



Weekly Iraq .Xplored report

21 January, 2016

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Iraq

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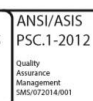
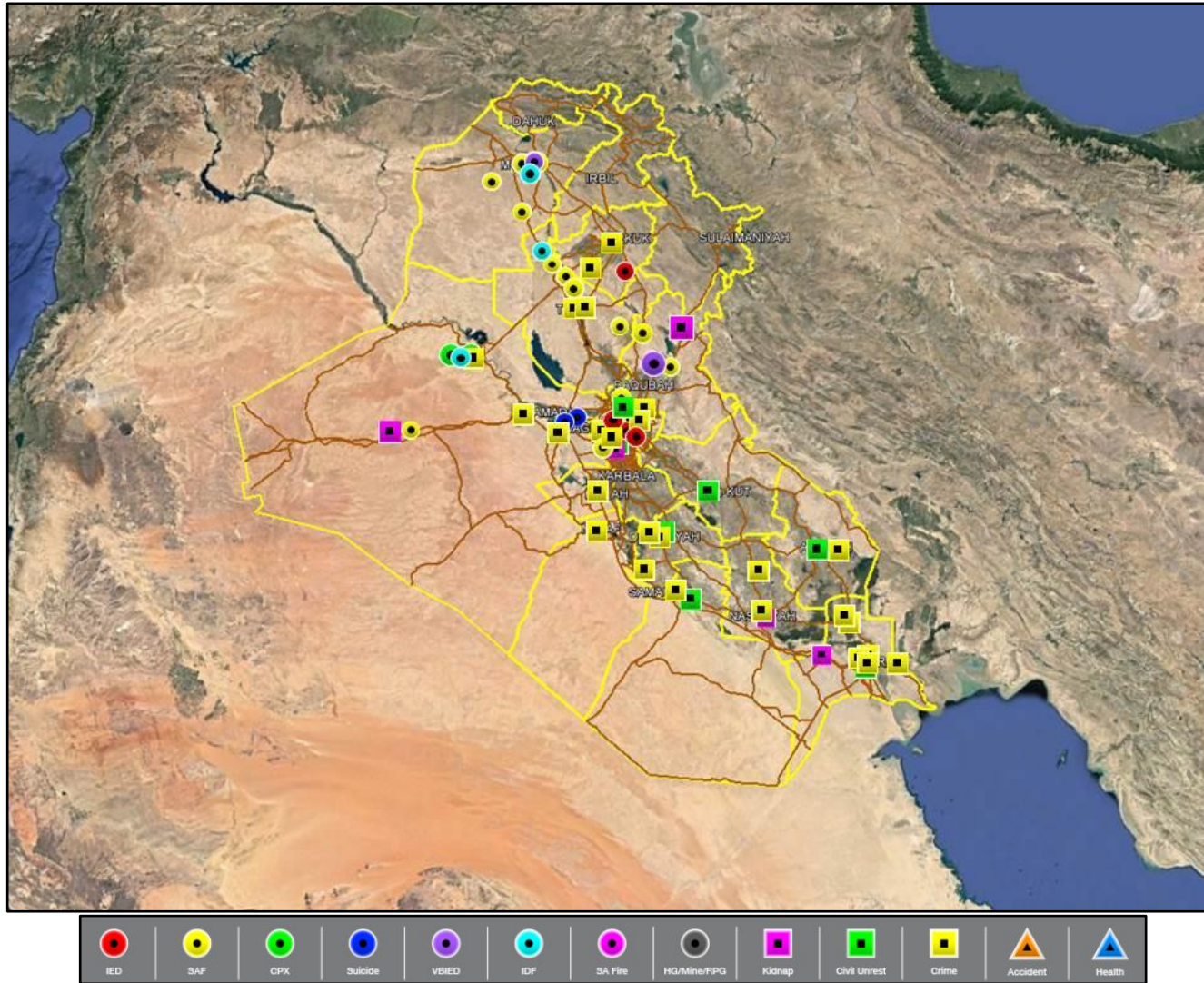


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ACTIVITY MAP



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OUTLOOK

Short term outlook

- As the Mosul operation continues, there is a heightened risk of high-profile attacks in permissive areas across Iraq including Baghdad, Samarra, Diyala and the southern provinces, as IS retains intent to stoke sectarian tensions and force a redeployment of ISF resources away from Mosul. This is underlined by recent VBIED attacks in Shia-dominated areas of Baghdad City as well as multiple lower level IEDs, especially in eastern Baghdad. An increase in attacks can also be expected in eastern Anbar, in particular the cities of Ramadi and Fallujah, as evidenced by recent high-profile attacks in the region.
- The security footprint and other local factors in the south, particularly in Baghdad, will severely constrain IS ability to mount sustained complex attacks of the sort seen in the north and the west of the country, though the threat from low-level IED and SAF attacks remains unaltered. There may be an increased level of ISF deliberate actions to disrupt and deter insurgent and criminal activity during the Mosul operation, especially in the northern areas of Baghdad province

Medium to long term outlook

- In the absence of a concerted effort to engage radical tribes in Sunni dominated areas currently under IS control, it is possible that the post-IS security environment will be characterized by sectarian flash points between radical Sunni tribes and Shia militia groups especially in Nineveh province and western Kirkuk. Limited reporting has already pointed to displaced Sunni families being advised or directed to leave Kirkuk
- Low-level incidents related to criminality, personal disputes and tribal tensions are likely to continue in Basra and the southern provinces in general. This is assessed to be facilitated by the dispatch of large segments of the security forces to the frontlines up north. Long-term tensions are also likely to be driven by the return of Shia militia factions likely expecting material and social rewards for the contribution in the national campaign against IS
- While the Mosul operation has refocused attention away from Abadi's reform program, the risk of politically motivated demonstrations against corruption in front of government institutions remains extant

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

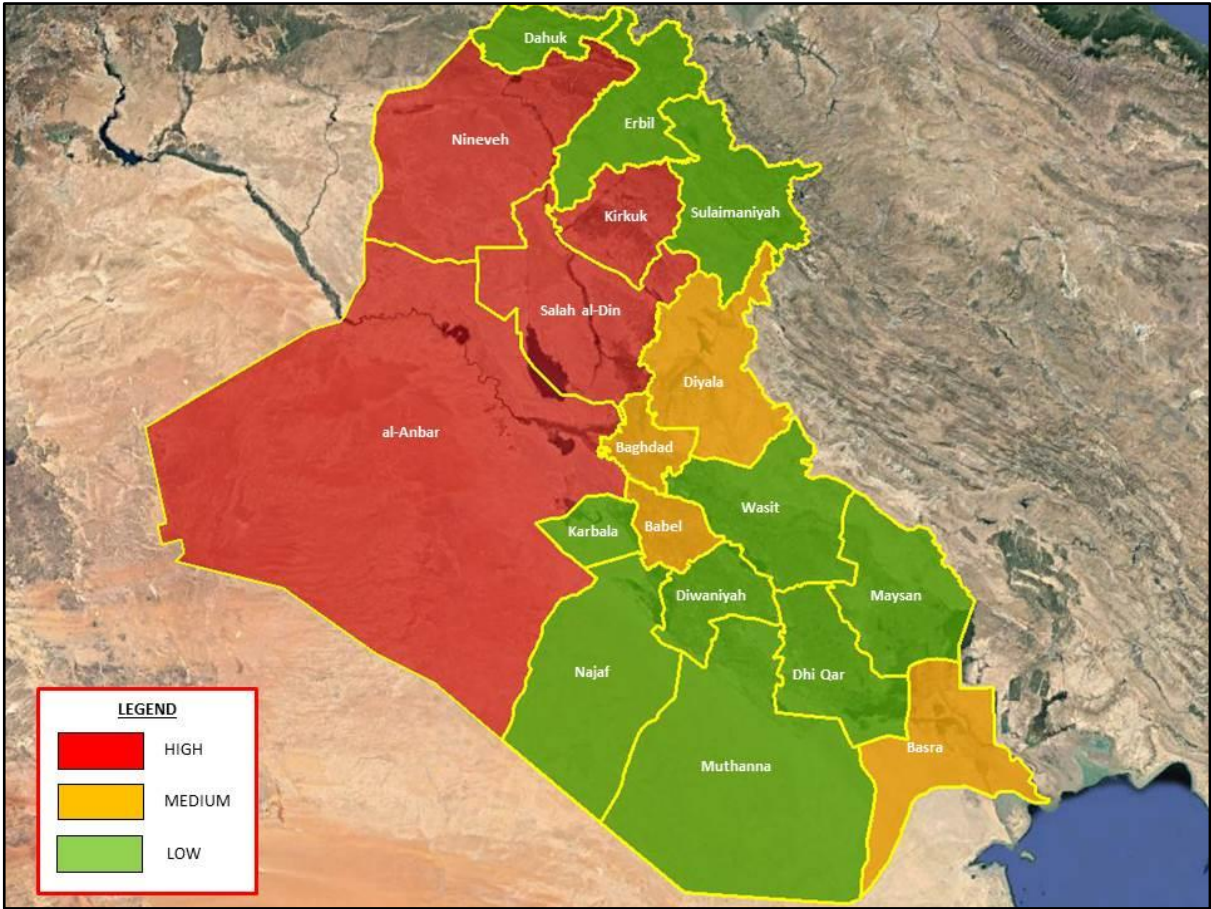
ISF claim control of Mosul's 'east bank' and prepare for breach into west

ISF this week have reported that they have effectively completed their clearance of the north/east half of Mosul, though some clearance activity are still ongoing, and IS retain sufficient freedom of movement to reinfiltate in small numbers and conduct attacks in 'liberated' areas. All five bridges are also understood to be under the control of ISF, with reporting in recent days stating that bridging equipment has been moved to the Mosul operational area. A short operational pause will likely be observed before commencing with an assault into the west of the city across the river, and in from the south by ISF force elements holding firm outside the city's airport.

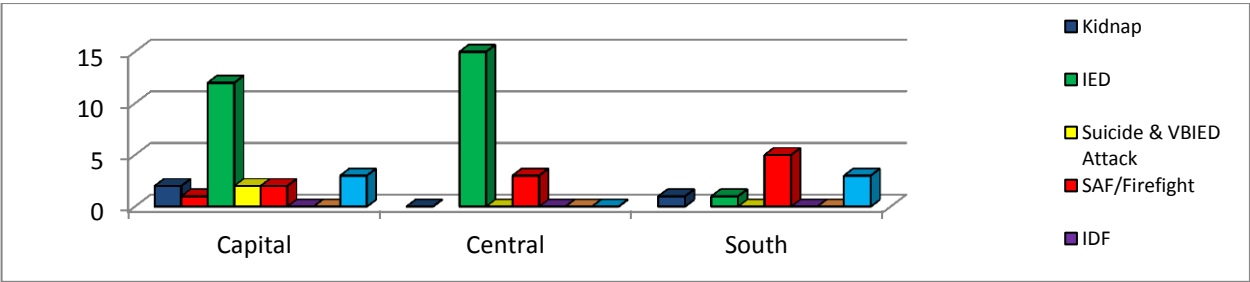
Governor of Baghdad, Ali al-Tamimi relieved of his post over corruption claims

The decision to dismiss the (Sadrist) Governor of Baghdad, Ali al-Tamimi was announced on January 19, following his two-hour questioning over corruption allegations. The session was attended by 34 council members out of 54 and the majority of them voted for the sacking of Al-Tamimi. Unsurprisingly, Ali al-Tamimi has said he will appeal the decision, issuing a statement saying "I will go to challenge the decision of dismissal by the judiciary, not in the hope that my post be reinstated, but to uncover the truth and expose those in local government in Baghdad who used my dismissal for political gain, and to expose their corruption".

THREAT MAP



COUNTRY WIDE INCIDENT TOTALS



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Mosul Update

ISF on January 19 claimed complete control of the entire north/east side of Mosul, though subsequent reports show IS are still contesting limited areas within. The announcement came days after ISF were reported to have swiftly taken control of the university campus, previously used for IED making and medical facilities. One commentator indicated that IS resistance had “simply fallen” away in some of the recent clearances, moving across the Tigris in boats, using civilians as human shields. All five bridges, though disabled, are also understood to be under ISF control on the north/east bank, and reports indicate that bridging equipment is being moved to the area. While Iraqi sources have stated that the next phase into south/west Mosul has begun, ISF is evidently observing a pause in operations while they consolidate their hold and regroup.

In related reporting, Tal Kayf, approximately 10km north, was also reported to be under ISF control on January 20. An official source stated that the town fell swiftly following a three pronged assault, suggesting that IS retained only a rump force holding the town. Days prior to this, 14 people were reported killed in VBIED detonations.

One of Mosul’s MPs had stated that 80% of the city’s infrastructure has been destroyed, with two out of three hospitals out of service, and has called upon ISF and Gol to expedite relief efforts and the provision of basic services.

COMMENT: IS have been consistently bombarding ISF and civilians on the north/east side of the Tigris from their redoubt in the south/west, and will mount a customarily robust response to any breaching operation. This will almost certainly see the use of multiple complex attacks, supported by indirect and direct fire positions on the south/west banks. IS may potentially allow (or drive) large numbers of fleeing civilians across the bridges to slow ISF, frustrate air and artillery support to advancing forces, and strain local ISF medical capacity. This would also facilitate IS reinfiltration into previously cleared areas to wage an asymmetric campaign to attrit ISF and draw resources from the assault. For its part, ISF may seek to draw IS resources away from crossing points by committing its southern elements that are currently holding to the south of Mosul airport to advance with, or before any river crossing.

It has previously been assessed that the fight for the south/west of the city will be a much tougher than the urban campaign so far. The more confined spaces in the old city, populated by residents more supportive of IS than is seen elsewhere in Mosul would prove challenge enough. With the high casualty rate of the spearhead CTS, ISF may also become more reliant on less specialised force elements. Rising casualties may incentivise ISF to increase the intensity of operations, with the likelihood of less discriminate use of indirect fire and air support. Regardless, the humanitarian situation, already dire, will be exacerbated further in the next phases of the campaign. This will likely see more people moving to IDP camps or other cities in Iraq, again facilitating the movement of IS militants around the country as the group almost inevitably switches to more asymmetric tactics as they lose ground in Nineveh. **COMMENT ENDS.**

Several reports have also highlighted the operational stress IS appears to be under. PMF reporting has claimed that IS leader al-Baghdadi remains inside Mosul following a failed escape attempt, while other sources have claimed he has closed down the foreign fighter recruitment centre in Nineveh province. Foreign fighters are also understood to have ‘stolen’ significant funds when they left (though it is conceivable this was granted to them to continue ‘the fight’ elsewhere.) To the West, in Tal Afar, press reporting has pointed to food shortages in the majority Turkmen town, currently encircled by PMF, with three IS members reportedly killed in an altercation during attempts to confiscate food supplies. IS media has also reported its own recent losses, though using the term ‘tactical withdrawal’ to describe them. **COMMENT:** Reporting of internal tensions within IS cannot be verified. Moreover, local and international press has a clear incentive to play up IS set-backs and ISF successes,

and there have been several occasions on which significant milestones have been reported as soon as it appears evident they will be achieved within 24-48hrs. However, IS are clearly wounded from their territorial losses, and the weeks long encirclement by ISF and PMF will have strained logistical chain as well as tempers. **COMMENT ENDS.**

Reporting in this period has also highlighted IS asymmetric tactics and use of human shields, with their 'Amaq' media group releasing footage of a sniper or sharpshooter firing from within a room in which young children can be heard. **COMMENT:** The release is likely a move by IS to highlight the potential humanitarian consequences of targeting their fighters, in addition to the baseline tactic of making ISF action result in civilian casualties. **COMMENT ENDS.**

Political

Governor of Baghdad, Ali al-Tamimi relieved of his post over corruption claims

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PM Al-Abadi continues to face difficulties in nominating candidates for vacant ministerial posts

Haydar al-Mawla, MP for the State of Law Coalition, has stated to Iraqi press that Prime Minister Haydar al-Abadi is facing problems in nominating technocratic candidates for the vacant ministerial posts as some political blocs within the House of Representatives are insisting on the nomination of their own candidates. **COMMENT:** 'Jasim Muhammad Ja'far, MP for the State of Law Coalition, recently stated that Al-Abadi has now started negotiations with Badr Organization and the Muttahidun Coalition to finalize the nomination of candidates for the interior and defence ministerial posts, the names of which will be presented to parliament next week. A total of four ministers will be interviewed for the posts although the names were not disclosed.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

Al Sadr condemns execution of three Shi'ites in Bahrain

Muqtada al-Sadr, the leader of the Sadrist Movement, has released a statement in which he condemned the Bahraini authorities' recent execution of three of its Shiite citizens. Al-Sadr labelled the execution as "an act of recklessness" committed by "the ruling oligarchy in Bahrain". Al-Sadr called on the Bahraini Shiites "not to let any side exploit" their "revolution" or "deviate it" from its path. Al-Sadr went on to say: "In their revolution against corruption and terrorism, the Iraqis are inspired by the persistence and steadfastness of the Bahraini rebels" He added: "Some of our corrupt personalities are showing ferocity and aggressiveness against our revolution. However, we are proceeding with it, and thus you should also proceed [with your revolution] under the banner of Imam Husayn, peace be upon him, as he said: "We would never ever accept humiliation".

Security

Calls for PMUs be used more extensively in security operations

'Asa'ib Ahl-al-Haqq, one of the factions of the Popular Mobilization Forces [PMF] has stated that the PMF's participation in the security operations in Nineveh has become "a national need". Meanwhile, calls are increasing for the combat experience of the PMF to be used to reinforce the security of cities and "purge them from sleeper cells". Similarly, MP Iskandar Wattut, and member of the parliamentary Security and Defence Committee, stated "Following the victories that the PMF achieved on the operational axes, it has become an influential force and therefore, the Iraqi Government should benefit from it to reinforce security, particularly after kicking out Islamic State". He added: "The PMF can also be used in the intelligence effort, for it can protect Baghdad, backed by the security forces, by launching a search campaign on the Baghdad belt areas that have turned into a safe

haven for IS and the main springboard for them to attack the heart of the capital. Al-Sa'idi added: "This should take place following coordination with the Baghdad Operations Command for the sake of deploying them in the sensitive areas that need to be secured. This is in addition to deploying them at checkpoints outside cities".

COMMENT: 'Following an increase in SVEST and VBIED attacks in Baghdad in early January, there have been increasing calls from Iraqi citizens for the PMUs to be used more widely, with increasingly vocal concerns that the ISF cannot protect the citizens of Baghdad. Any increased use of the PMUs will bring with it added distrust and fear within the city's Sunni community for fear of persecution and reprisals by the Shia militias.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

Calls for new formations of PMU in Muthanna Province

According to reports the local government in Muthanna province, has called on Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi to form "regiments of the people of the province" into a "popular crowd" to protect the desert area of southern Muthanna, while reiterating "the urgency" to protect the border area after the recent security breach in Najaf. The deputy chairman of the Council of the province of Muthanna said that the "popular crowd Commission should form battalions of the provinces that need extra forces sons". He added that "a lot of people of the province have the desire to volunteer in these regiments and bring their weapons for personal contribution to the protection of those areas and monitor the borderline across the province" noting that "the need has become urgent for the deployment of more troops in the desert connected with the central and southern provinces, especially after security breach witnessed in Najaf province recently. **COMMENT:** In a highly unusual incident, a complex attack was launched by Islamic State against a checkpoint in the Qadisiyah area of Najaf province on the morning of the 01 January, which killed and wounded 17 people. The incident reportedly involved two suicide bombers backed up by Small Arms Fire and targeted a checkpoint located along Highway 9, south of Najaf city itself. Alongside a spate of major SVEST and VBIED attacks that were taking place in Baghdad at the time, the incident was assessed to form part of a deliberate campaign over the Christmas period in line with expressed threats by IS to carry out renewed attacks in Shia-dominated areas. This latest call by the Muthanna Council is another example of increasing exacerbation within the Iraqi civilian population over a perceived inability of the Government and the ISF to provide security, and increases the possibility of armed civilians taking the law in to their own hands, particularly in the southern provinces. **COMMENT ENDS.**

More evidence of pressure on Islamic State in Mosul; some fighters wish to be transferred to Syria

The Iranian Fars news agency has published what it calls "documents" in Arabic, with details of members of IS, in which they have said that they are "not willing to fight" and "wish to be transferred to Sham [Levant, Syria]". In a report published on 18 January, Fars said these documents which "belong to Daesh [IS]" were obtained by Iraqi forces during the operations carried out for liberation of eastern Mosul. In one of the papers, a number of fighters said they were "not willing to fight and wish to be transferred to Levant". Another paper, dated 2016, shows a list of names, dates, and numbers, with the fighters' demands to "be transferred to Sham" or saying they are "not willing to fight".

South Korea calls on the Iraqi Government to increase efforts to protect South Korean companies in Iraq

South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se has asked Iraq to step up efforts to better protect South Korean companies and nationals residing in the country. During a meeting with Iraq's Foreign Minister Ibrahim Al-Jaafari in Seoul on January 17, Yun also promised to continue to provide humanitarian aid to Baghdad and seeking cooperation in such areas as education and health. In response, Al-Jaafari agreed to pay close attention to the safety of Korean companies and people in his country, while expressing appreciation for Seoul's support for its national rebuilding effort.

Al-Abadi weekly press conference: IS "considerably weakened"; provincial elections planned for September

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has stated that IS has been "considerably weakened, thanks to the ongoing military operations in Mosul". In his weekly press conference, broadcast live by state-sponsored Iraqia News TV on 17 January, Abadi said: "This terrorist organisation is collapsing on a continuous basis and their capabilities have been considerably weakened". He said the military operation in Mosul was proceeding successfully and congratulated the Iraqi people for "the victories achieved against terrorist Daesh in Mosul". He urged the security

forces and Iraqi civilians to be cautious of terrorist operations and that the security forces have foiled a large number of attacks by IS.

The Iraqi prime minister also blamed corruption in the electricity sector for disruption of the service in various parts of the country stating that there were "circles of corruption aiming to stop electricity supplies to citizens". He stressed the government's commitment to providing a good electricity service for long hours. **COMMENT:** It was reported last week that an Iranian delegation has travelled to Iraq in order to extend the electricity sale contract after Iran had stopped supplying Wasit Province. The Energy Committee in Wasit province had stated that Iran had halted electricity supplies to the province due to "accumulated debt". **COMMENT ENDS.**

With regards to the forthcoming Iraqi provincial elections al-Abadi also stated that the Cabinet had confirmed that they would be held on September 16, 2017, and called upon the Independent Electoral Commission to "be ready to conduct fair and accurate elections until that time".

PMU Commander praises PKK presence in Iraq

A commander of the Shi'ite Popular Mobilization Forces has defended the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)'s presence inside Iraqi borders. Hadi al-Jazairi issued a statement saying the presence of PKK guerrillas in the Yezidi town of Sinjar in Nineveh province is "much better than the presence of the Turkish forces". The statement brought a swift reaction from Wahid Bakozi, a MP in Sinjar who stated that "we are aware that Hashd militias are supporting the PKK in a way to make their presence in Sinjar legitimate". Bakozi also accused the Shi'ite militias of "enforcing their plans for staging sedition and unrest" accusing the PMUs of enlisting PKK guerrillas into their ranks, and stating that the PKK receive regular salaries from the Shia militia organisation.

Baghdad wall construction discussed again

Baghdad Operations Commander General Jalil al-Rabei announced that the construction of a security wall around Baghdad to frustrate infiltration by IS insurgents would be completed at an unspecified point in the near future. Other reporting has highlighted political opposition to current plans, citing concerns the wall will run through agricultural land and that those whose livelihoods will be affected will not be adequately compensated. **COMMENT:** The issue of a proposed wall around Baghdad was discussed previously in early 2016, although it was deemed to be too expensive and impractical at the time. **COMMENT ENDS.**

IS leader al-Baghdadi accuses IS commanders of cowardice

Further information during the reporting period suggests that IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi has withdrawn the title of 'emir' from "all the leaders of the left coast of Mosul" due to their cowardice and fleeing from the ISF. Sources said that "Al-Baghdadi had prevented any of the emirs of the left coast from taking up any leadership position in the right coast and ordered that they are immediately sent to the frontlines as regular fighters as a punishment for them."

IDPs flee Hawijah in anticipation of an ISF assault

Hundreds of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have reportedly fled the IS stronghold of Hawijah and headed to southern Kirkuk according to security officials. Sarhad Qadir, Kirkuk Suburban Police chief, stated that 392 people from 82 families had already fled the Hawijah and Tikrit area. **COMMENT:** It Hundreds of families have attempted to escape the Hawijah area in recent months, and the numbers fleeing are expected to increase, as an anticipated ISF offensive against IS becomes more likely. According to reports, before the town fell to IS its inhabitants were around 45,000. That number has since dropped by half. **COMMENT ENDS**

Foreign Affairs

Iraqi Foreign Minister holds talks with Iranian official in Baghdad

The chairman of the Iranian Parliament's Committee on National Security and Foreign Policy and the Iraqi Foreign Minister have held talks on Tehran-Baghdad relations and the latest developments in the Middle East. In a meeting with Iraq's Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari in Baghdad on January 13, Alaeddin Boroujerdi said the two countries have "strategic and important relations" and "Tehran and Baghdad must enhance their

economic cooperation and trade level". Al-Jaafari stated that Tehran and Baghdad were on the right course with respect to strengthening relations.

Canada to reopen embassy in Baghdad

Canada will reopen an embassy in Iraq for the first time since 1991, when it closed prior to the Gulf War, in a move that analysts say demonstrates Ottawa's renewed efforts to strengthen ties with the region. Joe Pickerill who is Director of Communications for Chrystia Freeland, Canada's new minister of Foreign Affairs said "To deliver on Canada's commitments, our diplomatic footprint in Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan is in the process of expanding with up to 24 new field staff based in the region to increase the effectiveness of our engagement and cooperation with local and international partners".

Economy

\$1 billion loan to Iraq from US secured

The Republic of Iraq has successfully closed the deal on the United States' offer of a \$1 billion sovereign bond guaranteed by the United States of America. According to a government spokesman, as part of a comprehensive international assistance package - anchored by an International Monetary Fund-supported reform program - this guarantee provides Iraq access to low-cost financing essential to delivering critical services to all the people of Iraq, while laying the foundation for long-term stability and growth through economic and institutional reforms. The issuance of a \$1 billion, five-year Iraqi sovereign bond on international markets is backed by a 100 percent guarantee by the U.S. government of the repayment of principal and interest, and was priced at a coupon rate of 2.15 percent.

Parliamentary Finance: Poverty Rate in Iraq Reached 35 Percent

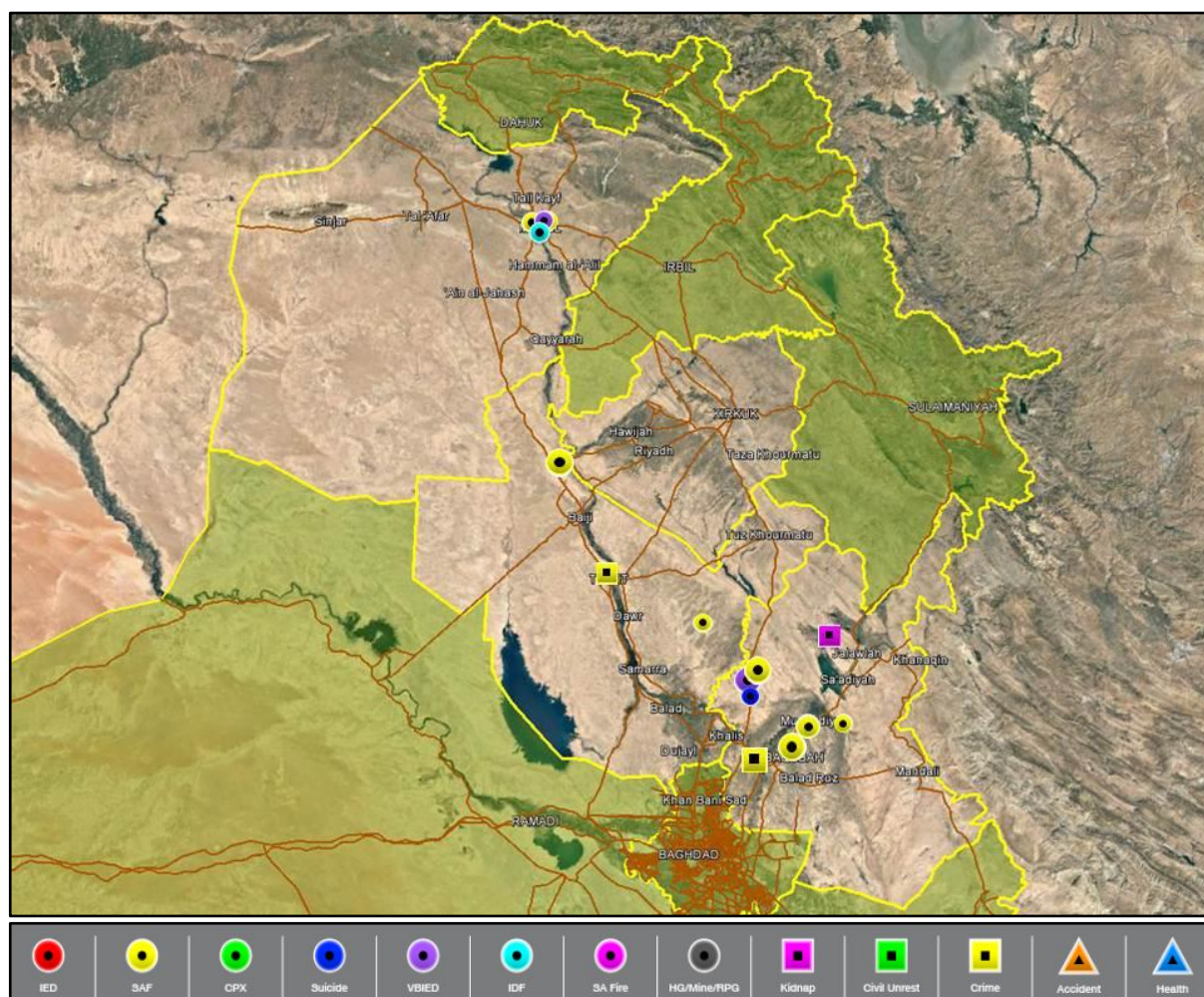
The Parliamentary Financial Committee has stated that the poverty rate in Iraq had reached 35 percent, adding that Iraq had not reached this level of poverty in the past hundred years. Committee member Najiba Najib stated that a delegation was formed in the federal government, and following economic and financial discussions, the delegation concluded that the poverty rate in Iraq increased from 13.7 percent in 2013 to 35 percent in 2016. Najib also stated that the government planned to release funds to the Committee to combat poverty.

\$35 billion worth of damage to Iraq's infrastructure since 2014

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has stated that IS has caused \$35 billion worth of damage to Iraq's infrastructure since 2014. He said "In the fight against IS, the group has damaged Iraq's infrastructure by \$35 billion", Abadi was speaking at Baghdad Dialogue convention being held in Baghdad in order to discuss the latest political developments in the region and the war on IS. Speaking on sectarian concerns, Al-Abadi stated that "IS tried to create rivalries among us, but coexistence is the best response to IS. An end has to be put to sectarian and ethnic divisions in Iraq. Iraq is not the country of the Shiites alone; the politicians have to put aside sectarian interests". The Baghdad Dialogue commenced on 14 January and will last for two days. The first day of the convention took place in Iraqi parliament with the second at the University of Baghdad. In attendance were representatives from the government, presidency and parliament of Iraq, as well as foreign representatives and delegates from regional countries.

Countrywide Military/Security Situation

Northern Provinces



Northern Provinces (Kirkuk/Salah al-Din/Diyala)

Reporting in this period has again been characterized by IS attacks on ISF positions east of Hawijah, IED strikes against families fleeing from Hawija, crime in Kirkuk and low-level security operations around Daquq.

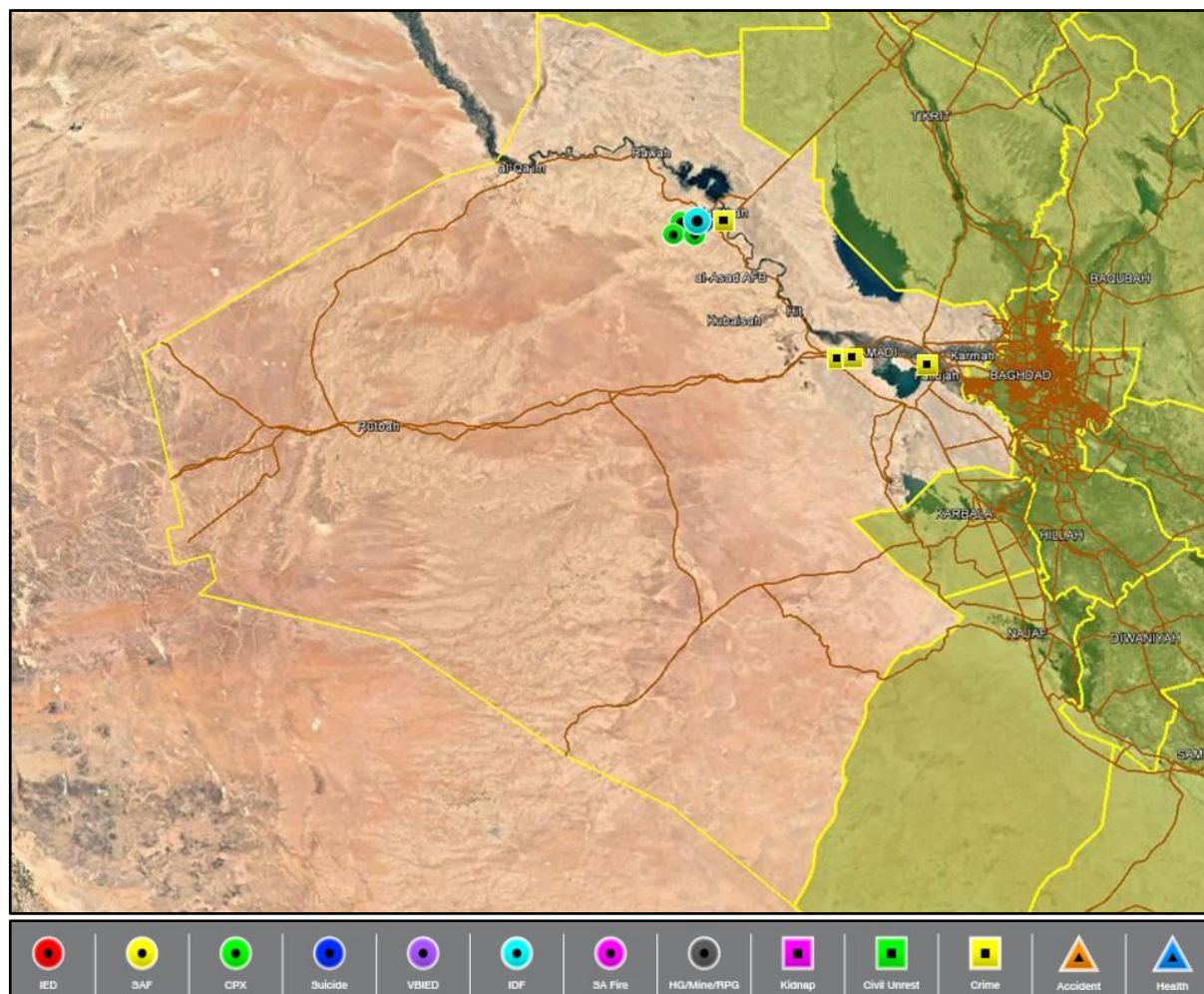
IS have continued to make their presence known; a 120mm mortar round injured a PMF member in Shirqat, and a night-time incursion across the Tigris into Shirqat resulted in a sustained firefight that killed at least three militants. Other attacks, of varying significance, some involving technical vehicles, were reported up and down the provincial boundary with Diyala.

ISF for their part have also been pro-active. In Salah ad-Din province, two deliberate operations were reported in the north near the Makhoul Mountains and in the east near the Hamrin Mountains. Within Hawija itself, IS are reported to have conducted a mass-execution, with an unknown number of people publicly beheaded according to a video released on IS social media accounts. ISF reporting the deaths of “dozens” of IS militants and the destruction of several vehicles. No ISF casualties were reported. In neighbouring Kirkuk province, security operation in Daquq by regional security was also reported, as were several terror-related arrests. **COMMENT:** IS continue to project beyond Hawijah. As was previously assessed, ISF cannot realistically mount a clearance operation into Hawija until after Mosul has finished. Lower-level operations, to deny IS freedom of action will

likely characterize reporting in Kirkuk and Salah ad-Din for as long as IS retains control of the district.
COMMENT ENDS.

IS have also been more active in Diyala in this period, with two attempted SVBIEDs, a successful SVEST attack and a harmless improvised rocket attack all being reported in Khalis district immediately north of Baqubah. Nine policemen were also killed in an IS attack against security checkpoints in Mubarak al-Farhan village in the Hamrin district of northern Diyala, near the provincial boundaries Salah ad-Din. Elsewhere in Diyala, Two civilians were reported killed in a drive-by shooting carried out by unknown assailants riding a motorcycle in Abu Saida district, 30km north east of Baqubah. Reporting has hinted that this is related to personal or tribal disputes, and ISF have apparently “heightened” security in the district to deter reprisals.

Anbar Province

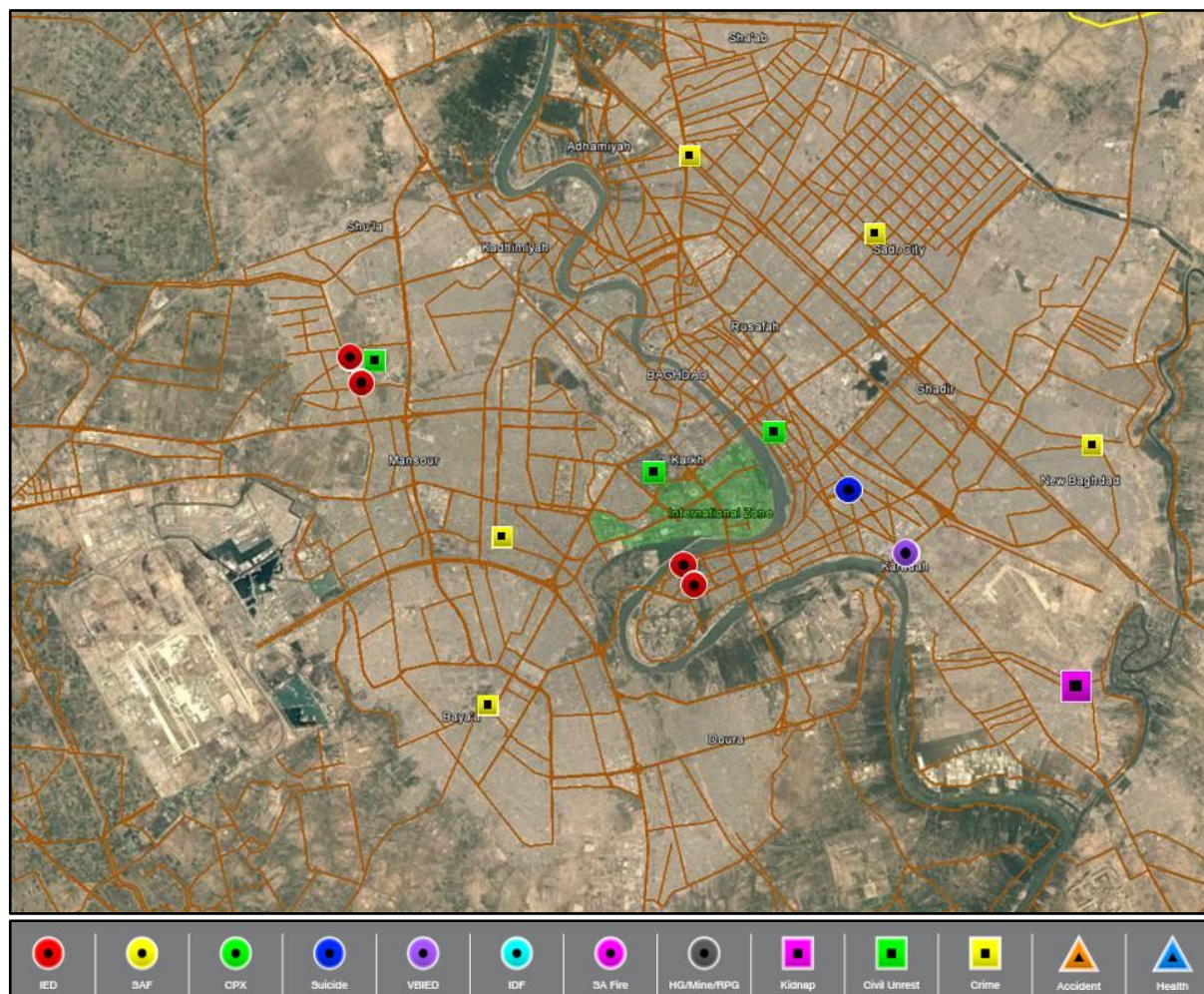


Reporting in Anbar has been characterized by operations by ISF and Sunni militia to clear IS and IEDs from the Euphrates River Valley (ERV), particularly Haditha district. Other reporting has highlighted the ongoing presence of IS cells in the key provincial centres of Ramadi and Fallujah, recaptured by ISF last year.

ISF has maintained pressure on IS in the IS-held towns of Rawah and Anah, approximately 160km north west of Ramadi in the ERV, with multiple air strikes on IS positions and stores around both areas. Strikes were also reported in Haditha and the border town Al-Qaim. ISF were understood to have dispatched 200 additional soldiers to western Haditha to support a EOD efforts conducted by Sunni tribesmen the al-Sagra area in western Haditha and four IS supporters were understood to have been arrested in Haditha after fleeing IS-held territory elsewhere in the province.

In Fallujah, PMU, reported a suicide attack against their headquarters in Nuimiya. While the attack was reported as having been foiled, one PMU member was wounded in the explosion. An attempted infiltration was reportedly foiled in Ta'amim district in the west of Ramadi city when three alleged militants were arrested by PMU checkpoint, detainees were coming from IS-Stronghold in Qaim district western the province.

Capital Region (Baghdad City)

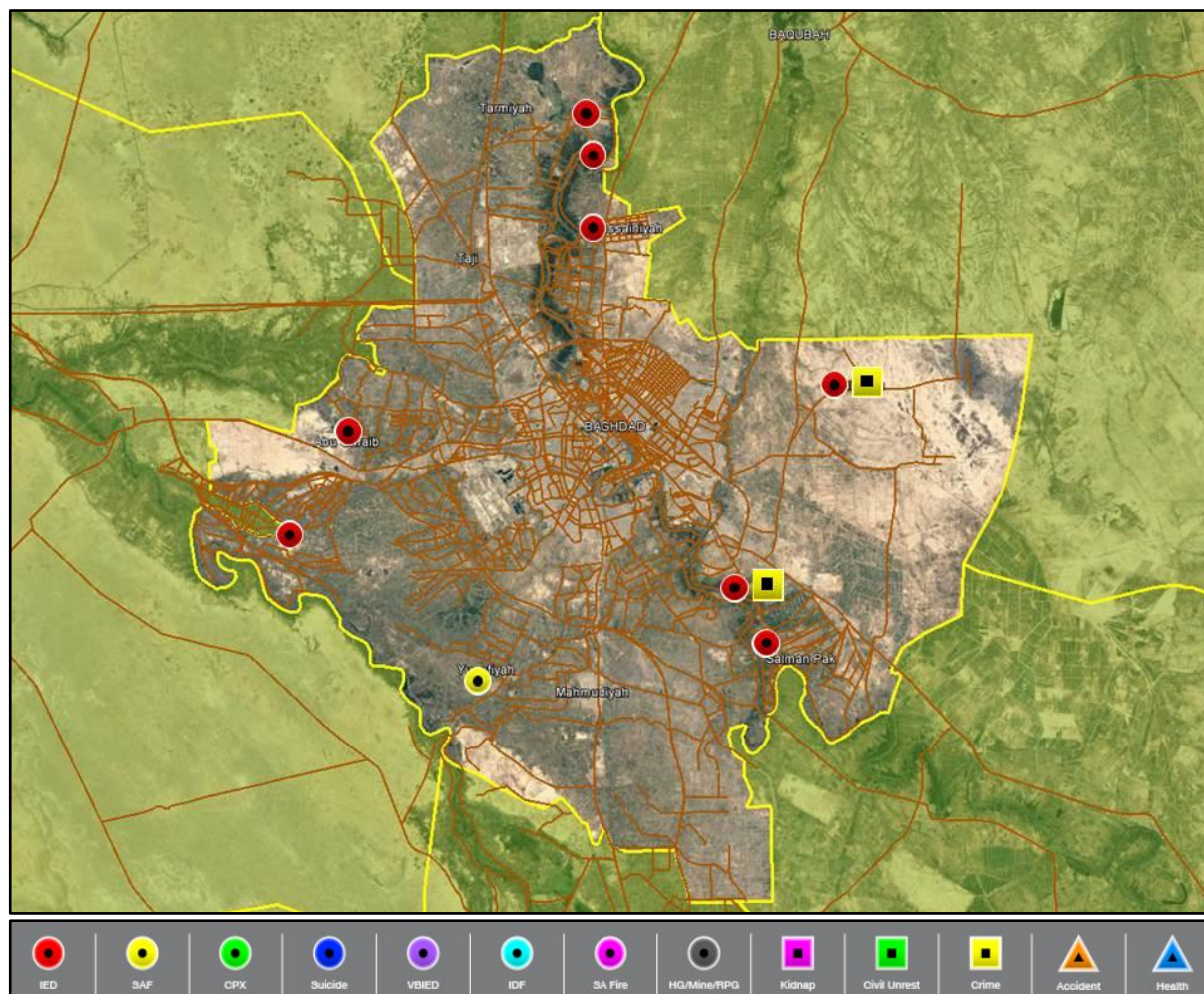


In this period, 13 IED attacks were reported across the city, compared with 14 the previous week. In keeping with long-standing trends, almost all appear to be Sunni insurgents targeting high traffic locales in majority Shia areas. The most significant attack saw at least 2 EOD operators when a static VBIED functioned in East Rashid during their attempt to disarm it. In an evident targeted killing, possibly by Sunni insurgents, a Ministry of Health employee was killed when an UVIED detonated beneath his car as he was driving in the south of the city.

With regards violent crime, reporting from two separate incidents has seen two kidnapping victims (Iraqi nationals) safely returned following a ransom payment by family or rescued by ISF. Two shooting incidents on private individuals were also reported. The Imam of the Abu Hanifah grand mosque in Adhamiyah district reportedly survived an close-quarter shooting at his car while transiting an unspecified area near al-Muthana bridge in Baghdad's northern Kadhimiya district. In Adhamiyah, a civilian was reportedly shot and killed near his home by two unidentified gunmen using suppressed weapons on a motorcycle in the Shaab area of Adhamiyah district in northern Baghdad.

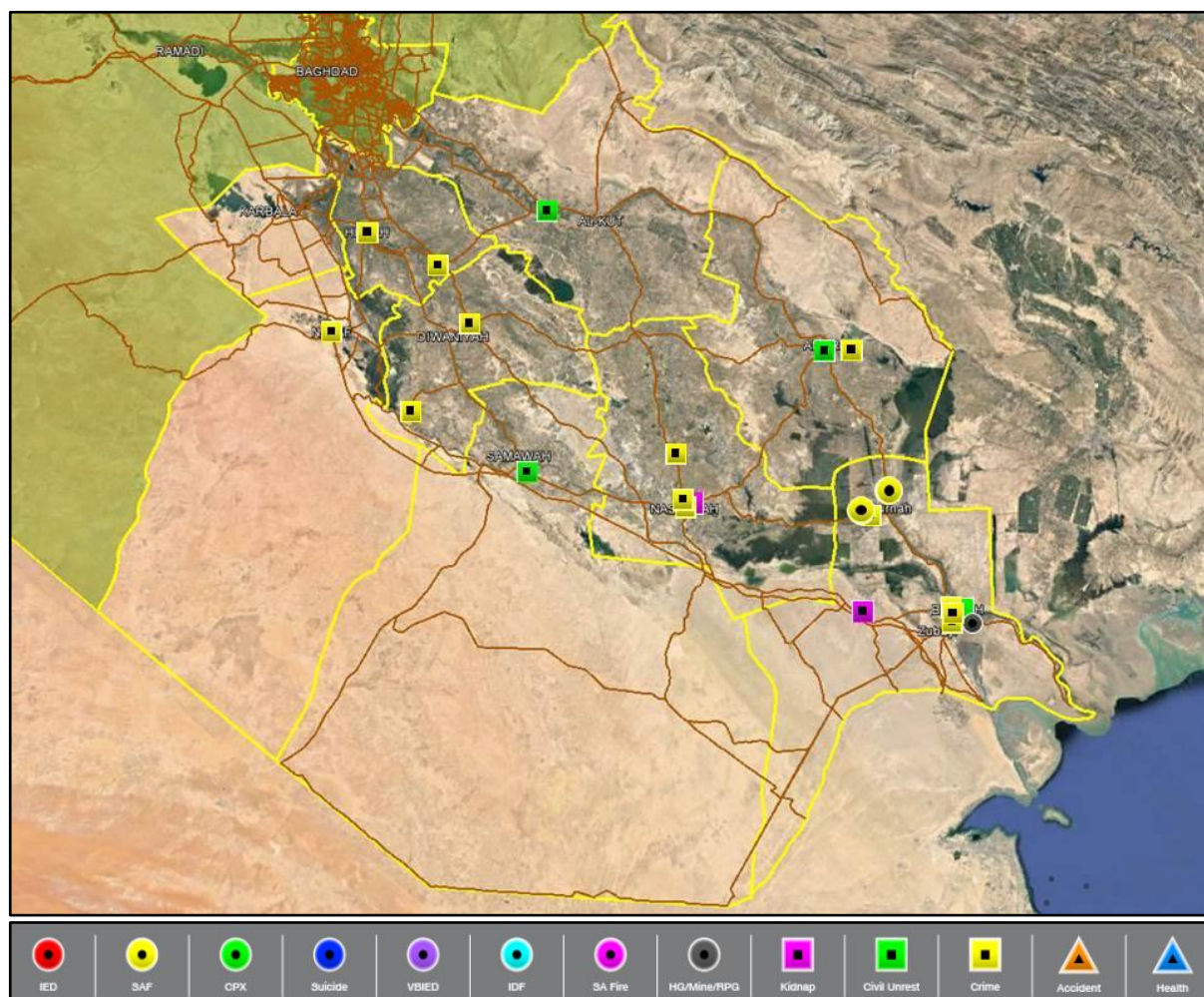
Several protests have occurred this week. In addition to the usual Friday afternoon demonstration in Tahrir Square calling for government reforms and action on corruption, Sadrists also demonstrated outside the Bahraini embassy in Mansour on January 18, following the execution of three Shias in Bahrain for their alleged part in a 2014 terror attack that killed three policemen. While reporting beforehand said that the Sadrist movement had called for "angry" protests, no significant disruption was reported.

Capital Region (Baghdad Belts)



In-line with longstanding trends, incidents in the outlying province were largely restricted to IED attacks on ISF patrols and local markets in Shia areas such as Madain and Yusufiyah in the south, Nahrawan in the east and Taji in the north. One security member from Sunni militia was reportedly shot and killed and two others injured when unidentified gunmen opened fire at their checkpoint in Radwaniyah southern Baghdad province. Another Sunni militia man was injured in a similar attack in Mashahda in the north of the province.

Southern Provinces



No significant security developments were noted in Basra this week. ISF made several arrests around the city, with several linked to narcotics. Several incidents of burglary and vehicle theft were also reported in residential areas of central Basra and Zubayr. Four shooting incidents resulting in deaths were also reported; though details are limited they were likely related to personal disputes and property crime.

Protests have also been reported at various points around Basra throughout the week. Teachers have protested the poor security situation following several events in Qurna and the north in recent weeks in which teachers have been abducted, tortured or murdered. Protests over various matters related to public life have also been reported outside the provincial council building in Ashar and the electoral commission offices in Kurt, both in central Basra. A grenade was reportedly lobbed at the residence of a police officer central Basra in an apparent act of intimidation; no casualties were reported.

To the east, two Iraqi oil workers were reportedly abducted when their vehicle was intercepted and shot at by unidentified gunmen on Route TAMPA in the Um Enaij area near the provincial boundaries with Dhi Qar province. The victims were later released following the payment of a ransom. Two shooting attacks and one stabbing attack over various personal disputes were reported in the Shatran area north of Dhi Qar's provincial capital of Nasiriyah. **COMMENT:** Such incidents are common in the area, are typically reported as linked to "tribal disputes" and often see reprisal attacks in following days. **COMMENT ENDS.**

ACRONYM LIST

All - Area of Intelligence Interest	MoO - Ministry of Oil
AKA - Also Known As	MoT - Ministry of Transportation
AO - Area of Operations	MSR - Main Supply Route
APC - Armored Personnel Carrier	NFDK - No Further Details Known
APIED - Anti-Personnel IED	NGO - Non-Governmental Organization (aid/charity)
AQ - Al-Qaeda	NSTR - Nothing Significant To Report
AT - Anti-Tank	OCG - Organized Crime Group
ATGW - Anti Tank Guided Weapon	OPF - Oil Protection Force
AVIED - Anti-Vehicle IED	PAX - Person, Persons or Passenger
BBIED - Body Borne IED	PBIED - Person-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (UN Term)
Bde - Brigade	Pol - Point of Impact (for IDF)
Bn - Battalion	PoO - Point of Origin (for IDF)
BXP - Border Crossing Point	PSAF - Precision Small Arms Fire
CET - Convoy Escort Team	PSC - Private Security Company
CLC - Concerned Local Citizens	PSD - Private Security Detail
CoP - Chief of Police	RCIED - Remote-Controlled IED
CP - Check Point	RPG - Rocket Propelled Grenade
C-PERS - Captured Personnel	RTA - Road Traffic Accident
CPX - Complex Attack (an attack using multiple weapon systems)	SAF - Small Arms Fire
CQA - Close Quarter Assassination/Attack	SAFIRE - Surface to Air FIRE
DBS - Drive by Shooting	SF - Special Forces
Div - Division	SVBIED - Suicide Vehicle Borne IED
DoD - Department of Defense	SVEST - Suicide Explosive Worn Vest
DoS - Department of State	TCN - Third Country National
DoS - US Department of State	TCP - Traffic Control Point
ECP - Entry Control Point	Technical - An improvised weapon-mounted pick-up truck
ECP - Entry Control Point (IZ, BIAP)	TTP - Tactics, Techniques and Practices
EFP - Explosively Formed Projectile	UVIED - Under Vehicle IED
EOD - Explosive Ordnance Disposal (Bomb Squad)	UXO - Unexploded Ordnance
ERW - Explosive Remnants of War	VBIED - Vehicle Borne IED
FoM - Freedom of Movement	VCP - Vehicle Checkpoint
Gol - Government of Iraq	WIA - Wounded in Action
HCN - Host Country National	
HG - Hand Grenade	
HME - Home Made Explosive	
HMG - Heavy Machine Gun	
HVT - High Value Target	
IC - International Community	
IDF - Indirect Fire (i.e.: rockets, mortars)	
IDP - Internally Displaced Persons	
IEC - Independent Electoral Commission	
IED - Improvised Explosive Device	
IM - International Military	
IOC - International Oil Company	
IRAM - Improvised Rocket Assisted Mortar	
IRL - Improvised Rocket Launcher	
IS - Islamic State	
IVCP - Illegal Vehicle Check Point	
IVO - In Vicinity Of	
IZ - International Zone	
KIA - Killed in Action	
LN - Local National/Iraqi Civilian	
MAIED - Magnetically attached IED (aka UVIED)	
MIA - Missing in Action	
MoD - Ministry of Defense	
MoF - Ministry of Finance	
MoFA - Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
MoHE - Ministry of Higher Education	
Mol - Ministry of Interior	
MoJ - Ministry of Justice	

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