

The Monthly Report of the Iraqi Parliament Monitor for January 2014

Number of sessions.....	6
Number of items.....	36
Number of non-executed items.....	13
Number of laws (first reading)	11
Number of laws (second reading)	3
Number of passed laws	5
Number of hosting	0
Number of read statements.....	2
Number of voting times	4
Number of read speeches	0
Number of hearings	0
Number of reports	1

On 4/1/2014, the Iraqi Council of Representatives (CoR) held its 3rd session of the 2nd term of the 4th legislative period chaired by the Speaker H.E. Osama al-Nujaifi:

- 179 MPs attended the session;

- H.E. al-Nujaifi confirmed that the CoR is still waiting for the budget of 2014 to be sent to the CoR when it is passed by the Council of Ministers;
- The CoR voted on the legislative proposal for the ratification of the Agreement for Supporting and Protecting Investment Between the Government of Iraq and the Government of Armenia submitted by the two Committees on Foreign Affairs and Economy and Investment;
- The CoR started voting on the legislative proposal for the Law of Labor submitted by the Committee on Labor and Social Affairs;
- H.E. al-Nujaifi decided to delay voting on this legislative proposal to give time for it to take its shape, calling on the Committee on Legal Affairs to take part with the committee concerned to review the legislative proposal and revise it to speed up its enactment soon.

On 7/1/2014, the CoR held its 4th session of the 2nd term of the 4th legislative period chaired by H.E. First Deputy Speaker Qusay al-Suhail:

- 189 MPs attended the session;
- The CoR voted on the legislative proposal for the Official Language Law submitted by the Committees on Legal Affairs, Culture and Media, Financial Affairs, Education and Higher Education;
- The Committee on Security and Defense recited a statement congratulating the Iraqi people on the anniversary of the formation of the Iraqi army, stressing on the importance of supporting the army and highlighting its role in protecting Iraq;

- Voting on the legislative proposal for the Law of Freedom of Expression, Association and Peaceful Demonstration, submitted by the Committees on Legal Affairs, Human Rights, Security and Defense, Culture and Media and Endowments and Religious Affairs was delayed;
- The first reading of the legislative proposal for the Law of Delimitation of Land Plots and Orchards within the Basic Design of the City of Baghdad and its Municipalities, submitted by the Committees on Legal Affairs, Agriculture, Water and Marches and Services and Reconstruction, was delayed to give it time to take its shape;
- The CoR finished the first reading of the legislative proposal for the Law of Honoring Scientists, Men of Letter, Artists and Researchers by the Award of the State, submitted by the Committee on Culture and Media;
- The CoR finished the first reading of the legislative proposal for the Law of Union Organization submitted by the Committee on Labor and Social Affairs. The Law purports to serve the union rights and freedoms, since the Law of Union Organization No. 52 for 1987 fails to meet the needs for supporting and protecting the labor sector, and it fails to correspond to the international standards for providing protection to the rights of union members and keep pace with the recent developments in this regard;
- The CoR finished the second reading of the legislative proposal for the Law of Ratifying the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Iraq and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the transfer of persons sentenced with freedom depriving punishments, submitted by the Committees on Foreign Relations, Security and Defense and Legal Affairs;

- The CoR finished the second reading of the legislative proposal for the Law of Ratifying the Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons between the Government of Iraq and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, submitted by the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Legal Affairs, Security and Defense and Human Rights.

On 9/1/2014, the CoR held its 5th session of the 2nd term of the 4th legislative period chaired by H.E. the Speaker Osama al-Nujaifi:

- 180 MPs attended the session;
- Voting on the legislative proposal for the Law of Treaties Execution, submitted by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, was delayed due to the lack of quorum of two thirds of the total number of MPs;
- H.E. al-Nujaifi inquired about the date for the arrival of the federal budget for 2014 at the CoR for voting, especially that it is overdue for its fixed arrival date. MP Safaa al-Deen al-Safi, state minister for parliament affairs, confirmed that the budget has been finished with from the financial side, pointing out that there are some issues raised by the KRG related to the budget, adding that he expects the talks between the central government and the KRG will reach to a conclusion within the next week to be reviewed by the Council of Ministers and then sent to the CoR;
- The CoR finished the first reading of the legislative proposal for the Law of the Work of Advisors submitted by the Committee on Legal Affairs;
- The CoR finished the first reading of the legislative proposal for the Law of First Amendment to the Law of Mass Graves Protection No. 5 for 2006

submitted by the two Committees on Martyrs and Political Victims and Prisoners and Human Rights;

- The CoR finished the first reading of the legislative proposal for the Law of Iraqi Parliamentarians Union submitted by the two Committees on Legal Affairs and the Members' Affairs and Parliamentary Development;
- The CoR finished the first reading of the legislative proposal for the Law of Turkmen Rights submitted by the Committee on Human Rights;
- The CoR finished the first reading of the legislative proposal for the Law of Passports submitted by the two Committees on Legal Affairs and Security and Defense;
- The CoR finished the first reading of the legislative proposal for the Law of Judiciary Fees No. 114 for 1981 submitted by the two Committees on Financial Affairs and Legal Affairs;
- The CoR finished the first reading of the legislative proposal for the Law of Social Protection submitted by the two Committees on Labor and Social Affairs and Woman, Family and Childhood;
- The session was adjourned to Saturday, 11/1/2014.

On 11/1/2014, the Iraqi Council of Representatives (CoR) held its 6th session of the 2nd term of the 4th legislative period chaired by the Speaker H.E. Osama al-Nujaifi:

- 183 MPs attended the session;
- The Committee on Foreign Affairs recited a statement pointing out that the Security Council has issued an official statement condemning the terrorist acts of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, an affiliate to al-Qaeda, perpetrated against the Iraqi people, and supporting the efforts the

government of Iraq is exerting in providing security and protection to the country. The statement of the parliamentary Committee valued high the statement of the Security Council, calling on the government to perform its patriotic duty and demolish the hiding places of terrorists in Anbar;

- The CoR voted in principle to approve continuing the work on legislating the Law of Regulating the Work of Advisors submitted by the Committee on Legal Affairs;
- The CoR voted in principle to continue reading the legislative proposal for the Law of Iraqi Parliamentarians Union submitted by the Committees on Civil Society Organizations, Legal Affairs and Members Affairs and Parliamentary Development;
- The CoR voted in principle to continue reading the legislative proposal for the Law of the Turkmen Rights submitted by the Committee on Human Rights;
- The CoR voted on legislative proposal for the first amendment to the Law of Iraqi Products Protection No. 11 for 2010 submitted by the two Committees on Economy and Investment and Legal Affairs;
- H.E. al-Nujaifi inquired about the inclusion of 22 MPs of martyrs with the court decision to discontinue the payment of MP pension salaries. In reply, MP Haider al-Ebadi, chairman of the Committee on Financial Affairs, confirmed that the law of discontinuing the payment of MP pensions applies to all MPs. Al-Ebadi noted that work is in progress to deal with the issue through the new Unified Law of Pension;

- Voting on the legislative proposal for the Law of Labor, submitted by the two Committees on Labor and Social Affairs and Legal Affairs, was delayed to a future session to be reviewed by the committees concerned.

On 14/1/2014, the Iraqi Council of Representatives (CoR) held its 7th session of the 2nd term of the 4th legislative period chaired by the Speaker H.E. Osama al-Nujaifi:

- 185 MPs attended the session;
- The Committee on Endowments and Religious Affairs recited a statement congratulating Islamic world in general and the Iraqi people with all its components on the anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH);
- The CoR voted to reject the legislative proposal for the Law of Ratifying the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Iraq and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the transfer of persons sentenced with freedom depriving punishments, submitted by the Committees on Foreign Relations, Security and Defense and Legal Affairs;
- The CoR voted in favor of the legislative proposal for the Law of Ratifying the Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons between the Government of Iraq and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, submitted by the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Legal Affairs, Security and Defense and Human Rights;
- Voting on the legislative proposal for the Law of Labor, submitted by the two Committees on Labor and Social Affairs and Legal Affairs, was delayed to the next Thursday session;

- The CoR finished the first reading of the legislative proposal for the first amendment to the Law of Rewarding Trainers in the Vocational Training Centers of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs submitted by the two Committees on Labor and Social Affairs and Financial Affairs. The Law aims to address the issue of the lack of training courses due to the lack of awards granted to the trainer, especially that the Council of Ministers authorized its amendment;
- The CoR finished the second reading of the Law of Social Protection submitted by the Committees on Labor and Social Affairs, Woman, Family and Childhood and Legal Affairs;
- H.E. the Speaker announced the formation of an ad-hoc parliamentary committee of members from the two Committees on Health and Education for the purpose of investigating into the issue of foul biscuits. The committee will leave to Amman to follow up the investigation being conducted and later submit a full report to the CoR.

On 28/1/2014, the Iraqi Council of Representatives (CoR) held its 8th session of the 2nd term of the 4th legislative period chaired by the Speaker H.E. Osama al-Nujaifi:

- 191 MPs attended the session;
- The CoR voted on the legislative proposal for the amendment to the Law of Judiciary Regulation No. 160 for 1979 submitted by the Committee on Legal Affairs;

- Voting on the legislative proposal for the Law of Treaties Execution, submitted by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, due to the lack of quorum of two thirds of MPs required for voting;
- The CoR finished voting on 23 of 157 Articles of the Law of Labor submitted by the two Committees on Labor and Social Affairs and Civil Society Organizations;
- The first reading of the draft proposal for the Law of the Federal Budget of Iraq for the fiscal year 2014 was delayed to the next Thursday session so that the Law can take its shape;
- The CoR finished the first reading of the legislative proposal for the Anti-Drugs and Sedative Materials Law submitted by the Committee on Health and Environment;
- The ad-hoc parliamentary committee investigating the issue of foul biscuits meant for school nutrition submitted an initial report pointing out that the committee has held a number of meetings with the Minister of Education H.E. Muhammad Tameem and his Deputy Mr. Ali al-Ibraheemi. Meetings were also held with the Committee on Health and Environment of the Jordanian Parliament and the Country Director of the World Food Program (WFP) in Baghdad;

The ad-hoc committee recommended thanks and appreciation to the Jordanian authorities, the Jordanian Parliament and its Committee on Health for the role they played in this issue. The committee noted that the documents and information it collected proves that the WFP has committed a clear violation of the rules and regulations related to food safety. The committee recommended that the WFP bears all the costs of

destroying the biscuits or compensates with alternative valid amounts of biscuits. The committee also recommended to conclude direct contracts with plants in Iraq instead of the WFP and to prevent the entry of invalid or suspicious materials into the country to protect the safety and health of the pupils and children of Iraq. The committee confirmed that there was an administrative fault in the legal wording of the official correspondence of the Ministries of Health, Education and Planning. The CoR is to be informed of the final outcomes of the committee after finishing the meetings with the Ministers of Health and Education.

The ad-hoc committee stressed that there was no foul biscuits except that the expiry date of one of the batches of 400 tons has been tampered with, explaining that large amounts of biscuits have been tested and proved suitable for human consumption. The report also added that the distribution of biscuits in some districts was conducted on the basis of a study on malnutrition. The committee voiced its reservation to the role of the Iraq commercial attaché in Jordan, stressing that the Ministry of Education is responsible for the distribution and the Ministry of Health is responsible for testing.