

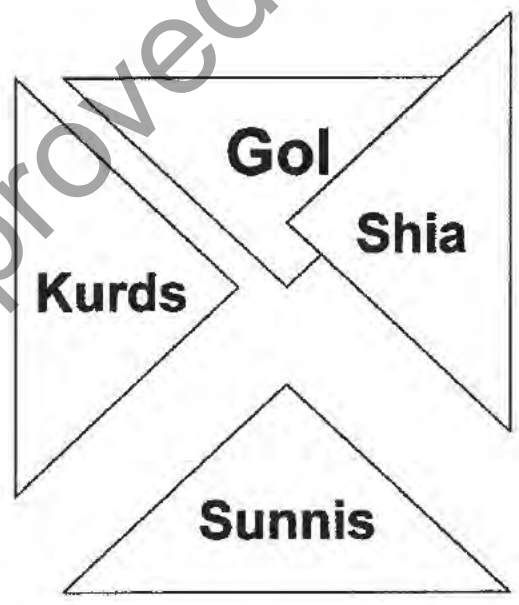
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PP, # 13 Oct 07,  
MNF-1 Cdr Conf, Box 47

# ***Security to Reconciliation: Moving to the Next Phase***

## ***FSEC Briefing***

Approved for Release



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# ***Shia Eyes Wide Open***

- The Shia community over the past two months has been suddenly confronted with the reality of CLCs on their doorstep in mixed areas. We have been surprised as well by the speed and scope of the phenomenon.
- For Shia, a shock factor:

***“We look around Baghdad – we are surrounded”*** Sami al-Askeri

***“They (the Shia) look at what you have done in Baghdad, and they hate you.”*** (b)(6)

***[By forming CLC in mixed neighbourhoods] “You have taken us from a deep hole to an even deeper one”.*** (b)(6)

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## ***Stalemate over CLCs?***

- We face a mounting political crisis over CLCs. It reflects fundamental fears of the Shia community, and will not be unique to this PM or Government. Shia leadership across the spectrum, including religious leadership in Najaf, perceive a Coalition shift towards the Sunnis.
- The Shia reaction reflects a combination of genuine fear of resurgent Ba'athist-like domination and political opportunism. The likely reaction will be defensiveness, active and passive resistance to CLCs and continued public posturing. Cooperation could be frozen, jeopardizing the program.
- IDP issue now 'live'. If CLCs are not genuine local residents, or where CLCs are only one sect, Shia see this as a conspiracy to keep them out of their homes (GoI claims up to 50% of IDPs in Baghdad are Shia).
- This will not be resolved through security channels alone. Needs to be addressed on a political level.

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## ***Maliki's Engagement Mechanism on CLCs IFCNR***

- Led by trusted advisors of the PM.
- Collocated with OCinC, but separate, and constantly at odds with OCinC head, LTG Farouq
- Key Ministries, including Mol and MoD, attend. Links are improving, but far from adequate.
- Lacks strong political links outside the PM's office.
- Needs stronger buy-in from both Shia and Sunni.
- Wider exposure essential (meetings with key CLC contacts, visits).