



Weekly Report

Iraq

Emily Mitchell

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1 Iraqi forces launch offensive in Falluja

2 Nouri al-Maliki is the frontrunner to form a coalition government

“Political pluralism and the real diversity of the top figures and parties mark the Iraqi elections with a value that is worth appreciating”

Source: Al Arabiya News

Iraqi forces launch offensive in Falluja

- The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), whom the government says is linked to al-Qaeda, has been occupying parts of the Anbar provincial capital of Ramadi and the nearby city Fallujah since late 2013.
- On May 4, Iraqi forces launched an assault to liberate Fallujah from the ISIL. Military shelling killed 13 and wounded 27 people. Over 300 civilian deaths have been reported since January.
- Source: WJXT Jacksonville
<http://www.news4jax.com/news/Iraq-launches-offensive-in-Falluja/25894654>

Nouri al-Maliki is the frontrunner to form a coalition government

- Early election results suggest incumbent leader Nouri al-Maliki was successful in Iraq’s mainly Shia southern provinces. Maliki is determined to form a coalition to stay in office.
- Final election results are expected by May 25th.
- Source: Fars New Agency and Al Arabiya News
<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13930220000375>
<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/views/news/middle-east/2014/05/05/Iraq-experiences-an-unusual-election-season.html>