.	Amending the Penal Code	9/11/06
8.	Joining 1997 Ottawa Landmine Treaty	9/25/06
9.	Amending General Prosecutor Law 159 (1979)	10/9/06
10.	Compensation Law	10/10/06
11.	Investment Law	10/10/06
12.	Regions Formation Law	10/11/06
13.	Joining UN Fight Against Organized Crime	11/14/06
14.	5th Amendment to Recording Births and Deaths Law 148 (1971)	11/27/06
15.	Amending the Pharmacy Profession Law 40 (1970) and 14 (1998)	11/27/06
16.	6th Amendment to Recording Births and Deaths Law 148 (1971)	1/21/07
17.	Amendment to 1969 Penal Code (#111)	1/21/07
18.	Amendment to the 1979 Law on the Organization of the Judiciary (#160)	1/21/07
19.	Amendment to the 1979 Property Owners Rental Law (#87)	1/21/07
20.	Accession to the Ramsar Convention	1/22/07
21.	Agreement on Maritime Transport in the Eastern Region of the Arab World (ESCWA)	1/23/07
22.	Independent High Electoral Commission	1/23/07
23.	Amendment to Income Tax Law (#113 of 1982)	1/24/07
24.	Military Trial Procedures	1/24/07
25.	Military Punishments	2/5/07
26.	Amendment to Criminal Courts Law (Law 10 of 2005)	2/6/07
27.	7th Amendment to the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research Law 40 (1988)	2/7/07
28.	2007 Federal Budget	2/8/07
29.	Amending the Civil Service Law 24 (1960)	3/13/07
30.	WHO Treaty to Control Tobacco	3/14/07
31.	Amend Retirement and Social Insurance for Workers #39 of 1971	4/11/07
32.	WHO Treaty on Olive and Vegetable Oil	4/12/07
33.	Amend CPA Order #63 (Public Sector Death and Disability Benefits)	4/14/07
34.	Third Amendment to Law for the Scientific Institute (#3 of	5/9/07

	1995)	
35.	Third Amendment to Maintaining the Irrigation Networks and Water Channels Law (#12 of 1995)	5/13/07
36.	Two Optional Protocols of Children's Rights Agreements	5/23/07
37.	Amend Criminal Procedure Code #23 of 1971	5/23/07
38.	Amend Executive Law #45 of 1980	5/23/07
39.	Amend law on Discipline of Employees of the State (and quasi-state entities)	5/23/07
40.	Civil Service Law #24 of 1960 (Article 49 on accumulated leave)	5/23/07
41.	Iraqi Reconstruction Levy (Extend CPA order #38)	5/23/07
42.	Extending implementation of the National Assembly Law (MP prerogatives)	5/24/07
43.	Amendments to Criminal Court Law #10 of 2005 (returned from Pres after 6 Feb CoR vote)	6/11/07
44.	Amendments to Military Trial Procedures law (returned from Presidency after 24 Jan CoR vote)	6/11/07
45.	Amend Salaries of State Employees	7/7/07
46.	Amend CoR Law (members rights)	7/18/07
47.	Amend Law #78 of 1977 dealing with Official Gazette	7/18/07
48.	Law to join Islamic Institute Agreement to Insure Investments and Exports	7/19/07
49.	Ratification of Amendments to Arab League Charter	7/19/07
50.	Entry into 2004 UN Convention against Corruption	7/19/07
51.	Law to join Montreal Protocol on Protecting the Ozone	7/19/07
52.	Entry into Regional Fishing Treaty	7/21/07
53.	Investment in Crude Oil Refining	7/24/07

II. Rescinded Revolutionary Command Council Decisions

No.	Law	Summary	Date Abolished
1.	RCC Decision 540 (1981)	Set salaries and retirement benefits for state employees	4/12/07
2.	RCC Decision 600 (1983)	Applied RCC Decision 1434 to students studying engineering outside of Iraq	4/12/07
3.	RCC Decision 222 (1987)	Empowered Presidential Chief of State to determine salary and retirement benefits	4/12/07
4.	RCC Decision 690 (1981)	Prohibited spouses from seeking employment or study opportunities abroad if their husband or wife was working outside the country in a scientific, administrative, or academic capacity	7/10/07
5.	RCC Decision 91 (1981)	Established state ownership of land for housing employees of the Ministry of Transportation and allocated land for the founding of the Zawra Sports Club	6/6/07
6.	RCC Decision 1019 (1981)	Connected self-governed areas to previously passed RCC decision	7/10/07
7.	RCC Decision 1253 (1981)	Authorized the sale of specified residential properties	7/10/07
8.	RCC Decision 844 (1987)	Prohibited return or compensation for confiscated money	6/21/07
9.	RCC Decision 315 (1987)	Created special insignia for military units who distinguished themselves in combat	6/21/07
10.	RCC Decision 30 (1981)	Extended the financial auditing period for the National Contracting Company	6/21/07
11.	RCC Decision 61 (2000)	Modified army medals and insignia including incorporation of 'Mother of all Battles' phrase	6/21/07
12.	RCC Decision 96 (1999)	Established a public electricity company and outlined its structure and responsibilities	7/7/07
13.	RCC Decision 70 (1987)	Established a centralized Commerce and Trade Union	6/21/07

14.	RCC Decision 70 (1981)	Acquired land for a public radio and television association	6/21/07
15.	RCC Decision 74 (1969)	In commemoration of the revolution granted amnesty for those convicted in absentia by military and security courts	6/21/07
16.	RCC Decision 172 (1989)	Placed restrictions on the employment of retired military and security officers abroad and with foreign companies	6/21/07
17.	RCC Decision 179 (1980)	Established membership of the deputy secretary general of Department of Economic Affairs and Finance in the self-governing region in various governing boards	6/21/07
18.	RCC Decision 177 (1980)	Deleted specified information from the 1980 general budget	6/21/07
19.	RCC Decision 529 (1987)	Established Iraqi National Airways	7/7/07
20.	RCC Decision 67 (1987)	Established various passport and travel fees to finance the war effort	7/7/07
21.	RCC Decision 461 (1980)	Outlawed Da'wa party and mandated prosecution of its members	7/18/07
22.	RCC Decision 59 (1982)	Murder suspect cannot be tried if publicly forgiven by family (established as legal cover for Uday Hussein)	7/19/07
23.	RCC Decision 812 (1984)	Prohibited wearing of foreign medals	7/19/07
24.	RCC Decisions 86 (1993) and 24 (1998)	Mandated a 15,000 dinar fee for Iraqis traveling outside the country	7/24/07