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TO: Oil Change International
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SUBJECT: Iraq Survey Results

Introduction

Below is a summary of Iraqi attitudes toward key provisions of the draft Oil Law as it was passed by Iraq's cabinet in February, 2007. The data are derived from national surveys of the Iraqi general public conducted in June and July, 2007. Each survey interviewed a representative sample of 2200 citizens age 18 and over, in all 18 provinces of Iraq. Fieldwork was conducted by KA Research Ltd., on behalf Custom Strategic Research in Washington DC. A set of graphic charts is appended.

Key Findings

1. Iraqis overwhelmingly believe that wise use of their country's oil resources *can* provide them with prosperity in both the short and long term.
 - This is true among all ethnic and sectarian groups and across all geographic areas of the country, as fully eight-in-ten survey respondents agree.
 - The finding is especially pronounced in the South and South Central regions of Iraq (93%) and in the oil-rich metropolitan areas of Kirkuk and Basra, where virtually all respondents concur.
2. More than six-in-ten (63%) of all respondents prefer that Iraqi companies rather than foreign firms take the lead in developing Iraq's oil (32% "strongly," 31% "moderately").
 - There are no geographic, ethnic or sectarian pockets of preference for foreign companies to develop Iraq's oil resources.
 - Only in the Northern/Kurdistan region do as many as 40% of respondents voice a preference for foreign companies.

- Even in areas and among groups where the preference for Iraqi companies is more muted, “strong” support for foreign companies rarely exceeds 20% and is more often in the single digits.
3. Fewer than one respondent in ten (9%) say that the government has provided “a lot” of information on the content of the draft Oil Law, with 33% saying the government has provided “a little” information, 30% “not very much” and 28% “none at all.”
- Residents of the Baghdad and South Central regions of the country are more likely than Iraqis in other areas to say that the government has provided at least “a little” information on the content of the law.
4. Whatever their view on the amount of information provided by the government, less than one quarter of Iraqis judged that information to be adequate for them to feel informed on the issue.
- A similar geographic breakdown can be observed here, as those in the Baghdad and South Central regions are more likely than others to say that the level of information has been at least “somewhat adequate,” but even in these areas it is a distinct minority view.
 - While Iraqi Shia, whose parties control the government, are more likely than Sunnis to say that information emanating from the government has been sufficient, a clear majority (62%) holds that such information has been largely if not totally lacking.
 - Nine-in-ten Sunni respondents pronounce government information inadequate.

Conclusion

More than three months after Iraq’s cabinet approved a draft Oil Law, and as parliament was reportedly preparing to debate it, interviews with ordinary Iraqis illuminate some baseline attitudes as to the potential for their oil reserves, the level of information they are receiving and who should be in the driver’s seat when it comes to developing the country’s oil capacity.

- Iraqis generally agree on both the adequacy of their oil reserves to provide prosperity for them and their children and the inadequacy of the information they are getting regarding the future management of that precious resource.
- The lack of credible information on the content and consequences of the draft Oil Law and on the debate surrounding the future of Iraq’s oil resources may undercut the legitimacy of both the process and any legislation that it ultimately produces.
- Any law that appears to favor foreign companies at the expense of indigenous firms is likely to meet with significant resistance on the Iraqi street.