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MIDDLE EAST STRATEGY

Background on Sheikh Jamal Al-Dhari

Sheikh Jamal Al-Dhari is the President of the Iraqi National Project (INP) and the leader of the al-Zoba tribe in Iraq. He was born in the Abu Ghraib district of Iraq just west of Baghdad on July 16, 1965. The al-Zoba tribe is one of the main Sunni tribes that fought against al-Qaeda's occupation of Iraqi territory during the Anbar Awakening, and is recognized as a moderate Sunni who is deeply committed to a multiethnic, non-sectarian, democratic future for Iraq.

In addition, Sheikh Jamal is very active in Washington through the Iraq Stability and Security Program (ISSP), the INP and the newly formed Washington Center for Middle East Strategy (WCMES) think tank. He also supports three think tanks in the Middle East: The Iraqi Forum for Intellectuals and Academics (IFIA) in Amman, Jordan; The Hammurabi Center for Strategic Planning and Research (HSPRC) in Amman; and The Center for Defense and Security Studies that will be in Istanbul, Turkey. Each of these centers will be working with similar organizations in the U.S. to help Iraq advance a roadmap for its stability and security.

Sheikh Jamal has been active in the media, raising awareness about the plight of Iraqis through his OpEds, which have been published in several outlets including the *New York Times*, *The Hill*, *FoxNews.com*, *Lawfare*, and *Inkstick*.

In 1984, he was conscripted into the Iraqi Army to fight in the Iran-Iraq War. During his time on the frontline, he fought alongside both Sunni and Shia officers and friends in the Iraqi Republican Guard. Following the 2003 invasion of Iraq by Coalition forces, he was a strong proponent of Iraqi nationalism and self-rule.

In 2005, Sheikh Jamal and his family fought against al-Qaeda's occupation of Iraqi territory and consequently lost 70 family members in the struggle. In 2014, he helped establish the nonprofit think tank Peace Ambassadors for Iraq (PAFI) to explain to Western audiences the present situation in Iraq, how to fully eliminate ISIS/Daesh and other terrorist forces from Iraq, and how to build international support for an all-inclusive Iraq.

In 2015, Sheikh Jamal, along with prominent Iraqis from all sects, joined together to form the INP, which is a non-sectarian and inclusive program for all Iraqis. The INP has been very active throughout Iraq since its inception, conducting seminars and workshops to promote unity and reconciliation and to combat extremism and corruption.

This material is distributed by the Washington Strategy Group on behalf of the Iraq Stability and Security Program. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

Meeting Participants

- **Dr. Kamil Al-Dilaymi** is the Vice President of the Iraq Stability and Security Program (ISSP), the Chairman of the Washington Center for Middle East Strategy (WCMES), and the Chairman of the Hammurabi Center for Strategic Planning and Research (HSPRC) in Amman, Jordan.

In addition to his role as the Chief Advisor to Sheikh Jamal, he is an engineer, a geostrategist, and the leading intellectual working on the national reconciliation effort. Dr. Kamil also oversees several strategic planning projects and study teams for regional countries.

He has 39 years of experience as a mechanical engineer and was the Dean of his Engineering College and the Head of Iraq's Scientific and Engineering Bureau. He was the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Science of the Republic of Iraq on January 6, 2003.

- **Mark Alsalih** is the Founder and Vice President of ISSP and also represents the Iraqi National Project in Washington. Mark is an American born in Texas to Iraqi parents. He graduated with an Engineering degree from Kansas State University.

ISSP is a working group of Iraqi citizens, tribal leaders, and policy analysts. The organization seeks to raise awareness of the severe challenges facing Iraq and offer solutions that will help bring peace and stability to the country. ISSP was created to bring these leaders together in a constructive and impactful way.

Mark has established a network of influential political and business leaders throughout Iraq and the broader Middle East with 25 years of experience in international business development, including tenures at two multi-billion dollar U.S. corporations, where he oversaw operations and sales in the Middle East. In 2004 Mark became a partner with a major K-Street lobbying firm and began advocating for prominent Sunni leaders of Iraq.

- **Joel Rubin** is the President of Washington Strategy Group (WSG) and a consultant to ISSP. WSG is a national security and foreign policy strategic advisory firm that supports clients in successfully achieving their foreign policy goals through advocacy, media engagement, and fundraising activities.

Joel is an innovative foreign policy entrepreneur with nearly 20 years of experience in Washington, including having served as a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs during the Obama Administration, as a career Near Eastern Affairs officer at the State Department during the Bush Administration, and as a Senate foreign policy aide, winning a 'Congressional Staffer of the Year' award from the Military Officers Association of America.