

WIT Trainer in Iraq Conducts Thought Provoking Interviews about Iraqi Elections

Hayder is a trainer for the WIT Program at Iraqi Al Amal Association in Baghdad and an active citizen journalist and blogger. This article highlights some of the interviews he conducted around the recent Iraqi parliamentary elections for BBC and Al Jazeera.



The Iraqi people displayed optimism and hope for a better future when discussing the parliamentary elections in Iraq in March 2010. Mr. Hayder conducted interviews with participants of different ages, genders and backgrounds to determine the willingness of Iraqis to participate in the elections and examine their perspectives of the democratic voting process.

Many of the interviewees expressed their willingness to vote, explaining that it is an important step towards change for their country. They are hopeful for a better Iraq and trust that this change will happen after the elections. **“We need peace, security, and employment, but peace is our fundamental request,”** said an Iraqi man who was interviewed by Hayder.

During his interviews, Haydar found that the most crucial questions were those that addressed the expectations for change in society after the elections. The people interviewed agreed on the need for employment, security, peace, electricity, women’s rights, services, and better housing in Iraqi society. They expressed hope that the upcoming elected officials will work hard to secure these needs and rebuild Iraq. **“I think this election is better than previous elections, mainly because of the presence of international observers, which have helped make it more democratic. I trust that change will happen. I pray that the right candidate will be honest, love his country and work for its good because Iraq has suffered a lot,”** commented an interviewee.

Women’s participation in the elections was also a central topic discussed in Hayder’s interviews. A lady interviewed by Hayder expressed her confidence in the elections and her hope for change. She stated, **“I am very confident that there will be a tremendous change after the elections. I am delighted about women’s participation in this election and I think it is a good first step towards more women’s involvement.”**

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