



# MILITARY ACTION IN IRAQ US president can 'bypass Congress'

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Barack Obama and US political leaders believe the president does not need Congress' permission to take certain measures to quell the al Qa'ida-inspired uprising sweeping through Iraq, the Senate's top Republican and others have said.

But the prospect of the president sidestepping Congress raises the potential for clashes between the White House and rank-and-file politicians, particularly if Obama should launch strikes with manned aircraft or take other direct military action in Iraq.

Administration officials have said air strikes have become less a focus of recent deliberations but have also said the president could order such a step if intelligence agencies could identify clear targets on the ground.

Obama huddled in the Oval Office for over an hour to discuss options for responding the crumbling security situation in Iraq with Democratic senate majority leader Harry Reid, Republican senate minority leader Mitch McConnell, Republican House of Representatives speaker John Boehner, and Democratic house minority leader Nancy Pelosi.

Speaking to reporters later, McConnell said the president "indicated he didn't feel he had any need for authority from us for steps that he might take".

Pelosi agreed with the president, saying in a statement after the meeting that Obama did not need "any further legislative authority to pursue the particular options for increased security assistance discussed today". She did not specify what options were discussed.

An administration official said it was the leaders who suggested Obama already had existing authorities to take additional action in Iraq without further congressional permission. The official downplayed the notion that the president agreed with that assessment, saying only that he said he would continue to consult politicians.

White House has publicly dodged questions about whether Obama might seek congressional approval if he decides to take military action. Last summer he sought approval for possible strikes against Syria, but scrapped the effort when it became clear that politicians would not grant him the authority.

But administration officials have suggested that the president may be able to act on his own in this case because Iraq's government has requested US military assistance.

In addition, an authorisation for the use of military force in Iraq, passed by Congress in 2002, is still on the books and could potentially be used as a rationale for the White House acting without additional approval. Before the outburst of violence in Iraq, Obama had called for that authorisation to be repealed.

White House officials offered no timeline for how soon Obama might decide on how to respond to the fast-moving militants from Isis, which has seized Mosul, Tikrit and other towns in Iraq as the country's military melted away.

Obama's decision-making on air strikes has been complicated by intelligence gaps that resulted from the US military withdrawal from Iraq in late 2011, which left the country largely off-limits to American operatives.

Intelligence agencies are now trying to close gaps and identify possible targets that include insurgent encampments, training camps, weapons caches and other station-

## AGENCIES

One can wonder what is going on in the Middle East these days, especially the civil and religious strife that is tearing Iraq and Syria apart.

Saudi Arabia on Wednesday warned of the risks of a civil war in Iraq with unpredictable consequences for the region and Iran vowed to do whatever necessary to protect the Shias in Iraq, after Sunni militants seized large areas from Shia-led government forces.

Within the House of Islam ancient antagonisms between Sunni and Shia Muslims are alive which are sometimes overlooked.

The Islamic community is still divided by events that took place in 632 and 656." Indeed, the factions that we call Sunnis -- 89 percent of the world's Muslims today -- and Shias (10 percent) trace the great divide between them to the seventh century and the aftermath of prophet Muhammad's death. Shias originated in the faction (shi'a) devoted to 'Ali, Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law, who contended unsuccessfully with Abu Bakr, Muhammad's disciple and also father-in-law, to succeed the prophet in the newly created post of caliph. In the years that followed, continuing intrigues and battles over this succession deepened the rift between Sunnis (those who follow the sunna or path of Muhammad) and Shias (the partisans of 'Ali).

This initial rift was compounded over the centuries by a recurring pattern of struggle within Islam between strains of militant puritanism and the less rigorous attitudes of various ruling classes. Such a puritanical ideology arose within Sunni Islam in the fourteenth century, exemplified by the teaching of a formidable Syrian scholar, Ahmad ibn Taymiyya. His doctrine, though popular among many Muslim Arabs in his lifetime, placed him at odds with Muslims of a more laxist point of view. In the eighteenth century in the Arabian peninsula, the reformist teacher Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-Wahhab used the rigoristic ideas of Ibn Taymiyya to fashion the tradition of strict interpretation of Islamic texts usually called "Wahhabism" by non-Muslims today. To propagate his ideology, Ibn 'Abd al-Wahhab collaborated with the sheikh of an obscure village in north central Arabia, Muhammad ibn Sa'ud, and between them they imposed unified rule and their new, rigoristic version of Islam throughout the Arabian peninsula. Muslim legal scholars

## THE GREAT SHIA-SUNNI DIVIDE

# Arch foes by ancient disputes

belonging to the family of Ibn 'Abd al-Wahhab continue to the present day as religious and legal advisers of the House of Sa'ud, the ruling family of Saudi Arabia, the presumed leader of the Sunni Muslims.

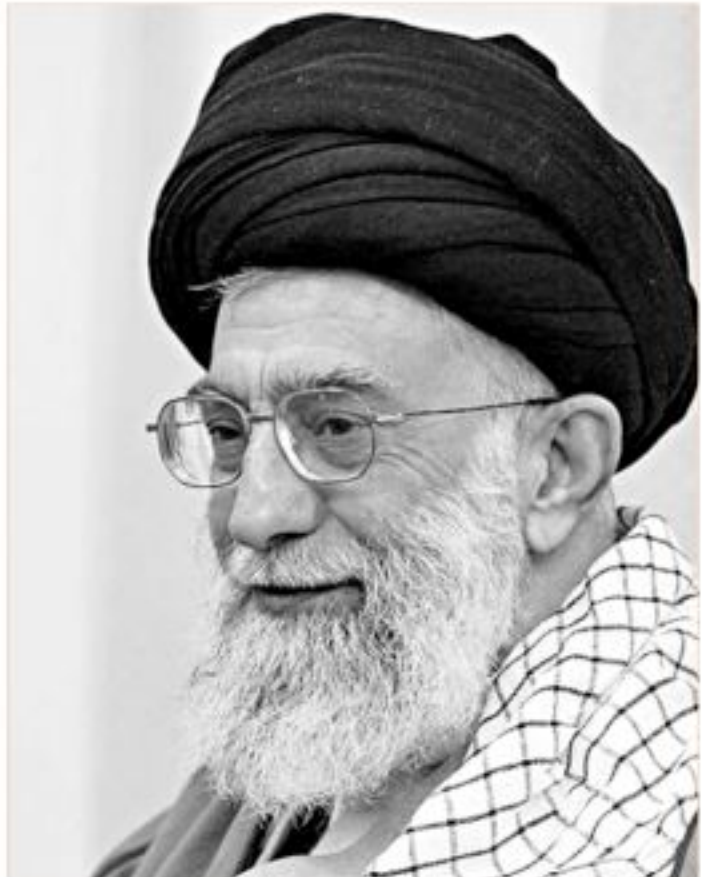
Other Sunni reform movements of a similar puritanical cast arose in India in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, as well as in Egypt in the early twentieth century, most notably the Muslim Brotherhood founded by Hasan al-Banna', and the even stricter reformers called "Salafis," who refuse to recognize any religious developments in Islam after the period of the salaf (the upright

martyrdom. While Sunnis claim that 'Ali's son and successor, Hasan, died in bed of natural causes, Shi'ites consider him a martyr. Ali's younger son, Husayn, the third Imam in the Shia lineage, died on the battlefield of Karbala in Iraq in 680 fighting Yazid, the Sunni caliph in Damascus. Shias annually act out passion plays about the death of Husayn, mourning extravagantly for him, his father, and his entire family. Indeed the descendants of 'Ali to the ninth century are all believed by Shias to have died as martyrs, victims of oppression by the Sunni caliphate.

One can trace a line from these



Saudi King Abdullah



Ayatollah 'Ali Khamenei



ancestors), comprising the generation of Muhammad and the two following generations. Many Egyptian Salafis are, in fact, Wahhabis, but dislike that name for its political connection with the regime in Saudi Arabia.

The military defeat of 'Ali in the battle of Siffin on the banks of the northern Euphrates in Syria in 657, and his death at the hands of an assassin four years later, left his descendants as pretenders to the shadow headship of the Muslim world. They and their devotees created what came to be called the Shia Imamate on a grand scale that grew in religious significance over the two centuries following 'Ali's death. Its conception was and is deeply based in motifs of

distant events and antagonisms, with their churning reversals of fortune, to the conflicts of today. At the death of the eleventh Imam in the Shia lineage, Hasan al-'Askari, it is said that allies of the Imamate hid his little son from Sunni enemies. Calling themselves the representatives of the Hidden Imam, four of these allies in succession governed the Shia community on behalf of the Hidden Imam for seventy years. Eventually a military upstart dynasty, the Buyids, originally based in Iran, took on the ideology of representing the Twelfth Imam and imposed themselves in 945 as his representatives -- and as the overlords and protectors of the Sunni caliphate based in

## India struggles with Iraq 'kidnap' crisis

AFP, New Delhi

India's new government struggled yesterday to make headway in its first foreign crisis as it tried to secure the release of 40 construction workers being held in war-torn Iraq, home to some 10,000 Indian expatriates.

PM Narendra Modi has already dispatched a former ambassador to Baghdad to coordinate rescue efforts while the chief minister of Punjab province -- where most of the workers hail from -- has said he is willing to pay a ransom to gain their freedom.

But while India's foreign ministry has described the men as having been "kidnapped", it says it does not know who has taken them hostage and that it has not received any ransom demand.

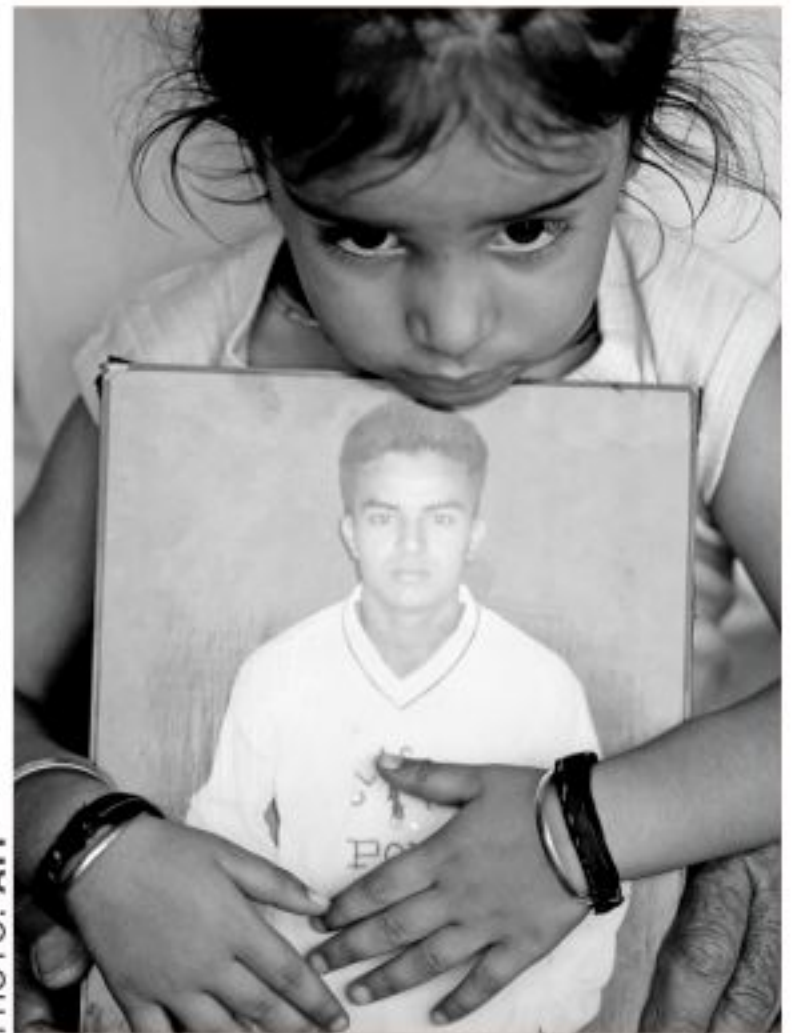
The ministry yesterday said it has learnt the location of the workers and was pursuing "every avenue" in a "tenuous security situation".

The ministry was working with aid agencies in Iraq including the Red Crescent Society which said the workers had been taken away by armed men while they were working on a stadium in Mosul. But the exact identity of their captors was not known.

Underlining the confusion, some of the family members told Indian media they had spoken to several of the workers who denied they were being "held hostage".

While India has a record of evacuating large numbers of its nationals from war zones, including from Iraq during the 1991 Gulf War and from Lebanon in 2007, analysts say the situation this time is complicated by a variety of factors.

In a front-page editorial headlined "First Foreign Policy Test for Modi", The Hindustan Times said the prevailing chaos in Iraq made it hard for New Delhi to work out who to interact with. The paper also warned many expatriates could resist efforts to evacuate them, saying most of a group of around 50 nurses working in Tikrit had told the Indian mission they would like to stay put or be



A child holds a portrait of her father in Jammu yesterday, after news that her father was among 40 Indian workers taken hostage in Iraq.

### Job Opening

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For our Cultural Programmes Department in Dhaka we are currently seeking a highly motivated colleague to join from 15 July 2014 (or later).

#### Core responsibilities:

- Development, planning, execution and evaluation of cultural programmes and web projects
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- Information desk for queries related to cultural programmes

#### Qualifications and Personal Attributes:

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- Intercultural competence and proven negotiating skills
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- Flexibility, readiness to work during weekends

#### Notes:

- Payment according to the salary scheme of Goethe-Institut
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- Employment according to Bangladeshi law

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- Please send your application (in German or English) featuring a cover letter, your CV and your certificates to [director@dhaka.goethe.org](mailto:director@dhaka.goethe.org)
- Closing date for applications is 7 July 2014. We appreciate your understanding that applications reaching us after this deadline cannot be considered. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted and called for interview.

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## OIC vows to combat 'sectarian policies'

AFP, Jeddah

The Saudi-based Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, which represents more than 1.5 billion Muslims worldwide, yesterday affirmed a commitment to unity in combatting "sectarian" policies.

OIC members will stand "united in combatting sectarian, confessional, and exclusion policies that have led to sedition in some countries and threatened their security and stability," said a statement issued at the end of a two-day meeting in the Red Sea city of Jeddah.

The statement, read by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal, did not explicitly name Iraq although many countries, including Saudi Arabia, have said the "sectarian" policies of the Shia-led government are to blame for the successes of the Sunni insurgents.

Speaking to reporters, Faisal accused Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of "stirring" up trouble in his own country and said he was behind "the deterioration of the situation in Iraq."

His comments came in response to a question on Baghdad's allegations that Saudi Arabia should be held responsible for militant financing and crimes committed by insurgent groups in Iraq.

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#### Consultant

- Post Graduation Degree i.e. FCPS/MD/MS/M Phil/ FRCS/MRCOG/MRCP with minimum 5 years working experience in the related field without supervision;
- Registered with the Bangladeshi Medical council;

**Discipline:** •Anesthesiology • Critical Care • Dermatology • Diabetology • ENT •General Surgery •Internal Medicine •Interventional Cardiology • Medical Gastroenterology •Neurology •Neuro Surgery •Nephrology •Neonatology •Obstetrics & Gynecology •Orthopedics •Ophthalmology •Pediatrics •Pathology •Radiology •Pulmonology.

#### Specialist

- Post Graduation Degree i.e. FCPS/MD/MS/M Phil/ FRCS/ MRCOG/MRCP or Diploma in ICDA, DGO, DLO etc. with 1-2 years experience;

**Discipline:** •Internal Medicine •Obs & Gayne • Microbiology •Radiology & Imaging.

- Registered with Bangladeshi Medical council;

#### Medical Officer

- MBBS with 1-2 years experience after interneeship in the discipline of •ICU •Medicine •Surgery •Obs & Gayne.

#### Manager/ Executive Clinic Quality Services

- MBBS with MPH (preferable)
- MBBS with 5 years experience in clinical subjects can be applied;
- Experience in working with hospital quality services will be given preference;

**Unit Manager**

- BSc in Nursing;
- Registered with the Bangladesh Nursing Council.
- Working experience 7 years and above.
- Post basic qualification will be an added advantage.
- Good interpersonal skills
- Confident and possess a high level initiative and
- Excellent communication skills in English.

#### Area /Nurse Manager

- BSc in Nursing;
- Registered with the Bangladesh Nursing Council.
- Work experience of 10 years and above.
- Good interpersonal skills.
- Confident and possess a high level initiative.
- Excellent communication skills in English.

#### Manager / Asst. Manager

- MBA major in relevant field from any recognized university and having 5 years working experience.
- Good interpersonal skills.
- Confident and possess a high level initiative.
- Excellent communication skills in English.

#### Executive

- Graduate in any discipline with 2-3 years working experience;
- Excellent communication skills in Bengali & English.

#### Fire & Safety Officer

- Graduate in any discipline with 4-6 years working experience;
- Familiar with all kinds of Fire appliances and equipment;
- Formulate of Fire SOP, Fire Guideline, Procedures as and when required for standards practices;
- Resolve issues relating to fire prevention and provide advice to management or safety committees;
- Orient & Aware all staff relating to Fire drill, use of Extinguisher etc.
- Retired Fire Service / Civil Defense officer will be given preference;
- Excellent communication skills in Bengali & English.

#### Staff Nurse

- BSc or Diploma in Nursing;
- Registered with the Bangladesh Nursing Council.
- Work experience minimum 2 years.
- Post basic qualification will be an added advantage

#### Competitive Remuneration package will be offered for the deserving candidates.

If you are the right person we are looking for, Please apply with full confidence alongwith the detailed resume , the copies of all educational & experience certificates and two copies of recent photographs mentioning the applied position on the top of the envelop by 30<sup>th</sup> June,2014 to:TALENT MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT, SHEIKH FAZILATUNNESA MUJIB MEMORIAL KPJ SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL & NURSING COLLEGE, TETUIBARI, KASHIMPUR, GAZIPUR or Apply on line [info@sfmmkpjsh.com](mailto:info@sfmmkpjsh.com)