
IRAQ, STRUGGLING TO PAY DEBTS AND SALARIES, PLUNGES INTO ECONOMIC CRISIS

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04.01.2021

New York Times (4 January 2021)

Jane Arraf

In a stall off a narrow, winding alley of Baghdads oldest market, Ahmed Khalaf sells the smallest luxuries: nail polish, plastic hair barrettes, colored pencils.

Even during the pandemic, by midmorning the stalls in Shorja market would normally be thronged with shoppers buying food staples and household goods. But last week the aisles were nearly empty.

Our customers are mostly government employees, but as you can see theyre not coming, said Mr. Khalaf, 34.

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