

## U.S. and Allies Implementing Strategy to Reduce Violence in Iraq



Multi-National Force-Iraq Commanding General U.S. Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr. and U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad conduct a joint press conference in Baghdad on Oct. 24, 2006. (Official Department of Defense photo.)

The United States and other countries that support Iraq are pursuing a strategy to reduce the sources of violence there, Gen. George W. Casey Jr. said at a press conference in Baghdad on Oct. 24 with U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad. The strategy includes defeating the extremists who are fomenting killing, increasing Iraq's capability to provide for its own security, and expanding the involvement of the international community in supporting Iraq.

There are three key elements to reduce violence in Iraq, Gen. Casey said.

- First, induce Iraqi political and religious leaders who have control or influence with groups in Baghdad to agree to stop sectarian violence.
- Second, help Iraqi leaders complete a national compact. Key political forces must make decisions and reach agreements on a number of outstanding issues on which Iraqis differ.
- Third, persuade Sunni insurgents to lay down their arms and accept national reconciliation. (Press conference [transcript](#).)

## Casey: Nature of Conflict Evolving to Struggle for Political and Economic Power

The situation in Iraq remains difficult, Gen. George W. Casey Jr. said Oct. 24. The commanding general of Multi-National Force-Iraq said several factors add to the complexity.

Since the December 2005 elections, the nature of the conflict in Iraq has evolved from an insurgency against the Coalition to a struggle for the division of political and economic power among Iraqis.

Several groups are working actively to disrupt the political process, he said.

- Al Qaeda and the Iraqis that support them are trying to foment sectarian violence.

- Death squads and militant illegal armed groups are attacking civilians in the center of the country and have caused security problems there and in the south.

- The resistance, insurgents that primarily fight the Coalition, claim to be the honorable resistance to foreign occupation in Iraq.

- External actors -- such as Syria and Iran -- provide support to extremist and terrorist groups in Iraq.

Other factors include Ramadan, and the fact that the new government is just five months old.

## South Korean Service Members Improving Quality of Life for Irbil Residents

Nearly 2,200 troops from the Republic of Korea are providing medical services, vocational training and helping with reconstruction projects at Camp Zaytun, Irbil, in northern Iraq.

More than 1,000 local residents have taken classes on topics ranging from computers to cooking to maintaining and repairing home appliances, generators and cars. The residents helped devise a curriculum that would help benefit the local economy, and are learning how to teach the classes themselves, so the training is sustainable.

The Zaytun Division service members have also established literacy programs; built community centers; trained and advised Iraqi army and police units; and constructed 15 schools, 10 public health clinics and 60 village water wells. ([Link to MNF-Iraq story.](#))



Hospital Director Col Lee Hae Seol, left, talks with patients at Zaytun Hospital. (Official Department of Defense photo.)