



**Press Release by Iraq Higher Education Organising Committee in UK
November 3, 2006**

The latest news from Baghdad of the assassination of Dr Isam Kadhim Al-Rawi the chair of the Iraqi University Academics is the latest in the chain of the heinous and terrorist acts to destroy Iraq professional and scientific infrastructure, which have claimed the lives of hundreds university lecturers and thousands scholars and professionals (doctors, engineers, lawyers, school teachers, writers, artists, etc.) most needed for the rebuilding and development of the country. The targeting and terrorizing of the intellectuals of the country through murder, kidnapping, blackmail, threats and forced immigration is a further chapter of the violence and chaos that is suffered by all Iraqis and is tearing through the national, social and economic fabric of the country.

The security in Iraq is still in the hand of the allied forces, and the US forces in particular, and it is their duty, in accordance with the Geneva Convention and the relevant resolution of the UN Security Council, that they shoulder the responsibilities for the security and order in the country as well as the protection of its citizens and cultural heritage.

Iraq Higher Education Organising Committee in UK , following its previous calls to protect the lives of Iraqi academics, calls upon the Iraqi government and the American, the British and other UN mandated forces in Iraq to take all necessary steps to prevent this carnage and ensure the security and unity of the country. We also call on UN, regional and international organisations to express their solidarity by taking all necessary actions to help the Iraqi academics and scholars to survive this ordeal so that they may resume their role as the custodians of Iraq's culture and learning and the builder of new and democratic Iraq.

We further call upon all peace-loving people and civic organisations in USA and UK to demand of their governments to shoulder their responsibilities to improve security and to speedily act to protect all Iraqi academics and professionals.

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