

Key players in Iraq election



STATE OF LAW

Broad alliance led by Prime Minister **Nuri al-Maliki** includes his Shia Islamist Dawa Party, some Sunni tribal leaders, Shia Kurds, Christians and independents

- *Hopes of capitalising on better security undermined by series of major attacks*
- *Ban on 400 candidates allegedly linked to **Saddam's** Baath party eroding Maliki's non-sectarian image*



IRAQI NATIONAL ALLIANCE

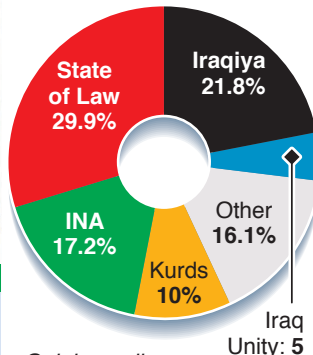
Main rival for Shia vote, brings together Iraqi Islamic Supreme Council, followers of cleric **Moqtada al-Sadr** (above), Basra-based Fadhlila party, and former U.S. favourite **Ahmed Chalabi**

- *Could form post-election coalition with Maliki's group if neither wins enough seats to form government*

KURDISH COALITION

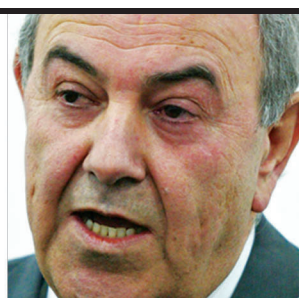
Groups Kurdish Democratic Party, led by **Massoud Barzani** (near left), president of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region, and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, headed by Iraqi President **Jalal Talabani** (far left)

- *Secular in nature, likely to retain enough clout to form part of ruling alliance*



Opinion poll conducted by government agency National Media Centre during first two weeks of February, among cross-section of 5,000 Iraqis in country's 18 provinces

*Turnout: 63%
Margin of error: 2%*



IRAQIYA

Alliance includes secular Shia ex-premier **Iyad Allawi** (above), Vice-President **Tariq al-Hashemi**, a Sunni Arab, and senior Sunni politician **Saleh al-Mutlaq**

- *Running on nationalist platform, coalition's plans complicated when Shia-dominated government panel banned al-Mutlaq and other candidates over alleged ties to Baath party*

IRAQ UNITY

Secular alliance brings together significant political figures, including Interior Minister **Jawad al-Bolani** (left), and **Ahmad Abu-Risha**, leader of Sunni anti-al-Qaeda militia in al-Anbar province

- *Also seriously affected by ban on candidates with alleged Baathist links*

