



**Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung Beirut Office** plans to conduct a research study on **contemporary non-sectarian and progressive actors in Iraq**.

**1) The aim of the study** is to provide an overview of some of the most important social and political movements in Iraq that define themselves as progressive, non-sectarian and democratic/left-leaning. The objective is to gain a clearer understanding of these actors' origins, composition, constituency, tasks, demands, goals, influence and challenges. The study will moreover include an in-depth analysis of two political actors that will be chosen together with the author after the first phase of mapping

**2) Background of the study:** Most recent research on Iraq focuses either on geo-political developments or recent inner-Iraqi tendencies towards Islamization, radicalisation and sectarianism. Knowledge about contemporary Iraqi political actors (political parties, groups, initiatives, movements) that define themselves as non-sectarian, progressive, democratic and/or leftist is rather scattered. Even if in 2015 some light has been shed on the emerging demonstrations against a failed political system defined by corruption, patronage, socio-economic inequalities and sectarianism, a deeper insight into these emerging actors, their origins, developments, ideas, goals and challenges is still missing. In times of rapid changes in the Arab world with new political constellations emerging and open prospects for future changes in the region, the understanding of political actors, programs and options is of major importance.

### **3) Tentative Outline for study/leading question**

#### **a) Literature review of recent studies on Iraq**

This section should briefly outline the political, economic and social structure of contemporary Iraq, its political system, ruling party or coalition of parties, the opposition, and the major internal (and external) political, economic and social developments and challenges that the country currently is facing. This should be done along a review of existing literature/research on Iraq.

Aim of the chapter: The basic structure, developments and challenges of the country are summarized in a way to allow the reader to place the following debate about social movements into the relevant context.

#### **b) Conceptualizing political actors in Iraq**

This section should discuss the question of who forms current political and social actors in Iraq in the last six years (since 2011). It deals with the question of what kind of political actors emerged in the course of the last years, what are their main characteristics and how these developments relate to similar developments in other Arabic countries: Are these political actors, their agenda, goals as well as challenges and contexts comparable? In how far can we talk about transnational connections among these actors? What can be common causes and topics of concern?



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Aim of the chapter: To highlight political actors in Iraq in the last six years (since 2011) and relate them to a more transnational context.

**c) Mapping political actors in Iraq**

This main section provides a concise overview of the existing political actors since 2011. It will give a short overview of each actor, its development as well as its main agenda/cause, ideas and actions of political contestation and ideological background. The section will also seek to give an overall view of the most important events of collective action and mobilization within Iraq as well as state responses to these events. It will moreover focus on the main topics of intervention and causes that these actors brought to the forefront.

Aim of this section: Mapping of current most important political actors in Iraq, their development and current understandings are outlined.

**d) Case study 1: Political Actor 1 (to be selected during research process)**

This section discusses one of the political actors in Iraq in more depth and gives more analysis to its development, agenda and topics of concern. It will also look more broadly into how this actor interacts with the state and with other political actors.

The following questions are tackled: How did the political actor develop in the last six years? What is its main topic of concern and of political action and contestation? Does the political actor create alliances with other political actors/movements? What are the main challenges that this actor currently faces? Why? What is the actor doing to face these challenges? Are there new approaches to reach out for the public?

Aim of the section: To gauge the influence of the political actor its constituency, and the challenges it is currently facing

**e) Case study 2: Political Actor 2 (to be selected during research process)**

This section discusses one of the political actors in Iraq in more depth and gives more analysis to its development, agenda and topics of concern. It will also look more broadly into how this actor interacts with the state and with other political actors.

The following questions are tackled: How did the political actor develop in the last six years? What is its main topic of concern and of political action and contestation? Does the political actor create alliances with other political actors/movements? What are the main challenges that this actor currently faces? Why? What is the actor doing to face these challenges? Are there new approaches to reach out for the public?

Aim of the section: To gauge the influence of the political actor its constituency, and the challenges it is currently facing



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**4) Structure, scope and language of the study:** The study should not exceed 15.000 words, excluding summary, footnotes, bibliography and references. The mapping will be compiled into an English monograph – stating the name(s) of the author(s) - to be published by Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung. The project will start in October 2017 and will be finished in July 2018.

**5) Methodology of study:**

Methods applied by the researcher for this study include a literature review, party programs, newspaper articles and interviews. At least one fieldtrip to Iraq is planned.

**Applicants should submit the following documents in English:**

- Offer for conducting the research and writing the study, including a working schedule and an abstract
- Complete CV including a list of publications

**Deadline for applications:** September, 5th 2017

**Please send your application** to [miriam.younes@rosalux.org](mailto:miriam.younes@rosalux.org)