

14 FEB 2005

To whom it may concern,

We express our thankful to SBS for broadcasting our homeland news, and support all communities to be harmonic. But unfortunately some reporters try to reflect an ugly image to this honest channel by provoking hatred and racism among Iraqi religious groups .This in a bad way affects the relationship among Arabic communities.

One of these reporters is [redacted] He describes many times civil crisis in Iraq as a legitimate defense for the homeland, Iraq. Policemen, national guards, and shiaa people are being killed in the name of legitimate defense. He justifies the killing of others instead of explaining and describing the current political climate which has led Iraq to a sinister civil war. Promoting hatred, murder, terrorism is not in the name of Islam. [redacted] as a reporter is contracting his own profession. Thus passing judgment and promoting a religious hatred towards shiaa and rise of insurgent to defeat new Iraqi and American allies including brave Australian soldiers. Such interpretations of [redacted] as a reporter do not resemble the truth of what is happening in Iraq.

In one of his reports, which was on the 27th, January, 2005, [redacted] described Iraqi election as an American one and whoever supports this election is a mercenary to America. Thus his report led to a demonstration in front of one of the election centers in Sydney on the day of election which was followed by a fighting between electors and another group.

So we, as [redacted] are looking forward to prevent such reports to be broadcasting by Arabic SBS channel

Translation of _____ comments on Iraq issues as reported 27/ 1/2005

: Despite the political and security anarchy in Iraq, the plans of the election still going ahead. What are the expectation of this election and doe's it represent an exit of Iraq problems ?

: The picture of the Iraqi scene indicate that Iraq will be facing more dangers and the coming election in the next a few days doe's not represent the achievement of democracy other than serving specific purposes, mainly to the American or to their alliance from Iraqis.

Its result could turn a disaster against the future of Iraq and its people. The election campaign not more than a slogans and pictures of the nominees who are their people no nothing about them and the list of the parties are unknown neither the nominees able to be seen in public or drew thier election programs. These issues turn the elections look like a secret election which doe's not have guidelines or legal representation.

Another thing, the list of voters not has checked and hundred of thousands of people who will vote or most of them they say will be from Shiite who came from Iran and the Sunni still refused to take part and the expectations that only third of the Iraqis will cast their vote and the result will benefited the parties who are controlling the situation like Alwafaq party which lead by the prime minister Iyad Allawi and the national conference party lead by Ahmed al jalabi, beside the Shiite list which expect to win the majority of votes and it will emerge as a new direction of Iraq which will be completely different from what we all know about the Iraqi approximation since the establishment of Iraq.

Voting and registration centers was the target of resistance and armed groups like Al Zarkawi group which associated with Al qaieda who killed daily tens of Iraqi police and citizens in a scary campaign to hinder the election and forbid the Iraqi citizens casting their votes after its proofed that all security measures taken by the govt was unable to stop the circle of violence which will be expected on the rise dramatically in the next coming days.

The political and security scene indicate that the elections will not be more than a democratic decoration and cover up on plans and goals has no relations with any of the slogans which was presented as the reasons to invade Iraq.

: Amed Al Jalabi suggested the establishment of Shiite region in the southern Iraq similar to the Kurds at north. What is the nature of this idea and what are the purposes behind it ?

: This idea not a new one its all ready been discussed by many of Iraqis Shiite groups and Iran too, it indicate that the plan of dividing Iraq became too close. if this plan achieved that mean Iraq will be truly divided for three regions.

Kurdish at the north , Shiite at the south and Sunni at the middle and this look like what Iraq will ended up, and the future style of governing Iraq will be decided from this divided plan and the same as the Kurds became independent from the central regime in Baghdad during Saddam rules . with support from USA and Western countries the Shiite will forced them self by election or by common knowledge with support from Iran the establishment of their region in the south an that may behind the American determination to held the election despite the results . What the American looking at is a style of regime to prepare their withdrawn from that country , then leave the issues to be fixed by the Iraqis them self .

: Is this has any relation to what the American had lost or doe's that mean the operation of invading Iraq did not achieve its goal ?

: It is clear the USA is facing un easy situation in Iraq in all levels security , politically , and financially. President Bush asked the congress to allocate \$80 billion to cover the cost of war in Iraq and Afghanistan , that's mean the war against Iraq and Afghanistan cost the American treasury more than \$250 billion with out getting any benefit which will make the American citizens wondering about the future and the benefit of this war and what losses drain the American economy .

After the death yesterday of 37 of their soldiers in Iraq 31 of them in a helicopter crash in the Rutbba west of the country 4 in Anbar 2 in Baghdad and the number of victims of American soldiers predicted on the rise with the election too close .

The Iraqi resistance will try with all means to proof it self on the ground and get more sympathy of Iraqis .

In fact the American recognized that Allawi govt and Iraqi police are unable to deal with the sharp raising of violence and their goal now could be summarize in go ahead of the election, establishment of police forces to take the responsibility on their behalf and leave this swamp in any price . the complicity of security and politics inside Iraqis body bigger than dealing with it by staying at that country and the continuation of the Iraqi situation will not give USA a chance to deal with Iran atomic file which consider a direct threat for both USA and Israel . especially if they plan a direct strike to Iran that will be the key to open another frontier in that part of the middle east .



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Audience Affairs

14 March 2005

POSTED

Thank you for your correspondence over the current affairs broadcast contained in the Arabic language radio program and your concerns regarding the reporter, [REDACTED]. The broadcast by SBS on 27th January 2005 has been investigated by SBS Audience Affairs Office.

Language groups cover a number of different communities, representing a variety of opinions, beliefs and cultural sensitivities. In the lead up to the Iraqi elections, the tensions between various members of the Arabic language audience were understandably heightened.

The report by [REDACTED] aired on 27th January, was presented as news commentary and took the form of a question and answer session with another journalist, [REDACTED]. In preparing the broadcast, the journalists drew on their extensive specialised knowledge of the area.

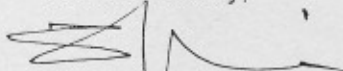
[REDACTED] who is based in Jordan, is an experienced journalist who has worked in senior editorial positions for many years in the Middle East. He has been a respected correspondent for SBS for twenty five years. [REDACTED] is a journalist of many years standing with SBS. He also works for a range of Middle Eastern media outlets.

In preparing for the broadcast, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] relied on a number of sources for the material they presented. News sources included: the BBC and a range of newspapers, including the Jordanian Daily Newspaper Alrai. It is unfortunate that these attributions were not clearly defined within the report. However, despite this, SBS believes the content is consistent with requirements of the SBS Codes of Practice. The Codes of Practice are the guidelines to which SBS holds itself accountable.

If you consider this response to be inadequate you are entitled to take your concerns to the Australian Broadcasting Authority.

SBS appreciates you and all signatories to the correspondence, bringing your concerns forward and is pleased of the opportunity to detail its response on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Sally Beggie
Audience Affairs Manager