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Mar. 19, 2007 20:28 | Updated Mar. 20, 2007 4:42

Iraq steps up anti-Israel boycott

By MICHAEL FREUND



Talkback READ COMMENT

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The US-backed Iraqi government is enforcing the Arab boycott of Israel with increasing frequency, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned, with the number of boycott-related incidents involving US firms operating in Iraq nearly quadrupling last year, according to official US statistics.

In its recently released annual report for 2006, the US Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security noted that there had been 31 cases in which the Iraqi government had engaged in restrictive trade practices last year.

In 2005, according to the previous year's report, there were a total of just eight such cases involving Iraq.

US law bars American firms from complying with boycott-related requests and requires them to report any such incidents to the authorities. These might include demands made of companies to verify that their products do not contain components made in the Jewish state or signing forms attesting that they do not do business with Israel.

The most recent edition of the *Business Guide for Iraq*, a handbook that was published by the US Commerce Department last year, cautions American businessmen regarding Iraq's participation in the anti-Israel boycott.

"Currently, some US companies are reporting requests from Iraq for adherence to the Arab League boycott of Israel," says the guide, noting that, "compliance with such requests may be prohibited by the Export Administration Regulations."

In addition, the guide also states that, "Some US companies have been asked to certify their adherence to the Arab League Boycott of Israel when they apply to register their intellectual property rights in Iraq."

Contacted by the *Post*, an official at the US Embassy in Tel Aviv said, "the United States government is continuing to review this matter."

Iraqi officials were unavailable for comment.



Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki. Photo: AP

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It was unclear why Iraq began enforcing the Arab boycott of Israel more energetically last year. However, the Iraqi government sent an official representative to take part in the annual meeting of international liaison officers of the Arab League boycott Office in Damascus last May.

The aim of the meeting was to discuss ways of intensifying the trade embargo against the Jewish state.

At the time, a US State Department spokesman told the *Post* that Washington was "disappointed" over Iraq's decision to participate in the boycott of Israel, and said American officials had "raised this issue with Iraqi officials in the past and expect to raise it with them again."



Talkback

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51. The world must boycott Israel

Dave Cutler - usa (03/21/2007 21:33)

50. reply to #24

ZEV - USA (03/21/2007 17:16)

49. #24 & 26.spoken like the super cillius buffoons your are.

yitzhakbenzion Baruch HaShem! - Texas (03/21/2007 15:36)

48. Time to bring our troops home now

zev - USA (03/21/2007 09:07)

47. US errors in Irak

Castor Troy - (03/21/2007 08:41)

46. Ayman's sad facts - save your hate! #26

William - (03/21/2007 07:42)

45. #29 Response

Aryeah - US (03/21/2007 07:20)

44. #24 Mr. Popularity

Arthur Rosen - British Empire (03/21/2007 07:17)

43. #24 Response

Aryeah - US (03/21/2007 07:13)

42. #24 - Englander

MichaelF - USA (03/21/2007 05:16)

41. Clueless Bush Administration

MichaelF - USA (03/21/2007 05:14)

40. This is old news

MichaelF - USA (03/21/2007 05:13)

39. Spit in the face of the American

Jonathan - Canada (03/21/2007 04:41)

38. "Between two chairs"..

Lisen - Sweden (03/21/2007 03:53)

37. Do you really think the daughter of Babylon will prevail over Ishmael?

who cares - (03/21/2007 03:27)

36. What exactly did you expect? A fairy tale?

who cares - (03/21/2007 03:26)

35. Yet another English 'teacher'.

Liam Hogan - U.K. (03/21/2007 02:01)

34. for now the right policy to help keep stability in Iraq

zionist forever - (03/21/2007 00:40)

33. ayman #26

Yaakov - USA (03/21/2007 00:16)

32. re #24

Errol F. - Canada (03/20/2007 23:22)

31. Iraq is turning out perfect - Sunni Killin Shiite

Richard - USA (03/20/2007 23:20)

30. Changed my mind

JSchwizzle - USA (03/20/2007 22:15)

29. Forum for racists?

Peter - (03/20/2007 22:10)

28. oh #26, how ignorant

Hilton - (03/20/2007 22:01)

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let him come eat".**



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this night
different
from all
other
nights?**

**With your
HELP,
tonight
they
won't go
HUNGRY**



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27. #17 MAYA & #21 Errol F.
Martin - Sweden (03/20/2007 20:01)

26. america and israel boycott iran
ayman - usa (03/20/2007 19:02)

25. History repeats itself
Lujack Skylark - USA (03/20/2007 18:33)

24. ??????????
Englander - England (03/20/2007 18:27)

23. Baboons will always be baboons. It's a species thing.
Liam Hogan - U.K. (03/20/2007 17:30)

22. iraq boycott
n - (03/20/2007 17:20)

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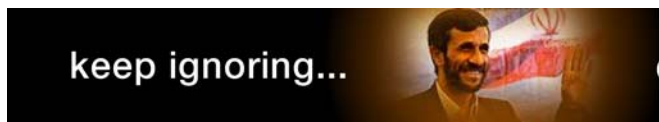
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