

Arabic Article - English Translation

Washington: Violence Expected to Continue (until/even) after Bush's Presidency

Despite the announcement by the American Administration that it would not set a specific timeframe for the government of Nuri al-Maliki to assume (responsibility for) security affairs, and that it would never change its strategy but rather adopt a new tactic, the US Ambassador to Baghdad, Zalmay Khalilzad, confirmed that success in Iraq was possible by means of a realistic timetable.

Added to this and (just) two weeks before the US Congress elections, Khalilzad and the Commander of the US Forces in Iraq, Gen. George Casey, launched a wide-ranging (broad) attack on Iran and Syria, accusing both countries of seeking to split Iraq by means of their support for sectarian division, in co-operation with al-Qaeda.

Khalilzad said that the struggle to build a united democratic Iraq was the challenge which faced our age and which would define the future of the Middle East and world security. He added that the forces representing the camp of extremism, comprising not simply al-Qaeda but also Iran and Syria, were striving to impede their (ie US) progress with the Iraqis, that they (ie the extremist forces) feared (US) success in Iraq and wished to obstruct (US) activity by making them pay a high price and prolonging the war.

The British Foreign Secretary, Margaret Beckett, confirmed that there was no timetable to withdraw from Iraq, believing that the matter would proceed step by step and that fixing a misleading deadline to withdraw would be a mistake. She continued saying that the Allied Forces were now concentrating on preparing and equipping the Iraqi Forces to assume (responsibility for) security matters in the country. She considered that the Iraqis' handling of the disturbances witnessed a few days ago by (ie in) al-'Imara without any support from the Allied Forces was an extremely encouraging sign of the growing (developing) capability of their security apparatus.

In response to a question (ie When asked) about whether history would view the war in Iraq as a 'disaster for British policy', she replied "Yes! May be, may be not. But the important thing (to remember) is that we have responsibilities towards the Iraqi people and we accept them (are well aware of them) and this is what we are doing."