CultureTalk Iraqi Arabic Video Transcripts: http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu Use of Tribal Law

English Translation:

Man: The tribes, in general are governed by a special tribal system.

Woman behind camera: Uhmm. Do they have certain laws, for instance?

Man: Of course.

Woman behind camera: Are they [laws] under the state's authority or the tribe's authority?

Man: The tribe's authority comes first, then the state's authority second.

Woman behind camera: Does this mean, for instance, that if there is a certain conflict within a clan or a tribe, as we can say, is the state able to interfere in it even though it's a murder or a theft, and these are considered crimes in the eyes of the law; does the state interfere?

Man: Within the tribal system, in fact, before, before, before the civil system emerged in Iraq, the general system in Iraq was a tribal system. Before, I mean, the existence of...I mean before even Iraqi state's establishment, people used to solve their problems via the tribal sheikh.

Woman behind camera: Fine.

Man: So the...aaaa... the tribal system is the oldest system we have and even its rule doesn't have a specific standard for it. It doesn't have, doesn't have constant standards. Its standards that follow the tribe and the tribe's systems are inconstant. In general, I mean the tribal system comes first.

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