

Radhi Shenaishil announces final 23-man squad for WCQ



Radhi Shenaishil has cut down his [38-man preliminary squad](#) to 23 players ahead of Iraq's upcoming friendly with Iran and qualifying games with Australia and Saudi Arabia.

Many of the fifteen omissions aren't that surprising - goalkeepers Fahad Talib, Ali Abdul-Hassan and Ali Yaseen are dropped, while defenders Ali Bahjat, Ali Lateef, Hussam Kadhim and Ahmed Abdul-Ridha have also been cut. Midfielders Hussein Ali, Mazen Fayadh and Osama Ali, and forwards Jassim Mohammed and Ali Akla are the other players who have expectedly been omitted.

There are only three surprises in terms of dropped players. Arguably Iraq's best attacking player, Justin Meram, has had to withdraw from the squad due to fears over his status in the USA if he travels to Iran (where Iraq will

play their game against Australia).

Jawiya youngster Humam Tariq's place in the squad has been taken by Al-Zawraa's Amjad Kalaf, who is receiving his first call-up since the 2015 Asian Cup where he scored against the UAE. And the third surprising omission is that of midfielder Brwa Nouri - many fans wanted the Swedish-based player to start alongside Saad Abdul-Amir in midfield but it seems Radhi will keep faith in young midfielder Amjad Attwan.

Some of the players in the squad, including the likes of Ali Adnan, Dhurgham Ismail and Ali Faez will not be available for the Iran friendly on 18 March due to club commitments, and will join the team a couple of days later.

Here is the 23-man squad in full:

Name	Position	Club
Mohammed Gassid (captain)	Goalkeeper	Al-Zawraa
Mohammed Hameed	Goalkeeper	Al-Shorta
Jalal Hassan	Goalkeeper	Naft Al-Wasat
Ahmed Ibrahim	Defender	Emirates Club (UAE)
Rebin Sulaka	Defender	Elverum Fotball (Norway)
Saad Natiq	Defender	Al-Quwa Al-Jawiya
Mustafa Nadhim	Defender	Al-Minaa
Ali Faez	Defender	Caykur Rizespor (Turkey)
Dhurgham Ismail	Defender	Caykur Rizespor (Turkey)
Ali Adnan	Defender	Udinese (Italy)
Waleed Salem	Defender	Al-Shorta
Alaa Mhawi	Defender	Al-Zawraa
Saad Abdul-Amir	Midfielder	Al-Ahli (Saudi Arabia)
Ahmed Yasin	Midfielder	Muaither SC (Qatar) on loan from AIK (Sweden)
Bashar Rasan	Midfielder	Al-Quwa Al-Jawiya
Amjad Attwan	Midfielder	Naft Al-Wasat
Ali Husni	Midfielder	Al-Arabi (Kuwait)
Amjad Kalaf	Midfielder	Al-Zawraa
Mahdi Kamil	Midfielder	Al-Shorta
Mohammed Jabbar Shokan	Forward	Al-Minaa
Alaa Abdul-Zahra	Forward	Al-Zawraa
Mohanad Abdul-Raheem	Forward	Al-Zawraa
Hammadi Ahmed	Forward	Al-Quwa Al-Jawiya