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THE EXTENSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS MANDATE FOR IRAQ: IS THE IRAQI PARLIAMENT BEING IGNORED?

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND OVERSIGHT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

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Appendix IV
Az-Zaman Newspaper, front page, November 27th 2007

Mr. DELAHUNT. Thank you, Mr. Jarrar.

Thank you for the very illuminating testimony from all of our witnesses. Let me suggest to you that we will be calling on you for future hearings because this is clearly a very significant issue that impacts this institution in a very substantial way.

I would just observe that the bypassing of the Iraqi Parliament or the legislative body is not necessarily unknown in the United States. We have observed it. Here it is referred to as signing statements. That is not the subject of today's hearings.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Yes, it is.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Well, we can make it that. We don't have enough time, Mr. Rohrabacher. I am going to go and cede time. I will save my own questions at the end because I want others to have an opportunity to explore your testimony and pose questions. I would just ask very briefly two questions. The Council of Representatives, the Iraqi Parliament, were directly elected by the people of Iraq. Is that accurate, Dr. Katzman?

Mr. KATZMAN. Yes, it is, sir.

Mr. DELAHUNT. So they were directly elected like those of us sitting on this side of the dais were directly elected by the people?

Mr. KATZMAN. Well, it is a different structure, however. It is a party list structure.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Right.

Mr. KATZMAN. Yes.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Now, in terms of the Council of Ministers, which in our political jargon would be described as the cabinet, are they elected directly by the people? They are not? Dr. Katzman, could you articulate that verbally?

Mr. KATZMAN. The Constitution, and I will defer to Mr. Saliba, gives the largest block in Parliament the right to designate a Prime Minister. The Shiite Islamic block chose Mr. Maliki after some tur-

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