

IRAQ SUPREME ISLAMIC COUNCIL

Party Portrait

The Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq (SIIC) began in the 1980s in Iran, under the name Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI). This party represents Shia Islamist political party, and The SIIC's ideology supports Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in Iran's thinking that the Islamic Government should and must be controlled by Islamic scholars (ulema).

Key Interests

- Increase Shia power in Baghdad
- Promote religious conservatism and clericalism in Iraq
- De-centralize Iraqi government and create Shia zone in the south

Sources of Leverage

Political - The SIIC currently has 29 seats in the Council of Representatives and has the support of Iran and many of Iraq's Shias
Geography - The SIIC largely controls the major city of Basra
Soft Power - Rampant sectarianism, and the efficacy of the Kurdish autonomous zone, lend credence to the argument that a separate Shia zone could be established in the south of Iraq, with Basra as its capital

Regional Strategy

The SIIC maintains a strategy of increasing Iranian support to impose clericalism on Iraq. In addition, the party also aims to increase SIIC presence in the executive branch of Baghdad government.

Powerful Individuals

Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim (former party leader, d. 2003), Abdul Aziz al-Hakim (former party leader, d. 2009), Ammar al-Hakim (current leader)

Potential Negotiation Moves

Establish Shia Zone - Leverage sectarianism and support of Iran to establish Shia zone in south of Iraq with Basra at the helm;
Strength Iran Ties - Leverage this zone to stabilize Iraq's Shias, implement clericism, and promote stronger political and economic relations with Iran.

Internal Conflicts

Previously linked with the Badr Brigade (formerly the militant wing of SIIC), with which SIIC now cooperates in the Parliament but is no longer explicitly linked.

Memberships

N/A

Allies

N/A

Partners

IRAQ Sadrist Movement

Rivals

HUMANITARIAN ACTORS, IRAQ Secular Nationalist Parties, IRAQ State of Law Coalition, KURDS of Iraq

Adversaries

UNITED STATES

Active Armed Opponents

ISIS

Proxy

N/A

External Sponsor

IRAN

Aid Recipient

N/A

Aid Donor

N/A