

EXPLANATORY NOTE
CPA ORDER PROVIDING FOR FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

The CPA has promulgated an Order that will promote freedom of assembly in Iraq by removing the prohibitions in the Iraqi Penal Code that made demonstrations virtually impossible.

The Order introduces a regulated process for conducting demonstrations based on international standards as an interim measure until an internationally recognized, representative government established by the people of Iraq assumes the responsibility of the Authority.

The Order makes the Commander Coalition Forces, Divisional and Brigade Commanders "Approving Authorities" for demonstrations. Persons wishing to hold demonstrations must provide 24 hours notice in writing to the Approving Authorities.

Demonstrations using roadways may not take place during peak hour traffic from 0730 to 0900 and 1630 to 1800. Demonstrations will not be permitted to last longer than four hours or come within 500 meters of a CPA or Coalition Force facility. It will not be permitted to hold demonstrations in more than one location in a municipality on the same day nor to unreasonably obstruct pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

The Order prohibits certain items to be brought to a demonstration including firearms, sharpened objects, projectiles including rocks, poles, bats or sticks other than as part of a sign, helmets, masks, balaclavas or non-traditional facial covering.

The penalty for violating these provisions will be up to one year in prison or a fine of up to USD1,000.