

What we want from an Iraqi opposition conference

- The 65-members of the Iraqi opposition advisory committee will meet in Salahuddin, northern Iraq, on January 22.
- Convention of the meeting in Iraq will send a strong signal to Iraqis about the seriousness of U.S. intentions.
 - Conversely, Saddam can claim victory should the meeting have only an amorphous outcome.
 - The meeting should do more than simply form committees, which many Iraqis and journalists will interpret as without real substance.
- The U.S. should instead be clear in its goals for the Iraqi opposition.
 - The conference should announce its intention to hold a Constitutional Convention for Iraqis in Baghdad soon after liberation.
 - The Salahuddin conference should endorse a bill of rights to be incorporated into the future Constitution.
 - The Bill of Rights should include freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, freedom from unlawful imprisonment, linguistic rights, and a condemnation of torture.
 - A Bill of Rights would focus world attention on the brutality and failings of Saddam's regime.
 - The conference should forswear vigilantism, and call for the primacy of law and order.
 - The conference should state that there will be no place for judicial or political corruption in the future of Iraq.
 - The conference should call for a revitalization of the Iraqi education system.
 - The conference should call for freedom of the media, with no restriction of satellite television or the internet in post-Saddam Iraq.
 - The conference should reaffirm both the territorial integrity of Iraq and that Iraq's oil will be a common resource used for the good of all Iraqis.