

GHAITH MAHMOOD SALIH

Senior Humanitarian Access, Safety & Security Professional

Location: Baghdad, Iraq | **Nationality:** Iraqi

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Highly experienced Security and Access specialist with over 15 years of experience in the humanitarian sector, working with leading organizations including the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Mercy Corps, and Doctors Without Borders (MSF). Proven expertise in high-level government liaison, security risk management (SRM), and crisis response in complex environments. Recognized for reducing access delays by 70% and successfully coordinating safety for over 500 staff members. Skilled in fleet management, logistics, and capacity building, with a strong track record of negotiating with civil and military stakeholders to ensure uninterrupted program operations.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- **Security Risk Management:** SRA, SOP development, Contingency Planning, Crisis Management.
 - **Humanitarian Access:** Government Liaison, Checkpoint Negotiations, Visa/Badge Processing.
 - **Operations & Logistics:** Fleet Management, Supply Chain, Base Rehabilitation, Procurement.
 - **Team Leadership:** Staff Training (HEAT/HEIST), Performance Management, Recruitment.
 - **Languages:** Arabic (Native), English (Proficient).
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

International Rescue Committee (IRC) | Baghdad, Iraq *Senior Humanitarian Access, Safety and Security Officer* | Jan 2016 – Oct 2024

- **Access & Stakeholder Management:** Spearheaded negotiations with district mayors, the DNGO, and National Operations Center to secure access letters and visas, reducing operational access delays by **70%**.
- **Security Risk Management:** Coordinated safety and security for **500+ staff** across Baghdad and Anbar. Identified and assessed security threats, providing

actionable advice to minimize organizational exposure to "As Low as Reasonably Practicable" (ALARP) levels.

- **Public Relations:** Liaise with internal and external stakeholders, including local authorities and other entities, to identify, assess, and monitor security threats impacting organizational activities, and provide proactive, actionable advice on suitable mitigation measures.
- **Strategic Planning:** Led **25+ field assessments** and updated over **15 risk plans** and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to align with the Security Management Framework.
- **Crisis Response:** Planned and executed crisis response exercises and managed organizational responses to security incidents.
- **Capacity Building:** Trained over **200 staff** in safety, security, and humanitarian access protocols to enhance awareness and field capacity.
- **Team Supervision:** Supervised and mentored direct-report staff, conducting semi-annual performance evaluations and participating in the recruitment of drivers and guards.

Mercy Corps | Baghdad, Iraq Safety & Transportation Officer | March 2014 – Jan 2016

- **Fleet & Personnel Management:** Oversaw a fleet of **15+ vehicles** and supervised **30+ personnel** (drivers and watchmen), successfully cutting security incidents by **50%** through rigorous monitoring.
- **Liaison & Compliance:** Liaised with the Badging Office to secure **100%** of required Green Zone access badges for the Senior Management Team (SMT).
- **Operational Safety:** Initiated negotiations with key stakeholders in South and Central regions to ensure uninterrupted program implementation.
- **Training:** Delivered tailored security briefings and training on SOPs and Incident Reporting to over **100 staff**.
- **Movement Coordination:** Managed daily movement plans and tracked staff/vehicle movements within and outside Baghdad to ensure full operational safety.

Doctors Without Borders (MSF) Holland | Baghdad & Anbar, Iraq Logistics Officer | June 2009 – Feb 2014

- **Logistics Operations:** Oversaw all logistics, ICT, and supply chain operations for base and program activities across Baghdad and Anbar.

- **Project Management:** Successfully led **one full office relocation** and **two comprehensive base rehabilitations** (including refugee camp setups), ensuring smooth transitions with minimal disruption.
- **Fleet Management:** Managed driver recruitment, training, and performance for operations across three governorates, while supervising vehicle maintenance and safety compliance.
- **Supply Chain:** Directed procurement operations, ensuring quality compliance for medical supplies, and monitored fuel usage and inventory tracking (Tougeris Program).
- **Safety Infrastructure:** Strengthened base safety by installing fire safety systems (alarms, extinguishers) and coordinating national staff movements through high-risk zones.

TITAN Translation Company (MOJ) | Baghdad, Iraq Translator / Procurement Agent | Oct 2005 – Nov 2008

- Provided direct translation support for American Advisors at the Rusafa Courts Complex.
- Translated legal documents and tracked detainee cases while assisting with warehouse procurement operations.

EDUCATION

- **Bachelor's Degree in Arabic Language** | Al-Mustansiriyah University, Baghdad | **2001**
- **English Language Diploma** | English Institute, Baghdad | **2004**

CERTIFICATIONS & TRAINING

- **Humanitarian Negotiation Training** | International Rescue Committee (IRC) | **Nov 2018**
- **Hazardous Environment Awareness Training (HEAT)** | Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Jordan | **Sept 2018**
- **Humanitarian and Access Workshop** | Amman, Jordan | **2017**
- **Introduction to Field Management Skills** | MSF, Amman | **July 2012**