
IRAQ: OUTRAGE AS EXILED SUNNI OFFICIALS PLAN TO RETURN

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Iraqi Sunni political figures have returned or are negotiating their return to the country following a national reconciliation agreement, causing outrage amongst the powerful Shia political factions.

Former Finance Minister Rafi Al-Issawi, a prominent political figure who held a number of positions until he resigned as the finance minister under former Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki's government in 2013, returned to Iraq earlier this month and turned himself in over corruption and terrorism charges.

In June 2017 while he was still in exile, Al-Issawi was sentenced to seven years in prison in absentia on charges of corruption and the squandering of public funds. He – along with other Iraqi Sunni leaders – was also accused of terrorism.

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