



“Survey Results of the Withdrawal of the U.S. Troops from Iraq”

The Center Of Information For Research And Development with Tammuz Organization for Social Development accompanied by The Center of Maslah for The Human Resources Development had held a Survey about the withdrawal of the U.S. Troops from Iraq, Targeting the university students from Baghdad, Erbil, Anbar and Thee qar within a sample of contingent 1257 personnel, where the proportion of 42.5% females and 57.5% males.

Survey aimed to engage students in Iraqi Universities in the country’s public matters, after the exclusion and marginalization. This segment in particular and young people in general suffered from the banishment from the general political affairs and participation in managing the country through the previous political era (1968-2003) A.D., and to introduce their views and perceptions about the future of Iraq after the withdrawal of the U.S. Troops.

The age of the group we have had surveyed ranged between the ages of 18-25, taking a random samples from all faculties and departments of the following universities (Baghdad, Mustanseryiah, Nahrain, Technology, Anbar, Thee qar and Saladin (in Erbil). A random segment from different provinces is aimed to have a proper survey based on a sound ground for different parts of Iraq.

The survey contained 13 questions about the U.S. Troops withdrawal, and the ability to keep trainers and give them immunity, and the future of Iraq after the withdrawal, the security situation in the period ahead, and what are the possibilities for Iraqi forces to fill the void after the withdrawal, and the possibility of the emergence of militias and the return of sectarian violence, as well as to the nature of the American

presence in Iraq, is it an occupation or a liberation? And did the American presence result for the last eight years in Iraq?

The combat units of the U.S., is going to complete its withdrawal from the Iraqi lands to implement the second phase of the security pact signed between the Iraqi government and the Government of the United States in 2008, after the completion of the first phase of withdrawal from Iraqi cities in 2009, and this likely is changing the relationship between Washington and Baghdad, it is assumed that the United States functions in Iraq is going to be focused on its diplomatic mission, consisting of 16 thousand person, when before the focus was on military intervention.

This withdrawal after the presence of the combat forces of U.S. for the last eight years, which was given the character of an occupation by the UN Security Council in the resolution No. 1483 of 2004 , and from this date Iraq has witnessed constructive political events, including writing a permanent constitution for Iraq and its referendum, parliamentary elections and the formation of three Iraqi governments, as well as political failures represented by the widespread corruption in the government's institutions, and the centralization of political sectarianism, and the lack of social and economic serious reforms for the disadvantaged class of the population.

The survey showed that 39.5% of the students we have had surveyed, concerned about the deteriorating of security situation after the withdrawal, answering our question (Will the withdrawal of U.S. troops lead to deterioration of the security. 55% of the students the inability of Iraqi forces to maintain security after the withdrawal, answering our question (Do you think that the Iraqi government has the ability to manage the security file on its own without the support of allied forces?), While only 20% granted confidence Iraqi forces, the lack of trust of the Iraqi military by the citizens stems from several reasons, including lack of readiness of the military and the spread of financial and administrative corruption and the penetration of the bad members within the security forces as well as building the security apparatus on the basis of quotas.

As for the answer to our question about (The possibility of the emergence of armed militias in Iraq again after the withdrawal of U.S. forces?), 36.7% of the students predicted emergence of armed militias and the return of sectarian violence, while the Survey revealed that 48.1% expect the emergence of limited of those militias, Marjaheen ability of Iraqis to cross the stage of the sectarian war. 68.1% of respondents predicted the regional countries to increase the interference in internal Iraqi affairs after the withdrawal.

45.3% of the respondents that the U.S. withdrawal is not real but a redistribution of forces, as an answer to our question (How would you describe the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq?), Noting that the U.S. embassy in Baghdad is one of the largest embassies in the world, in addition to the presence of hundreds workers in the security companies, and military trainers, this in itself is a presence of foreign forces on Iraqi territory, while 37% expect that the withdrawal is real but temporary.

63.8% has supported the withdrawal, after being asked about their support or rejection of keeping U.S. troops in the country, this support came despite the difficulties and challenges facing Iraq after the withdrawal, including fear of a return to sectarian tensions, and increased Iranian influence, and increasing the attacks by terrorist organizations, In addition to the weakness and corruption of Iraqi institutions, and other social problems. 21.7% asked for the existence of U.S. troops in Iraq.

The survey showed that 50.6% of the students now say, they feel relieved of the U.S. withdrawal over 34.9% of them, for they are concerned about the withdrawal and for several reasons, including the inability of Iraqi forces and political conflicts taking place between the forces of power, and fear of civil war and partition of Iraq. While 14.5% did not care to withdraw the U.S., considering it none of their concern.

As for our question about the nature of the U.S. presence, which lasted eight years in Iraq, it was considered as an occupation for 77.5%, 13.5% saw it as liberalization of the dictatorship. As for the nature of the political power, which the Americans contributed in building during their stay in Iraq, 54.6% saw it the authority has chaotic nature, while 39.3% considered it a corrupt authority.

The survey revealed that 37% of students do not know the future of the country, and do not know where Iraq is heading after the withdrawal, and what are the next steps, answering our question (Where do you think Iraq would be heading after the complete withdrawal of U.S. troops?), While 34.5% expected Iraq moving towards a better future, as for the rest (i.e. 28.5%) they expected that Iraq is heading to the future of the worst.

The survey, which included university students from Baghdad, TheeQar, Al-Anbar and Erbil, Had raised another issue remains controversial, which is the military trainers and giving them immunity, as they were asked (Are you with the existence of Americans trainers?), The rejection of 59.1% of respondents view the use of trainers, rejecting the existence of any trainer on the Iraqi territory, while 40.9% agreed to the existence of the trainers, noting that the Iraqi forces are still in the process of incorporation and the need for international expertise on advanced training methods and modern weapons and modern military plans. The subject matter of granting immunity to the trainers 86.2% of the total respondents rejected granting immunity to these trainers.

The last question in the survey, conducted by our team, what were the key findings the U.S. presence in Iraq led to?; and here we gave the students the freedom to choose more than one answer, where between 29%, that the American presence behind the spread of corruption and chaos in the state and society, while the view of 28.4% of them were that the presence of the U.S. broadcasted religious intolerance and sectarian and ethnic in Iraq, and 27.1% indicated that the American presence has led to increase rates of poverty and deprivation, unemployment and crime in Iraq.

Taking a closer look at the results of the survey the fear of the respondents is noticeable from several issues that can be left by U.S. withdrawal from Iraq, the first of these issues is the fear of a deteriorating security situation after the withdrawal, what would they leave of a security void, can be exploited by the terrorist groups to carry out violence lead to a loss of lives of innocent people, and the possibility and the ability of Iraqi security forces to fill this void, taking on the security file, and managing it professionally, the fear of the next was not

limited to the students only, but through a number of politicians and security leaders, and in many occasions, fear of withdrawal, and its impact on the security situation in the country, and some of them even questioned the ability of our military to grasp the security file, demanding the U.S. troops to stay, but we must pay attention whether the U.S. troops over eight years of presence on Iraqi territory managed to maintain security and prevent terrorist operations and the killing of civilians?.

The other concern that results of the survey revealed was the influence of neighboring countries and the intervention in internal Iraqi affairs, which is very obvious to everyone, where Iraq has become a scene to settle international feuds and the absence of the united Iraqi stance against the international intervention. The neighboring countries throughout the previous years was able to support and harness some of the armed groups to carry out terrorist attacks, and fabricating chaos and anxiety in Iraq, in order to make Iraq an arena for settling feuds with the United States, and it appears from the results of the survey of the respondents, fear of re-emergence of the militias, especially with a movement of some armed groups in an attempt to pick up their pieces , to take advantage of the American withdrawal, and return to implement its terrorist operations, and here is likely for Iraq to go back to the years of the sectarian tensions, especially with the presence of many destinations feed the sectarian thinking, and play on sectarian agendas of internal and external alike.

not a small figure of students' did support the withdrawal, expressing their relief for U.S. troops leaving Iraq, many of them considered that the withdrawal is not real, but it is a re-distribution of U.S. forces, and under other names, especially since the United States of America had the largest diplomatic mission consisting of 16 thousand personnel, as well as the presence of hundreds of contractors and military experts, the U.S. side demands to grant them immunity, and this was turned down by the social and political forces, but remains the need for military trainers to train Iraqi forces on the arms purchased, that the number of the trainers not great.

After eight years to bring down the dictatorship, and the presence of American forces during that time in Iraq, the majority of students considered this presence an occupation, and the power behind it, is the power of a chaotic and corrupt, and the reason is why the state institutions suffered from corruption and the spread of chaos and crisis, conflicts and instability, and this presence behind the spread of sectarian and ethnic intolerance and the spread of poverty and social feuds, where a quarter of Iraq population are under the poverty line.

U.S. forces will supplement its withdrawal at the end, and the question remains "Can Iraq overcome the problems represented by those sectarian tensions and regional interventions and maintaining security and fighting terrorism and purifying the institutions from corruption, and work on building them on solid foundations, and to overcome social problems such as poverty, unemployment and the advancement of women."

The following are major events linked to the main U.S. forces existence in Iraq since 2003:

- 1- March 20th 2003: the beginning of the Iraqi war with operation the U.S. named it "Iraq Freedom"
- 2- April 9th 2003: the entrance of the American occupation forces and the breakdown of Saddam Hussein's regime.
- 3- May 1st 2003: the U.S. president George W. Bush announced the "end of battles" and continuing the "war on terror".
- 4- October 2nd 2003: the admission of not finding any mass destruction weapons.
- 5- October 16th 2003: resolution 1511 issued by the United Nations and provides for the establishment of a multinational force led by the U.S.
- 6- January 10th 2007: U.S. President George W. Bush announces sending thirty thousand additional troops to Iraq.
- 7- November 27th 2008: Parliament approved a security pact with Washington, which provides for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq in 2011.

8- February 27th 2009: U.S. President Barack Obama announced the withdrawal of the greater part of U.S. forces at the end of August 2010 before a full withdrawal in 2011

9- June 30th 2009: U.S. troops withdrawal from Iraqi cities.

10- August 3rd 2011: start of negotiations on keeping American military trainers after 2011. On September 8 the Pentagon confirms their support for keeping between three thousand and four thousand soldier.

11- October 21st 2011: Obama declared the departure of 39 thousand of U.S. troops in Iraq remain till the end of the year. The two countries and wants to keep forces to train the Iraqi army, but Washington call for judicial immunity for its military trainers which Baghdad rejected.

12- December 15th 2011: the U.S. Military officially ended the war and took down its flag and the U.S.A. flag.

13- December 31st 2011: the last U.S. troops out of Iraq according to the security pact.

Description of survey

The young people had been determined for the purpose of conducting survey slice of university students was selected specifically because they are the young educated class and conscious, where the ages mostly between 18 to 25 years old and they were selected from four different provinces of the Baghdad, TheeQar, Al-Anbar and Erbil to represent parts of Iraq, a different vulnerability to the questions of the survey and represent a wide spectrum of Iraqis geographically, and on this basis a random samples were taken from university students in these provinces and from different faculties and departments, without focus or neglect of any college or department and the participation of both genders.

Presenting results

Various ways have been adopted in presenting the results and to deliver them to the reader clearly, where they adopted the graphs and percentages as well as the real figures, and results will be presented on three stages:

1 – The first phase: Results include the total of all the provinces.

2 - The second phase: includes the results of each province separately.

3 – The third stage: including the display of the results have been compared, where is the comparison between the answers of the provinces to the questions.

Number Of Surveys

the ratio	number of surveys	the name of the province
52.1%	655	Baghdad
17.5%	220	Thy Qar
17.2%	216	Al Anbar
13.2%	166	Erbil
100%	1257	total

The Number Of Males And Females

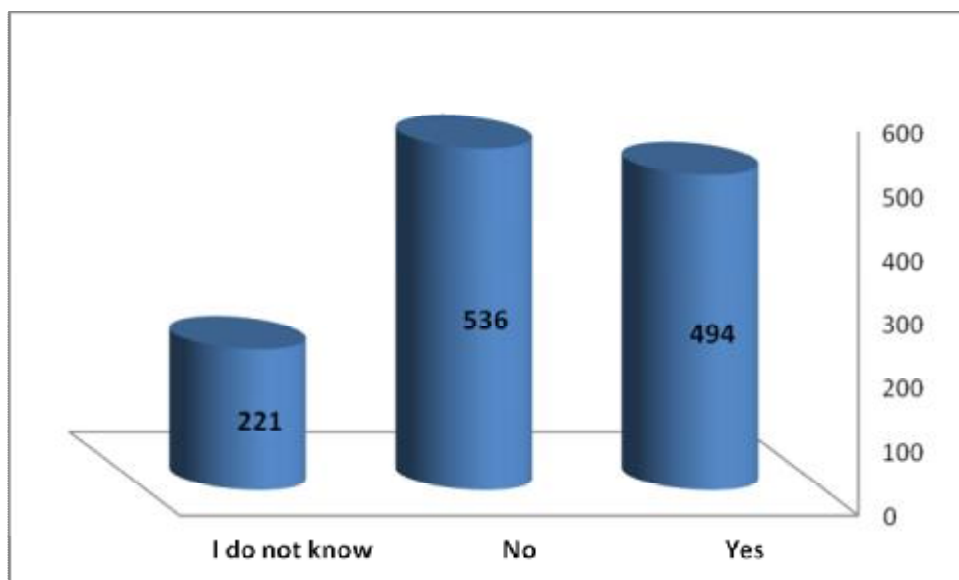
there are 23 survey's forms where the gender haven't been determined so they weren't included in the table below

<u>the ratio</u>	<u>number</u>	<u>gender</u>
57.5%	709	<u>Males</u>
42.5%	525	<u>Females</u>
100%	1234	<u>total</u>

Q1-

Do you think will result in the withdrawal of U.S. troops to the deteriorating security situation?

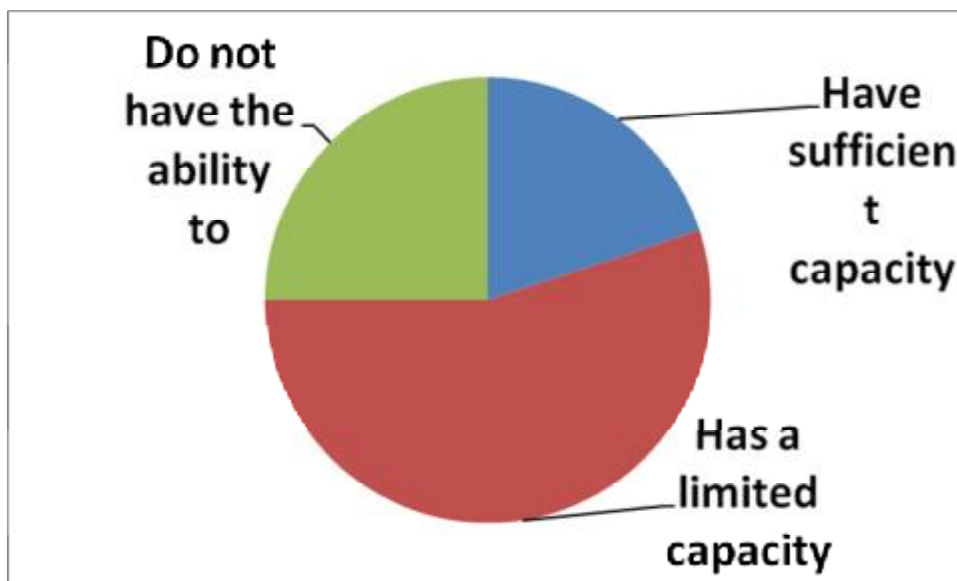
Yes	494	39.5%
No	536	42.8%
I do not know	221	17.7%
	1251	100%



-Q2

Do you think that the Iraqi government currently has the capacity to manage the security file on its own without the support of allied forces ?

Have sufficient capacity	241	20%
Has a limited capacity	666	55%
Do not have the ability to	302	25%
	1209	100%

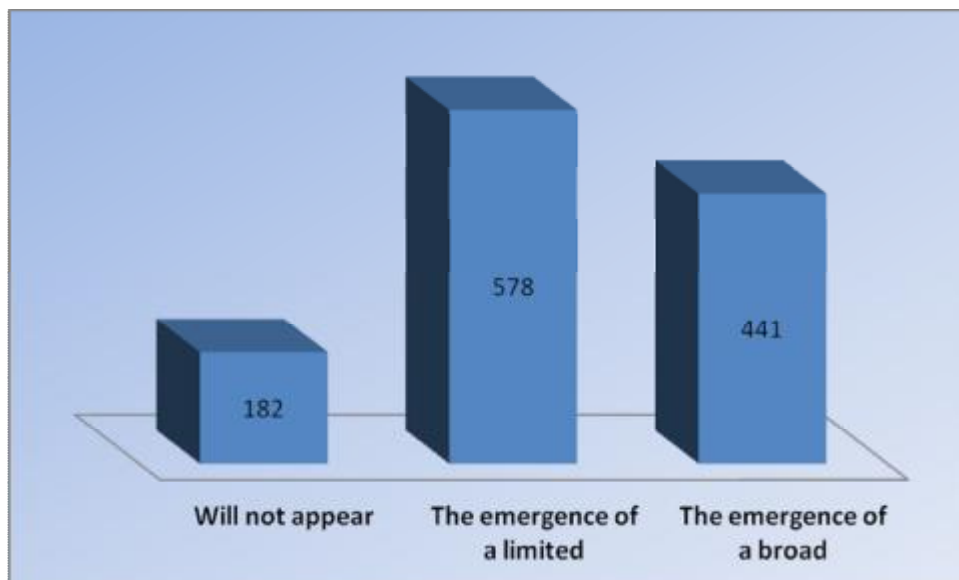


Q3-

Your opinion, what are the possible emergence of armed militias in Iraq again after the withdrawal of U.S. troops?

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The emergence of a broad	441	36.7%
The emergence of a limited	578	48.1%
Will not appear	182	15.2%
	1201	100%

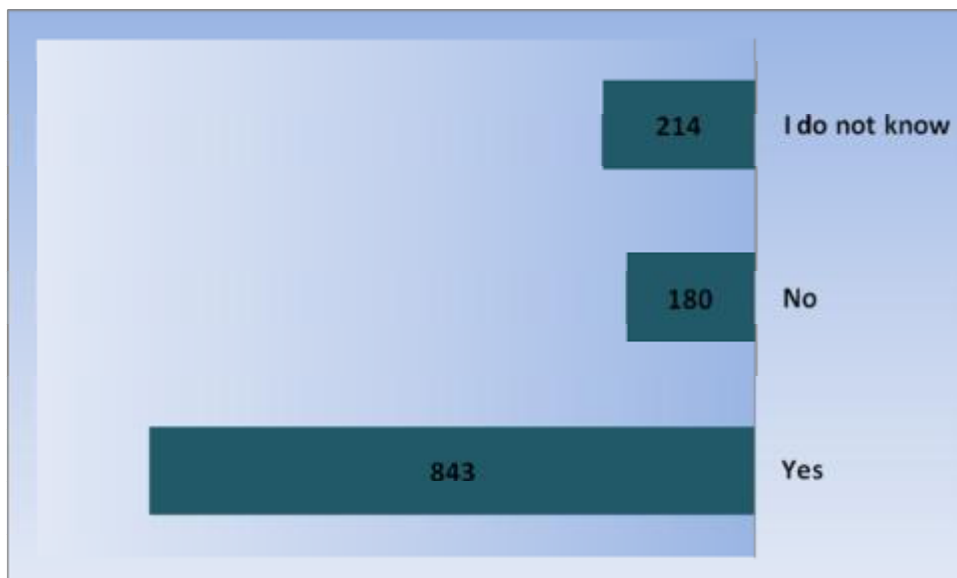


Q4-

Do Setsegl regional countries to increase the withdrawal of its intervention in the affairs of Iraq?

Yes	843	68.1%

No	180	14.6%
I do not know	214	17.3%
	1237	100%

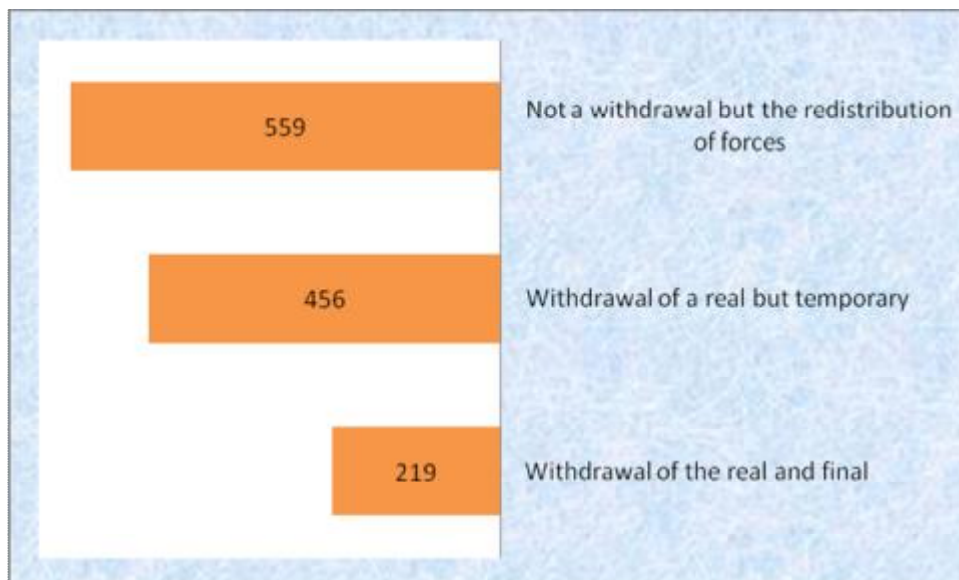


Q5

-How would you describe the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq?

Withdrawal of the	219	17.7%

real and final		
Withdrawal of a real but temporary	456	37%
Not a withdrawal but the redistribution of forces	559	45.3%
	1234	100%

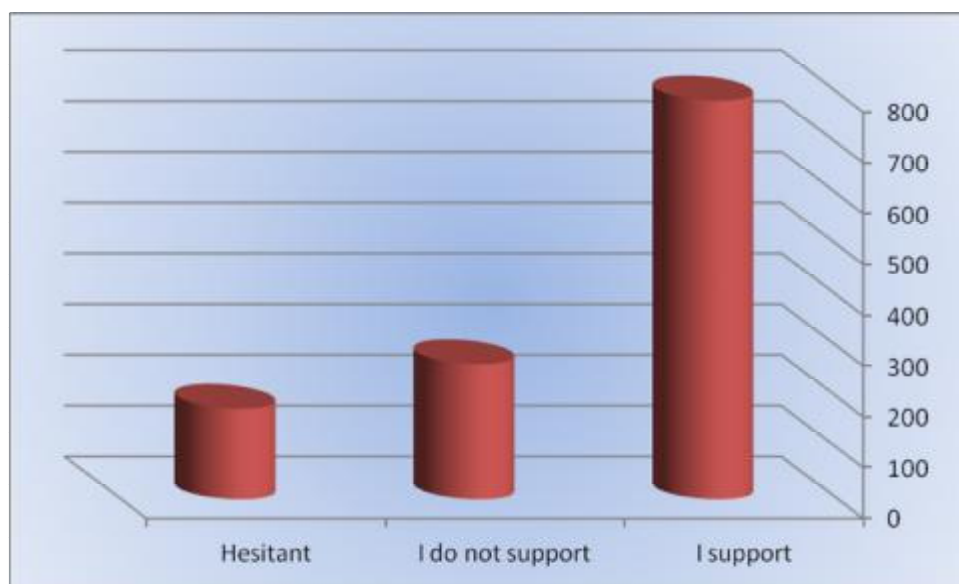


Q6-

Do you support the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq?

I support	786	63.8%
I do not support	267	21.7%

Hesitant	179	14.5%
	1232	100%

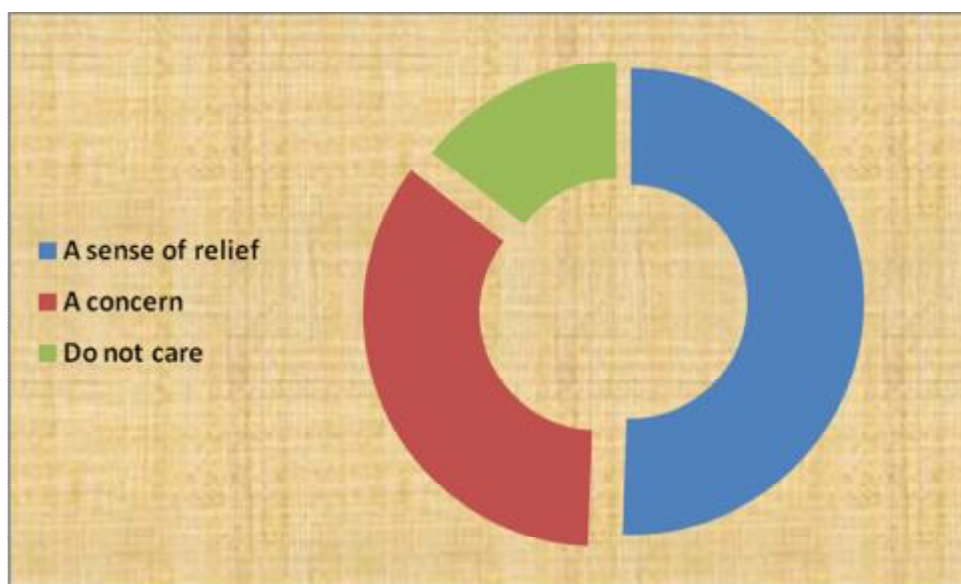


Q7-

What are your feelings and you see the U.S. forces withdraw from Iraq?

A sense of relief	625	50.6%
A concern	431	34.9%

Do not care	180	14.5%
	1236	100%

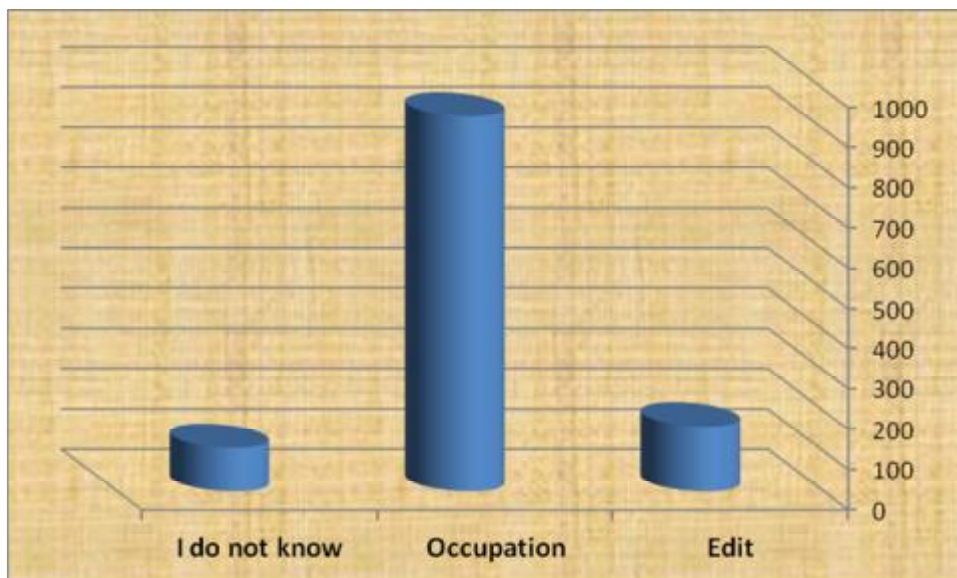


Q8-

Now, troops descend on the verge of pulling out of Iraq and what is called presence, which lasted more than eight years?

Edit	162	13.5%

Occupation	933	77.5%
I do not know	109	9%
	1204	100%

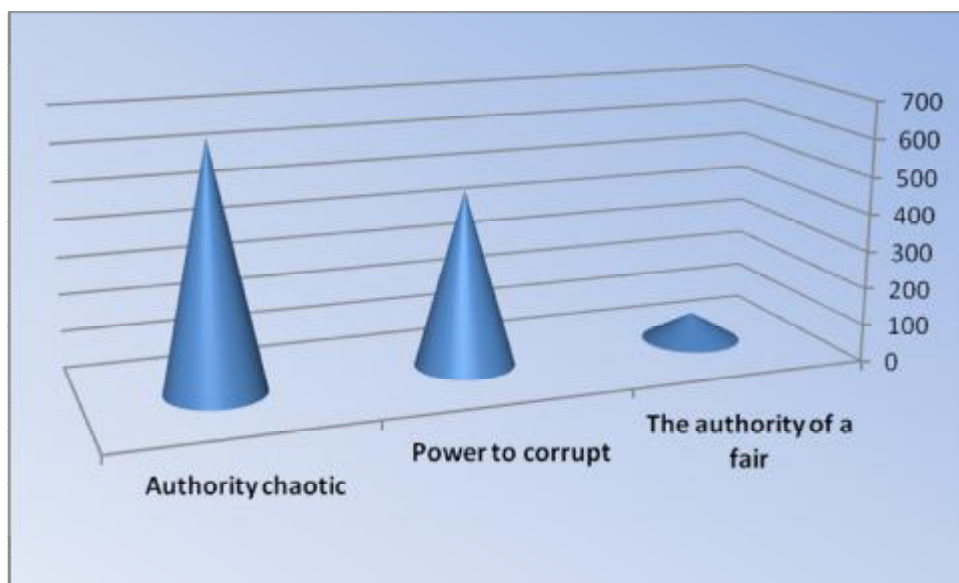


Q9-

What do you call a pattern of political power who helped the Americans built during their stay in Iraq?

The authority of a fair	73	6.1%

Power to corrupt	472	39.3%
Authority chaotic	655	54.6%
	1200	100%

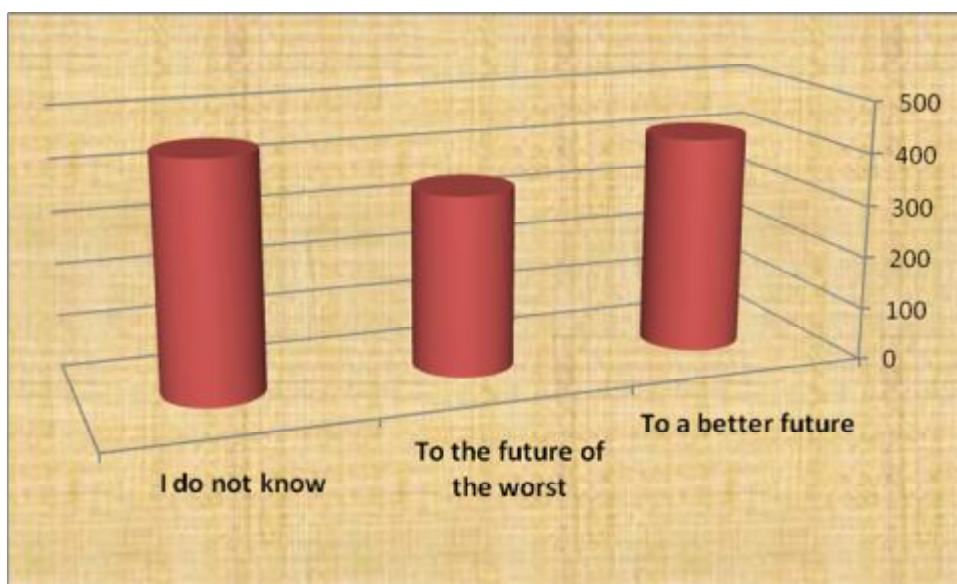


Q 10-

Your opinion, will travel to Iraq, where after the completion of the withdrawal of U.S. forces?

To a better future	417	34.5%
To the future of	345	28.5%

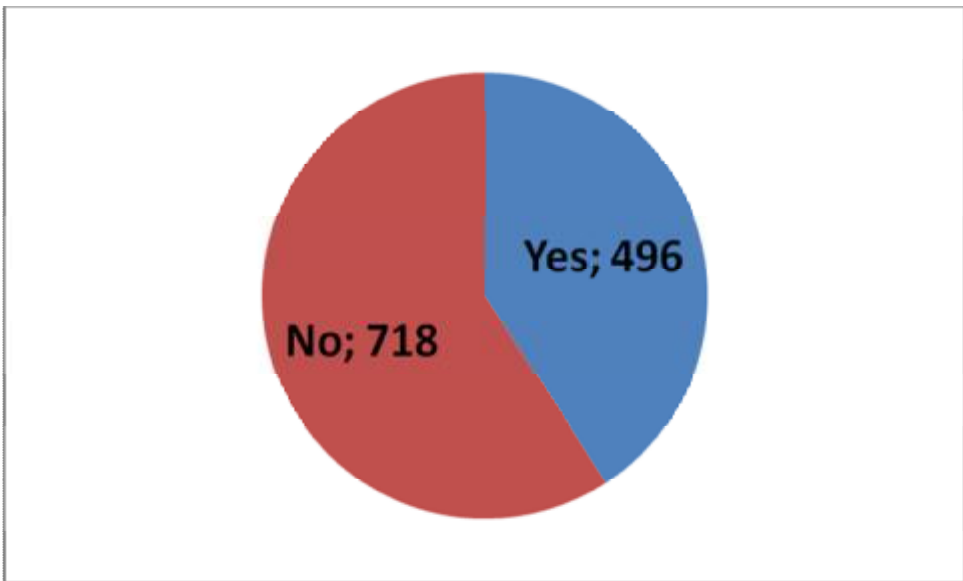
the worst		
I do not know	448	37%
	1210	100%



Q11-

Are you trained with the survival of the Americans?

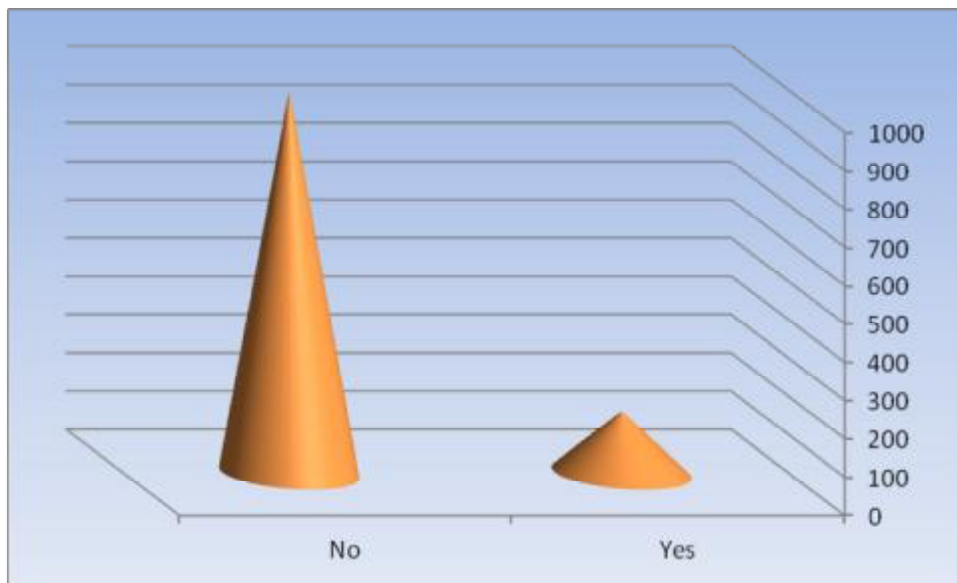
Yes	496	40.9%
No	718	59.1%
	1214	100%



Q12-

Are you giving Americans immunity trainers?

Yes	160	13.8%
No	996	86.2%
	1156	100%

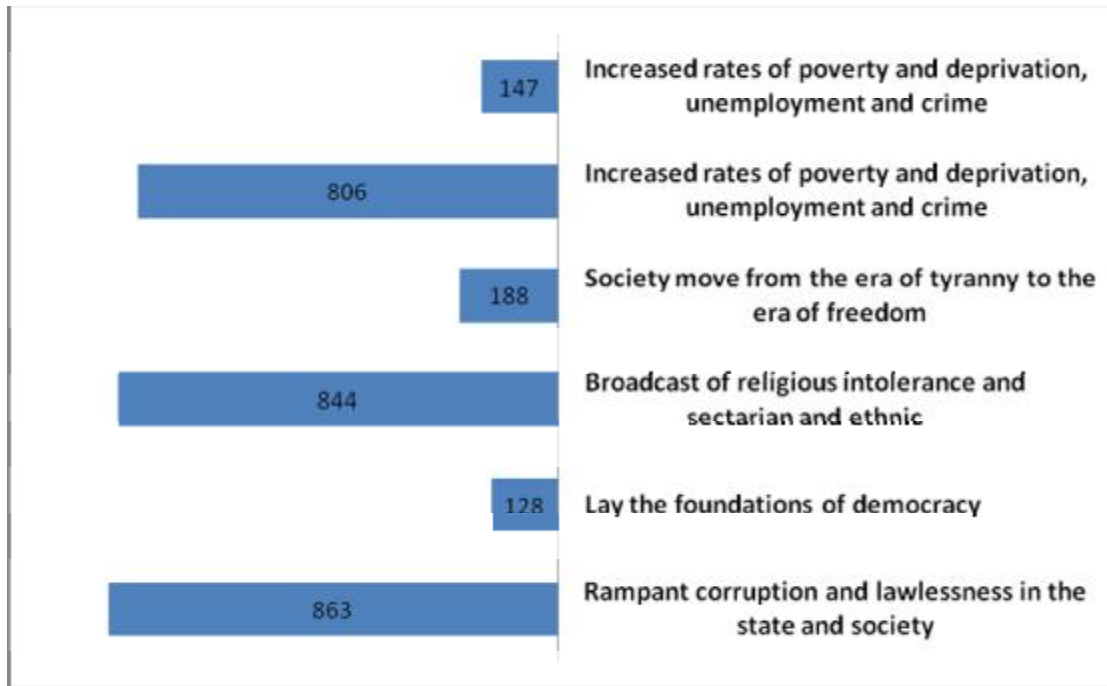


Q13-

How would you describe the main results Tamadcht for the U.S. presence in Iraq for more than eight years (you can Achtaarakther than one).

Rampant corruption and lawlessness in the state and society	863	29%

Lay the foundations of democracy	128	4.3%
Broadcast of religious intolerance and sectarian and ethnic	844	28.4%
Society move from the era of tyranny to the era of freedom	188	6.3%
Increased rates of poverty and deprivation, unemployment and crime	806	27.1%
Increased rates of poverty and deprivation, unemployment and crime	147	4.9%
	2976	100%



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