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# Country Fact Sheet IRAQ January 2008

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## 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

### Official name

Al Jumhuriyah al Iraqiyah (Republic of Iraq).

### Geography

With an area of 437,072 km<sup>2</sup>, Iraq is located in the Middle East, north of Saudi Arabia, west of Iran, east of Syria and Jordan, and south of Turkey. The country is divided into three geographic areas: a mountainous region to the north and northeast, plains in the centre and south, and desert to the west and southwest.

## **Population and density**

Population: 27,499,638 inhabitants (July 2007 estimate).

Density: 65.7 persons per km<sup>2</sup> (mid-2005 estimate).

## **Principal cities and populations** (2005 estimate)

Bagdad (capital) 5,925,000; Arbil [Irbil] 3,216,000; Mosul [al Mawsil] 1,325,000; Basra [al Basrah] 1,250,000.

## **Languages**

Iraq's two official languages are Arabic and Kurdish. 75% of Iraqis speak Arabic and 18% speak Kurdish.

Turkmen and Syriac are the two other official languages in the administrative regions where they are most widely spoken. One percent of the country's population speaks Turkmen and 1.3% speaks Syriac (or Assyrian). Each region and each governorate can adopt another official language by referendum.

Minorities speak Azeri (4%), Farsi (1.2%), Armenian (0.27%) and Circassian (or Adyghe) (0.08%).

The right of Iraqis to educate their children in a language other than Arabic or Kurdish, such as Turkmen, Syriac or Armenian, is guaranteed under the constitution.

## **Religions**

Islam is the national religion. The constitution guarantees freedom of religion but stipulates that any law contrary to the principles of Islam is illegal.

Muslims make up approximately 97% of Iraqis. Of those, 54 to 65% are Shia and 32 to 42% are Sunni. Turkmen follow the Sunni faith. Approximately 80% of Kurdish Muslims are Sunni followers of the Shafai school of thought. The remaining 20% of Kurdish Muslims are either Yezidi or Ahl-i-Haq.

According to a 2003 estimate, 700,000 to 900,000 people practise Christianity in Iraq.

Christian Iraqis are divided into three groups: followers of the free churches, including the Nestorian, Gregorian and Syrian Orthodox; the Uniate churches, which are affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church and include the Armenian Uniates, Syrian Uniates and Chaldeans; and mixed bodies of Protestant converts, New Chaldeans and Orthodox Armenians.

## **Ethnic groups**

In 2006, it was estimated that 75 to 80% of the population was Arab, 15 to 20% Kurdish, and 5% Turkmen, Assyrian and other.

The Assyrians, Chaldeans, Turkmen, Armenians, Yezidi, Farsi and Mandeans are minority ethnic groups.

## **Demographics** (2007 estimate unless otherwise indicated)

Population growth rate: 2.618%

Infant mortality rate: 47.04 deaths / 1,000 live births

Life expectancy at birth: 69.31 years

Fertility rate: 4.07 children born per woman

Literacy: 74.1% of people 15 years of age and older can read and write (2000 estimate)

## Currency

Iraqi dinar (IQD)

1,247.39 dinars = 1 Canadian dollar<sup>1</sup>

## National holidays<sup>1</sup>

**2007:** 1 January (New Year's Day), 6 January (Army Day), 20 January (Islamic New Year), 29 January (Ashoura), 8 February (Ramadan Revolution), 31 March (Mouloud, Birth of Muhammed), 9 April (National Holiday, commemorating overthrow of the Baath regime in 2003), 1 May (Labour Day), 14 July (National Holiday, commemorating overthrow of the Hashemite monarchy in 1958), 17 July (Republic Day), 8 August (Ceasefire Day; End of Iran-Iraq War), 10 August (Leilat al-Meiraj, ascension of Muhammed), 13 October (Id al-Fitr, end of Ramadan), 20 December (Id al-Adha, Feast of the Sacrifice).

**2008:** 1 January (New Year's Day), 6 January (Army Day), 10 January (Islamic New Year), 19 January (Ashoura), 8 February (Ramadan Revolution), 20 March (Mouloud, Birth of Muhammed), 9 April (National Holiday, commemorating overthrow of the Baath regime in 2003), 1 May (Labour Day), 14 July (National Holiday, commemorating overthrow of the Hashemite monarchy in 1958), 17 July (Republic Day), 30 July (Leilat al-Meiraj, ascension of Muhammed), 8 August (Ceasefire Day; End of Iran-Iraq War), 2 October (Id al-Fitr, end of Ramadan), 8 December (Id al-Adha, Feast of the Sacrifice), 29 December (Islamic New Year).

## Head of state and government

The president is Jalal Talabani (since 6 April 2005). His term is for four years.

The two vice-presidents are Adil Abd al-Mahdi and Tariq al-Hashimi (since 22 April 2006). The president and the two vicepresidents make up the Presidency Council.

The prime minister is Nuri al-Maliki (since 20 May 2006), while the deputy prime ministers are Barham Salih and Salam al-Zubai (since 20 May 2006).

Massoud Barzani has been the president of the Kurdish Autonomous Region since 12 January 2005.

## Form of government

The new permanent constitution of 15 October 2005 stipulates that the Iraqi government is a mixed presidential/parliamentary system. At the federal level, the president of the republic and the members of the Council of Representatives share executive authority. The president is the head of state. The prime minister has executive authority in relation to general state policy and is also the commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

## Legislative structure

The Iraqi legislative structure is bicameral. It is made up of the Council of Representatives, which is

composed of 275 elected members, and the Federation Council.

The Council of Representatives enacts federal laws and elects the president of the republic from among its members by a two-thirds majority vote.

The Federation Council acts as legislative council.

### **Administrative divisions**

The Republic of Iraq is a federation made up of a decentralized capital, regional and local administrations and 18 governorates (provinces) divided into 102 districts.

The Iraqi governorates are al-Anbar, al-Basrah, al-Muthanna, al-Qadisiyah, an-Najaf, Arbil, as-Sulaymaniyah, at-Tamim, Babil, Baghdad, Dahuk, Dhi Qar, Diyala, Karbala, Maysan, Ninawa, Salah ad-Din and Wasit.

Kurdistan is an autonomous region recognized by the Iraqi federal authorities.

### **Judicial system**

The Iraqi legal system is made up of the Higher Juridical Council, the Supreme Federal Court, the Federal Court of Cassation, the Public Prosecution Department, the Judiciary Oversight Commission and other federal courts.

Special or exceptional courts are prohibited under the constitution.

Islam is the primary source for law, and statutory law has emerged from a combination of the civil and Islamic law systems.

### **Elections**

Iraq has universal suffrage, and anyone aged 18 years and over has the right to vote.

On 30 January 2005, elections were held for the Transitional National Assembly (275 seats), the Provincial Assembly (18 provinces; 41 seats per province and 51 seats for Baghdad), and the Kurdish Regional Assembly (111 seats). The results of the vote were released on 13 February 2005.

In these elections, the main Shia coalition, the United Iraqi Alliance (UIA), won 140 seats in the Transitional National Assembly, followed by the Democratic Patriotic Alliance of Kurdistan (also called the Kurdistan Alliance) who won 75 seats. The multi-ethnic, multi-religious Iraqi National List won 40 seats. The main Sunni parties boycotted the election, but still saw 17 members elected. On 5 April 2005, after intense negotiations, the Transitional National Assembly elected Jalal Talabani as president of a new Presidency Council that also included two vice-presidents (one Shia and one Sunni). The Presidency Council later appointed Ibrahim al-Jaafari, a Shia from the al-Dawah party, as prime minister and head of the new cabinet.

In December 2005, a second round of elections was held to establish the permanent Council of Representatives (also called a Permanent National Assembly). The results allowed for a readjustment of the balance of power between the main factions by substantially increasing Sunni representation in parliament. Of the 275 seats, the United Iraqi Alliance (UIA) won 128 and the Kurdistan Alliance won 53. The Iraqi Accord Front elected 44 members and the Iraqi National List, 25.

Jalal Talabani, a Kurd, was elected to the presidency to serve a 4-year term and can be re-elected for

only one more term. The two vice-presidents, Shia Adil Abdul Mahdi and Sunni Tariq al-Hashimi, took office on 22 April 2006.

## Defence

In May 2003, the Iraqi armed forces and security organizations were dismantled by the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA). On 7 August 2003, the CPA declared the establishment of a New Iraqi Army, to which 34.8 billion Iraqi dinars were allocated in the 2004 budget. Iraq's interim government budgeted 2 billion US dollars for defence in 2004.

The new Iraqi armed forces include the National Guard, a naval force and an air force. The Iraqi National Guard replaced the Iraqi Civil Defence Corps. The armed forces also include smaller groups for naval and air forces, according to a 2006 estimate.

In 2006, the Ministry of the Interior security organizations had an estimated 32,900 active personnel in paramilitary forces. Those organizations share the following functions: border enforcement, civil intervention, emergency response and protection of dignitaries.

The Facilities Protection Service (FPS) consists mainly of former military and security personnel. The FPS was under the Ministry of the Interior, but became an independent organization-for-hire in 2005, paid by private security companies to protect the oil industry and government infrastructures.

In 2006, Iraq had no law on conscription.

## Media

Freedom of expression is guaranteed under the 2005 constitution as long as it does not violate public order or morality.

Since the overthrow of Saddam Hussein's regime in 2003, the number of publications has increased considerably. By the end of 2003, an estimated 250 newspapers and periodicals were in circulation, and one hundred or so of those were still being published in 2005.

The following newspapers, all published in Baghdad, have the largest circulation: *al-Mada*, *al-Mutamar* (official publication of the Iraqi National Congress party), *al-Sabah* and *al-Zaman*.

In 2005, Iraq had approximately 80 radio stations and 25 television stations. The most popular television stations were the independent *al-Sharqiya* and stateowned *al-Iraqiya*.

Iraq has two news agencies: the Aswat al-Iraq agency and the National Iraqi News Agency.

## United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) and Country Rank<sup>ii</sup>

HDI information for Iraq is not available.

## United Nations Gender-related Development Index (GDI) and Country Rank<sup>iii</sup>

GDI information for Iraq is not available.

## Population below the national poverty line

34% (2004 estimate).

## Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)<sup>iv</sup>

Score: 1.5/10

Rank: 178 out of 180 countries (2007).

## Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer (GCB)<sup>v</sup>

GCB information for Iraq is not available.

**[Information compiled from: AME Info n.d.; Encyclopédie de l'Agora 25 May 2006; *Europa* 2007 2007, 2314-2345; Europa World Online n.d.; France 10 Mar. 2006; Iraq 8 Mar. 2004; *PHW* 2007 2007, 570-583; *Political Parties of the World* 2005, 309-316; TI 6 Dec. 2007; TI 26 Sept. 2007; UN 2006; UN n.d.; US 4 Oct. 2007; US Aug. 2006; US 11 Mar. 2005; University of Ottawa n.d; Washingtonpost.com 12 Oct. 2005]**

<sup>i</sup> The dates of certain holidays may vary by several days depending on the Islamic lunar calendar. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>ii</sup> The HDI is a composite measurement of human development in a country, based on life expectancy, levels of literacy and education, and standard of living. Values are as follows: 0.800 and higher (high human development), 0.500-0.799 (medium human development) and 0.500 and under (low human development). Countries are ranked in descending order by their HDI value. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>iii</sup> The GDI adjusts the rating of the HDI to reflect inequalities between men and women. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>iv</sup> The Transparency International CPI 2007 is calculated using data from 14 surveys of business people and 12 assessments from independent institutions. The data reflect the perceptions of resident and non-resident business people and country analysts regarding the overall extent of corruption (frequency and/or size of bribes) in the public and political sectors. Scores range from 0 (highly corrupt) to 10 (highly clean). According to their score, countries are ranked in order from least corrupt (1) to most corrupt (180). [\[back\]](#)

<sup>v</sup> The Transparency International GCB is a public opinion survey used to gauge people's perceptions of corruption within their own state. Scores range from 1 (not at all corrupt) to 5 (extremely corrupt). [\[back\]](#)

## 2. POLITICAL BACKGROUND

The *de facto* dictatorship of Saddam Hussein, secretary-general of the Baathist party, was crushed after American and British forces invaded Iraq in March 2003.<sup>2</sup> After the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, governance of Iraq passed through several stages.<sup>3</sup>

In order to fill the political and administrative void created by the overthrow of the Baathist administration, the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), which aimed to accelerate the transfer of power to the Iraqi people, took temporary control until the Iraqi Governing Council was appointed by the CPA.<sup>4</sup> With no executive authority, the Governing Council could only appoint ministers, and it adopted a system of a rotating presidency.<sup>5</sup> An interim constitution, entitled the *Law of Administration for the State of Iraq for the Transitional Period*, was adopted by its members in March 2004.<sup>6</sup> This Law provided for the election of an Iraqi Interim Government.<sup>7</sup> On 28 June 2004, the CPA and the Governing Council were dissolved and the Iraqi Interim Government assumed power.<sup>8</sup> The Interim Government was replaced by the Transitional Government in April 2005.<sup>9</sup> A permanent constitution for Iraq was adopted by referendum in October 2005, preceding the December 2005 elections that aimed to establish a permanent government.<sup>10</sup> Shias, the religious majority in Iraq, enjoyed political representation only after the December 2005 election.<sup>11</sup>

Elections to form the Kurdistan National Assembly in January 2005 were held concurrently with the elections for the Iraqi Transitional National Assembly.<sup>12</sup> The Kurdish autonomous government, led by Massoud Barzani, assumed power on 7 May 2006 and is the region's first unified cabinet.<sup>13</sup>

Sectarian violence increased considerably around the 2005 elections.<sup>14</sup> Kidnappings of foreigners began in 2004.<sup>15</sup> Foreign troops and Shias were targeted by insurgent groups.<sup>16</sup>

Saddam Hussein and other codefendants were tried by the Supreme Iraqi Criminal Tribunal.<sup>17</sup> Saddam Hussein was condemned on 5 November 2006 and executed by hanging on 30 December 2006.<sup>18</sup>

During 2007, the American and British armed forces maintained their military presence in order to control internal conflicts.<sup>19</sup> British forces gradually withdrew and left Basra, in December 2007.<sup>20</sup>

### 3. POLITICAL PARTIES

Since English does not have official status in Iraq, there is some variation in the transliterated or translated English versions of the names of political organizations.

The following political parties participate in the National Unity Government.<sup>21</sup>

**United Iraqi Alliance, UIA (al-I'ttilaf al-Iraqi al-Muwahhad):**<sup>22</sup> The UIA is an electoral coalition that consists mainly of Shia parties from the Iraqi Interim Government.<sup>23</sup> The alliance is led by Ali al-Sistani.<sup>24</sup> It was founded in December 2004 so that it could participate in the January 2005 parliamentary elections.<sup>25</sup> In December 2005 elections, UIA members won 128 seats.<sup>26</sup> Members of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, (SCIRI) which is also known as the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI)<sup>27</sup> and since 2007, as the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council (SIIC),<sup>28</sup> won 29 seats;<sup>29</sup> the followers of Muqtada al-Sadr won 29 seats<sup>30</sup> and were awarded responsibility for five ministries;<sup>31</sup> members of the Islamic Call, Dawa party (al-Dawah, Hizb ad Da'wa al Islamiya)<sup>32</sup> won 26 seats<sup>33</sup> and their leader, Nuri Jawad al Maliki was appointed prime minister;<sup>34</sup> and, members of the Islamic Virtue party (Hizb al Fadilah) won 16 seats,<sup>35</sup> but the party left the UIA in May 2006.<sup>36</sup>

Other parties in the UIA are: Assembly for Iraq's Future, Badr Organization, Centrist Assembly, Democratic Iraqi Movement, Fayli Kurd Islamic Union, First Democratic National Party, Hezbollah al-Iraq, Hezbollah Movement in Iraq, Iraqi National Congress, Islamic Action Organization (also called Islamic Task Organization), Dawa Islamic Party - Iraq Organization, Islamic Fayli Grouping in Iraq, Islamic Master of the Martyrs Movement, Islamic Union of Iraqi Turkmen, Justice and Equality Grouping, Sayyid alShuhadaa Organization, Shaheed alMihrab Organization and the Turkmen Fidelity (Loyalty) Movement.<sup>37</sup>

**Democratic Patriotic Alliance of Kurdistan (DPAK) or Kurdistan Alliance:** This alliance was formed by the merging of smaller groups in 2004 to contest the January 2005 elections.<sup>38</sup> The DPAK finished second in the provisional elections of January 2005 with 75 seats and 26 percent of the vote.<sup>39</sup> In the 15 December 2005 legislative elections, DPAK won 53 seats and 21.7 percent of the vote.<sup>40</sup>

This electoral coalition also includes the following parties: Assyrian Patriotic Party (or Assyrian National Party), Chaldean Democratic Union, Democratic Baith-Nahrain Party, Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK), Iraqi Turkmen Brotherhood Party, Islamic Group of Kurdistan, Kurdistan Communist Party (KCP),

Kurdistan Socialist Democratic Party (KSDP), Kurdistan Toilers' Party (or Kurdistan Labour Party), Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), and other smaller parties.<sup>41</sup>

**Democratic Party of Kurdistan, DPK (al-Hizb al-Dimuqrati al-Kurdistani):**<sup>42</sup> This party was created following a split from the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), which was formed in 1975 after the Algiers agreement between Iraq and Iran and the end of Iranian and American aid for the Kurds.<sup>43</sup>

In 2002, it was estimated that the DPK guerrilla forces numbered 25,000 men.<sup>44</sup> The party exercised de facto control of northwestern Iraq.<sup>45</sup> Its leaders are Massoud Barzani, Jawhar Namiq Salim, Sami Abdurahman and Hashyar Zubari.<sup>46</sup>

**Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, PUK (al-Ittihad al-Watani al-Kurdistani):**<sup>47</sup> The PUK was formed by former members of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, Ibrahim Ahmad and Jalal Talabani, after the collapse of the Kurdish revolt in 1975.<sup>48</sup> The party is a merger of the Kurdistan National Party, the Socialist Movement of Kurdistan and the Association of Marxist-Leninists of Kurdistan.<sup>49</sup> The PUK supports the autonomy of the Kurds within Iraq.<sup>50</sup> Its leader, Jalal Talabani, has good relations with Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United States.<sup>51</sup>

After the fall of Saddam Hussein, Jalal Talabani represented the PUK on Iraq's Interim Governing Council.<sup>52</sup> Since 1991, the PUK has run its own Kurdish government in northeast Iraq, making Sulaymaniyah the capital.<sup>53</sup> PUK leaders are Jalal Talabani (President of the Republic), Barham Salih and Ahmad Barmarmi.<sup>54</sup>

The PUK also has a military faction,<sup>55</sup> with an estimated 15,000 to 25,000 fighters.<sup>56</sup>

**Iraqi Accord Front, IAF (Jabhat al-Tawafuq al-Iraqiyya, Tawafuq Iraqi Front):**<sup>57</sup> The IAF is a coalition of mostly Sunni parties that participated in the December 2005 elections.<sup>58</sup> This coalition is made up of the General Council for Iraqi People (al-Mu'tamar al-Am li-Ahl al-Iraq), the Iraqi Islamic Party (al-Hizb al-Islami al-Iraqi, IIP) and the National Dialogue Council (Majlis al-Hiwar al-Watani al-Iraqi).<sup>59</sup> The IAF actively participated in reconciliation talks in 2005 and 2006.<sup>60</sup> The leaders of the IAF are Muhsin Abd al-Hamid and Tariq al-Hashimi.<sup>61</sup> In the 15 December 2005 legislative elections, The IAF won 44 seats and 15.1 percent of the vote.<sup>62</sup>

**Iraqi National List, INL (al-Qa'ima al-Wataniyya al-Iraqiyya):**<sup>63</sup> The INL won 13.8 percent of the vote and 40 seats in the January 2005 legislative elections, but only 15 seats and 8 percent of the vote in the December 2005 elections.<sup>64</sup> Formerly known as the Iraqi List, this party was formed by the former interim prime minister, Ayad Allawi, in December 2004 in advance of the January 2005 elections.<sup>65</sup> Ayad Allawi is still the INL leader.<sup>66</sup>

The INL includes members from several parties; among them are the Iraqi Communist Party, the Union Party, the al-Qasimi Democratic Assembly, the Iraqi Republican Group, the Arab Socialist Movement, the Group of Independent Democrats, the Iraqi National Accord Movement, the Society of Turkmen Tribes and Elite, the Assembly of the Middle Euphrates, the Iraqis, the Loyalty Assembly for Iraq, the Iraqi Independent Alliance, the Independent Council of Sheiks of Iraq, the National List and the Freeman.<sup>67</sup> Tribal leaders are also members of the INL.<sup>68</sup> For the purposes of the December 2005 election, the INL was known under the name List 731.<sup>69</sup>

**Iraqi Front for National Dialogue (al-Jabha al'Iraqiyya li-I-Hiwar al-Watani, Hewar National**



**Iraqi Front):**<sup>70</sup> This political party was created by Salih Mutlaq, Fakhri al-Qa'isi and Fahren al-Sudayd in September 2005.<sup>71</sup> The party was formed as a reaction to the Iraqi Islamic Party's support of the new Iraqi constitution.<sup>72</sup> Its leader is Salih Mutlaq.<sup>73</sup> This party, which contested the December 2005 elections, is the second largest Sunni party in Iraq, although some of its representatives are from other ethnic and sectarian groups.<sup>74</sup> It includes many small groups such as the Iraqi National Front, the Democratic Christian Party of Iraq, the Arab Democratic Front, the National Front for a United and Free Iraq, and the Unified Movement of the Sons of Iraq.<sup>75</sup> In the 15 December 2005 legislative elections, the Iraqi Front for National Dialogue won 11 seats and 4.1 percent of the vote.<sup>76</sup>

**Kurdistan Islamic Union (al-Ittihad al-Islami al-Kurdistani, KIU):**<sup>77</sup> This expanding party was founded in 1994 and is led by Salah al-Din Baha al-Din.<sup>78</sup> It was part of the Kurdistan Alliance in the January 2005 elections, but dropped out and ran on its own in the December 2005 election.<sup>79</sup> It won 5 seats in that election.<sup>80</sup>

**Reconciliation and Liberation Bloc (Kutla al-Musalaha wa't-Tahrir):**<sup>81</sup> This Sunni party was founded in Jordan in 1995.<sup>82</sup> Its leader is Mish'an al-Juburi.<sup>83</sup> In the 15 December 2005 legislative elections, the Reconciliation and Liberation Bloc won 3 seats and 1.1 percent of the vote.<sup>84</sup>

**Upholders of the Message (al-Risaliyun):** This party is a Shia party of the Sadr movement.<sup>85</sup> It did not participate in the 30 January 2005 legislative elections, but ran in the elections held at the end of that same year.<sup>86</sup> In the 15 December 2005 legislative elections, the party won 2 seats and 1.2 percent of the vote.<sup>87</sup>

**Iraqi Turkmen Front (al-Jabah al-Turkmaniyya al-Iraqiyya, ITF):**<sup>88</sup> The Iraqi Turkmen Front is a coalition that was formed in 1995 by 26 small Turkmen parties and groups, including the Turkoman Shura Council, the Iraqi Turkoman National Party, the Turkomaneli Party and the Independent Turkoman's Movement.<sup>89</sup> It advocates greater autonomy for the Turkmen ethnic group and official recognition as a minority.<sup>90</sup> The ITF won 1 seat in the December 2005 legislative elections.<sup>91</sup> Its leader is Faruk Abdullah Abd al-Rahman<sup>92</sup>.

**Mithal al-Aloosi List for the Iraqi Nation (Qa'imat Mithal al-Alusi li al-Umma al-Iraqiyya):**<sup>93</sup> Also known as List 620, this party won 1 seat in the 15 December 2005 legislative elections.<sup>94</sup> It is a Sunni nationalist party founded for the December 2005 legislative elections.<sup>95</sup> Its leader is Mithal al-Alusi.<sup>96</sup> It promotes reconciliation with the Shias.<sup>97</sup>

**National Rafidain List:** This Assyrian and Christian party was created in 2004 and is led by Younadam Kana.<sup>98</sup> In the 15 December 2005 legislative elections, The National Rafidain List won 1 seat and 0.4 percent of the vote.<sup>99</sup>

**al-Ezediah Movement for Progress and Reform:** In the 15 December 2005 legislative elections, the al-Ezediah Movement for Progress and Reform won 1 seat and 0.2 percent of the vote.<sup>100</sup>

#### **Other parties**<sup>101</sup>

Al Hay'at al-Ulama al-Muslimin fi-I-Iraq (Muslim Ulama Committee), al-Hizb ad-Dimuqraati al-kurd/Parti Democrata Kurdistan (Kurdish Democratic Party), al Hizb al-Watani ad-Dimuqrati (National Democratic Party), al-Khoei Foundation, al-Malakiyya al-Dusturiyya al-Iraqiyya (Constitutional Monarchist Party),

Free Officers and Civilians Movement, Gaba Shawtapaya Atouraya (Assyrian Socialist Party), Hizb al-baa'th al-Arabi al-Ishtiriki (Arab Baath Socialist Party), Hizb al-Ishtiraqi an-Nasiri (Nasserite Socialist Party), Hizb al-Muhafidhin al-Kurdistani (Kurdistan Conservative Party), Hizb alWatan alIraqi (Iraqi Homeland Party), al Maraka al Islamiya Fi Kurdistan al Irak (Islamic Movement of Kurdistan/Iraq), Iraqi National Movement (INM), Iraqi National Unity Movement (INUM), Jund al-Imam (Soldiers of the [Twelfth] Imam), Party Khabat bo Serbogoy Kurdistan (Action Party for the Independence of Kurdistan, PKSK), Partiya Karkeran Kurdistan (Kurdish Workers' Party, PKK), Majlis al-Hiwar al-Watani al-'Iraqi (National Dialogue Council), Turkoman National Association, Worker Communist Party of Irak (WCPI), Zowaa (Assyrian Democratic Movement).

## 4. ARMED GROUPS AND OTHER NON-STATE ACTORS

**Army of the First Four Caliphs (Jaych al-Rachidin):** This army is reported to have 6 brigades made up of several dozen to several hundred members.<sup>102</sup> It defines itself as an Iraqi Islamist and nationalist group.<sup>103</sup>

**Army of Sunna Supporters (Jaych Ansar al-Sunna):** Jaych Ansar al-Sunna arose from the Jaych Ansar alIslam group (Army of the Supporters of Islam).<sup>104</sup> This army claims to have at least 16 brigades made up of several dozen to several hundred members.<sup>105</sup>

**Islamic Army in Iraq (Al-Jaych al-Islami fi-I-'Iraq):** This army claims to have at least 13 brigades made up of several dozen to several hundred members.<sup>106</sup>

**Badr Corps (Faylaq Badr):** This group, formed in 1983, is the armed wing of the SCIRI/SIIC.<sup>107</sup> Since 2003, it has cooperated with the forces of Iraq's Ministry of the Interior in the fight against terrorism.<sup>108</sup> Its secretary-general is Hadi al-Amiri.<sup>109</sup> In 2005, this group consisted of 8,000 to 10,000 men.<sup>110</sup>

**Mujahidin Brigades (Katq'ib al-Mujahidin):**<sup>111</sup> This organization of Iranian dissidents formerly supported by Saddam Hussein is based in southern Iraq.<sup>112</sup> It targets Iraqi and Kurdish forces.<sup>113</sup> It was founded in 2004.<sup>114</sup> Its leader is Massoud Rajavi.<sup>115</sup>

**Shahid al-Sadr Force:** This armed wing of the al-Da'wa party was created in 1979.<sup>116</sup>

**Islamic Front of the Iraqi Resistance (Al-Jabha al-Islamiyya li-I-Muqawama al-'Iraqiyya):** The military faction of this organization consists of the Kata'ib Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi brigades.<sup>117</sup>

**Martyrs of Saddam (Fedayeen Saddam):** This paramilitary group was created by one of Saddam Hussein's sons in 1995.<sup>118</sup>

**al-Qaida Organization in the Land of the Two Rivers or the Zarqawi Network (Tanzim al-Qa'ida fi-Bilad al-Rafidayn):**<sup>119</sup> This Salafist organization is al-Qaida's Iraqi branch.<sup>120</sup> Its leader is Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi.<sup>121</sup> It claims to have 15 brigades of 100 to 300 men each.<sup>122</sup> The organization publishes two newspapers: *Siyar a'lam a-Chuhada* (the biographies of great martyrs) and *Sawt al-Jihad* (voice of the Jihad).<sup>123</sup>

**God's Party (Hizballah/Hezbollah):**<sup>124</sup> This Shia group is independent from the Lebanese Hezbollah.<sup>125</sup>

**Supporters of Islam (Ansar al-Islam):** Formerly known as the Army of Islam (Jund al-Islam), this Kurdish group formed in 1998, is an offshoot of the Islamic Movement of Iraqi Kurdistan (IMIK).<sup>126</sup> This group contests northeastern Kurdistan with the PUK and also targets the KDP.<sup>127</sup> Ansar al-Islam still maintains an organized presence in Iraqi Kurdistan.<sup>128</sup> Its leaders are Mullah Najm al-Din Faraj (Mullah Krekaar), Ahson Ali Abd al-Aziz and Abdullah al-Shafii.<sup>129</sup>

### Other groups:

Active Religious Seminary, al-Faruq Brigades, al-Qiyadah al-Amah li Jaysh al-Iraq (General Command of the Iraqi Army), al-Sadr's Group, Armed Vanguard of Mohammad's Second Army, Ba'ath Arab Socialist Party, Black Banner Organization, Fallujah Branch, Hasad al-Muqawamah al-Iraqiyah, Imam al-Mahdi Army, Iraq's Revolutionaries, Iraqi National Islamic Resistance, Iraqi Organization of Liberation, Iraqi Resistance Brigades, Iraqi Resistance Islamic Front (JAMI), Islamic Jihad Brigades of Muhammad's Army, Islamic Movement of Kurdistan, Jamaat al-Tawhid wa'l-Jihad (Unification and Jihad Group), Jaysh Muhammad, Jund al-Sham (God's Wrath), Kata'ib al-Zilzal al-Mujahidah (Jihadist Earthquake Brigades), Kurdistan Islamic Group, Liberating Iraq's Army, Mafariz al-Intiqam (Martyrs Brigades of the Hamas Movement), Mujahedin Allahu Akbar (God is Great Fighters), Mujahideen Battalions of the Salafi Group of Iraq, Muslim Fighters of the Victorious Sect, Muslim Youth, National Iraqi Commandos Front, Resistance Front, Sa'd bin Abi Waqqas, Salafist Jihad Group, Snake Party, Sons of Islam, Tha'r Allah (Vengeance Detachments), Ushat al-Huda (Daughter of Guidance), Wakefulness and Holy War, White Flags.<sup>130</sup>

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Oanda.com 2 Jan. 2008. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>2</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 571; *Europa 2007* 2007, 2321. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>3</sup> US Aug. 2006, 16; France 10 Mar. 2006, 26. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>4</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 571; *Europa 2007* 2007, 2321; France 10 Mar. 2006, 26. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>5</sup> *Europa 2007* 2007, 2321. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>6</sup> Iraq 8 Mar. 2004. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>7</sup> *Europa 2007* 2007, 2330; *PHW 2007* 2007, 571. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>8</sup> *Europa 2007* 2007, 2330; *PHW 2007* 2007, 573. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>9</sup> *Europa 2007* 2007, 2330; *PHW 2007* 2007, 573. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>10</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 573 and 574. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>11</sup> US Aug. 2006, 17. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>12</sup> *Europa 2007* 2007, 2338. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>13</sup> *Europa 2007* 2007, 2338. [\[back\]](#)

- <sup>14</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 577. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>15</sup> CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>16</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 577; *Europa 2007* 2007, 2325. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>17</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 577; *Europa 2007* 2007, 2325. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>18</sup> *Europa 2007* 2007, 2327. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>19</sup> BBC 14 Sept. 2007. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>20</sup> BBC 15 Dec. 2007. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>21</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 578. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>22</sup> CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>23</sup> France 10 Mar. 2006, 32. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>24</sup> US Aug. 2006, 19; France 10 Mar. 2006, 32. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>25</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 578; US Aug. 2006, 19. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>26</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 578. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>27</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 578. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>28</sup> Europa World Online n.d. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>29</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 578. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>30</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 578. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>31</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 579. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>32</sup> *Europa 2007* 2007, 2339. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>33</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 578. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>34</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 579; US Aug. 2006, 21. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>35</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 578. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>36</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 579. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>37</sup> Compiled from the following sources: *PHW 2007* 2007, 578 and 579; France 10 Mar. 2006, 32; CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>38</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 579. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>39</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 579; US 11 Mar. 2005, 6. [\[back\]](#)

- <sup>40</sup> France 10 Mar. 2006, 30. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>41</sup> Compiled from the following sources: France 10 Mar. 2006, 32; CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>42</sup> CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>43</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 579. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>44</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 580. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>45</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 580. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>46</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 580. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>47</sup> CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>48</sup> *Political Parties of the World* 2005, 315. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>49</sup> *Political Parties of the World* 2005, 315. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>50</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 580; *Political Parties of the World* 2005, 315. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>51</sup> *Political Parties of the World* 2005, 315. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>52</sup> *Political Parties of the World* 2005, 315. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>53</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 580. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>54</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 580. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>55</sup> CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>56</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 580. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>57</sup> CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>58</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 581. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>59</sup> France 10 Mar. 2006, 32. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>60</sup> US Aug. 2006, 21. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>61</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 581. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>62</sup> France 10 Mar. 2006, 30. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>63</sup> CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>64</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 581. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>65</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 581. [\[back\]](#)
- <sup>66</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 581. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>67</sup> Compiled from the following sources: *PHW 2007* 2007, 581; CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>68</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 581. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>69</sup> CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>70</sup> CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>71</sup> CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>72</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 581. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>73</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 581. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>74</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 581. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>75</sup> CNRS 26 Nov. 2006; France 10 Mar. 2006, 33. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>76</sup> France 10 Mar. 2006, 30. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>77</sup> CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>78</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 581; CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>79</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 581. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>80</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 581. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>81</sup> *Europa 2007* 2007, 2339. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>82</sup> *Europa 2007* 2007, 2339. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>83</sup> *Europa 2007* 2007, 2340. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>84</sup> France 10 Mar. 2006, 30. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>85</sup> *Europa 2007* 2007, 2340. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>86</sup> France 10 Mar. 2006, 29 and 30. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>87</sup> France 10 Mar. 2006, 30. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>88</sup> CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>89</sup> CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>90</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 581. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>91</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 581. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>92</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 581. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>93</sup> CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>94</sup> CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>95</sup> *Europa 2007* 2007, 2339. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>96</sup> *Europa 2007* 2007, 2339. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>97</sup> CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>98</sup> *Europa 2007* 2007, 2339. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>99</sup> France 10 Mar. 2006, 30. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>100</sup> France 10 Mar. 2006, 30. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>101</sup> Compiled from the following sources: US 4 Oct. 2007; *Europa 2007* 2007, 2338-2340; CNRS 26 Nov. 2006; *Political Parties of the World* 2005, 311-316. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>102</sup> CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>103</sup> CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>104</sup> France 10 Mar. 2006, 38. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>105</sup> CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>106</sup> CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>107</sup> France 10 Mar. 2006, 39. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>108</sup> France 10 Mar. 2006, 39. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>109</sup> France 10 Mar. 2006, 39. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>110</sup> *Political Parties of the World* 2005, 312. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>111</sup> France 10 Mar. 2006, 39. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>112</sup> *Political Parties of the World* 2005, 315. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>113</sup> France 10 Mar. 2006, 39. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>114</sup> France 10 Mar. 2006, 39. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>115</sup> *Political Parties of the World* 2005, 315. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>116</sup> France 10 Mar. 2006, 39. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>117</sup> CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>118</sup> France 10 Mar. 2006, 40; *Europa 2007* 2007, 2340. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>119</sup> CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>120</sup> CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>121</sup> CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)

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<sup>123</sup> CNRS 26 Nov. 2006. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>124</sup> France 10 Mar. 2006, 39; *Europa 2007* 2007, 2340. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>125</sup> France 10 Mar. 2006, 39. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>126</sup> *Political Parties of the World* 2005 311; *PHW 2007* 2007, 582; France 10 Mar. 2006, 38. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>127</sup> *Political Parties of the World* 2005, 311. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>128</sup> *Political Parties of the World* 2005, 312. [\[back\]](#)

<sup>129</sup> *PHW 2007* 2007, 582. [\[back\]](#)

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