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Iraqi Accord

Nominally the successor to the Iraqi Accord Front, or Tawafuq, the Iraqi Accord is a coalition of mostly Sunni organizations. It describes itself as a secular, rather than Islamic, alliance, despite the fact that its major component is the Iraqi Islamic Party (IIP) and major secular Sunni groups and politicians have joined other alliances. The new alliance has been able to retain some entities that had been part of Tawafuq, including the Iraqi People's Gathering, as well as attract a new party with a fair amount of weight on the Sunni street, the Independent National Tribal Gathering of Omar Jabbouri.

Party	Representation	Leader(s)
Iraqi Islamic Party	Sunni Islamist—Sunni-majority provinces, with most influence in Diyala and Salahuddin	Osama Tikriti Ayad al-Sammuraie Dhafer al-Aani
Iraqi People's Gathering	Sunni—Sunni-majority provinces, with most influence in Diyala and Salahuddin	Khaled al-Baraa Adnan al-Dulaimi
Turkmen Justice Party	Turkmen-Diyala	Hassan Tawran
Independent	Sunni MP	Taiseer Mashhadani
Independent	Sunni MP	Salim Jabbouri
Independent	Sunni -Salahudin Governor	Mutshar Aliawi

Iraqi Islamic Party



Leader Osama Tikriti (Secretary General) & Iyad Sammurai (Iraqi Parliament Speaker)

Date of Founding & Notable Moments April 26, 1960

Seats in Parliament 44/275 as part of the Iraqi Accord Front; 25 at present.

Seats in 2009 Provincial Elections 27/440 as part of the Iraqi Accord Front

Notes The Iraqi Islamic Party, a Sunni Islamist political party intellectually but not politically linked to the Muslim Brotherhood, has one of the longest histories among Iraqi political entities. Founded in 1960, the party has alternated between operating in public and operating underground. Upon the rise to power of the Baathists, the party was suppressed in Iraq. IIP's newspaper was closed down, some of its staff were imprisoned, and the party was refused the right to publicly undertake activities. Iyad Sammurai, the IIP secretary general since 1970, was forced to leave Iraq in 1980 to escape arrest and prosecution.

In 1987, after the government arrested and tried many IIP leaders, imposing sentences ranging from the death penalty to ten years in prison, much of the remaining leadership went into exile. The IIP restarted party activities publicly from abroad, but also continued operating clandestinely in Iraq. Osama Tikriti, Iyad

Sammuraie and other still prominent leaders announced the existence of the party in exile in 1991.

In 2003, after the Saddam Hussein regime was overthrown, the IIP relaunched its internal operations. One of its leaders, Mohsen Abdulhamid, became a member of the Iraqi Governing Council. Nevertheless, the IIP decided to boycott the January 2005 elections for the Transitional National Assembly and incited other Sunni parties to do the same. Partly as a result of the boycott, the IIP and other Sunni parties had limited voice in the drafting of the 2005 constitution. The IIP, however, played a major role in the insertion of Article 142, which set up a special procedure for the immediate amending of the constitution, temporarily suspending the more difficult amendment process. The committee was set up, but it never produced a revised constitution.

The IIP decided to participate in the December 2005 elections, joining with smaller Sunni organizations to form the Iraqi Accord Front, or Tawafuq. The coalition won 44 out of 275 seats. Nevertheless, Sunna continued to consider themselves underrepresented.

Tawafuq began to disintegrate in late 2008 and this also weakened the IIP. In December, ten members of the Iraqi National Dialogue Council broke away from the alliance—a day after Mahmoud Mashhadani, also a Dialogue member, resigned as parliament speaker. In August 2009, Tareq al-Hashemi, who at the time was Secretary General of the IIP, also decided to break away from his party in order to form a new organization, taking with him several IIP members. Mashhadani and Hashemi have since allied with Iyad Allawi and Saleh al-Mutlaq to form the Iraqi National Movement.

National Gathering of the People of Iraq



Leader Khaled al-Barae

Date of Founding & Notable Moments 2004

Seats in Parliament 44/275 as part of the Iraqi Accord Front

Seats in 2009 Provincial Elections 32/440 as part of the Iraqi Accord Front

Notes The National Gathering of the People of Iraq, formerly the Iraqi People's Conference, was created in 2004 by Adnan al-Dulaimi. Dulaimi, a former professor of Arabic at several regional universities, is a religious man who has worked on proselytizing, and, in the past, on stopping the spread of communism. Soon after the fall of Saddam

Hussein, Dulaimi was appointed to head the Sunni Waqf (Endowment), which is responsible for the maintenance and building of mosques and the administration of their funds. In 2005, Dulaimi was removed from the position by the government. (He was succeeded by Abdulghafour al-Sammuraie, who has since joined the Unity Alliance of Iraq.)

In 2004, Dulaimi created the Iraqi People's Conference, which in 2005 joined with the Iraqi Islamic Party to form the Iraqi Accord Front (Tawafuq). Tawafuq won 44 seats in the first Iraqi Council of Representatives, making it the biggest Sunni bloc in parliament.

Dulaimi is a highly controversial, divisive figure. His agenda, and that of the Iraqi People's Conference, focused on the need to rid Iraq of the occupation and to uphold the rights of Sunna in the country. Most controversial in Iraq has been the anti-Shi'i rhetoric of his speeches and the allegations in 2006 that he and his sons had supported ethnic cleansing efforts in western Baghdad. An attempt to lift his parliamentary immunity stalled, but in 2008, Dulaimi's son and several members of his party's security detail were arrested on charges of assisting terrorism.

With Dulaimi's health deteriorating, in September 2009 Khaled al-Barae took over as head of the party, renamed the National People's Gathering of Iraq. Barae joined with the Iraqi Islamic Party to relaunch the Iraqi Accord Front under the new name Iraqi Accord.

Barae also sought to recast his party as a non-sectarian one, changing the name and bringing new people into the leadership. Yet Barae continues to profess great respect for Dulaimi, even declaring that Dulaimi will return to a leadership position as his health improves. The party's agenda also shows continuity with Dulaimi's—it stresses that the Iraqi national identity has Arab and Islamic roots—Sunni rather than Shi'i—and that Iraqis must struggle to end the occupation, using violence if necessary.

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