

IRAQ SECULAR NATIONALIST PARTIES

Party Portrait

The Secular Nationalist parties of Iraq (including the Wataniyya party and the Iraqiyoon party) currently hold approximately 15 percent of the seats in the Council of Representatives. In the 2010 parliamentary elections, they were part of the Iraqiyya coalition. Their main constituencies are regionally-based, particularly in the Sunni regions of Nanawa and the Anbar, and their stated goals are to create a united Iraq based on Iraqi nationalism, not ethno-sectarian considerations.

Key Interests

- Balance against the powerful Shia block in the Baghdadi government
- Support Iraqi nationalism as a basis for good governance
- Reduce influence of Iran in Baghdad
- Foster relationships with other regional powers, such as Saudi Arabia

Sources of Leverage

Political – Iraqi nationalist parties currently hold approximately 15 percent of the seats in the Council of Representatives
Soft Power- High profile members have relationships with foreign governments (United States, Saudi Arabia) and use diplomacy/soft power to leverage interests domestically

Regional Strategy

The party leverages its position within parliament to legitimize coalition's goals and employs key players to help ameliorate sectarian divisions in Iraq and reduce Tehran's influence in Iraq.

Powerful Individuals

Osama al-Naijafi (former Speaker of the Parliament), Ayad Allawi (former Interim Prime Minister, member of al Wifaq, and Wataniyya)

Potential Negotiation Moves

Reconfigure Government - Reconfigure Iraqi government in order to (i) end governance based on confessional identities and (ii) empower mixed coalitions (which include Sunni, Shia, Kurdish and independent parties) to rule instead of singular, ethno-sectarian parties.
Build Coalitions - Build coalitions with various international powers (including Saudi Arabia and United States) to balance against Iran, maintain Western interest and investment in Iraq, and promote cooperation.

Internal Conflicts

Failure to consolidate the Wataniyya government allowed Maliki to retain power for his second term – this caused internal division and controversy in the coalitions.

Memberships

N/A

Allies

N/A

Partners

HUMANITARIAN ACTORS, KURDS of Iraq, SAUDI ARABIA, TURKEY, UNITED STATES

Rivals

IRAQ Islamic Supreme Council, IRAQ State of Law Coalition, IRAQ Sadrist Movement

Adversaries

IRAN

Active Armed Opponents

ISIS

Proxy

N/A

External Sponsor

N/A

Aid Recipient

N/A

Aid Donor

UNITED STATES, TURKEY