마흐디민병대와 이라크 쉬아파 제도권 진입
과정에 관한 연구*

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<Abstract>

A Study on the Mahdi Army and the Entrance of 
Shia into Iraqi Mainstream Politics

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The main purpose of this article is to analyze the Mahdi Army and the Entrance of Shia into Iraqi Mainstream Politics. The first and most urgent step is to try to solidify Muqtada al-Sadr's unilateral measure by reaching a more comprehensive, multilateral cease-fire. U.S. and Iraqi forces should seek to circumscribe their operations more narrowly so as to focus on military targets and principally respond to attacks. The U.S. and its Iraqi allies should tolerate Sadrist activities of a purely non-military nature, while strictly prohibiting Sadrist-manned patrols or checkpoints, and immediately arresting the participants. The U.S. and its Iraqi allies should immediately freeze all sahwa recruitment, a phenomenon that further threatens the country’s cohesion by adding to the number of armed militias; instead, the focus should be on developing professional and nonpartisan national forces. Given Sadrist opposition to any open interaction with coalition members, non-coalition third parties such as the UN, Arab countries, Turkey or France should take the lead in engaging the movement and encouraging its transition toward strictly political action. As long as they are unarmed and show appropriate restraint, Sadrists should be allowed to visit religious sites; local security forces should enforce a strict ban on unlicensed non-religious demonstrations and other provocative behaviour connected to such visits.

Iraq’s political system, the result of a U.S.-supported election process, is increasingly characterized by peaceful competition rather than violence, but sectarianism and ethnic and factional infighting continue to simmer. As 2009 began, there was renewed maneuvering by opponents of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki who view him as authoritarian and were perceived as conspiring to try to replace him, had his party fared poorly in the January 31, 2009 provincial elections. However, the elections appeared to strengthen toliki and other Iraqis who believe that power should remain centralized in Baghled, and toliki is considered well positioned to compete in the parliamentary elections that will select the next four-year government. The provincial elections, held in all provinces except Kirkuk and the Kurdish-controlled provinces, were relatively peaceful and there was a more diverse array of party