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Politics

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Guest

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Morocco's IER and INDH experiences to serve as model for Iraq, US academic

Washington, Jan. 24 - Morocco's experience in national reconciliation and socio-economic development could serve as a model to restore peace and launch reconstruction in Iraq, according to American academic, Jason Youssef Ben-Meir.

In an article published in the Foreign Policy in Focus website, Ben Meir asserts that the rich Moroccan experiences respectively relating to the Equity and Reconciliation Commission (IER), and the National Initiative for Human Development (INDH), entitle the north African kingdom to play a "key-role" in the process of national reconciliation in Iraq.

Early 2004, Morocco set up the IER to seek out-of-court settlement of the human rights abuses committed between 1956 and 1999, in what is commonly known in Morocco as the "years of lead". In mid-2005, king Mohammed VI announced the launching of the large-scale INDH initiative to slash poverty and eradicate social exclusion.

Reconstruction and reconciliation are two sides of the same coin, and should be sought jointly in order to succeed like it happened in Morocco, Ben Meir wrote.

The sociology professor in the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque, who deplored that the US new strategy in Iraq does not provide for an overall revision of the reconstruction efforts, warns that if the economic needs are not met in Iraq, "the consequences would be unfortunate."

Foreign Policy in Focus is a think-tank operating in research, analysis and action. It includes academicians, researchers and activists who endeavor to "make the United States a more responsible global partner."

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