



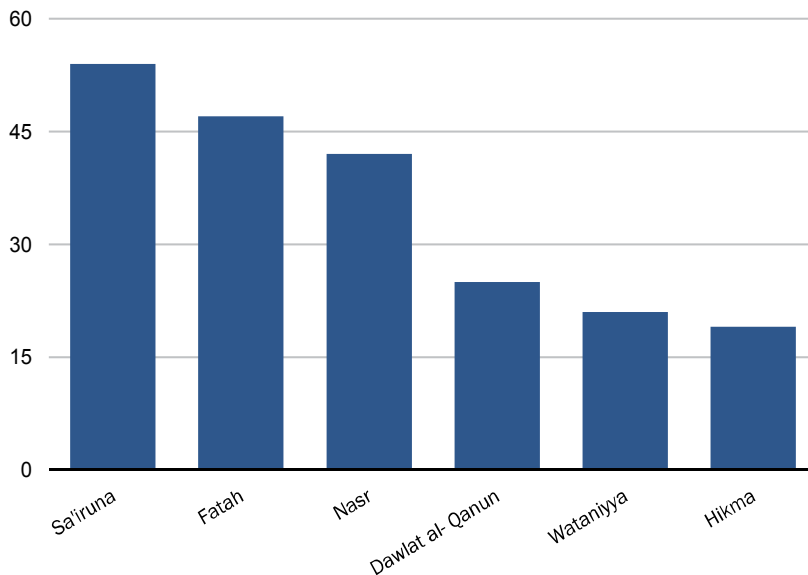
# FACT SHEET IRAQ

03. May 2018 – 20. June 2018 No. 69

The electoral battle between the alliances and parties has seen heavy protests of Kurdish parties and the Iraqi foreign ministry due to the ongoing Turkish military operation against the Workers Party of Kurdistan (PKK) in Northern Iraq. As the elections were over, first voices rose that the election was manipulated and has to be annulled. One of these voices was former Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, who said, that the elections have to be annulled, because of the humanitarian situation of the Internally Displaced People. Another heavy setback to the electoral process was the attack on the headquarter of the Kurdish party Gorran in Sulaymaniyya by a group loyal to the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). The frauds led to a first request to the parliament to recount the votes. The Iraqi parliament voted for a manual recount of 10 percent of the ballots. Further the Federal Supreme Court

(FSC) rejected the complaint to cancel the election results. This was followed by a statement of the High Council of Justice (HCJ) that there is no legal obligation to recount the votes. The parliament afterwards amended the election law, which said to annul the work and result of the Independent High Commission for Elections (IHEC) and dissolve it. The HCJ therefore appointed nine new judges to observe the work of the IHEC.

At the same time Turkey started to fill up the Ilisu dam in Anatolia causing a water reduction of the Tigris by 50 percent. After protests of the Iraqi parliament Turkey declared to postpone the filling up until July. Turkey also started a new offensive against PKK bases in the Qandil region in northern Iraq, which was followed by heavy protests of the government in Baghdad and Kurdish parties.



## GRAPH DESCRIPTION

Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and his list Sa'iruna emerged as winner of the elections by winning 54 seats out of 329. He was followed by Hadi al-Ameri, who is the top candidate of the Fatah alliance, with 47 seats and current Prime Minister Haydar al-Abadi and his alliance al-Nasr with 42 seats. They were followed by former Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki and his list Dawlat al-Qanun won 25 seats, Iyad Allawi and his alliance al-Wataniyya 21 and Ammar al-Hakim with his party al-Hikma 19 seats. The results shows a clear victory for Shiite alliances and parties.

## FORECAST

After triggering a constitutional crisis by trying to bypass the judiciary, some parliamentarians insisted on a new amendment to re-elect the parliament, which could be unconstitutional and would worsen the situation. If the Supreme Court decides that the amendment is in conformity with the constitution, there are two options: On the one hand Iraq tensions could heighten, because some parties and alliances accept the ruling of the FSC and others do not. On the other hand most of the parties and alliances would accept a new election, risking an even lower voter turnout than in the previous elections and a less legitimate government. Prime Minister Abadi will stay focused on handling the tensions with the Turkish offensive against PKK in Qandil region, but through its control of water resources Turkey will hold an advantage over Abadis position. It is likely that Turkey will use the water flow to Iraq as a bargaining chip for their controversial presence in Northern Iraq.

*The periodically published Fact Sheet compiles and analyzes significant developments pertaining to the Iraq conflict while providing maps and an outlook of possible future events.*

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## INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

02.05.: The United States collected about 4,000 smuggled historical artefacts of Iraqi history and will return them to Iraq.

07.05.: Iraqi Foreign Minister Jaafari renewed his demand that Turkish troops, which are fighting PKK positions and hideaways in Northern Iraq, have to leave Iraqi soil.

17.05.: UN Special Representative for Iraq, Jan Kubis, called for an immediate inquiry over election frauds and offered Baghdad assistance if requested.

22.05.: The Iraqi Foreign Ministry expressed its regret due to the decision of president Trump to withdraw from the nuclear deal with Iran. The statement emphasized that this decision will only escalate tensions in the region.

02.06.: As Turkey started to fill up the Ilisu dam in Southeast Anatolia, the water level of the Tigris lowered and caused severe water shortages. The following day the Iraqi parliament ordered the Turkish ambassador to Iraq in to question him about the ongoing situation.

04.06.: Turkish president Erdogan declared that Turkey had informed Iraq over the dam project ten years ago and it will not wait with the filling up. On June 7 Turkey halted the filling up of Ilisu dam after the Turkish ambassador to Iraq and the Iraqi minister of water resources agreed to postpone it to July.

06.06.: Iraqi Prime Minister Abadi reinforced that no one is allowed to conduct military operations on Iraqi soil as Turkey announced to start a military operation to "neutralize" PKK positions in the Qandil region.

11.06.: Turkish president Erdogan said that the Turkish security forces started an operation against PKK fighters in Sinjar and Qandil region.

## MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

02.05.: The international coalition to defeat ISIS announced that the major fight against ISIS is over, but the coalition will continue the train and assist programme of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) in order to fight the remaining ISIS members.

02.05.: The ISF, assisted by the Shia-dominated Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF), launched an operation against ISIS in the southwest of Kirkuk.

07.05./14.05.: Iraqi Air Force conducted an air raid against ISIS commanders and fighters in the Syrian town of Hajin, 35 km away from the Iraqi border. Over the last years Iraq and Syria coordinated military operations in the border region effectively.

21.05./27.05.: Nineveh police forces arrested 13 ISIS fighters in Eastern Mosul and 35 in Western Mosul according to the chief commander of the Nineveh police.

26.05.: The US-led Coalition forces launched an attack on ISIS members in Kirkuk after ISIS captured a local tribal chief and executed him.

28.05.: According to the Iraqi security media centre the ISF were able to destroy one of ISIS factories producing improvised explosive devices near Diyala.

06.06.: As stated by a police source at least 18 people were killed and about 90 person were injured by an explosion in a mosque in Baghdad's Sadr-City. The perpetrator remains unknown.

## DOMESTIC POLITICS

07.05.: Iraq's clergy led by Grand Ayatollah Sistani warned electors not to vote for politicians and parties, which are known to be corrupt.

14.05.: Iraq's IHEC announced the lowest voter turnout of 44.5 percent at the parliamentary elections since 2005. First results showed that Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr has won most seats ahead of the PMF's list led by Hadi al- Ameri and Abadis list. In spite of the first results some parties declared that they will not accept the results due to major electoral frauds.

14.05.: According to Kurdish Gorran media service a PUK loyal force attacked the headquarter of Gorran in Sulaymaniyya. Thereafter Iyad Allawi made clear that he rejects the results due to the fraud, violence and the situation of the Internally Displaced People.

22.05.: As the election results were out officially, Muqtada al-Sadr got courted by various political parties to become part of the new government. Sadr announced that he wants to form an inclusive cross sectarian government, after talks with every alliance.

23.05.: Some lawmakers submitted a request to the speaker of parliament to cancel the election results and to dissolve the IHEC.

27.05.: Iraqi Federal Supreme Court rejected the claim to annul the election result. The following day the parliament voted for a 10 percent manual recount of the votes.

05.06.: The HCJ said that there is no obligation for the IHEC to recount the election result manually.

06.06.: The parliament voted for a fourth amendment of the election law, which annuls the election result, leads to a manual recount and also dissolves the current IHEC. Nine new judges, appointed by the HCJ, will replace the current IHEC and take the responsibility of the recounting process.

08.06.: Sadr called for a nationwide disarmament as a consequence of the heavy explosion in Sadr-City, which is his stronghold in Baghdad. He voiced that his groups would be the first ones to hand in weaponry to the government.

10.06.: One of the storehouses of the IHEC caught fire and the ballot boxes for Baghdad's biggest neighbourhood were destroyed. There have been no claims of responsibility.



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