



Weekly Report

Iraq

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1 Violence continues before Iraq's first general election since U.S. troops withdrew

2 Election day turnout is 60 percent with relatively little violence

Violence continues before Iraq's first general election since U.S. troops withdrew

- Insurgents attacked polling stations and political gatherings in Baghdad and surrounding areas April 28, killing at least 50 people.
- April 29, the day before Iraq's parliamentary elections, two bombs exploded in al-Saadiyah, northeast of Baghdad, killing at least 15 people.
- Source: Voice of America
<http://www.voanews.com/content/bombings-kill-10-in-iraq-on-eve-of-national-election/1903349.html>

Election day turnout is 70 percent with relatively little violence

- The general parliamentary election May 1, where Nouri al-Maliki was seeking a third term as prime minister, had a turnout of 60 percent. Northern Kurdish province had the highest turnout with 90 percent and Anbar had the lowest with around 40 percent.
- Over 9,000 candidates are running for 328 seats in parliament. Ballots are now being counted by the Independent Higher Electoral Commission (IHEC), and results are expected to be announced at the end of May.
- Election Day had relatively little violence with 14 killings across the country. The government made sure to implement high levels of security across the country for Election Day. Violence in Iraq however has been on the rise. The U.N. stated that April had the largest numbers of deaths this year.
- U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called the vote "an important milestone in Iraq's democratic transition", while President Barack Obama also endorsed the election.
- Source: Time and Times Argus

"The people of Iraq know better than anyone else the enormous challenges that they face, and yesterday's turnout demonstrated to the world that they seek to pursue a more stable and peaceful future through the political process. Whatever the outcome of this process, it should serve to unite the country through the formation of a new government that is supported by all Iraqi communities." –Barack Obama

Source: Times Argus

[http://time.com/86033/iraq-elections-maliki/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+time%2Ftopstories+\(TIME%3A+Top+Stories\)](http://time.com/86033/iraq-elections-maliki/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+time%2Ftopstories+(TIME%3A+Top+Stories))

<http://www.timesargus.com/article/20140502/NEWS04/705029999>