



International Association of Contemporary Iraqi Studies

3rd Annual Conference, 16-17 July 2008

SOAS, University of London

Statement of purpose of panel to be presented at the conference.
For details of the conference programme go to www.iraqistudies.org

Convenor: Géraldine Chatelard, Institut français pour le Proche-Orient, Amman,
gchatelard@yahoo.com

Title: Aspects of the recent Iraqi displacement crisis

Abstract:

This panel offers to explore some aspects of the recent displacement crisis that has unfolded in the context of the 'New Iraq'. More than one million people are estimated to have been internally displaced due to sectarian and generalised violence in Iraq since early 2006, adding up to the tens of thousands more displaced by ongoing military operations, and more than one million by the abuses of the former regime of Saddam Hussein. In addition, two-third of the 2 million Iraqis that have taken refuge in neighbouring countries have left Iraq in the last two years, and many have begun further journeys to North America, Western Europe and Australia.

Looking at the situation in Iraq and in neighbouring countries, panellists will explore a set of issues with a focus on policies and their immediate and long-term impacts at the political, economic and societal levels: the nexus between internal displacement and movements across borders, the exile of the educated middle-class, entry and reception policies in neighbouring countries, the humanitarian aspects of the crisis, and the dynamics of sectarianism, economic exclusion and human insecurity in population displacement.