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Weekly Iraq .Xplored report

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Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Iraq

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ACTIVITY MAP

OUTLOOK

Short term: Post Election period

- The results of the May 12 parliamentary elections will likely dominate headlines in the immediate outlook. In line with earlier assessments, there has been no widespread use of violence over the election period; however, there is now an increased risk that clashes between supporters of the various parties may occur following the official release of the results of the polls.

- The risk of civil unrest continues to be elevated in the weeks following the vote. We have already seen accusations of electoral irregularities appear, especially in Kirkuk province, which has triggered violent protests. It is also possible that we may see demonstrations within the capital and the other Iraqi provinces in the weeks following the election.

- There were no terrorist attacks on the polling stations within Baghdad itself on polling day, corroborating earlier assessments that their operational capabilities remain limited within the capital, despite the intent to target the elections. However, a number of IS attacks against ISF and polling stations occurred in Diyala, Sala-al-Din and Kirkuk provinces on May 12.

- The holy Muslim month of Ramadan started on May 17. Security plans will be implemented across most provinces in Iraq, with busy periods in the evening around sunset. These gatherings were targeted by large-scale, mass-casualty SVEST and VBIED attacks during Ramadan 2017, and remain attractive targets for Sunni militants. High-profile attacks will likely be attempted during this period, although activity should be broadly within established parameters.

Medium to long term outlook

- A protracted period of coalition building will likely follow the elections. Political tensions are expected to be elevated, although the risk of civil unrest will be somewhat mitigated by the festive period of Ramadan. A period of transition will follow in which bureaucracy will increase as incumbents and policy change.

- The election result and government composition is expected to have a significant impact on the security environment in northern Iraq. In the absence of a concerted effort to engage disenfranchised tribes in Sunni dominated areas of the country, these areas will remain at risk of sectarian violence from radical Sunni elements, especially in Nineveh, Salah al-Din and western Kirkuk.

- Tensions remain following the Kurdish independence referendum, temporarily exacerbated by electioneering. Acts of low-level violence, intimidation and provocation have been reported in Nineveh, Kirkuk, Salah al-Din, and Diyala. Relations between Baghdad and Irbil have thawed somewhat since GOI's decision to reopen the KR-Is airports to international traffic and release payments for Kurdish civil servants.

- Islamic State activity will continue to dominate security reporting with focus on the potential resurgence of an insurgent campaign in northern and western Iraq. Despite ongoing ISF efforts to clear remaining IS pockets, the group retains a degree of freedom of movement in the rural regions of Anbar and along the Syrian border. From a security perspective, the main focus will be on preventing the resurgence of IS, which in turn is connected with the ongoing campaign to militarily defeat their remaining elements in

Syria. There is however, little disagreement within the analytical community that IS will revert back to an asymmetric insurgency model in an attempt to reinvigorate itself.

- Low-level incidents related to criminality, personal disputes and tribal tensions are likely to continue in Basra and the southern region. Long-term tensions are also expected to be driven by militia factions expecting material and social rewards for their contribution in the campaign against IS.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Sadr's Sairoun Alliance wins Iraqi Parliamentary Elections with 54 seats

The May 12 Election Day passed off peacefully with no reported security incidents in Baghdad despite IS threats to target polling centres. Low attendance and voting irregularities did, however, mar the day. Although the capital remained quiet, election-related security incidents in northern Iraq, particularly in Kirkuk and Diyala were reported during May 12 although no mass-casualty attacks materialised. Islamic State subsequently claimed responsibility for these attacks, having stepped up its rhetoric and operations against election targets in Iraq and elsewhere as part of its anti-democracy campaign. On May 18, the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) announced that Sadr's alliance captured 54 of the 329 parliamentary seats. Sadr's movement forms the majority of the Sairoun alliance, however, because Sadr did not stand as a candidate he therefore cannot head the government. The Conquest Alliance, led by former transport minister and secretary general of Badr Organisation Hadi al-Ameri, came in second with 47 seats and the Victory Alliance, headed by incumbent Prime Minister Haider al- Abadi, took the third place with 42 seats. Despite Abadi's poor showing, he might yet return as Prime Minister after negotiations which must now be completed within 90 days to form a new government. Negotiations between the various alliances have already started and will likely take numerous twists and turns as parties negotiate ministerial positions. Regional actors will also aim to influence decisions and alliances between parties, what is clear is that Sadr's position as king maker is now secure.

THREAT MATRIX

Region	Political	Terrorism	Militancy	Crime	K&R
KRG*	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Low	Low
North**	Moderate	High-Extreme	High	High	High
Baghdad	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Anbar	Moderate	High	High	High	High
South***	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Threat Scale	Minimal	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme

*   **KRG** – Dohuk, Erbil & Sulaymaniyah
**   **North** – Nineveh, Salah ad-Din & Diyala
*** **South** – Babil, Wasit, Karbala, Najaf, Diwaniyah, Dhi Qar, Muthanna, Maysan & Basra

OVERVIEW

Political

2018 Parliamentary Elections: Analysis

Final Results

- Sairoun   54 seats
- Fatih   47 seats
- Victory (Nasr) Alliance   42 seats
- State of Law   26 seats
- Kurdish Democratic Party   25 seats
- Al-Wataniya   21 seats
- Hikma Front   19 seats
- PUK   18 seats
- Coalition of Iraq Decision (Najafi)   14 seats
- Gorran   5 seats
- New Generation   4 seats
- Komal   2 seats
- CDJ   2 seats
- KIU   2 seats

Security

The May 12 Election Day passed off peacefully with no reported security incidents in Baghdad despite IS threats to target polling centres. Low attendance and voting irregularities marked the initial hours of voting and after hours of reports of low turnout in Baghdad, Prime Minister al-Abadi partially lifted a security curfew banning most civilian vehicles from the streets of the Iraqi capital in an effort to improve turnout. The curfew had been in place since midnight the night before with many voters complaining of having to walk more than 4 kilometres (2.5 miles) to reach polling stations. Although the capital remained quiet, election-related security incidents in northern Iraq, particularly in Kirkuk and Diyala were reported during May 12 although no mass-casualty attacks materialised. Islamic State subsequently claimed responsibility for these attacks, having stepped up its rhetoric and operations against election targets in Iraq and elsewhere as part of its anti-democracy campaign. On May 12, the day of the elections, the group claimed two attacks on polling stations in the eastern Iraqi province of Diyala. A few hours later IS's news outlet Amaq said IS militants used an IED to kill a ballot box guard in a village east of the town of Hawijah in the northern multi-ethnic Kirkuk province. Soon afterwards, the group's self-styled "Kirkuk Province" issued a statement claiming several attacks on "rafidi [derogatory term for Shia Muslims] members of the army and police taking part in the polytheist elections". The statement said an army vehicle carrying election observers was targeted with an IED on the Tab Zawa-Daquq road, in Kirkuk province, destroying the vehicle and killing or wounding those on board. It referred to the killing of the ballot box guard claimed earlier by Amaq, adding that another ballot box guard had been abducted east of Sulayman Bik, in the Salah-al-Din province, north of Baghdad. The statement also claimed an attack on a vehicle belonging to the pro-government militia, the Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF), on the Riyad-Kirkuk road, killing eight people. Another attack using an IED destroyed a PMF vehicle east of Hawijah, according to the statement. A further attack near the villages of al-Khazifi and al-Hasan in the same area that targeted Iraqi Federal Police destroyed two vehicles, killing or wounding those on board, said the IS statement. On 13 May, IS's "South Province", whose operational remit is the area to the south of the capital Baghdad, claimed bombing two houses on 12 May, one belonging to a candidate in the elections and another belonging to an army officer south-west of Baghdad.

Meanwhile in the south two notable incidents occurred although these were not Islamic State related. The first saw a clash between a candidate of Al-Abadi's Victory collation and another of the Fatih coalition led by Hadi Al-Amiri in Najaf. Shots were fired during the incident although there were no reports of casualties. In the second, Sadr's Sairoun Alliance supporters clashed with PM al-Abadi's Victory Alliance supporters in the al-Battiya district of Basra. There were no reports of any serious casualties.

Violence also manifested itself in the Kurdistan region when Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) supporters reportedly attacked the headquarters of the opposition Gorran in Sulaymaniyah after polling stations closed on May 12. The ensuing violence resulted in the death of one person and appears to have been initiated when Gorran, along with three other Kurdish parties, issued joint statements accusing the PUK of having "hacked" the electronic voting equipment in the provinces of Sulaymaniyah and Kirkuk.

Accusations of violations in voting process

Iraq's Bar Association said that several breaches had been recorded in the parliamentary electoral process stating that they had recorded several violations in polling stations in Baghdad and various provinces and these would be referred to the Independent High Electoral Commission. Kurdish officials also accused Arab parties of violations in the town of Hawijah in the northern multi-ethnic Kirkuk Province. The head of the Kirkuk election office of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), a key Iraqi Kurdish party said "Major violations have taken place in Hawijah by the Arab parties and that is why we have lodged formal complaints at the election commission against those Arab parties and lists that carried out the violations". He added: "No security incidents have taken place in the centre of [of the city of] Kirkuk but problems with the [electronic] voting equipment have caused major difficulties for [local] citizens, slowing down the election process in Kirkuk." Meanwhile, Turkmen members of the Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF) were also accused of preventing Kurds from casting ballots in at least three villages near the town of Tuz Khurmatu in Salah-Al-Din Province, according to unconfirmed press reports. "Gunmen of the Turkmen Hashd [PMF's Turkmen militia] were deployed in the villages of Tapa Sawza, Sha Saiwan and Albu Sabah last night and today. Locals from one of the villages said that the PMF gunmen had forced them to hand over their voting cards and told them that they must vote for the [electoral list of] Fatih Alliance," led by PMF commander Hadi al-Ameri, the report said. It added: "The three villages are home to 860 Kurdish voters and their polling station is in Shafaqa in the town of Tuz Khurmatu but the PMF gunmen have prevented them from going to the town."

In the Kurdistan region, the parliamentary election was also marred by vote rigging allegation, leading to claims and counter-claims by rival parties amid a tense post-election ambiance, including in Kirkuk. Six Kurdish opposition parties rejected the election results and demanded a full re-run of the vote in Kirkuk and the Kurdish region. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi ordered a manual recount of the votes in Kirkuk after Arab and Turkmen parties condemned "voter fraud" in addition to allegations raised by the Kurdish opposition. However, Abadi has yet to take any decision to deal with the allegations in Kurdistan, although Kurdish media reports have been highlighting heightened tensions between rival Kurdish parties, especially after the clashes that left one dead and injured ten in Kurdish Sulaymaniyah on polling day. The Kurdish opposition parties said that the electronic voting system, used for the first time in Iraq, was hacked to serve the interests of the governing parties in the Kurdish region, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). The two ruling parties have rejected the hacking claims but they too accuse one another of having "meddled" with the votes in their strongholds, respectively. At a joint news conference in Erbil, the Kurdish opposition parties, the Change Movement (Gorran), Coalition for Democracy and Justice (CDJ), Kurdistan Islamic Union (KIU), Kurdistan Islamic Group (KIG), Kurdistan Islamic Movement (KIM) and the Kurdistan Communist Party of Iraq (KCPI), renewed their calls for an election re-run under international supervision. Gorran and KIU have labelled the alleged vote rigging in the Kurdish region as a "cyber coup". Latest reporting indicates that the six parties are contemplating pulling out of the political process after receiving no response to their calls for a manual recount or a full re-run of the election in the Kurdistan Region and will discuss future action at a meeting next week.

The situation remains tense across the Kurdish region and in also the disputed areas. The prime minister's order for a manual recount of the votes has yet to ease tensions in Kirkuk. Iraqi troops purportedly opened fire and wounded three Turkmen protesters in Kirkuk city and opposition Kurdish parties called for protests in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah. Some top officials of Gorran, the largest unarmed opposition party in the Kurdish region, called for the formation of an armed wing for the party in the wake of the armed attack PUK gunmen unleashed on its Sulaymaniyah headquarters after polling stations closed on May 12. Meanwhile, Iraqi Kurdistan Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani has asked the Iraqi election commission to investigate voter fraud stating "We take the concern of the six Kurdish parties seriously and as the [region's] prime minister, I ask the commission to seriously work on it".

Results and Look ahead

Iraq's Election Commission released the final results of last week's Parliamentary Elections and declared Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's Sairoun ("On the Move") coalition the winner of the majority of seats in Parliament with over 1.3 million votes and 54 parliamentary seats. The Al-Fatih bloc led by Hadi al-Ameri, who has close ties with Iran and heads the PMF, an umbrella group of paramilitaries that played a key role in defeating Islamic State, came in second with 47 seats. Meanwhile, current Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and his Victory Alliance came in first in Iraq's second largest province, Nineveh, but performed poorly in the rest of the country, coming in third and fourth place in most provinces and fifth in Baghdad. The Victory Alliance took third place in the final count with 42 seats, and Vice President Al-Maliki's State of Law coalition coming 4th with 26 seats. **COMMENT:** 'The Sadr-founded Sairoun coalition includes the Sadrist Al-Istiqamah (Integrity) Party and a number of secular parties, such as the Iraqi Communist Party. Fatih consists of 18 political wings of the Shia-dominant PMF, the most prominent of which are the Badr Organisation, led by former PMF commander and Fatih leader Hadi al-Ameri, and Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq (League of the Righteous), led by Shia cleric Qais al-Khaz'ali. Abadi's Nasr coalition consists of 18 largely Shia-dominant blocs and movements, including the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, led by Humam Hammoudi, in addition to a number of small Sunni blocs.

Seats in parliament will be allocated proportionally to the coalitions now all votes have been counted. Any political party or alliance must gain a majority of the 329 seats in parliament to be able to choose a prime minister and form a government. Dozens of alliances ran for office, and months of negotiations are expected before any one alliance can pull together the 165 required seats. Political power in Iraq is traditionally divided along sectarian lines among the offices of prime minister, president and parliament speaker. Since the first elections following Saddam's ousting, the Shiite majority has held the position of prime minister, while the Kurds have held the presidency and the Sunnis have held the post of parliament speaker. Latest reporting indicates that Sadr now wants to form a technocratic non-partisan government.

Sadr himself cannot become prime minister as he did not run in the election, though his bloc's victory puts him in a position to have a strong say in negotiations and his deputies in parliament are expected to follow his directives. Previous reporting indicated that Sadr had chosen the governor of Maysan, Ali Dawai Lazem to be his nomination for the Prime Ministership. The public itself does not directly elect the prime minister and his cabinet, and the process is long and winding. Instead, the 329 parliamentarians appoint the prime minister by drawing together any 165 seats, regardless of their party affiliation and pre-electoral alignment. If the government takes as long to form as it did in 2014, the cabinet will be appointed on September 20, 2018. If government formation takes the 289 days it did in 2010, the new cabinet would be seated February 25, 2019.

Economy

Iraq bank acts on US moves against Iran-Hezbollah funds

The Iraqi Central Bank has decided to suspend all banking transactions with the Al-Bilad Islamic Bank and its CEO, Aras Habib, in response to US accusations that they were funnelling Iranian money to Hezbollah, according to a Rudaw press report. The report said that the Iraqi Central Bank had decided to "halt the bank [Al-Bilad] from buying and selling foreign currency, to monitor all of its bank accounts and the account of its CEO, and to monitor the bank shares and shares registered in the name of the CEO". The report said that Aras Habib

Muhammad Kareem was a candidate on the Victory (Nasr) list led by Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi in the 12 May parliamentary elections. **COMMENT:** 'On May 15 the US Treasury Department announced that it had "imposed sanctions on the Governor and a senior official of the Central Bank of Iran, an Iraq-based bank and its chairman, and a key Hezbollah official, all of whom have moved millions of dollars on behalf of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps - Quds Force (IRGC-QF) - to Hezbollah". The statement added that "Iran's Central Bank Governor covertly funnelled millions of dollars on behalf of the IRGC-QF through Iraq-based Al-Bilad Islamic Bank to enrich and support the violent and radical agenda of Hezbollah." It went on to claim that the Office of Foreign Assets links Habib to "sponsoring, or providing financial, material, or technological support for, or financial or other services to or in support of, the IRGC-QF" and that he had "enabled" the IRGC-QF's "exploitation of Iraq's banking sector to move funds from Tehran to Hezbollah". It said that Habib has a history of "serving as a conduit for financial disbursements from the IRGC-QF to Iranian-backed Iraqi groups".' **COMMENT ENDS.**

PUK backs handing Iraqi Kurdish oil to Baghdad

Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) intelligence chief Lahur Sheikh Jangi has said that the PUK supports handing over Kurdish oil revenues to Baghdad in order to improve people's living conditions. According to media Jangi said: "We'll hand over all the oil of the Kurdistan Region to Iraq, so as not to sacrifice people's livelihoods to the policy of an independent economy." He said that oil should be sold through the Iraqi state oil marketing company, SOMO. **COMMENT:** 'Whether Kurdish oil should be sold by the government in Baghdad or Erbil has been a constant cause of friction between the two sides. The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) ruling the semi-autonomous Kurdistan Region has been selling oil independently in recent years, leading the federal government to cut its budget share. The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), the senior partner in the KRG, has championed the idea of the KRG selling its own oil independently, arguing that it would build a strong local, Kurdish economy. However, the fall in the global oil prices for much of this period and the effects of the fight against Islamic State have meant that, for many, independent oil sales have coincided with a period of austerity in the Kurdistan Region and a dramatic fall in the standard of living. Opponents of the move are also critical of the KRG, saying its oil deals and revenues are neither transparent nor scrutinised by the relevant authorities, including the parliament.' **COMMENT ENDS.** Jangi reiterated multiple times that the move would "improve people's livelihoods and salaries". He also said the PUK would work with the Kurdistan parliament to correct "all the wrongful agreements conducted in Baghdad by the KRG", without giving further detail.

WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Countrywide Military/Security Situation

Northern Provinces
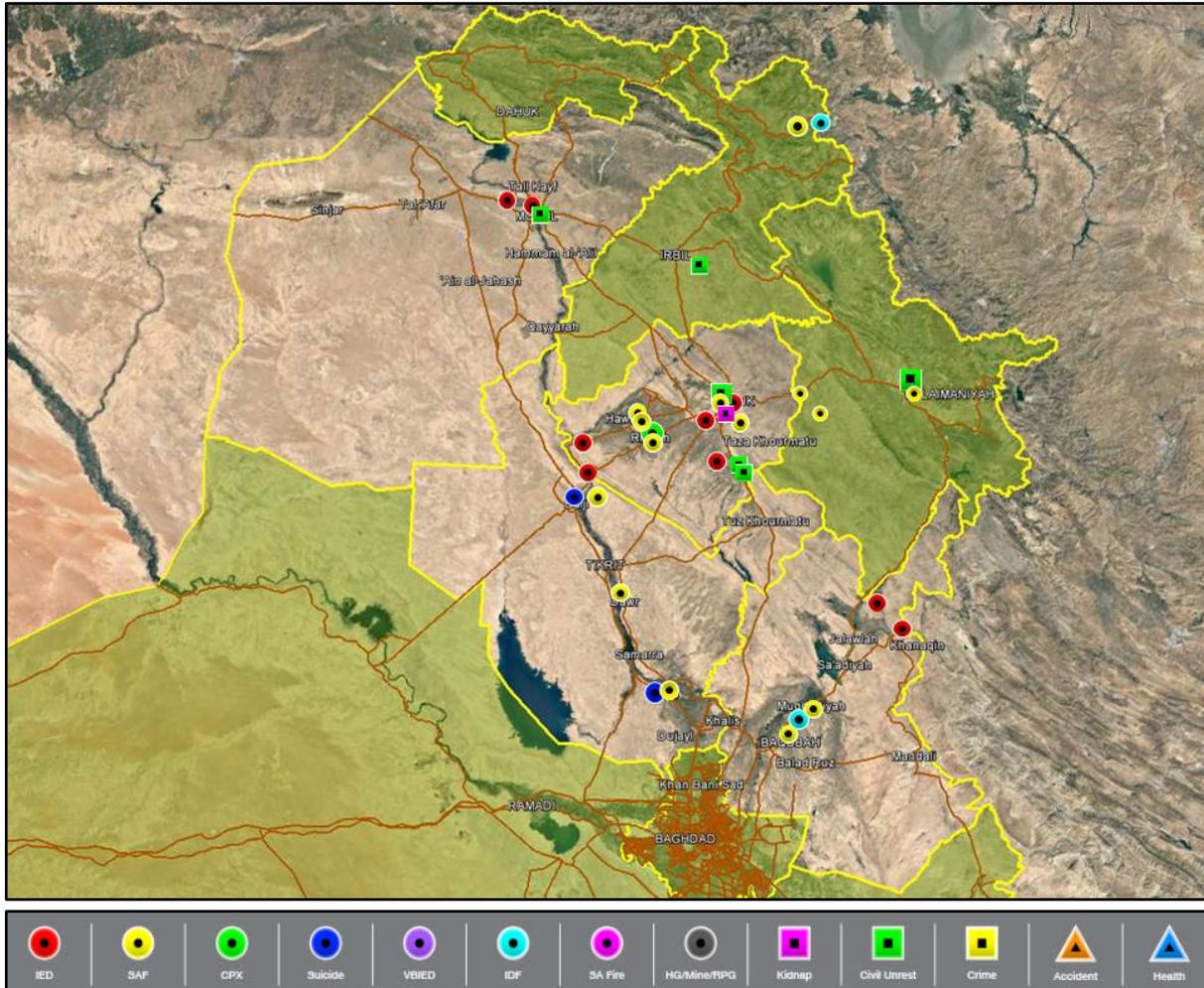
In the Kurdistan region, Election Day did not see any significant IS attacks in the rump KR-I, however a number of IS-claimed attacks were recorded in the disputed areas and in Kirkuk. Inter-party supporter rivalry spilled out in Sulaymaniyah when it was reported that unidentified gunman attacked the headquarters of the Alliance for Democracy and Justice, led by Barham Salih in Sulaymaniyah on the night of May 12. The gunman reportedly seized the building for a time. The incident came following reports that supporters of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) had attacked the Kurdish Change Movement headquarters in Tel Zarktah, also in Sulaymaniyah. Dozens of supporters of six Kurdish parties (Gorran, Kurdistan Islamic Group (KIG), Kurdistan Islamic Union (KIU), Coalition for Democracy and Justice, Kurdistan Islamic Movement and Kurdistan Communist Party) also reportedly demonstrated in front of the UNAMI office in Erbil city, rejecting the results of the election in the KR-I. Local media outlets claimed that two protesters were injured as security forces attempted to disperse the gathering.

Turkish military action continues in the north of the KRI with a series of airstrikes targeting Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) positions during the review period. PKK fighters reportedly launched a six-pronged attack on the Turkish army in Lelkan hill near the town of Sidaka in the border areas of Iraqi Kurdistan's Erbil governorate.. Since the attack, which resulted in the deaths of four Turkish soldiers, Turkey has carried out at least four rounds

of airstrikes in the area killing and wounding a number of PKK militants. It was also stated that the Turkish army had entered up to 25 kilometres into the Kurdistan Region, as clashes increased between the two sides

Election Results: Kurdistan:

Erbil

- KDP (led by Masoud Barzani) - 316,001
- PUK (Kosrat Rasul Ali) - 77,792
- New Generation (Shaswar Abdulwahid) - 69,123
- CDJ (Barham Salih) - 49,266
- Gorran (Omar Said Ali) - 39,809
- Komal (Ali Bapir) - 35,741
- KIU (Salahaddin Bahaddin) - 23,933
- Iraqi Turkmen Front - 2,332

Sulaymaniyah

- PUK - 262,128
- Gorran - 149,930
- New Generation - 61,638
- Komal - 49,343
- KDP - 46,567
- CDJ - 44,967
- KIU - 29,161

Dohuk

- KDP - 348,777
- Kurdistan Islamic Union - 48,300
- CDJ - 25,449
- PUK - 25,823
- New Generation - 17,823
- Babul Arab - 8,133
- Kurdistan's Socialist Party - 7,194
- Kurdistan Islamic Union - 4,560
- Kldan Coalition - 4,815
- Gorran Movement - 3,619
- Islamic Group - 3,768

ISF have continued to conduct counter-IS operations in Nineveh province during the reporting period, with reports of finds of substantial weapons caches and arrests of prominent IS fighters. This extends to Mosul city where at least nine IS members were reportedly detained during the review period. Election-related violence in Nineveh was limited, with the Ministry of Health announcing the "martyrdom" of one of its employees and the injury of another in an IED detonation during the implementation of the plan for the parliamentary elections. Meanwhile, dozens of supporters of the al-Fatih (Conquest) Alliance led by Hadi Ameri, demonstrated in front of the IHEC office in Mosul, rejecting the results of the election and demanding that votes are recounted manually, protesters reportedly threatened to stage a sit-in if their demands not met. **COMMENT:** Al-Fatih polled last in Nineveh province, according to preliminary election figures'. **COMMENT ENDS.** ISF also arrested a further 15 IS members in Kokjali on the left side of eastern Mosul.

Election Results: Nineveh province:

- Al-Nasr [Victory Alliance] (Haider al-Abadi) - 164,714
- KDP - 134,782
- Al-Wataniya (Ayad Allawi) - 97,085
- Nineveh Our Identity - 78,793
- Al-Fatih (Hadi al-Amri) - 73,253

Kirkuk province remains extremely tense following the May 12 elections. Nine members of the federal police and anti-IS Sunni tribal militia were killed and wounded in an IS attack on checkpoints near the village of Saadouniya in the area of Rashad (35 km southwest of Kirkuk) on polling day. It was reported that three IS members were also killed in the incident. An IED was also found and cleared at a polling station in the Wahid Huzairan area in

southern Kirkuk city and a civilian was injured in an IED detonation near the village of Znqar, in the province of Daquq (35 km south of Kirkuk). Unconfirmed reporting also indicated that unidentified gunmen threw a grenade into an office belonging to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) located near the celebrations yard in central Kirkuk city on May 13), without causing casualties. Meanwhile, an unnamed security source in Kirkuk stated that a double IED bombing in Hawijah killed a tribal sheikh Abdul Qadir Salman and his son, as well as wounding three other people, adding that the site was sealed off by security forces. It was also reported that on May 12, a member of the Federal Police Force was killed and two others wounded in an IED strike in the Maktab Khalid region in western Kirkuk district. Meanwhile, an unspecified number of people (predominantly Arabs) demonstrated in the Amal Al-Shaabi neighbourhood in north western Kirkuk city, demanding that votes are recounted manually. Two more demonstrations were also reported at Altun Kupri and Daquq, with demonstrators rejecting the results of the election along with accusations of their manipulation and a curfew was imposed by ISF in the region due to the continued tensions in the area. These demonstrations followed the issuance of a directive order by the office of premier al-Abadi, instructing the IHEC to manually recount two ballot boxes to prove accusations of manipulation wrong. Finally, the head of Iraq's national election commission said at a news conference that armed men had taken over the election office in Kirkuk and that the workers inside were "in effect, hostages" however local officials and witnesses disputed that account, saying there were no sign of weapons in what appeared to be a peaceful demonstration. It was reported that hundreds of ethnic Turkmen and Arab demonstrators massed outside the offices to protest alleged fraud after early returns showed a Kurdish party winning most of the vote in predominantly Turkmen and Arab areas.

Preliminary Election Results: Kirkuk province:

- PUK - 184,300
- Fatih (Amiri) - 18,406
- Wataniya (Allawi) - 14,932
- Nishtiman - 13,775
- New Generation - 12,836

In Salah al-Din province, the election period saw a number of security incidents and one major IS attempt at a mass casualty attack. Six suicide bombers wearing explosive belts, who had attempted to carry out attacks on polling centres in Balad were pursued by ISF following their failure to detonate their vests. The SVEST attackers were subsequently killed after ISF followed them to an IS hideout in the Rufai'at area, some 80 km southwest of Tikrit. It was also reported that three IS suicide attackers were killed in a failed infiltration attempt into al-Siniyah region of Baiji district. Seven people were killed (including four PMF members) and wounded when an IED detonated against a patrol of the 51st PMF Brigade in the villages of Masqih in the north of Baiji. Separately, a member of the PMF allegedly fired shots at an electoral polling station in Baiji. It was not stated if any casualties were sustained although the perpetrator was subsequently arrested. Separately, IS militants reportedly carried out an attack on an outpost of PMF personnel east of the town of Dour, some 150 km north of Baghdad, leaving two paramilitary members killed, along with two civilians who were at the scene. A tribal elder and his son were killed and three others wounded when two coordinated IEDs exploded in al-Muslakha village of Bayji district

Election Results: Salah-al-Din province:

- Qalat Jamahir Watanyah - 76,069
- Al-Fatih - 62,425
- Al-Wataniya - 54,330
- Al-Nasr - 50,437

Like Salah-al-Din, a number of security incidents were reported in Diyala on Election Day. Iraqi forces reportedly foiled an attack on a polling station in the city of Baquba in Diyala province on May 12. A source stated that "Two terrorists plotting an attack on a polling station in Jarf al-Milh in Baquba were killed". Islamic State also claimed targeting a polling station in Diyala province on May 12. In a brief statement, IS said that its militants attacked a polling station in Ashtukan village in Jabara district located in Diyala province, with "medium weapons" and "three mortar shells". The brief statement did not provide any further details. In addition, a Kurdish security member of the Border Protection Force was killed when an IED planted on the Khanaqin-Kalar

main road, and targeting a security patrol detonated and a civilian was killed and another injured in a UVIED detonation beneath their vehicle as they drove through central Khanaqin district, north east of Baqubah. Meanwhile, ISF confronted a group of suspected IS militants who were planning to attack polling stations in Karma village of Abu Saida sub-district on May 12. The assailants fled following the contact no casualties were reported

Election Results: Diyala province:

- Al-Qarar Coalition (Osama Nujaifi) – 96,911
- Al-Fatih – 92,226
- Al-Wataniya – 78,959
- Sairoun – 48,050
- Al-Hikma (Ammar al-Hakim) – 26,449
- PUK (Kosrat Rasul) – 25,198

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Anbar Province
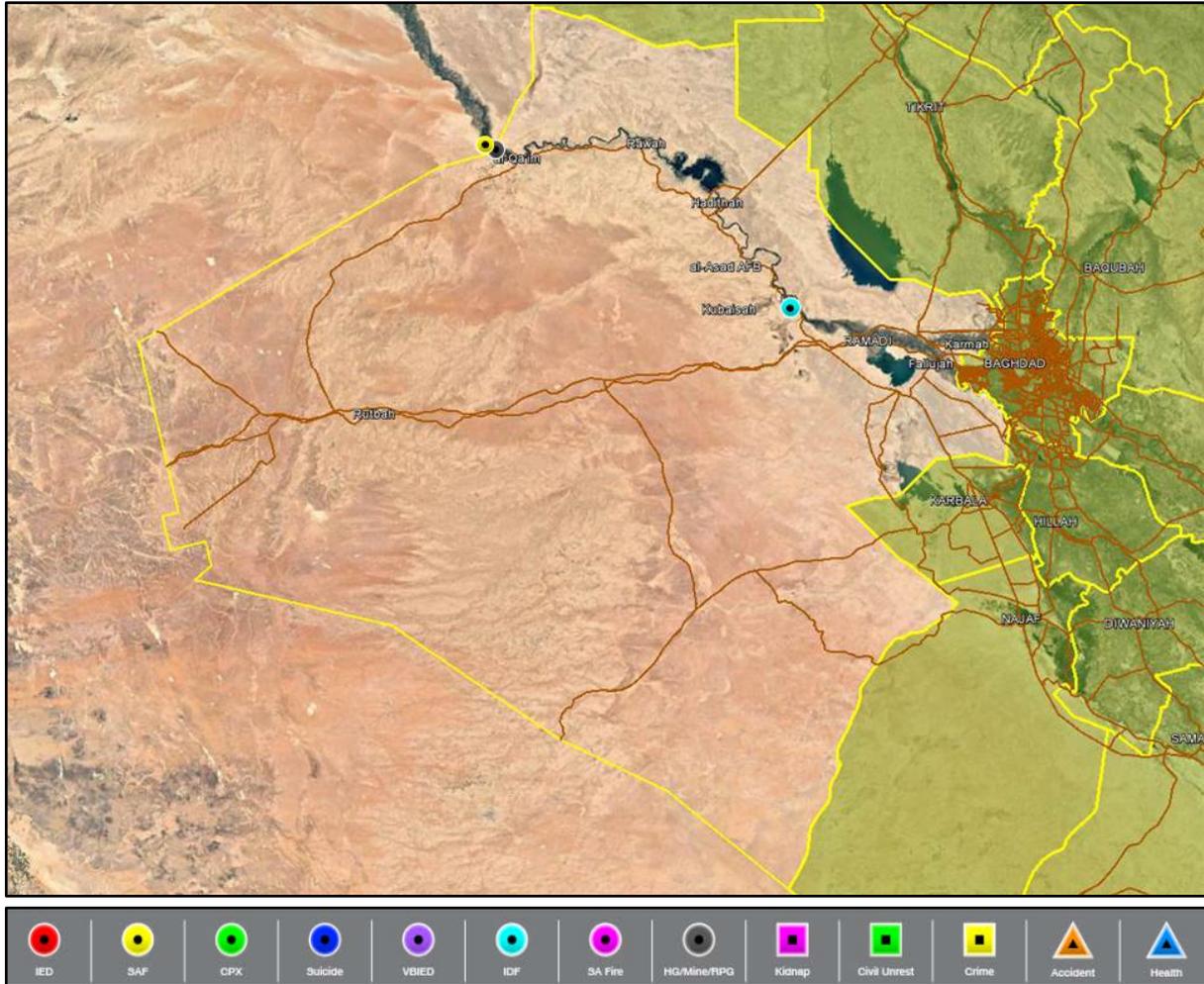
There were no major attacks in Anbar over the reporting period although three mortars launched by IS militants reportedly impacted in an abandoned desert area of Kubaisah sub-district of Hit, without causing casualties. It was also reported that the Iraqi Air Force carried out an airstrike on an IS position inside Syria near the border with Iraq. Acting on intelligence reports, Iraqi F-16 warplanes targeted an IS "logistic headquarters" in al-Deshisha inside Syria, according to a statement by the media office of the Joint Operations Command. Reporting later this week stated that Iraqi Army ground troops were also now actively supporting Syrian Democratic Forces in the border area around the village of al-Bagouz, accessing the eastern flank of Syria's Dier az-Zour district.

Election Results: Anbar province:

- Anbar Our Identity – 125,473
- Al-Wataniya – 56,751
- Al-Qarar Coalition – 50,223

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Capital Region (Including Baghdad City)
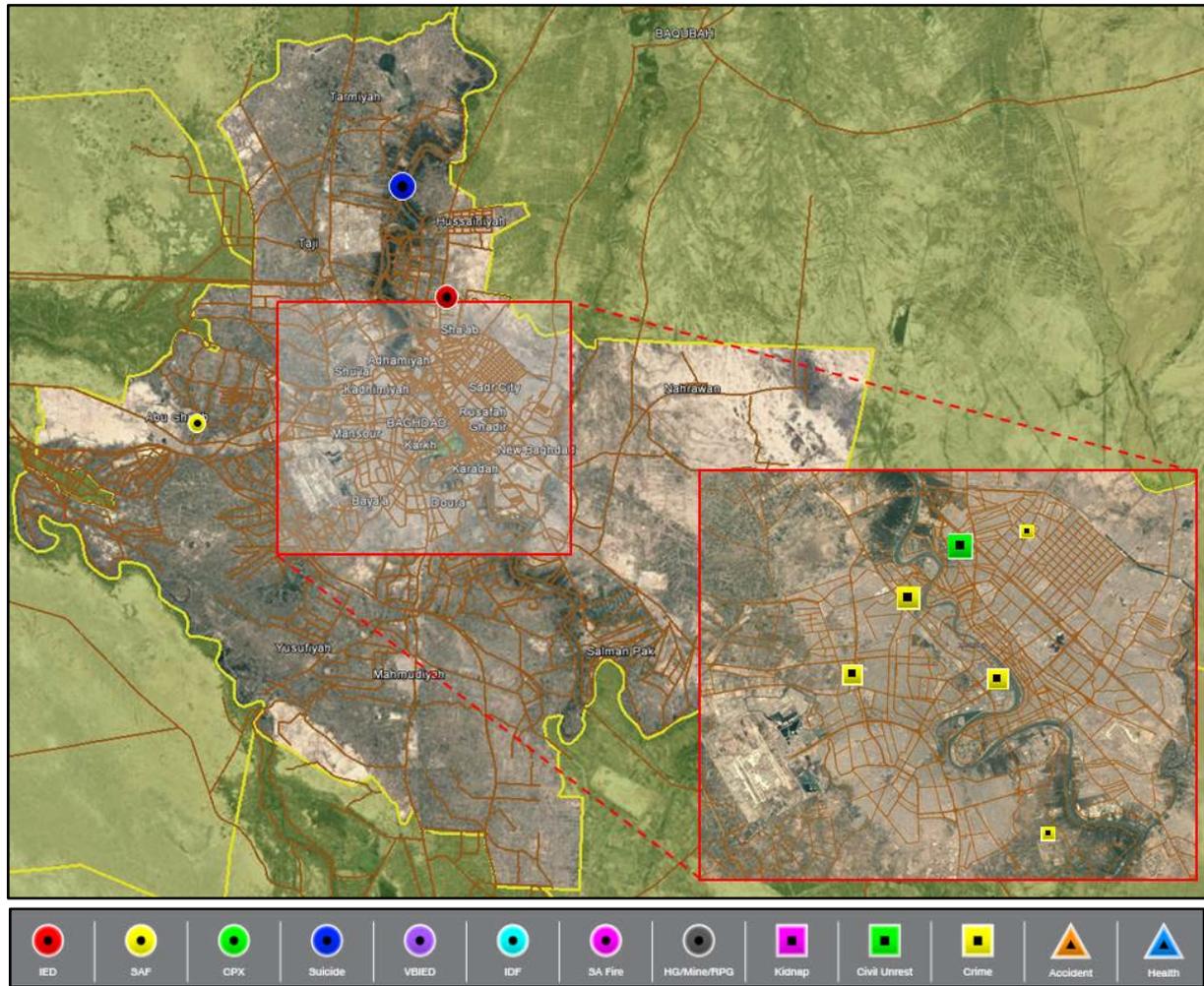
There were no high-profile incidents or attacks on the electoral process in Baghdad city reported during the week, and no incidents reported on Election Day itself. The Baghdad Operations Command (BOC) announced the success of the security plan to protect voters without recording any incident in the capital. "As a result of the efforts exerted by all the security services in the Baghdad Operations Command, we declare the success of the security plan for the elections of the Iraqi Council of Representatives to vote privately and publicly," Baghdad Operations Commander Major General Jalil al-Rubaie told press. "I have directly supervised the implementation of the security plan. There have been no security violations in the Karkh, Rusafah and Baghdad belt areas, which included 1828 electoral centres" he announced. There have been no significant demonstrations in the capital following the announcement of the official election results on May 18, however 'dozens' of Turkmen demonstrated at Tahrir Square in Rusafah District demanding that votes in Kirkuk province are recounted manually. Meanwhile, two days after the election on May 14, ISF EOD were reported to have disarmed an explosive device emplaced near a school building in Hay Urr area of Shaab, Adhamiyah District without incident, and a number of counter terrorist arrests took place during the reporting period in Mansour District.

In the wider Baghdad province area, as is the norm, security incidents were much higher than within the city environs. In the most significant incident, eight civilians were killed and 31 others wounded when an IS suicide attacker detonated his explosive vest on a funeral procession in Tarmiyah in the northern belt. The funeral was that of an ISF member who had been killed near his home two days ago in Hussaiwah village, Sheikh Hamad, Tarmiyah district. **COMMENT:** IS had also claimed responsibility for a shooting in the same area two weeks
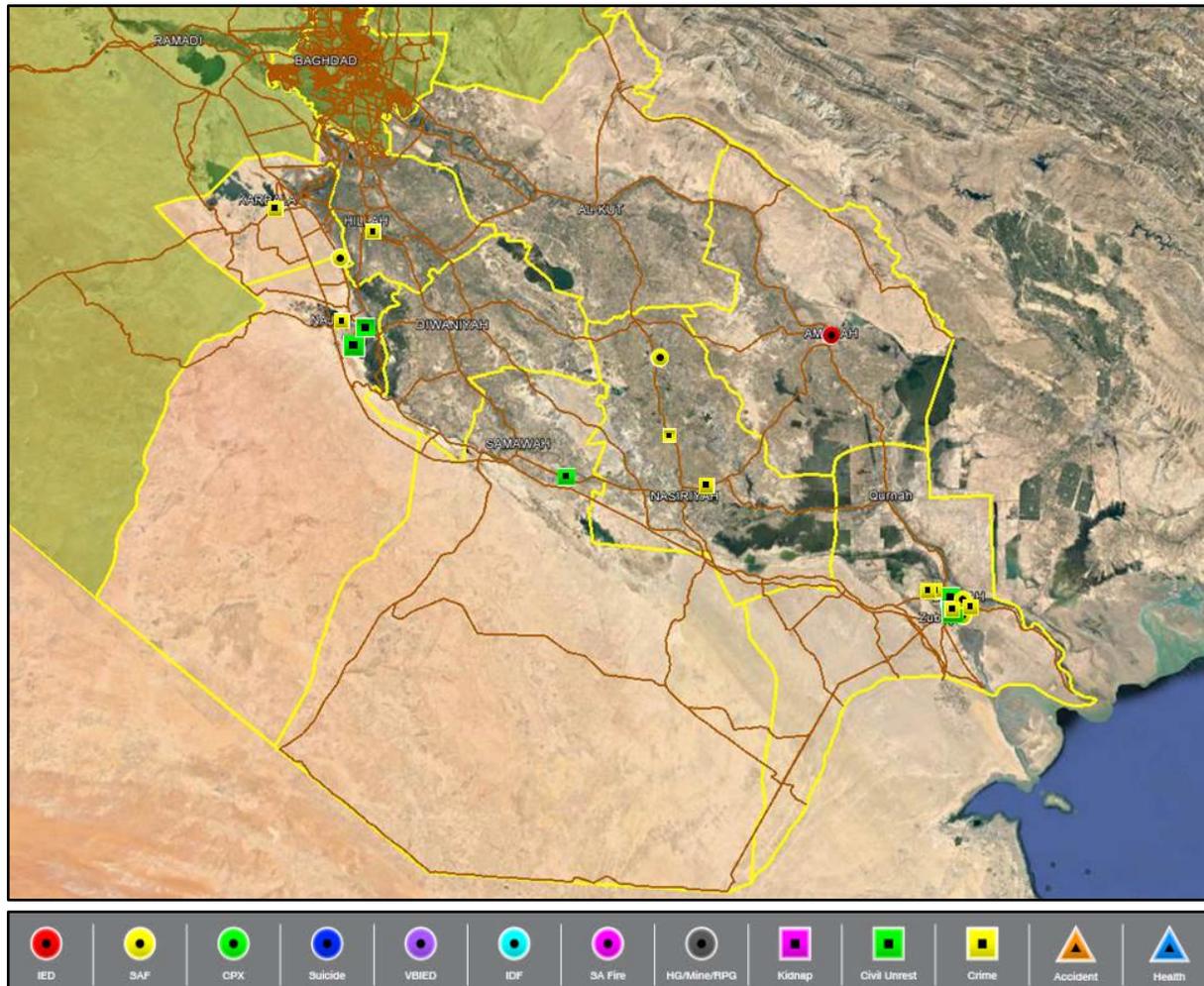
ago which killed seven civilians and injured 13 others.' **COMMENT ENDS.** In addition a further IED detonation was recorded near shops in Boub al-Sham, north east of Baghdad, which wounded two civilians.

Election Results: Baghdad:

- Sairoun – 413,638 votes
- Al-Fatih Coalition – 233,298
- State of Law – 211,243
- Al-Wataniya – 204,686
- Al-Nasr – 194,767

Southern Provinces

There were no major security incidents across the southern provinces on Election Day. Iraq's Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) revealed information about voter turnout in a number of southern provinces with voter turnout reaching 39 per cent in al-Muthanna, 23 per cent in Maysan. 37 per cent in Babel, 33 per cent in Karbala, 30 per cent in Anbar and 35 per cent in Wasit, the IHEC said. This week has, however, seen an increase in tension following the announcement of the Election results with tribes affiliated with political parties clashing in a number of areas and one significant IED attack in Maysan province.

In Dhi Qar province, one ISF member was killed and another wounded when unidentified gunmen opened fire on a security patrol near a soccer field in Rifa'i district, north of Nasiriyah. The incident resulted in the deployment of ISF reinforcements. The deployment followed tribal clashes between the al-Ma'ishi and al-Ba'ayyat tribes on the night of May 15 which was thought be related to the aforementioned incident. Diwaniyah province also saw at least one demonstration over the election results with supporters of al-Fatih (Conquest) Alliance staging a protest rally at the IHEC office in Diwaniyah city over alleged election result manipulation, demanding that votes are recounted manually. Muthanna province also saw limited post-election protests with dozens of supporters of a State of Law candidate, Sabah al-Sadoud, demonstrating in al-Khudir district, south of Samawah, rejecting the results of election.

In Maysan province, in the early hours of May 15, a number of IED's reportedly detonated outside the "Malik al-Ashtar Organization for Safeguarding Shia Traditional Practices" (belonging to the Sairoun Alliance) in the al-Resala al-Islamiyah neighbourhood of al-Amarah, causing material damage but no casualties. Latest reporting

indicates that there may have been two separate locations that were targeted. One IED reportedly exploded at an office of the Saraya al-Salam or military wing of the Sadrist movement, with another detonating against the Malik al-Ashtar building. Both of the offices were empty of people at the time. In Najaf, dozens of people demonstrated in the southern province of Najaf in protest against not receiving their electoral ID cards. The demonstrators said that their ID cards were not yet activated and gathered to protest in front of the Independent High Electoral Commission's office in Najaf.

In Basra province, Election Day passed off relatively peacefully however there was one notable security incident. Sources in the city witnessed Moqtada al-Sadr supporters outside the majority of polling stations on the morning of May 12 who were reportedly attempting to coerce voters to sway towards Sadr's Sairoun Alliance. This resulted in a confrontation at midday when a group of al-Sadr supporters and those aligned to PM al-Abadi entered into a violent altercation in the al-Battiya district and, despite repeated requests by the ISF on duty to desist, continued the fighting. Shots were subsequently fired into the air by ISF and the groups were split. An armed dispute was recorded between the Garamsha and Bani Mansour tribes during the early hours of May 13 over the promotion of election candidates near polling stations in Ad Dayr. One IA member was reportedly injured during the fighting.

Finally, tribal friction has been reported throughout this week in al-Zubayr town over a voting issue between Sheikh Mozahem al Tamimi, a member of the Victory Alliance, and a member of the State of Law party with rumours circulating that IHEC have voided the polling results of al-Tamimi. The Sheikh was meant to have been barred from running by the Accountability and Justice Commission, but gained enough of the vote to win a Basra seat. If this is overturned, the seat will pass to State of Law candidate Ammar al-Khuzai. The Sheikh's office released a statement warning there would be strong consequences, and members of his al-Tamimi tribe have given the authorities until 18 May to address the issue.

Election Results: Babel:

- Al-Fatih – 122,728
- Sairoun – 114,179
- Al-Nasr – 83,528

Election Results: Karbala:

- Al-Fatih – 70,777
- Sairoun – 69,975
- Al-Nasr – 48,349

Election Results: Wasit:

- Sairoun – 94,241
- Al-Fatih – 68,480
- Al-Nasr – 51,031

Election Results: Dhi Qar:

- Sairoun – 146,637
- Al-Fatih – 110,235
- Al-Nasr – 76,399

Election Results: Muthanna:

- Sairoun – 62,968
- Al-Fatih – 42,488
- Al-Hikma – 33,358
- Al-Nasr – 33,307

Election Results: Maysan:

- Al-Fatih – 122,728
- Sairoun – 114,179
- Al-Nasr – 83,528

Election Results: Diwaniyah:

- Al-Fatih – 82,310
- Sairoun – 68,011
- Al-Nasr 55,427

Election Results: Najaf:

- Sairoun (Muqtada al-Sadr) - 92,026
- Al-Fatih - 82,838
- Al-Nasr - 71,819
- Hikma Front (Ammar al-Hakim) - 38,099
- State of Law (Nouri al-Maliki) - 36,808

Election Results: Basra:

- Al-Fatih – 143,739
- Sairoun – 113,106
- Al-Nasr – 103,209

ACRONYM LIST

AII - Area of Intelligence Interest
AKA - Also Known As
AO - Area of Operations
APC - Armored Personnel Carrier
APIED - Anti-Personnel IED
AQ - Al-Qaeda
AT - Anti-Tank
ATGW - Anti Tank Guided Weapon
AVIED - Anti-Vehicle IED
BBIED - Body Borne IED
Bde - Brigade
Bn - Battalion
BXP - Border Crossing Point
CET - Convoy Escort Team
CLC - Concerned Local Citizens
CoP - Chief of Police
CP - Check Point
C-PERS - Captured Personnel
CPX - Complex Attack (attack using multiple weapon systems)
CQA - Close Quarter Assassination/Attack
DBS - Drive by Shooting
Div - Division
DoD - Department of Defense
DoS - Department of State
DoS - US Department of State
ECP - Entry Control Point
EFP - Explosively Formed Projectile
EOD - Explosive Ordinance Disposal (Bomb Squad)
ERW - Explosive Remnants of War
FoM - Freedom of Movement
GoI - Government of Iraq
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
MoI - Ministry of Interior
MoJ - Ministry of Justice

MoO - Ministry of Oil
MoT - Ministry of Transportation
MSR - Main Supply Route
NFDK - No Further Details Known
NGO - Non-Governmental Organization (aid/charity)
NSTR - Nothing Significant To Report
OCG - Organized Crime Group
OPF - Oil Protection Force
PAX - Person, Persons or Passenger
PBIED - Person-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (UN Term)
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
RCIED - Remote-Controlled IED
RPG - Rocket Propelled Grenade
RTA - Road Traffic Accident
SAF - Small Arms Fire
SAFIRE - Surface to Air FIRE
SF - Special Forces
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
UVIED - Under Vehicle IED
UXO - Unexploded Ordnance
VBIED - Vehicle Borne IED
VCP - Vehicle Checkpoint
WIA - Wounded in Action

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