

United States Will Continue Support for Emerging Iraqi Democracy

State Department official calls on world community to offer assistance

The U.S. State Department pledged continued U.S. support for the Iraqi people as they work to build a democracy and praised the efforts of Iraqis both inside Iraq and in the diaspora to ensure that the elections are open, free and fair.

“Though elections are just a first step, Iraqis continue to show the world that they will not allow violence or an atmosphere of fear to deter them from their goal of securing democracy,” said State Department spokesman Sean McCormack in a December 15 statement.

He said Iraqi civil society has demonstrated its determination “to build a country based on the principles of respect for rule of law, freedom of assembly, and freedom of speech,” and he called on the international community to offer its support to the Iraqi people in this effort.

Iraqis vote December 15 for representatives to serve a four-year term on Iraq’s first democratic, constitutional Council of Representatives. Iraqi expatriates began casting ballots in 15 countries across the Middle East, Europe, Australia and North America December 13.

For additional information, see [Iraq’s Political Process](#).

Following is the text of McCormack’s statement:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Spokesman

For Immediate Release

December 15, 2005

Statement by Sean McCormack, Spokesman

Today, Iraqis around the world go to the polls to elect a national parliament. The United States stands with the Iraqi people as they embrace democracy. Though elections are just a first step, Iraqis continue to show the world that they will not allow violence or an atmosphere of fear to deter them from their goal of securing democracy.

In the first two days of Out of Country (OCV) voting in this country (Dec. 13 and 14), many Iraqis and Iraqi-Americans traveled long distances and gave up pay to work at the polls so that each Iraqi was able to have his or her voice heard. Likewise, during OCV in fourteen other countries, the Iraqi Diaspora

worked together to ensure that the process would be open to all Iraqis regardless of ethnicity. Inside Iraq, candidates staged rallies, hosted debates, and worked long hours to ensure that the voting process today would be transparent, free and fair.

As Iraqi citizens elect their leaders today, Iraqi civil society continues to demonstrate a determination to build a country based on the principles of respect for rule of law, freedom of assembly, and freedom of speech. The Iraqi people deserve the continued support of the United States and the international community as they continue to create a free society.

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