

The Expected Impacts of the Withdrawal of International Coalition Forces from Iraq 'A Field Opinion Survey Study'

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Problem and Objectives of the Study

The problem of the study lies in the expected impacts of the withdrawal of the International Coalition Forces from Iraq. The study aims to identify the nature of the trends and positions of the Iraqi public regarding the potential withdrawal of the International Coalition Forces in general, and U.S. forces specifically. The study also seeks to explore the views and positions of the Iraqi population according to its major social components concerning the potential withdrawal of these forces. Additionally, the study investigates the role of some active political forces in either maintaining or removing the International Coalition Forces. The study further aims to assess the potential implications and impacts following the withdrawal of the Coalition Forces, particularly regarding the future of terrorist groups and extremist organizations, the Iraqi economy and the value of the Iraqi dinar, as well as the relationship between international companies operating in Iraq and the potential withdrawal. Furthermore, it seeks to evaluate the nature and level of international support for Iraq after the withdrawal of these forces.

To achieve the study's objectives, a public opinion survey questionnaire was developed based on scientifically approved steps. The target sample consisted of citizens from ten Iraqi governorates: **Baghdad, Basra, Nasiriyah, Wasit, Babil, Najaf, Diyala, Anbar, Kirkuk, and Mosul**, with a total sample size of 3,399 Iraqi citizens, distributed across these governorates according to various demographic variables.

After performing statistical analysis of the responses based on frequencies and percentages, the results were extracted and analyzed according to scientific and objective foundations, which revealed the following:

1. More than 64% of Iraqis strongly oppose the presence of International Coalition Forces in Iraq, as they view them as a form of occupation or international guardianship, which is strongly rejected by the Iraqi people.

2. Over 54% of the study participants consider the issue of the withdrawal of the International Coalition Forces from Iraq as serious and realistic.
3. More than 61% of the participants believe that Iraq does not need the presence of the International Coalition Forces.
4. Approximately 75% of the participants anticipate that if the withdrawal occurs, the forces will withdraw to the Kurdistan region and be stationed there.
5. The survey results show that more than 59% of the participants support the immediate withdrawal of the International Coalition Forces from Iraq.
6. The responses of the participants indicated that more than 51% of the sample consider the Iraqi government's stance on the issue of the withdrawal of the Coalition Forces to be unclear.
7. About 45% of the participants view the true position of the Iraqi Parliament regarding the enactment of a law to expel the Coalition Forces as unclear.
8. Participants' opinions varied on the potential political impacts of the withdrawal, with some suggesting improvement in certain political aspects, such as international relations, while others expected a decline, particularly in relations with the governments of the Coalition.
9. The results showed that there are no expected economic impacts from the withdrawal of the Coalition Forces. In this regard, more than half of the responses indicated that the value of the Iraqi dinar would improve.
10. Around 40% believe there would be no significant security or military repercussions; most options indicated that internal security would improve, with 53.8% supporting this view. The second most supported improvement was in national security regarding regional and international breaches, with 46.8%.
11. Nearly 53% of participants believe that the activity of terrorist groups would cease completely after the potential withdrawal.
12. Around 63% of participants indicated that external threats and challenges would decline entirely in the event of the withdrawal of the Coalition Forces.

13. More than half of the sample (53.3%) believe that the Iraqi security forces are fully capable of maintaining security and protecting citizens and the Iraqi state.
14. Over 63% of the respondents believe that the Iraqi security forces will not require future support from the International Coalition.
15. Citizens suggested various options for the Iraqi government to expedite the withdrawal of the Coalition Forces, including filing an official complaint to the UN Security Council (57.8%) and continuing diplomatic meetings (48.9%).
16. Regarding the ability of judicial and legal institutions to issue a binding law for the withdrawal of the Coalition Forces, 35.2% stated that they were "incapable at all" of issuing any law on the matter, while approximately 33% indicated they were "able to issue a law but without effectiveness."
17. About 41% of participants believed that the decisions and laws of international organizations carry no weight for the major powers, and 40.77% felt that any decision regarding the withdrawal of the forces from Iraq would not be dependable.
18. More than 44% of participants saw the potential to leverage the presence of international organizations working in Iraq to convey a message from the highest religious authority to the international community regarding the issue of foreign troops' withdrawal, while about 29% believed the focus should be on intensifying Iraqi diplomacy on the matter.
19. Regarding the potential responses of Iraqi resistance factions if the Coalition Forces do not withdraw, the answers indicated that around 21% supported political pressure on the Iraqi government, while 19.93% of respondents favored armed attacks on Coalition military sites.
20. Over 53% of the participants believed that Iraqi resistance factions would fully adhere to the security agreement to be signed between the Iraqi government and the Coalition Forces regarding the potential withdrawal.