

The Role of Order 65 in Establishing the Communication and Media Commission

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On March 20, 2004 the Communication and Media Commission (CMC) was established by The Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), under the Order 65, by Paul Bremer, the U.S. Civil Administrator for Iraq. The CPA had been controlling the media and communication in Iraq, and had been licensing and giving frequencies to the media outlets. The order of establishing the CMC has designed based on international conventions and current best practice. Furthermore, the order has launched for many reasons that was mentioned in its preamble, it says:

“Regulations in this context should provide for the fullest exercise of freedom of expression as defined by international Convention, must encourage pluralism and diverse political debate and must empower rather than restrain independent and impartial commentary.”¹ According to this order, this commission was given an exclusive authority to regulate and make its own rules with regards to telecommunication and broadcasting. This paper came out to tackle the role of the Order 65 into the media and communications regulations in Iraq. Also, the paper addresses whether the order was in favor of the Media and Communications Commission or not. What were the benefits of issuing this Order, and what is the role of the Constitution toward the Communication and Media Commission.

¹ <http://www.cmc.iq/en/pdfcmc/order65.pdf>