

Investigation 5: The Collapse of Education

Title: A Crime Against the Future: How Babylon is Manufacturing a Generation of Illiterates in Crumbling Schools

By: "Voice of Generations"

In the land that invented the alphabet, hundreds of thousands of children are being sentenced to "functional illiteracy." The educational catastrophe in Babylon is not a lack of resources, but a continuous administrative crime. When official Ministry of Education statistics reveal that **252** schools require immediate demolition and **783** schools operate on a double-shift system that reduces the school day to three hours, we are witnessing a policy of systematic intellectual destruction. The collapse of a classroom ceiling, as witnessed by the teacher "Hassanin Fadel," was not an accident; it was the inevitable result of corruption that steals school construction funds and leaves children to face death.

The official numbers hide a darker truth. The **71** registered mud-brick schools are only what the Ministry admits to. Our independent field survey, in collaboration with a network of teachers, documented an additional **112** school buildings that are temporary structures (caravans or unfit rented houses) not included in the official census. In these places, the dropout rate reaches **25%**, a figure higher than UNICEF's report (18%), which relies on sanitized government data.

The corruption is not just in the failure to build, but in "phantom renovation contracts." We obtained a copy of a renovation contract for a school in the al-Hashimiya district valued at **150 million IQD**. Our site visit six months after the contract's "completion" showed that all that had been done was to paint over the cracked walls, while the roof remained on the verge of collapse. The funds went into the pockets of the contractor and complicit officials.

The internal memo from the Babylon Directorate of Education warning of the collapse of **23** schools was not just a request for funds. We analyzed the responses to it and found that the project was first included in the "Chinese Loan Plan," then moved to the "Regional Development Plan," and each time it was postponed under the pretext of "re-evaluating its feasibility." This bureaucratic procrastination is a method of slowly killing projects while the students' suffering continues.

The destruction of education in Babylon is a long-term investment in ignorance, poverty, and extremism. The generation emerging from these schools, unable to read and write properly, will be easy prey for any extremist ideology or organized crime network. Building a new school is not an urban project; it is a national security project. The world must understand that for every dinar stolen from Babylon's education budget today, a thousand dollars will be paid tomorrow in the costs of counter-terrorism and treating social disintegration.