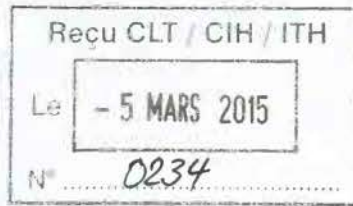


*Unofficial translation from Arabic Language*

*Republic of Iraq*

*Ministry of Culture*

*Cultural Relations Directorate*



*Rel./ Off./ 3*

*February 8 , 2015*

**To Whom It May Concern**

***Best greeting ,***

***In accordance with article (12) paragraph (1) of the Convention on Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage approved on 17 October 2003 in Paris ...***

***Ministry of Culture ( IMoC ) hereby certifies that Khidr Elias Feast and its Vows is registered in the annexed National List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Iraq under No ( 2 ) . This List has been prepared with the participation of the concerned groups and communities from both public & private sectors and the establishments of the civil society . The Ministry of Culture will conduct work on further updating and management of the List .***

***Please accept our respect and appreciation.***

***Signed and stamped***

***Aqeel Ibrahim AlMindlawie***

***Authorized by the Minister of Culture***

***February 8 , 2015***



العدد: ٣ / ٣ / ٤  
التاريخ: ٢٠١٥ / ٩ / ٨

## الى / من يهمة الامر

### تحية طيبة ...

استنادا الى المادة ( ١٢ ) الفقرة ( ١ ) من اتفاقية صون التراث الثقافي غير المادي المصادق عليها في باريس بتاريخ ١٧ / اكتوبر / ٢٠٠٣ .

تشهد وزارة الثقافة العراقية بان عيد خضر الياس ونذوره من الفنون المسجلة في قائمة الجرد الوطنية للتراث الثقافي غير المادي لجمهورية العراق ( المرفقة طيا ) تحت رقم ( ٢ ) والتي اعدت من قبل الجماعات والمجموعات ذات العلاقة والعديد من المهتمين من القطاعين العام والخاص ومؤسسات المجتمع المدني ، و ستقوم الوزارة على اجراء المزيد من التحديث على القائمة والإشراف على ادارتها .

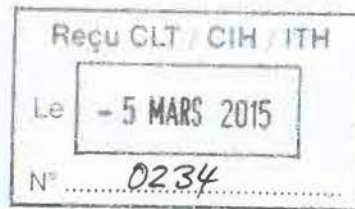
وتقبلوا فانق التقدير والاحترام

عقيل ابراهيم المندلوي

ع / وزير الثقافة

٢٠١٥ / ٢ / ٨





**National List  
 Of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Of Republic of Iraq  
 2014**

No	Name of an element	Category of an element / ICH domain
1	Nowrouz	Social practices, rituals and festive events
2	Khidr Elias Feast and its Vows	Social practices, rituals and festive events
3	Zachariah Day Celebration	Social practices, rituals and festive events
4	The Arba'een Processions	Social practices, rituals and festive events
5	Mahibs Game	Oral Traditions and Expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage
6	Murabba' Songs	Oral Traditions and Expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage
7	Joha Al-Baghdadi	Oral Traditions and Expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage
8	The Iraqi Dances: - The Chobby Dance - The Kurdish Dabkka -Al-Heiwa Dance -Al- Sas (derk) Dance - Al Daha'a Dance -Al Hodali Dance -Al Meamar Dance - Al Haja'a Dance	Performing Arts
9	Palm Fronds Industries	Skills related to traditional craftsmanship
10	Silverware Industry	Skills related to traditional craftsmanship



11	<b>Poetry gatherings :</b> - Popular Poetry - Bedouin Poetry - Free Poetry	<b>Oral Traditions and Expressions,</b> <b>including language as a vehicle of the</b> <b>intangible cultural heritage</b>
12	<b>Types of the Iraqi Songs :</b> - Al Ata'aba - Sowaihly - Al Naiyl - The Kurdish and Turkomany songs - Circumcision songs - Religious songs - Babies bed time songs	<b>Oral Traditions and Expressions,</b> <b>including language as a vehicle of the</b> <b>intangible cultural heritage</b>
13	<b>The language and accents in Iraq :</b> - Arabic Language - Colloquial Accent - Kurdish Language - Turkman Language - Syriac Language - Azzidi Language - Bedouin Accent	<b>Oral Traditions and Expressions,</b> <b>including language as a vehicle of the</b> <b>intangible cultural heritage</b>
14	Al Mussaharty	<b>Social practices and rituals and festive</b> <b>events</b>
15	The traditional rituals of Mandeian Sabians weddings	<b>Social practices, rituals and festive events</b>
16	Palm Tree	<b>Knowledge and practices concerning</b> <b>nature and the universe</b>
17	Pottery – making	<b>Skills related to traditional craftsmanship</b>
18	Types of the Holy Qura'an's reading	<b>Oral Traditions and Expressions,</b> <b>including language as a vehicle of the</b> <b>intangible cultural heritage</b>
20	Copper Industry	<b>Skills related to traditional craftsmanship</b>

<b>21</b>	<b>Boats Industry</b>	<b>Skills related to traditional craftsmanship</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Prophet's birthday celebrations</b>	<b>Social practices and rituals and festive events</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>Manna's Candy Industry</b>	<b>Skills related to traditional craftsmanship</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>Dumplings and Baklava Industry</b>	<b>Skills related to traditional craftsmanship</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>Folk men's a baya Industry</b>	<b>Skills related to traditional craftsmanship</b>

القائمة الوطنية للتراث الثقافي غير المادي  
لجمهورية العراق ٢٠١٤

ت	اسم العنصر	صنف العنصر
١	نوروز	الممارسات الاجتماعية والطقوس والاحتفالات
٢	احتفالات ونذور خضر الياس	الممارسات الاجتماعية والطقوس والاحتفالات
٣	احتفالية يوم زكريا	الممارسات الاجتماعية والطقوس والاحتفالات
٤	زيارة الأربعين	الممارسات الاجتماعية والطقوس والاحتفالات
٥	لعبة المحبب	الممارسات الاجتماعية والطقوس والاحتفالات
٦	اغاني المربعة	التقاليد وأشكال التعبير الشفهي بما فيها اللغة كواسطة للتعبير الثقافي غير المادي
٧	جحا البغدادي	التقاليد وأشكال التعبير الشفهي بما فيها اللغة كواسطة للتعبير الثقافي غير المادي
٨	الرقصات العراقية : • رقصة الجوبي • الدبكة الكردية • رقصة الهيوه • رقصة الساس (الدرك) • رقصة الدحا • رقصة الهودلي • رقصة الميمر • رقصة الهجع	فنون وتقاليد اداء العروض
٩	صناعة سعف النخيل	المهارات المرتبطة بالفنون الحرفية التقليدية
١٠	صناعة الفضة	المهارات المرتبطة بالفنون الحرفية التقليدية
١١	مجالس الشعر: • الشعر الشعبي • الشعر البدوي • الشعر الحر	التقاليد وأشكال التعبير الشفهي بما فيها اللغة كواسطة للتعبير الثقافي غير المادي
١٢	أنواع الغناء العراقي : • العتابة • السويحلي • النايل • الغناء الكردي والتركمني • اغاني الختان • اغاني الدينية • اغاني نوم الاطفال	التقاليد وأشكال التعبير الشفهي بما فيها اللغة كواسطة للتعبير الثقافي غير المادي



التقاليد وإشكال التعبير الشفهي بما فيها اللغة كواسطة للتعبير الثقافي غير المادي	اللغات واللهجات في العراق : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● اللغة العربية</li> <li>● اللهجة العامية</li> <li>● اللغة الكردية</li> <li>● اللغة التركمانية</li> <li>● اللغة السريانية</li> <li>● اللغة الايزيدية</li> <li>● اللهجة البدوية</li> </ul>	١٣
الممارسات الاجتماعية والطقوس الاحتفالات	المسحراتي	١٤
الممارسات الاجتماعية والطقوس والاحتفالات	تقاليد زواج الصابئة المندائيين	١٥
المعارف والممارسات المتعلقة بالطبيعة والكون	شجرة النخلة	١٦
المهارات المرتبطة بالفنون الحرفية التقليدية	صناعة الفخار	١٧
التقاليد وإشكال التعبير الشفهي بما فيها اللغة كواسطة للتعبير الثقافي غير المادي	القراءة العراقية للقرآن الكريم	١٨
الممارسات الاجتماعية والطقوس والاحتفالات	زيارة شارع المتنبّي	١٩
المهارات المرتبطة بالفنون الحرفية التقليدية	صناعة النحاس	٢٠
المهارات المرتبطة بالفنون الحرفية التقليدية	صناعة القوارب	٢١
الممارسات الاجتماعية والطقوس والاحتفالات	احتفالات المولد النبوي الشريف	٢٢
المهارات المرتبطة بالفنون الحرفية التقليدية	صناعة حلويات المن والسلوى	٢٣
المهارات المرتبطة بالفنون الحرفية التقليدية	صناعة حلويات البقلاوة والزلابية	٢٤
المهارات المرتبطة بالفنون الحرفية التقليدية	صناعة العباءة الرجالية	٢٥

## Inventory card of the ICH element

Reçu CLT / CIH / ITH	
Le	- 5 MARS 2015
N°	0234

**1. Name of the element**

Khidr Elias Feast and its Vows .

**2. Inventory number and date of registration**

No. 1 by the Decree of the Republic of Iraq / Ministry of Culture/  
Cultural Relations Directorate No. Rel./Off./3 dated February 8 ,  
2015 .

**3. Category and sub – category of the element**

- Oral traditions and expressions , including language as a vehicle of intangible cultural heritage .
- Performing arts .
- Social practices , rituals and festive events .
- Knowledge and practices concerning nature and universe .
- Knowledge and practices concerning traditional craftsmanship .

**4. Geographic range of the element**

In most of Iraqi provinces .

**5. A. Name of communities , groups and individuals concerned**

Most of Iraqi inhabitants .

**B. Participation of communities , groups , practitioners and bearers of the element in the process of inventory – making and drafting ICH nomination file**

For the purpose of inventory – making and preparing the nomination file of Khidr Elias Feast and its Vows to inscribe it on the UNESCO Representative List of the ICH of Humanity the following measures and activities were carried out ;



- Meetings of the members of the ICH Committee under Cultural Relations Directorate with the relevant communities in all over Iraq , representatives of the local governments , heads of non – governmental organizations named Ja'afar Darweesh , Ebraheem Alrashed , Sheikh Gaith Altamimi .
- Meetings of the members of the ICH Committee with the experts of the Institute of Handicrafts and Popular Arts under Popular Heritage Directorate named Ghasan Abdul Hameed AlAlawchy and AbdulKareem Saddam Mohammad ( letter of consent No 1 dated 5 November 2014 ) . The members also met the Chief Iraqi experts in the field of intangible cultural heritage Mr. Ghasan AlAteya .
- Some artists ( singers , dancers , poets , musicians ) and the Chief expert in folk songs and Iraqi cultural heritage Dr. Sa'ady AlHadeethy ( letter of consent No 3 dated
- Meetings with ( 40 ) bearers of the element in Baghdad (letter of cosent No 5 & 6 dated 5 December 2014 ) .
- Meetings with ( 14 ) Turkmen practitioners of the element in Kirkuk province ( letter of consent No 10 dated 5 November 2014 ) .
- Meetings with ( 11 ) Azzidis practitioners of the element in AlMosul province ( letter of consent No 12 dated 2 November 2014 ) .
- Meetings of the ICH Committee members with many of medias' specialists and some of satellite channels in the field of photographing and documenting the rituals of the

element ( letters of consents No 14 , 15 & 17 dated 7 December 2014 & 12 January 2015 ) .

- Meetings also with ;

-Representatives of the shrines' guardians of the element in Babylon province ( letter of consent No 20 dated 4,5 November 2014 ) .

- Employees of many directorates under the Ministry of Culture who have attended a workshop in the field of implementing the 2003 – Convention of the Intangible Cultural Heritage that was held in Erbil province dated from 14 – 18 April , 2014 under the supervision of UNESCO experts ( letter of consent No 22 & 23 dated 5 November 2014 ) .

- Specialists in the field of Iraqi Cultural Heritage Protection ; Basim Hamid Hameed , Hassan Saleh Ali , Mothana AbdulQader Ahmed , the staff of the cultural palaces and houses under the Ministry of Culture in all Iraqi provinces ( letters of consents No 25 , 27 , 29 , 31 dated 12 January 2015 , 2 November 2014 , 4 December 2014 , 1 November 2014 ) .

- The Institute of Handicrafts and Popular Arts' teachers ( letter of consent No 33 , 34 dated 1 November 2014 ) .

- Some professionals in Al Khidr Candy – making in AlMosul province as ; Ahmed Abdul Wahid Al – Maslawy and others ( letter of consent No 36 dated 7 December 2014 ) .

- Traditional musicians , performers , singers , farmers ,

historians , representatives of Popular Heritage Exhibitions and Museum and ordinary citizens of Republic of Iraq .

- As a result variety letters of consents were collected from the representatives of the relevant communities , groups and individuals in 2014 – 2015 .
- Published References providing supplementary information on the element are ;
- Articles published by " Lalish Media Net Work ".
- Books as ; A brief History of Tal – Afar by Jafar Al Talafary , Genealogy Series by Sheikh Waram AlBrahimi , The Definition of Azzidi Intellectual Heritage by Kamal Tulane .
- Three encyclopedias concerning the intangible and cultural heritage of some Iraqi provinces published in 2011 – 2014 .
- Lots of essays published on several of websites , magazines and newspapers .
- Broadcasting TV programs and documentary films by the Iraqi Documentary Channel and Al Hadharah Channel .
- Publication of information related to the nomination of the element on personal blog of the director of Cultural Relations Directorate and other websites as ; [www.crd.gov.iq](http://www.crd.gov.iq) and [www.m-mahdi.info](http://www.m-mahdi.info) .

## **6- Description of the element**

Khidr Elias Feast and its Vows is considered to be one of the most traditional festivals in Iraq . It is associated with the holy man (Alkhidr) whose personality is well-known among public people when he was mentioned in Al-Kahaf Sura Verse ( 65 - 82 ) of the Holy Qura'n in the story of accompanying Prophet Moses (PBUH) by



doing miracles and supernatural acts which Prophet Moses was unable to understand .

According to the ancient Iraqi beliefs , Alkhidr character has been associated with greenery and water , because wherever he was praying , the heaven began raining and the earth turned to be green. Moreover , people believe that he is still alive , wandering the lands over his horse and crossing the rivers . Iraqis also consider him as almighty person who achieves hopes and saves those in need for help . Therefore , there are many practices , various ceremonies and lot of cultural rituals held within each Iraqi community to glorify his personality .

As for the north of Iraq , particularly in Tal Afar district , which is inhabited by the majorities of Turkmen and Azzidis , families there celebrate Khidr Elias Feast on the last Thursday , Friday and Saturday of February each year , preceding it three days of fasting named (Baotha Fasting) .

During the Eids' days , the common people , gather either on or near a particular hill where there is Alkhidr popular sanctuary on which they believe that he was passed by and sat there for a rest . Men , women and children wear traditional clothes and perform the popular Turkman dance named (Dabkka ) while the musicians play on different musical instruments such as ; bow , harb , violin , organ & timpani and singing folk songs . Among other celebrations are horse- races and jumping rope game .

In addition , throughout the feasts' days , the housewives and grandmothers prepare sacred food named ( Dharakhose ) cooked from fried cereal with meat and the most popular sweets known as

(Alkhidr Sweets ) made of sugar , sesame and adorned with pistachio or walnut .

On the other hand , the farmers are keen on planting wheat and barley on the third day of the feast , believing that blessing would be extended on their agriculture and they will get good grains in the next harvesting season , due to their inherited beliefs that Khidr Elias personality is a symbol of fertility .

In the central area of Iraq , particularly Baghdad , the most prevalent ritual practice is called (Alkhidr vows) . Through it , Baghdadi men and women from all Iraqi sects and religions , (Arabs, Kurds , Turkmen , Assyrians , Muslims , Christians , Azzidis and Mandaeans ) and even the children , practice their rituals on each Thursday & Friday of Summer by preparing a tray full of sugar , salt , henna , sweets , candles and leaves of myrtle , bringing it to his famous sanctuary on the bank of Tigris under Bab AlMuadham Bridge , lighting candles inside his sanctuary and praying for this holy man to achieve their special wishes . At night , vowers send light candles on a piece of wood or cork in the river while making their demanding vows , just to ask for marriage if they are singles or to have a child if they have troubles in pregnancy , some others for solving certain problems especially the old women . Hence , if the candles go out before they reach the other bank , vowers will achieve their wishes so soon , but if they stay lightening , wishes need some time to achieve .

As for the Middle Euphrates provinces , in the south of Iraq , particularly Alkhidr district , men and women practice their vows by putting leaves of myrtle and only one light candle on a piece of wood,

then sending it in Euphrates , if the candle turn off before reaching the other bank , vowers must feed some poor people on any Friday hoping to achieve their wishes .

#### **7. Modes of transmission**

The rituals of Khidr Elias Feast and its Vows involve variety of ceremonies , culinary skills , craftsmanship , traditional songs and dances, games and sports activities , skills and knowledge related to the nature and universe . These activities have been transmitted from old generation to young generation by traditional ceremonies that Iraqis practice today during the occasion , the legends and traditional stories , official and media's channels , schools' curriculums and scientific research works .

#### **8. Level of the element's viability**

- high
- average
- low
- very low

#### **9. Are there any threats to the viability of the element and need for its urgent safeguarding ?**

- NO
- Yes(if yes , please provide the description)

#### **10. Availability of photo , audio and video materials**

- photo



- Video
- audio

### 11. Responsible entity , state agency , institution

Cultural Relations Directorate under the Iraqi Ministry of Culture (IMoC ) – Director General Aqeel Ibrahim Mohammed AlMindlawie , address : Ministry of Culture / Cultural Relations Directorate , Baghdad – 14 Ramadan ST. Tel. : 009647700063000 .

Email : [almindlawie@yahoo.com](mailto:almindlawie@yahoo.com) , [dg@crd.gov.iq](mailto:dg@crd.gov.iq)

