

JUSTICE FOR JEWS FROM ARAB COUNTRIES

JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS WELCOME IRAQI INTERIM CONSTITUTION ASSURING RIGHTS FOR ALL

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Justice for Jews from Arab Countries (JJAC), a worldwide coalition of major Jewish organizations, congratulated the Iraqi people and Iraq's Governing Council on the adoption of the "Law of Administration for the State of Iraq for the Transitional Period."

"It appears that the stage has been set for a new system of justice and the rule of law" stated S. Daniel Abraham, Founding Chairman of *Justice for Jews from Arab Countries*. "We hope that this signals the beginning of a process to rectify historical injustices and discriminatory measures perpetrated by previous Iraqi regimes."

James S. Tisch, Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said: "We believe this landmark document enshrines for each Iraqi 'the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religious belief and practice' (Article 13 {F}), which has been denied them for so long. Furthermore, the Transitional Administrative Law that was signed in Baghdad on March 8, 2004 states that '*Any Iraqi whose Iraqi citizenship was withdrawn for political, religious, racial or sectarian reasons has the right to reclaim his Iraqi citizenship*' (Article 11 {D}). We trust that this will be universally applied to all groups forced to leave Iraq."

Stanley A. Urman, Executive Director of *Justice for Jews from Arab Countries*, declared: "We welcome the assurances of US Secretary of State Colin Powell that the new Transitional Administrative Law will not discriminate against Jews or others."

Justice for Jews from Arab Countries (JJAC) is a coalition of Jewish communal organizations operating under the auspices of the **Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations**, the **American Sephardi Federation**, the **World Organization of Jews from Arab Countries** (WOJAC), in partnership with the **American Jewish Committee**, **American Jewish Congress**, **Anti-Defamation League**, **B'nai B'rith International**, the **Jewish Council for Public Affairs** and the **World Sephardic Congress**.

Honorary Chairs: Irwin Cotler [Canada], Shlomo Hillel [Israel], Richard Holbrooke [USA], Leon Levy [USA], Lord Weidenfeld [UK], James Tisch [USA], Mortimer B. Zuckerman [USA]

Founding Chairman: S. Daniel Abraham [USA]

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