



FACT SHEET IRAQ

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With the election results being declared void, the Federal Supreme Court (FSC) subsequently blocked the parliament from extending its term until the completion of the manual recount process, which started on July 3rd. During that time, the Ministry of Water Resources warned of the salinity of the Shatt al-Arab, the main water resource for Basra. The former, coupled with a lack of services, high unemployment rates, and the recent decision of the Iranian government to stop supplying electricity to Iraq due to unpaid bills resulted in local protests in Basra. Widespread protests resulted in Turkey and Kuwait issuing travel warnings to Iraq and hastened the return of Prime Minister Abadi from Brussels. An Iraqi delegation travelled to Saudi Arabia in search of a possible solution for the power

crisis. Turkey and Kuwait offered, at Iraq's expense, to provide electricity to Iraq by means of mobile generators.

While several political parties have attempted to ally in order to form the largest bloc in parliament, Shiite clergy criticised the move setting that addressing the claims of the protesters should supersede such actions. Once the results of the manual count were announced by the IHEC and confirmed by the FSC, Ammar al-Hakim and Prime Minister Hayder al-Abadi declared that they have formed a coalition and have a political majority in parliament. However, Nuri al-Maliki and Hadi al-Ameri also proclaimed to have such majority. President Fu'ad Masum then instructed the parliament to reconvene immediately.

Alliance Sadr/Abadi



Alliance Ameri/Maliki



GRAPH DESCRIPTION

After finishing the manual recount process the election results showed that only six seats have changed. Meanwhile the talks over forming the largest bloc in parliament continued and resulted in the creation of two blocs. The first bloc, which is led by Muqtada al-Sadr and Prime Minister Abadi, is said to be pro-West whereas the second bloc, led by Hadi al-Ameri and Vice President Nuri al-Maliki, is seen as being pro-Iran, claim both two small Sunni alliances, al-Anbar Hawaytna und Salah al-Din Hawaytna.

FORECAST

The widespread protests mirrored a mismanagement of local government and forced PM Abadi to address a second major issue coinciding with the manual election recount. Iran's decision to halt its power supply also drew attention to the foreign governments' hold on Iraq. Abadi's pursuit of assistance from the Gulf states and Turkey could deepen the rift between Iraq and Iran. Furthermore, balancing the contradictory interests of Iran and the Gulf states may harden the process of government formation and thus negatively affect domestic politics. The two political blocs in parliament, formed once the results of the manual count were confirmed, demonstrate the described tension. Pro-Iran and pro-western blocs competing in the process of government formation may result in further deterioration of the political situation in the country.

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.

COMPILED BY.: IFK MENA-Team (Simon SCHWENOHA, Maya HADAR, Jasmina RUPP)

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INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

27.06: Pope Francis appointed patriarch Mar Louis I Sako, head of the Chaldean Catholic church, cardinal.

27.06: Egypt reiterated its commitment to rebuild and stabilize Iraq.

01.07: With OPEC's support, the Iraqi National Oil Company announced that it will increase the capacity of its crude storage to increase the production to six million barrel per day.

10.07: UN Special Representative to Iraq Jan Kubis stated that the manual recounting process was both transparent and professional.

14.07: Due to the protests in Basra, Kuwait and Turkey have issued travel warnings to Iraq and stated that they will take security measures.

16.07/17.07: The Iraqi electricity minister announced that Tehran will no longer supply electricity to the southern cities of Iraq. As a result, the Iraqi minister of planning traveled to Jeddah in order to discuss the energy crisis with a Saudi delegation.

23.07: Kuwait offered to provide power to Iraq, at Iraq's expense, by means of 17 mobile generators.

14.08: Turkey and Iraq agreed to open a new border crossing near Fish Khabour border crossing. Moreover and in order to strengthen their relationship Jordan signed a security agreement with Iraq which stipulated the opening of the border crossing and the street linking Amman with Baghdad.

16.08/21.08: After the reactivation of the Iran sanctions, Prime Minister Abadi struggled to balance Iraq's relationship with the United States and with Iran. Against the backdrop of strong economic ties between Iraq and Iran, an Iraqi delegation traveled to Washington seeking exemptions concerning Iran.

MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

27.06: Muqtada al-Sadr, leader of the Saraya al-Salam militia, suspended all military operations in Basra following clashes with local forces.

02.07: Tensions in the Iraqi-Syrian border region were easing due a joint effort to combat ISIS pockets in the region.

02.07/04.07: The federal police deployed troops to Kirkuk province in order to maintain the security situation in light of recent regrouping of ISIS fighters in the south of the province. A joint operation by the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), PMUs and Peshmerga was commenced in the region.

03.07: The Iraqi air force attacked an ISIS hideout in the Makhoul Mountains north of Baghdad.

10.07: According to Prime Minister Abadi, the security situation in Mosul had improved since the declared victory over ISIS in December 2017.

19.08: The Iraqi central government and the Kurdish regional government signed an agreement establishing joint checkpoints on the Erbil-Kirkuk road that is undergoing repair.

19.08: The US led international coalition announced that US troops will stay in Iraq as long as ISIS' cells exist in Iraq.

20.08: PMUs deputy secretary Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis ordered the PMUs to retreat from the liberated Sunni areas. The order was later reversed by Prime Minister al-Abadi who is also the chief commander of the armed forces.

DOMESTIC POLITICS

27.06/30.06: The Federal Supreme Court (FSC) denied the extension of the parliamentary term leaving the country with a legitimate government from June 30 on. Meanwhile, the Independent High Election Commission (IHEC) stated that the manual recount process will start on July 3rd.

01.07: Salim Jubouri, speaker of the Iraqi parliament stated that he intend to meet Sunni party leaders in order to form a single Sunni bloc in preparation of government formation.

03.07/04.07: The IHEC started the manual recount process in the province of Kirkuk as numerous incidents were reported there. The following day, frauds, which were reported, were detected.

04.07/08.07: The ministry of water Resources warned of the salinity of Shatt al-Arab river. The latter resulted in a deteriorating water conditions in Basra and triggered new protests in some days later.

11.07/13.07: Civil protests due to unemployment, lacking basic services and local infrastructure, spread from Basra to other southern Iraqi cities. The protests hastened the return of Prime Minister Abadi Brussels. The PM met with protesters in Basra in an attempt to find realistic solutions.

11.07: Whereas Abadi urged the IHEC to accelerate the manual recount process, the latter stated that no major frauds were detected so far.

18.07/19.07: PM Abadi and al-Ameri, leader of the Fatah alliance, tried to ally with the main Kurdish alliance consisting of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (KDP). In respect of the protests Muqtada al-Sadr condemned the actions.

25.07/26.07: The Iraqi government stated that it would hold its officials accountable for the protests in Basra. Unsatisfied, the protesters demanded the allocation of \$45M to the province and called for autonomy.

16.08/19.08: The IHEC submitted final results to the FSC for approval. Three days later the FSC confirmed the results of the parliament elections.

20.08: Muqtada al-Sadr, leader of the winning Sa'iruna alliance, Hayder al-Abadi, leader of the Nasr alliance and Ammar al-Hakim, leader of the al-Hikma movement, tried join forces in order to form the biggest bloc in parliament.

21.08: President Fu'ad Masum stated that he will adhere to the constitutional timeline for reconvening the parliament.

31.08: Faleh al-Fayyad, member of the National Security Council was nominated as a candidate for prime minister.



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