On 04 May 2009, Rule of Law (RoL) Sector organized a short ceremony in Mittica to recognize the top six law students from the graduating class of the University of Dhi Qar Law Faculty. The top three male and female students were awarded a set of law-related materials, including a UNDP Iraqi Law Database, an Arabic-English Legal Dictionary, law books on the U.S. Constitution and the judicial branch, copies of Enemy of the State: The Trial and Execution of Saddam Hussein, and anti-corruption and human rights material.

RoL Advisor spoke on the importance of improving their skills, strengthening their English, and broadening their experiences through joining jurists associations, browsing the Internet, reading books and sharing ideas. The students spoke about their aspirations, asking for more support and access to future programs and offering to meet on a regular base for round tables and legal discussions. Asked about the future of their country, one said, sadly, that their ideas “break against the rocks of the reality”.

The meeting closed with an unscheduled opportunity to speak with the two EU judges participating in the EU Just Lex mission. To the student’s evident enthusiasm, the judges spoke about their experiences, the European efforts toward Iraqi judiciary system and law enforcement.

The books (the Legal Dictionary and “Enemy of the State: The Trial and Execution of Saddam Hussein” in particular) were provided by Sabre foundation that worked on a list of books chosen for the Law Faculty library as well.

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Some pictures:

- Pics. Nn.1 -5, RoL Advisor Luca Costa delivering the books to the students.
- Pics nn.6, 7 the six students with a couple of colleagues, Prof. Maitham Handel, RoL Advisor and BBA
- Pic n.8, RoL Advisor, BBA, and two European EU Just lex judges speaking to the students.