

Diwaniyah graduates its first female Iraqi Policewomen

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Diwaniyah – For Fatima and her friends, it was a good day. Her dream of becoming an Iraqi policewoman had just become true when she was among the first class of 39 females to graduate Monday from the Iraqi Police's Diwaniyah Training Academy.

There were a total of 669 graduates at the Diwaniyah Training Academy located about 60 miles south of Baghdad on Feb 12.

"I wanted to serve my country and work toward a safe Iraq," said one of the female graduates who spoke on conditions of anonymity. "I want my kids to have a better life than I did," she said when asked why she joined the Iraqi Police. "I also wanted to be an example for other women in Iraq so that they can also do what I am doing."

Some of the women had previously completed a two-week introductory police course and worked for police offices.

"The training that I received here during this course was the best training that I have had in the four years I have been serving. I am very proud to call myself a police woman," she said.

"All I want from the Iraqi police and my country is to be treated just like the men. I want to receive the same training and equipment as they do," said one of the graduates.

Col Asam, dean of the academy, said he was proud of all of the graduates for staying with the course and becoming Iraqi Police to serve their country. He noted that the facility lacks normal classrooms. All classes are conducted outside even in inclement weather in a shelter of a former cattle ranch.

“We are not going to let a little thing like the weather stop us from our mission of training more Iraqi Police who will serve our country for many years to come,” said Col Asam.

The eight-week course at Diwaniyah provides more than 320 hours of instruction in defensive tactics, firearm and marksmanship training, anti-terrorism tactics, democratic policing, human rights and police ethics, Iraqi law enforcement, report writing, and patrol procedures.