

Iraqi MPs seek to grill Maliki over pact

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According to Fawzi Akram Tarzi, from Sadr parliamentary bloc, almost 110 legislators from different entities call for summoning Maliki and a number of his cabinet ministers, the Voices of Iraq news agency reported on Monday.

"The ministers that lawmakers want to summon in this regard are those of finance, defense, interior, and foreign affairs," the news agency quoted the lawmaker as saying.

Yesterday, the Iraqi cabinet endorsed a security agreement that would allow US forces to stay three more years in the country after their UN mandate expires in December 2008.

Under the deal, US forces would also be granted immunity from legal prosecution, if they commit a crime inside their bases or when on duty.

The controversial deal has sparked outrage among Iraqi political and religious leaders who view it as a pact against Iraq's sovereignty and national interests.

The Parliament which is scheduled to vote on the pact on November 24 is unlikely to approve the agreement.

The Sadarist parliamentary bloc announced yesterday that the government's endorsement of the US-Iraq security pact "did not mean anything" as long as it required the approval of a parliament which would reject it.

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-- *Press TV*