

Iraq forces poised for assault in Shia city

Iraqi forces backed by U.S. troops are pouring into the city of Amara for a new crackdown on Shia militias. It is the latest in a series of offensives by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki intended to stamp his government's authority over areas once controlled by insurgents

RECENT SECURITY OPERATIONS (March-May)

1 Basra: Hundreds of people killed in clashes following offensive by government troops against Shia militiamen. Troops take control when Shia cleric **Muqtada al-Sadr** orders his **Mehdi Army** to stop fighting

2 Sadr City, Baghdad: Truce ends 7 weeks of fighting between Shia militias and U.S.-backed security forces – 10,000 Iraqi soldiers enter unopposed, allowing government to impose control

3 Mosul: Iraqi security officials say **Al Qaeda** network in city broken following ongoing U.S. and Iraqi operations



Operations have helped al-Maliki boost his image ahead of provincial elections due on October 1