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Iraqi National Movement

The Iraqi National Movement bills itself as the major secular, non-sectarian political movement in Iraq. In reality, the Movement is based on an alliance of strong political personalities, who rely on their names and reputations rather than the strength of a political machine to attract voters. Former prime minister Iyad Allawi and his Iraqi National List, Saleh al-Mutlaq and his Iraqi Front for National Dialogue, Vice President Tareq al-Hashimi and the newly formed Renewal Party, and Mahmoud al-Mashhadani, an independent candidate, constitute the core of the alliance. Smaller, predominantly Sunni parties and personalities have also joined, and there are indeed both Shi'i and Sunni leaders in the alliance, but major Shi'i and Sunni groups are not included.

Most Significant Members

Party	Representation	Leader(s)
Iraqi National Accord	Secular Shi'i	Iyad al-Allawi
Iraqi Front for National Dialogue	Secular Sunni	Saleh al-Mutlaq
Renewal List	Sunni	Vice President Tareq al-Hashemi
Republican Gathering	Sunni	Saad al-Janabi
Hadbaa Party	Sunni—Ninewa	Osama al-Nujeifi

Iraqi National Accord (INA)



Leader Iyad Allawi

Date of Founding & Notable Moments 1991 (officially)

Seats in Parliament 25/275 as part of the Iraqi National List alliance

Seats in 2009 Provincial Elections 26/440

Notes The Iraqi National Accord was officially launched outside Iraq in 1991 by former Baathists, many with previous connections to the military and intelligence forces, and liberal reformers. The INA originally received backing from Saudi Arabia, which saw it as a potential counterweight to the Shi'i religious parties backed by Iran. The INA soon

received support from the CIA, as well, which saw its members as useful sources of information. Iyad Allawi, the head of the party since its creation in exile, is known to have close ties with several Arab regimes as well as Britain, the United States, and other Western governments.

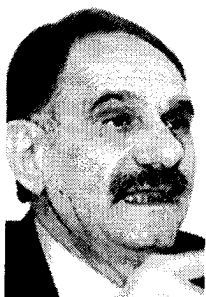
Allawi returned to Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein and became a member of the Iraqi Governing Council. After Iraq nominally regained sovereignty in June 2004, Allawi became interim prime minister, a position he occupied until the election of a transitional Iraqi National Assembly in January 2005.

In preparation for the January 2005 elections, the INA joined in a broader alliance, the Iraqi National List, which won 40 of 275 seats in the transitional assembly. In the December 2005 elections for the new national assembly, the alliance gained only 25 seats. It nevertheless joined the government, but withdrew after 2007.

Allawi allegedly considered joining the Iraqi National Alliance, a group of major Shi'i parties, to contend in the January 2010 elections, and was even rumored to have visited Tehran. In the end, Allawi returned to the idea of forming a secular, cross-sectarian alliance, joining Saleh al-Mutlaq and others in launching the Iraqi National Movement.

The alliance between Allawi and Mutlaq is based on an electoral calculus rather than on ideological affinity: Allawi has strong links with Western intelligence agencies and plays the non-sectarian card, while Mutlaq is an outspoken Arab nationalist with a long history of criticizing foreign intervention in Iraq.

Iraqi Front for National Dialogue



Leader Saleh al-Mutlaq

Date of Founding & Notable Moments 2005

Seats in Parliament 11/275

Seats in 2009 Provincial Elections 19/440

Notes Saleh al-Mutlaq, head of the Iraqi Front for National Dialogue, is considered one of the most critical actors in the country's Sunni politics. Originally from the province of Nasiriyah in the South, Mutlaq, like most Iraqi politicians of his generation, is a former Baathist, but he left the party in the late 1970s.

In 2005, Mutlaq became one of the most important Sunni representatives in the committee that drafted the new Iraqi constitution. Nevertheless, he refused to accept the constitution because it accepted federalism, granting significant political autonomy to each of the country's three regions, and because it did not emphasize Iraq's Arab identity.

Before the December 2005 elections, Mutlaq refused to join Tawafuq, the major Sunni alliance, because its core member, the Iraqi Islamic Party, accepted the constitution. Instead, Mutlaq formed the Iraqi Front for National Dialogue, a party that called for an end to foreign interference in Iraq and the rebuilding of national institutions for a post-sectarian future. The Front's vision is that of a centralized Iraq with a clear separation of church and state, in effect a country in which religious parties are shunned.

After the December 2005 elections, Mutlaq was offered the post of speaker of the parliament, but rejected it. The Front was then offered four ministries based on sectarian quotas, all of which it rejected, opting instead to remain in the opposition.

Mutlaq remains a highly controversial figure, both inside and outside Iraq, and some see him as an advocate of Baathist resurgence.

Renewal List

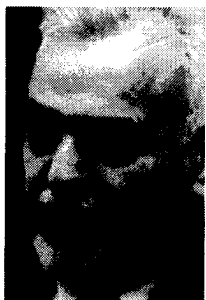
Leader Tareq al-Hashemi (current vice president of Iraq)

Date of Founding & Notable Moments 2009

Seats in Parliament None, but Tareq al-Hashemi ran with the Iraqi Accord Front, which won 26/440 seats.

Seats in 2009 Provincial Elections None

Notes Tareq al-Hashemi, the founder of the Renewal List, is the second of two vice presidents of Iraq. Until May 2009, Hashemi was the chairman of the Iraqi Islamic Party, the most important Sunni party in the Iraqi



parliament. Hashemi comes from a long line of high-ranking politicians in pre-Baath Iraq. He joined the Iraqi Islamic Party (IIP) after leaving the military in 1975, but left Iraq in 1978 to work in Kuwait, only to return in 1991.

In 2004, Hashemi was selected by the Shura Council of the IIP to take over the post of secretary general. Under his leadership, the Iraqi Islamic Party established itself as very possibly the most important Sunni political entity in the first government of Iraq. Hashemi, as the leader and public face of the IIP, encouraged the Sunni boycott of the January 2005 vote, and later exerted some influence on the drafting of the constitution. Hashemi has lost three siblings in attacks aimed at sending messages to him, but he has stood his ground. In 2006, he was chosen by the parliament as one of Iraq's vice presidents.

Hashemi's political views, which often mirror those of the IIP, include opposing federalism in Iraq, demanding the reversal of de-Baathification, and further incorporation of Sunna into the police and military forces. Originally one of the strongest proponents of sectarian quotas in government, in 2008 he reversed his position, calling for their elimination.

In May 2009, Hashemi announced his resignation from the post of secretary general of the IIP, reportedly to focus on his responsibilities as vice president of Iraq. In reality, he relaunched his career as an independent politician, founding his own Tajdeed (Renewal) List. Hashemi describes the founding of Tajdeed as a strategic and national necessity in order to bring Iraq back from a country of sectarian turmoil to one of cross-sectarian nationalism and social unity. Hashemi has also stated that there is no enmity between him and the IIP, and that he will continue to have good relations with it—though he has joined a different coalition.

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