



## Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq

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Maj. Bob Owen

### Clothing and toys collected for children of female prison inmates

**BAGHDAD** – Hundreds of children in Iraq’s prison system will get new clothes, shoes and toys thanks to the efforts of some caring U.S. personnel and citizens and organizations in the U.S.

U.S. Navy Master at Arms Chief Hector Villanueva, lead advisor for Tribal Affairs, Multi-national Security Transition Command-Iraq and U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Anita Francis with Law and Order Task Force (LAOTF) have been collecting clothing, shoes and toys to distribute to these children who stay with their mothers in Iraq’s prisons.

“Many times when you have a woman convicted of a crime and put into prison, there are young children that must be taken care of,” said Villanueva. “The fathers don’t have the ability to take care of them, so the Iraqi prison system allows the children to stay with their moms in prison.”

These children are in need of clothes and other basic necessities and this is where the collection efforts come in to help. Many individuals and organization in the U.S. have helped by collecting clothes, shoes and toys and sending them to Iraq to be distributed to these children. The Major Stuart Adam Wolfer Institute out of New York, along with

the Hylant Group from Dublin, Ohio and the Credit Suisse Group, PJ Arthurs, out of Chicago, Illinois were the largest donors of these much needed supplies.

It is efforts like this that build a continued trust and bond with the Iraqi people. This is not an army program or a government program. This is the work of individual soldiers and sailors who care about the Iraqi people and wanted to make a personal difference.

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