

IRAQ

Date of Elections: 20 October 1984

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Iraq, the National Assembly, comprises 250 members elected for 4 years.

Electoral System

All Iraqi citizens who are at least 18 years of age are entitled to vote. Disqualified are the insane, undischarged bankrupts, persons convicted of crime and those under allegiance to a foreign State.

Electoral registers are compiled on the constituency level; voting is not compulsory.

Candidates for the National Assembly must be qualified electors, literate and at least 25 years of age. Furthermore, they must have been Iraqi by birth, from Iraqi parents by birth or from an Iraqi father by birth and a mother from one of the Arab countries; upheld the principles and aims of the July 1968 progressive and socialist revolution; completed military service or been exempted from it; not been expropriated landowners from whom land was taken under the Agrarian Reform Law, or whose properties were nationalized or confiscated by the State; not been convicted of crimes related to the State's internal or external security after the July 1968 revolution; not been convicted for violating public confidence, harming the national economy and the State's financial confidence, violating public morality, or misdemeanour; and not have had a record of imprisonment for murder for a period not less than 15 years.

For electoral purposes, the country is divided into 56 electoral districts. In each. Deputies are elected by absolute majority system, and vacancies are filled through by-elections.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

General elections had previously been held in June 1980. In 1984, the Iraqi press devoted much attention to the campaign, which was marked by a great deal of propaganda for individual candidates. Among the 782 in the running for the National Assembly's 250 seats were eight Ministers and 46 women. Most of the candidates were reported to be supporters of the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party.

Final polling results indicated that the Baath Party partisans gained 73% (183) of the seats and that the rest were captured by independents and members of minor parties, all of

which together comprised the National Progressive Patriotic Front. Seven Ministers and 33 women met with success. On 31 October, the new Assembly elected as its Speaker Dr. Sa'adoun Hammadi.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections

Votes cast	7,171,000
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2. Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Sex

Men	217
Women	33
	250