
BOOKS & JOURNALS

We have been asked by Pluto Press to publish the following apology:

Sheikh Khalid Bin Mahfouz and Nimir Petroleum: An apology by Michael Griffin and Pluto Press

In the autumn of 2003, Michael Griffin wrote and Pluto Press published the second edition of a book entitled "Reaping the Whirlwind", in which it was wrongly alleged that Sheikh Khalid Bin Mahfouz was a supporter and funder of terrorism, Osama Bin Laden and Al Qa'ida and that he had transferred funds to support terrorist activities through the National Commercial Bank of Saudi Arabia. It was further wrongly suggested that the Saudi authorities discovered this funding after a secret audit of National Commercial Bank and then forcibly bought Sheikh Khalid's shares in National Commercial Bank, stripped him of his Saudi passport and confined him to a military hospital to punish him for these activities. It also wrongly alleged that Nimir Petroleum Limited is owned by a funder and supporter of Osama Bin Laden and Al Qa'ida and that it was a party to negotiating with the Taliban regime in connection with an oil pipeline to be built across Afghanistan.

Michael Griffin and Pluto Press accept that there is no truth whatsoever in any of these serious and highly defamatory allegations. Neither Sheikh Khalid nor Nimir Petroleum have any connection with Osama Bin Laden and have never supported terrorism or Al Qa'ida in any way. There was never any secret audit of National Commercial Bank which uncovered any transfers by Sheikh Khalid which supported terrorism. Michael Griffin and Pluto Press accept that Sheikh Khalid and his family abhor terrorism in every way and apologise to Sheikh Khalid Bin Mahfouz and Nimir Petroleum for the grave distress and embarrassment that they caused. They have agreed to pay substantial damages which Sheikh Khalid and Nimir are donating to charity, together with a contribution to their legal costs.

We have also been asked by RoutledgeCurzon to publish the following apology:

Sheikh Khalid Bin Mahfouz: An apology by Rodney Wilson and Routledge Curzon

In January 2004, Rodney Wilson and RoutledgeCurzon published a book entitled "Economic Development in Saudi Arabia", in which it was wrongly alleged that Sheikh Khalid Bin Mahfouz was Osama Bin Laden's brother in law. It was further wrongly suggested that he was involved with the financing of Islamic militants and charities linked to Osama Bin Laden. It erroneously asserted that he was stripped of his Saudi Arabian citizenship. It also wrongly alleged that SAMA urged major changes at the National Commercial Bank as a result of Sheikh Khalid's management of the bank.

Rodney Wilson and RoutledgeCurzon accept that there is no truth whatsoever in any of these serious and highly defamatory allegations, which were made on the basis of erroneous source material. Sheikh Khalid has never had any connection with Osama Bin Laden and has never supported terrorism in any way. Rodney Wilson and RoutledgeCurzon accept that Sheikh Khalid and his family abhor terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations and apologise to Sheikh Khalid for the grave distress and embarrassment that they caused.

The Middle East Economic Databook 2004

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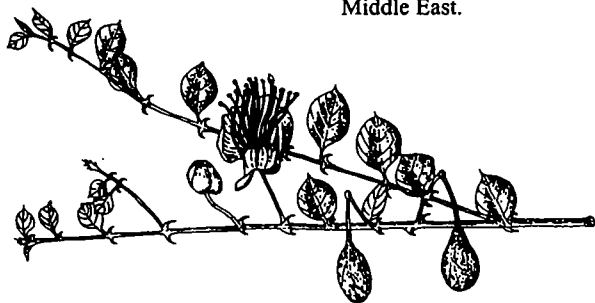
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Iraqi Interim Constitution - summary

The Transitional Administrative Law will be the Supreme Law of Iraq, during the transitional period. It will expire once a government is elected under a permanent constitution and take office. This will happen no later than 31st December 005. The transitional period will consist of two phases:

Phase I: On 30th June 2004, an Iraqi Interim Government will be vested with full sovereignty, and the Coalition Provisional Authority will dissolve. This Iraqi government will be formed through a process of widespread consultation with the Iraqi people and will govern according to the Transitional Administrative Law and an annex to be issued before the beginning of the transitional period.

Phase II: The Iraqi Transitional Government will take office after elections for the National Assembly. These elections will take place as soon as possible, but no later than 31st January 2005.

The Fundamental Principles of the Law include the following:

- The system of government in Iraq will be republican, federal, democratic, and pluralistic. Federalism will be based on geography, history, and the separation of powers and not on ethnicity or sect.
- The Iraqi Armed Forces will fall under the control of Iraq's civilian political leadership.

- Islam will be the official religion of the State and will be considered a source of legislation. The Law will respect the Islamic identity of the majority of the Iraqi people and guarantee the freedom of religious belief and practice.
- Arabic and Kurdish will be the official languages of Iraq.

The people of Iraq are sovereign and free. All Iraqis are equal in their rights and without regard to gender, nationality, religion, or ethnic origin and they are equal before the law. Those unjustly deprived of their citizenship by previous Iraqi regimes will have the right to reclaim their citizenship. The government will respect the rights of the people, including the rights:

- To freedom of thought, conscience, and expression;
- To assemble peaceably and to associate and organize freely;
- To justice; to a fair, speedy, and open trial and to the presumption of innocence;
- To vote, according to law, in free, fair, competitive and periodic elections;
- To file grievances against officials when these rights have been violated.

The Transitional Iraqi Government will contain checks, balances, and the separation of powers. The federal government will have the exclusive right to exercise sovereign power in a number of critical areas, including the management and control of the following:

- National security policy; independent militias shall be prohibited,
- Foreign policy, diplomatic representation, and border control,
- National fiscal, monetary and commercial policy,
- National resources; revenues from which must be spent on the needs of all of Iraq's regions in an equitable manner.

The Transitional Legislative Authority will be vested in a National Assembly, which will pass laws and help select and oversee the work of the executive authority. The National Assembly will be freely elected by the people of Iraq, under an electoral system designed to achieve representation of women of at least one-quarter of its members, as well as fair representation of all of Iraq's communities.

The Transitional Executive Authority will consist of the Presidency and the Council of Ministers, including the Prime Minister.

- The Presidency Council will consist of the President and two Deputy Presidents, and will be elected by the National Assembly as a group. The Presidency Council will represent the sovereignty of Iraq, may veto laws, and make appointments. All decisions of the Presidency Council will be taken unanimously.

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