



## Daily Iraq .Xplored report

05 March 2017

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Iraq

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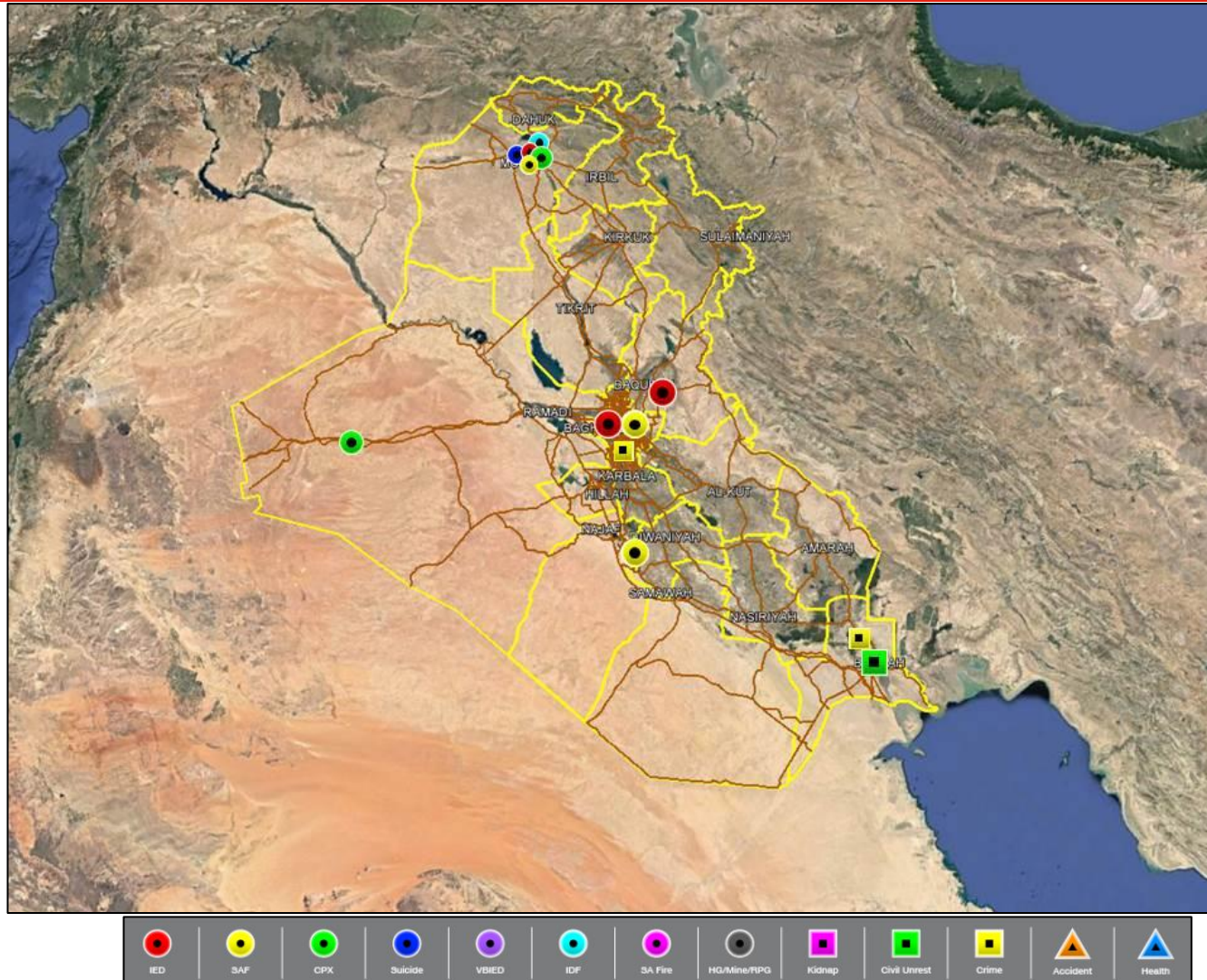
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## ACTIVITY MAP



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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 and Diyala, as IS retains intent to stoke sectarian tensions and force a redeployment of ISF resources away from Mosul. This was underlined by the coordinated VBIED attacks in Baghdad City in January and February and a recent increase in IS attributed attacks in Salah ad-Din province. IS may also attempt to increase their attack tempo in eastern Anbar, the cities of Ramadi and Fallujah still remain susceptible to high-profile attacks.
- The complex attack in Najaf on January 01 underlines that IS retains intent and capability for attacks in the southern provinces, and is likely to cause an increased security posture in the short term. The region remains assessed as non-permissive for IS to significantly escalate operations as IS sympathizers remain politically isolated.
- 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.

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS****Mosul Tactical Update**

ISF announced that 'dozens' of militants had been killed in fighting in al-Dandan, previously reported as recaptured. Federal Police Units claim to have destroyed five VBIEDs in al-Tayaran district, immediately north of the airport. Air and mortar strikes have been reported around the city, two of which have reportedly caused 19 civilian fatalities. Three others have reportedly killed IS commanders of unspecified seniority.

**Iraqi forces find IS radio headquarters in Mosul**

Iraqi joint forces have found the headquarters of the Islamic State's Al-Bayan Radio and its transmission tower in Mosul, Al-Sumaria TV reported on 3 March. Quoting a security source in Nineveh Province, the report added that the militant group burnt the station down before the arrival of the Iraqi forces; however Iraqi forces subsequently found important media files in a nearby site. **COMMENT:** 'IS launched Al-Bayan in 2015. Its news bulletins appeared online in six languages: Arabic, English, French, Russian, Turkish and Kurdish. IS has also broadcast in Uighur and in languages spoken in Indonesia and the Balkans. The station has been off air since February 24, though some reports had claimed that the station was making intermittent broadcasts.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

**HRW claims PMU forces forced families accused of IS association from their homes**

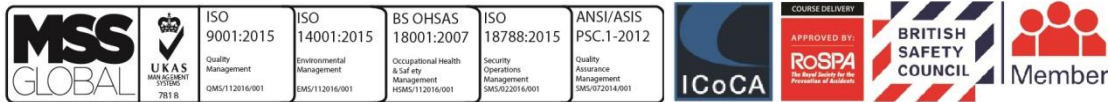
Iraqi forces have forcibly displaced at least 125 families said to have familial ties or affiliation to IS, according to a Human Rights Watch (HRW) statement on March 5. HRW allege that Sunni tribal groups within the Popular Mobilization Units (PMUs) and Iraqi soldiers forced families out of their homes following the passage of a decree issued by local authorities. The families, all from Salah al-Din governorate, are being held against their will in a camp functioning as an open-air prison near Tikrit. The PMF are also reported to have also destroyed some of the family's homes in the area. The allegations were made by Lama Fakih, deputy Middle East director at HRW. Fakih called on the Iraqi government to protect those who have been 'found guilty by association' rather than allowing them to be subject to retribution.

As an example, Fakih stated that local PMF forces destroyed hundreds of homes in the village of al-Aithah in Salah al-Din province after they retook the area in September. Satellite imagery reviewed by HRW showed that between September 23 and October 23, 2016, 220 homes in the village were destroyed by explosives and fire. Fakih pointed out that the intentional or wanton destruction of civilian property is unlawful unless the property is being used for a military purpose. Destroying property merely to punish the population is always prohibited. Iraqi federal authorities should investigate any intentional destruction or looting of civilian property, punish those responsible - including those in command control at the time of such acts who failed to prevent the crimes - if abuses are found, and compensate victims, Human Rights Watch said. **COMMENT:** 'In August 2016, the Salah al-Din governorate council passed a decree stating that anyone proven to have been complicit or affiliated with IS has no right to return to the governorate. The decree also orders the expulsion of immediate relatives of IS-members from Salah al-Din for 10 years to life, and says that they are only allowed to return if they are deemed safe.' The decree establishes a committee to seize IS-affiliates' property and suspend their, and their families, provision cards. Families that kill their IS-affiliated relatives, or hand them over to the Iraqi authorities, are exempted.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

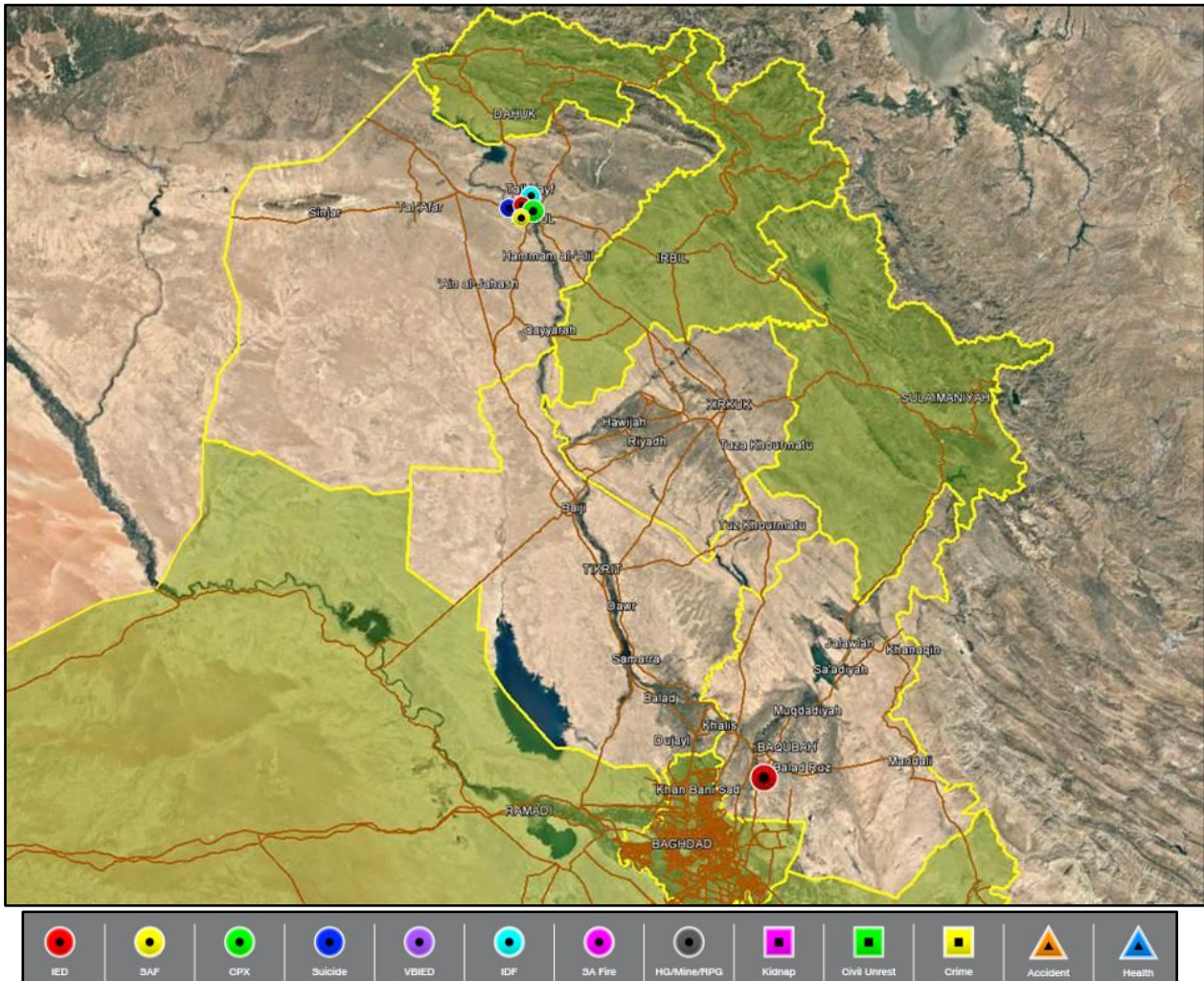
**Iraqi minister criticises UN for lack of action over Mosul displaced**

In a statement on March 4, Jassem Mohammed Jaff, the minister of displacement and migration sharply criticized UN efforts to aid civilians fleeing fighting in west Mosul, even as the UN insisted that providing such assistance was the top priority. Jaff stated that there was a clear shortfall in UN efforts to assist those displaced by the fighting in Mosul. Asked to elaborate, Jaff stated that the UN 'talks a lot' but the efforts being made are little, despite the huge amount of money in their possession. More than 50,000 people have fled west Mosul since the push to retake it was launched, Jaff added. In response, Lise Grande, the UN's humanitarian

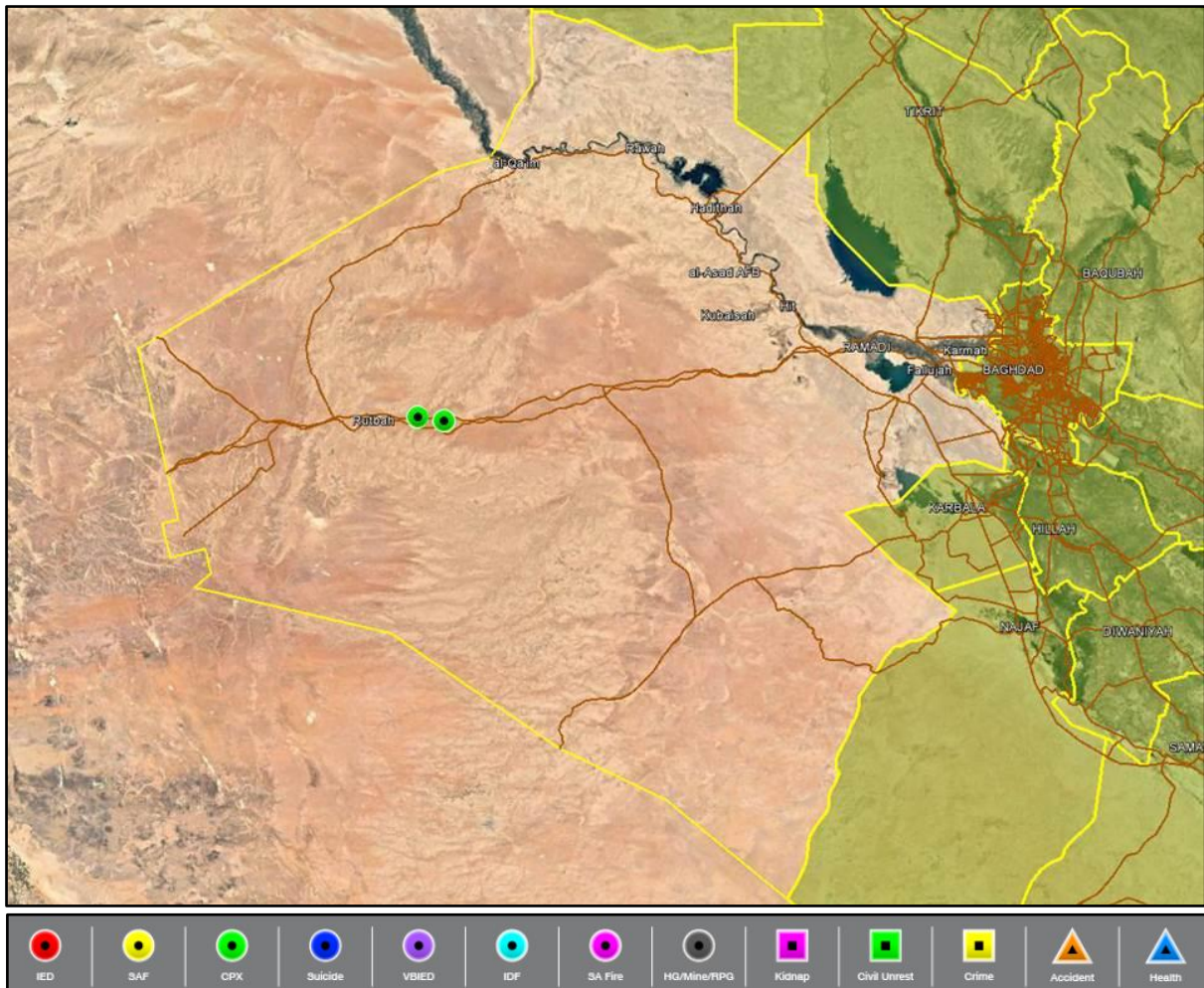
coordinator in Iraq stated that the UN, which has been providing shelter, food and other assistance to Iraqis who have fled Mosul during the nearly five-month-long battle; she added that the UN it is working as fast as possible to help those displaced. Grande also pointed out that the UN and associated agencies had been rushing to construct new facilities to house those expected to be displaced from western Mosul.





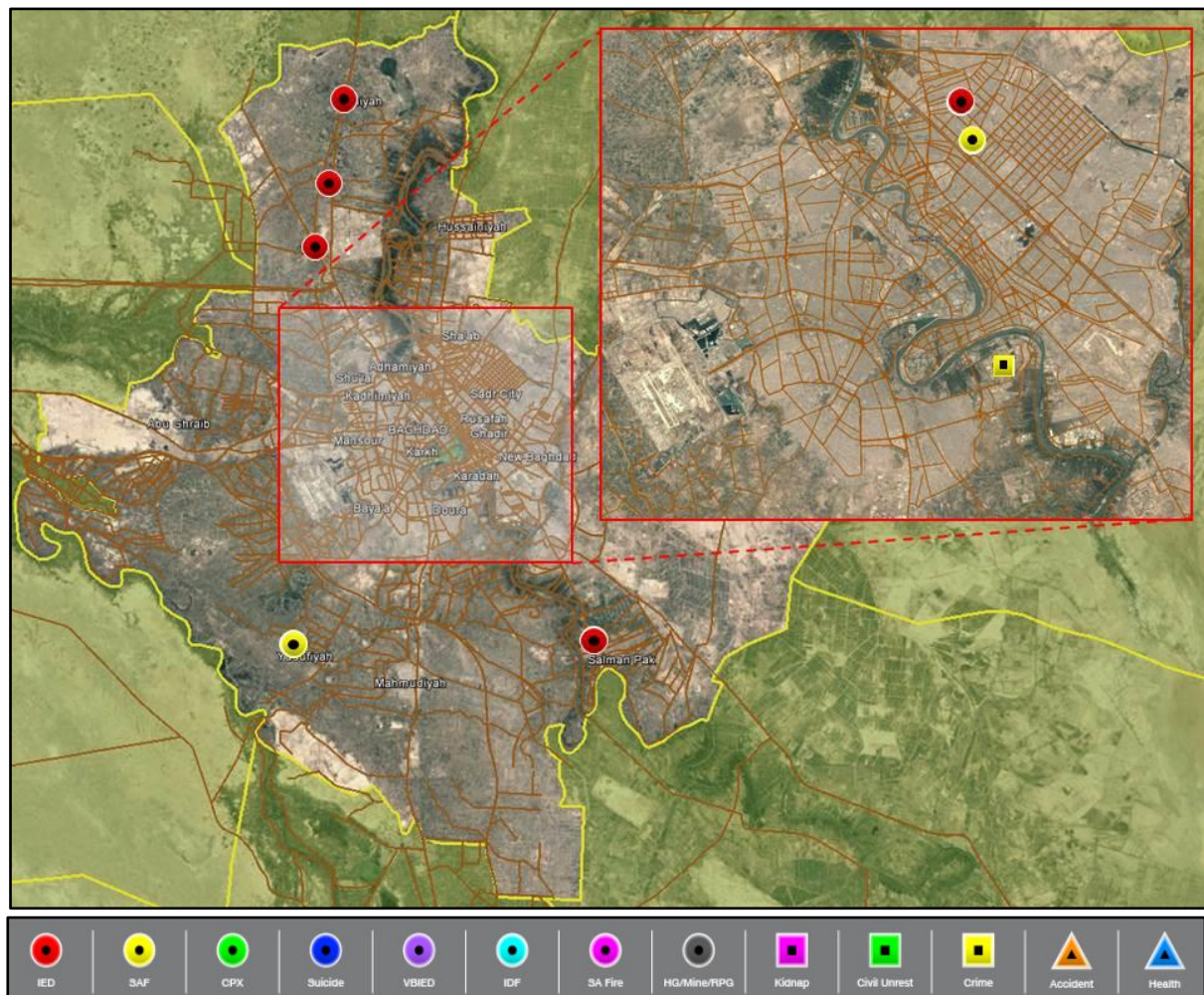
**DAILY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT****Countrywide Military/Security Situation Update****Northern Iraq**

Two ISF members were killed when an IED detonated as they were attempting to clear it in Buhriz district, southern Baqubah, in Diyala province. No other security related events have been reported outside of the Mosul operational area in this period.

**Western Iraq**

ISF have reportedly foiled two attacks on positions east of Rutbah; several militants were said to have been killed, one 'Technical' (4x4 with weapons mount) vehicle destroyed and another captured. No other security events were reported in Anbar in this period.



**Capital Region (Including Baghdad City)**

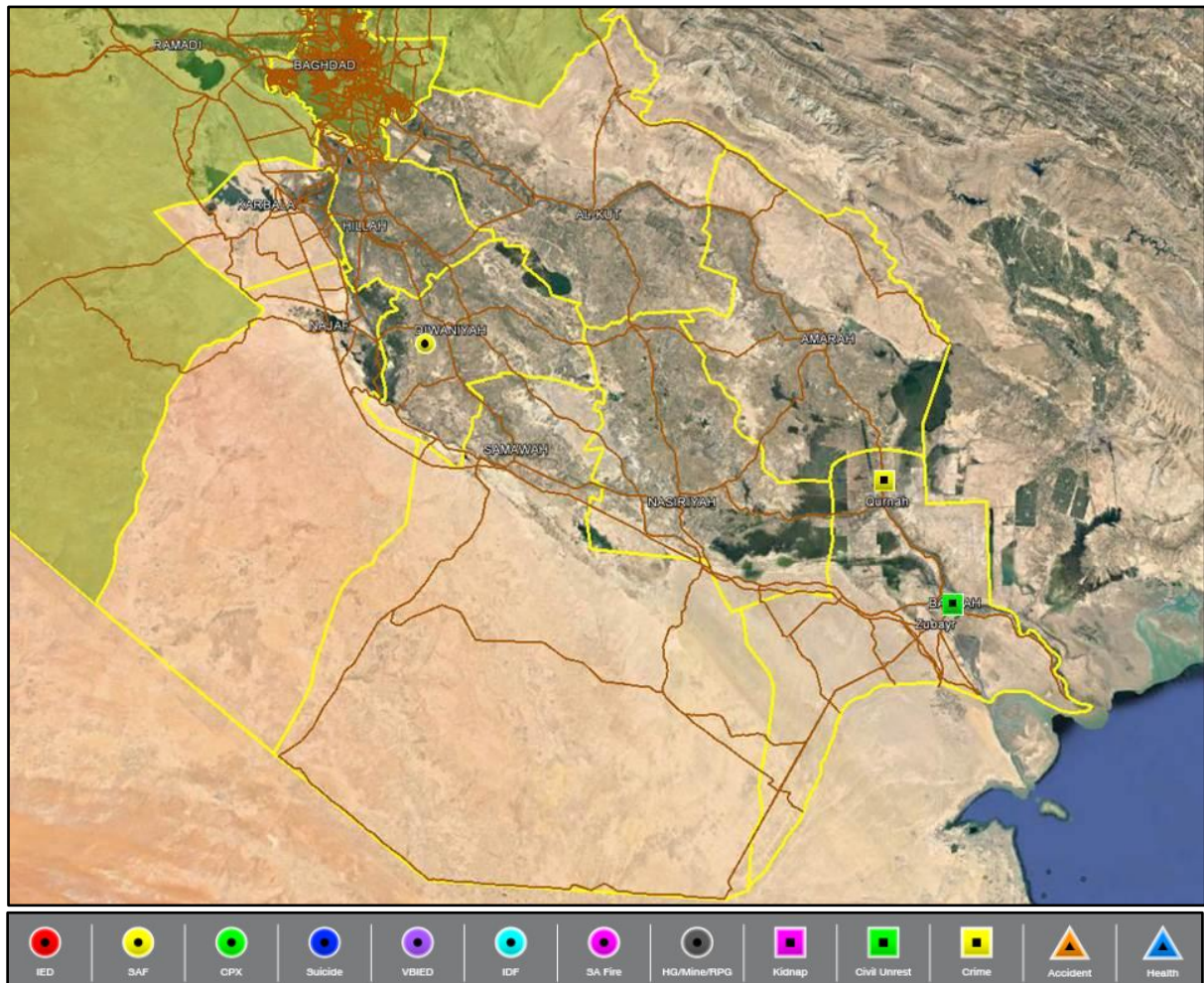
No security events of particular significance were reported in this period.

Two non-fatal IED detonations were reported in this period. One person was injured in an IED detonation near Taji industrial area in the north of the province, and two people were reportedly injured in an IED strike in Shaab, Adhamiyah, in the north of the city. However, reporting from March 03 has stated that one person was killed and three injured in an IED detonation near local markets in Mushada, Tarmiyah, also in the north of the province. Two people were also injured in another IED detonation near a fish market in Bawi village, Madain, in the province's south east.

In other activity, two civilians were reportedly killed in a drive-by shooting carried out by unidentified gunmen carrying suppressed weapons in Yusufiyah to the south of the city. Reporting from March 04 has stated that two men and four women were killed in a SAF attack likely carried out by 'religious militias' on a brothel in the Talbiyah area of the city's northern Adhamiyah district.

ISF have also reported the arrest of an individual arrested for passing counterfeit money in Dora, East Rashid, in the south of the city on March 05.

## Southern Iraq



Dozens demonstrated in central Basra city over the establishment of a municipal waste facility in their neighbourhood, and three individuals were reportedly arrested on narcotics charges in Thaqir, in the north of the province

An individual was reportedly shot and killed by unidentified gunmen in Ghammas district, south west of Diwaniyah. Reporting indicates the shooting was linked to a tribal feud.



**SIGNIFICANT ATTACKS****March 04, 2017****Baghdad Province**

IED - One person was injured in an IED detonation near Taji industrial area in the north of the province

**Baghdad City**

IED - Two people were reportedly injured in an IED strike in Shaab, Adhamiyah, in the north of the city

SAF - Two civilians were reportedly killed in a drive by shooting carried out by unidentified gunmen carrying suppressed weapons in Yusufiyah district, southern Baghdad.

**March 03, 2017****Baghdad Province**

IED - One person was killed and three injured in an IED detonation near local markets in Mushada, Tarmiyah, in the north of the province

IED - Two people were injured when an IED detonated near a fish market in Bawi village, Madain, in the south east of the province

**Baghdad City**

SAF - Two men and four women were reportedly killed in a SAF attack carried out by unidentified gunmen from 'religious militias' on a brothel in the Talibiyah area of Adhamiyah district



## ACRONYM LIST

AAH - Asaib Ahl al Haq (League of the Righteous - Iranian-backed Shi'a militia)  
 AAS - Ansar Al Sunna (Sunni insurgent group)  
 AII - Area of Intelligence Interest  
 AKA - Also Known As  
 AO - Area of Operations  
 APC - Armored Personnel Carrier  
 APIED - Anti-Personnel IED  
 AQ - Al-Qaeda  
 AQI - Al Qaeda in Iraq  
 AQIZAM - Al-Qaeda in Iraq and Associated Movements  
 AT - Anti-Tank  
 ATGW - Anti Tank Guided Weapon  
 AVIED - Anti-Vehicle IED  
 BaOC - Basra Operational Command  
 BBIED - Body Borne IED  
 Bde - Brigade  
 BIAP - Baghdad International Airport  
 Bn - Battalion  
 BOC - Baghdad Operational Command  
 BXP - Border Crossing Point  
 CDF - Civil Defense Force  
 CET - Convoy Escort Team  
 CLC - Concerned Local Citizens  
 CoP - Chief of Police  
 CoR - Council of Representatives (Iraqi Parliament)  
 CP - Check Point  
 C-PERS - Captured Personnel  
 CPX - Complex Attack (an attack using multiple weapon systems)  
 CQA - Close Quarter Assassination/Attack  
 DBS - Drive by Shooting  
 DGS - De-gassing Station  
 Div - Division  
 DoD - Department of Defense  
 DoS - Department of State  
 DoS - US Department of State  
 DS - Drill Site  
 ECP - Entry Control Point  
 ECP - Entry Control Point (IZ, BIAP)  
 EFP - Explosively Formed Projectile  
 EOD - Explosive Ordnance Disposal (Bomb Squad)  
 ERB - Emergency Response Battalion (Iraqi Police)  
 ERW - Explosive Remnants of War  
 FoM - Freedom of Movement  
 FP - Federal Police  
 GoI - Government of Iraq  
 GoI - Government of Iraq  
 HCN - Host Country National  
 HG - Hand Grenade  
 HME - Home Made Explosive  
 HMG - Heavy Machine Gun  
 HVT - High Value Target  
 IA - Iraqi Army  
 IC - International Community  
 ICF - International Coalition Force  
 IDF - Indirect Fire (i.e.: rockets, mortars)  
 IDP - Internally Displaced Persons  
 IEC - Independent Electoral Commission  
 IED - Improvised Explosive Device  
 IKR - Iraqi Kurdish Region

IM - International Military  
 IOC - International Oil Company  
 IPS - Iraqi Police Service  
 IRAM - Improvised Rocket Assisted Mortar  
 IRGC - Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps  
 IRGC-QF - Iranian Republican Guard-Quds Force (responsible for external operations: sponsor of Shi'a proxy militias)  
 IRGF - Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps – Ground Force  
 IRL - Improvised Rocket Launcher  
 IRQF - Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps – Qods Force  
 IS - Islamic State  
 ISCI - Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq (Shi'a party headed by al-Hakim)  
 ISF - Iraqi Security Forces  
 ISI - Islamic State of Iraq (Sunni Extremists, AQ affiliates)  
 ISIL - Al Qaeda in Iraq/Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant  
 ISIS - Islamic State of Iraq and Syria  
 IVCP - Illegal Vehicle Check Point  
 IVO - In Vicinity Of  
 IZ - International Zone  
 JAM - Jaish al-Mahdi, aka Mahdi Army (al-Sadr's militia)  
 JRTN - Jaish Rijal Tariq al-Naqshbandia (former Ba'athist officers insurgent group)  
 KDP - Kurdistan Democratic Party (KRG Pres Barzani's party)  
 KH - Kataib Hezbollah (Shi'a militia)  
 KHI - Kataib Hezbollah al Iraq (Shi'a militia)  
 KIA - Killed in Action  
 KRG - Kurdish Regional Government  
 LH - Lebanese Hezbollah  
 LN - Local National/Iraqi Civilian  
 LN - Local National/Iraqi Civilian  
 MAIED - Magnetically attached IED (aka UVIED)  
 MAIED - Magnetically attached IED (aka UVIED)  
 MAS - Muqtada al-Sadr  
 MEK - Peoples' Mujahidin of Iran, aka MKO (Saddam sponsored dissident group in exile in Iraq)  
 MIA - Missing in Action  
 MoD - Ministry of Defense  
 MoF - Ministry of Finance  
 MoFA - Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
 MoHE - Ministry of Higher Education  
 MoI - Ministry of Interior  
 MoJ - Ministry of Justice  
 MoO - Ministry of Oil  
 MoT - Ministry of Transportation  
 MSR - Main Supply Route  
 NEC - US New Embassy Compound, IZ, Baghdad  
 NFDK - No Further Details Known  
 NGO - Non-Governmental Organization (aid/charity)  
 NOC - Northern Oil Company  
 NSTR - Nothing Significant To Report  
 OCG - Organized Crime Group  
 OPF - Oil Protection Force  
 OPF - Oil Protection Force  
 PAX - Person, Persons or Passenger  
 PBIED - Person-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (UN Term)  
 PDB - Promised Day Brigade (al-Sadr's personal militia)  
 PJAK - Kurdish Freedom Party  
 PKK - Kurdistan Workers' Party (IKR militia fighting in Turkey)

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PMC - Popular Mobilization Committee (Shia Militia)  
 PMF - Popular Mobilization Force (Shia Militia)  
 PMU - Popular Mobilization Unit (Shia Militia)  
 PoI - Point of Impact (for IDF)  
 PoO - Point of Origin (for IDF)  
 PSAF - Precision Small Arms Fire  
 PSC - Private Security Company  
 PSD - Private Security Detail  
 PUK - Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (President Talabani's party)  
 RCIED - Remote-Controlled IED  
 RPG - Rocket Propelled Grenade  
 RTA - Road Traffic Accident  
 SAF - Small Arms Fire  
 SAFIRE - Surface to Air FIRE  
 Sahwa/Sol - Sahwa/Sons of Iraqi (Militia wing of Sunni tribal Awakening Council).  
 SF - Special Forces  
 SOC - Southern Oil Company  
 SoL - State of Law (PM Maliki's Shi'a-led coalition)  
 SVBIED - Suicide Vehicle Borne IED  
 SVEST - Suicide Explosive Worn Vest  
 TCN - Third Country National  
 TCP - Traffic Control Point  
 Technical - An improvised weapon-mounted pick-up truck  
 TTP - Tactics, Techniques and Practices  
 USF-I - United States Forces - Iraq  
 USF-I - - US Forces-Iraq (until December 2011)  
 USM-I - US Mission Iraq (DoS & DoD)  
 UVIED - Under Vehicle IED  
 UXO - Unexploded Ordnance  
 VBIED - Vehicle Borne IED

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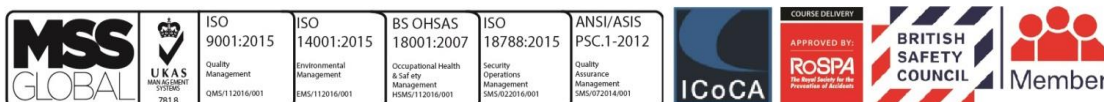
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