



Weekly Iraq .Xplored report

15 June 2019

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Iraq

garda.com



Confidential and proprietary © GardaWorld



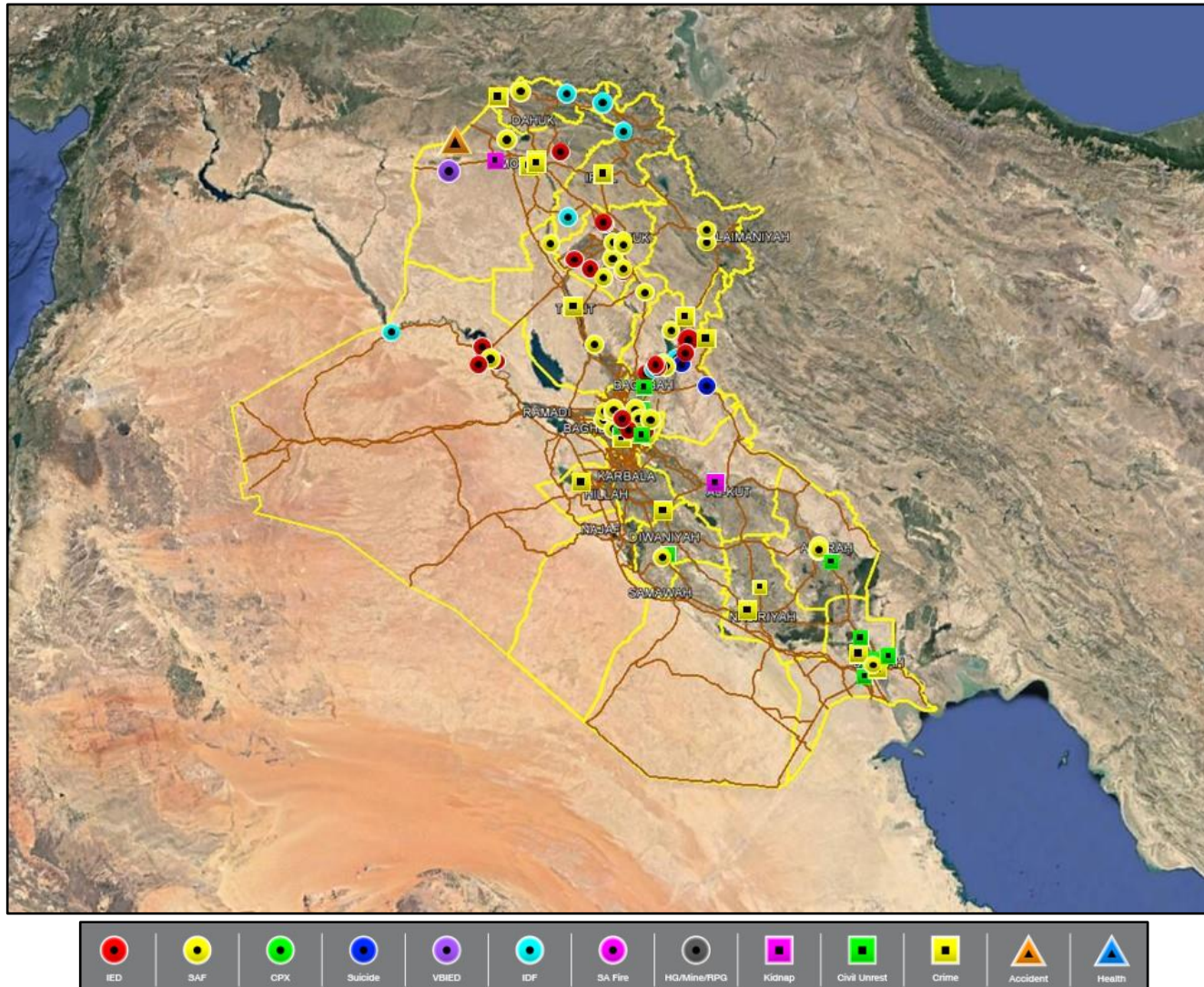
TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
ACTIVITY MAP	3
OUTLOOK	4
Short term outlook	4
Medium to long term outlook	4
SIGNIFICANT EVENTS	5
Nechirvan Barzani sworn in as president of Iraqi Kurdistan	5
Two oil tankers evacuated in Gulf of Oman	5
Deputy Governor of Basra warns over potential demonstrations this summer	5
THREAT MATRIX	5
OVERVIEW	6
Political	6
Security	7
WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT	10
Countrywide Military/Security Situation	10
ACRONYM LIST	18
GARDAWORLD INFORMATION SERVICES	19
GARDAWORLD	19

This report is an abridged version of GardaWorld Weekly Iraq .Xplored June 15, 2019. To subscribe to the full versions of the daily/weekly Iraq .Xplored reports, or for enquires relating to other GardaWorld services, please contact daniel.matthews@garda.com

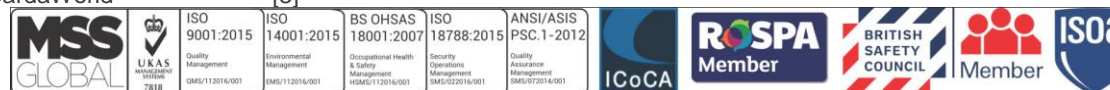
Disclaimer: The information and opinions expressed in this Report are the views of GardaWorld and constitute a judgment as at the date of the Report and are subject to change without notice. The information and opinions expressed in this Report have been formed in good faith on the basis of the best information and intelligence available at the time of writing, but no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made as to its accuracy, completeness or correctness. GardaWorld accepts no liability arising out of or in connection with the comments made or the information set out in this Report and the reader is advised that any decision taken to act or not to act in reliance on this Report is taken solely at the reader's own risk. In particular, the comments in this Report should not be construed as advice, legal or otherwise.

ACTIVITY MAP



Confidential and proprietary © GardaWorld

[3]



garda.com

OUTLOOK**Short term outlook**

- Current US-Iran tensions, compounded by the US assessment that Iran was responsible for the June 13, 2019 attacks on shipping in the Gulf of Oman, have led to the heightened possibility of attacks against US interests in Iraq. A rocket attack targeting the International Zone on May 19, 2019 was most likely carried out by a rogue militia faction with ties to Iran and is consistent with standing patterns of Shia militia activity in Baghdad and the southern region at times of heightened political tensions. Rocket attacks against the IZ are not unprecedented however the threat of further attacks from Iran-aligned militia elements, including kidnap and rocket attacks, is assessed as credible in the event of further escalation.
- Political tensions remain high in the southern regions and sporadic protests continue to take place in Basra and other provinces in the south. Protest activity, driven mainly by financial grievances and calls for improvements in essential services have continued in 2019, but not to the same level as 2018's "summer of discontent" when widespread violence materialized throughout the southern region. However, as the weather continues to heat up, protest activity, as expected, is increasing in the south and with the summer months now beginning, there are fears that if the electricity supply does not see considerable improvements protests are likely to grow in number, similar to last year, with the possible ensuing violence representing the first major test of Prime Minister Mahdi.
- Although defeated militarily, IS continues to pose a serious and long-term security challenge, especially in the northern provinces and Anbar, where high levels of asymmetric activity continues. The suicide vest attack in Sadr City on May 09, 2019 also underlines the continuing threat posed by IS cells in Baghdad City who retain intent to escalate operations. Absent a significant escalation in IS activity, the attack is not assessed to change the security situation in the capital which has been relatively stable in 2019, however, the attack demonstrates that IS continues to have the capability and intent to launch attacks of this nature within the City.
- Following weeks of speculation with regards to the longer-term status of the International Zone (IZ) that was partially opened to the public in December 2018, on June 04, 2019 the IZ was fully opened to the public on a 24/7 basis. The move is seen as part of an attempt by the government to head off criticism that security is starting to deteriorate in the country, amidst reports of increased attacks in northern Iraq and fires in rural farmlands. Regardless, the move marks an important moment that symbolizes the increased stability that has been felt in the capital over the last two years.

Medium to long term outlook

- Sectarian violence can be expected to continue in areas of Northern Iraq which remain permissive to IS operations, including Nineveh, Salah al-Din, Diyala and southwestern Kirkuk. Attacks will continue to target security checkpoints and outpost, especially in Sunni dominated areas controlled by Shia dominated security forces.
- 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 desert regions of Anbar, near the Syrian border, and along the Hamrin Mountains.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Nechirvan Barzani sworn in as president of Iraqi Kurdistan

The newly elected president of the Kurdistan Region, Nechirvan Barzani, was sworn in on June 10 at a ceremony in Erbil attended by local and foreign representatives. Former President Massoud Barzani, Iraqi President Barham Saleh and Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu were present. Massoud Barzani, who is also Nechirvan Barzani's uncle, "expressed his full support for the new president".

Two oil tankers evacuated in Gulf of Oman

On the morning of Jun 13, two oil tankers were targeted by suspected attacks in the Gulf of Oman, approximately 45 kilometres off the Iranian coastline. One of the vessels involved was identified as the MT Front Altair, a Marshall Islands flagged crude oil tanker, which had reportedly been loaded at a port in the Gulf and was carrying 75000 tons of naphtha, a petrochemical feedstock. The second was identified as the Kokuka Courageous, a Panama flagged oil tanker that was reportedly carrying methanol.

Deputy Governor of Basra warns over potential demonstrations this summer

The deputy governor of Basra province, Hamed al-Hamdi, has warned that high unemployment and lack of electricity could reignite tensions and see the return of widespread demonstrations in Basra province.

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-High
Anbar	Moderate	High	High	High	Moderate-High
South***	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High

Threat Scale

Minimal

Low

Moderate

High

Extreme

* KRG – Dohuk, Erbil & Sulaymaniyah

** North – Nineveh, Salah ad-Din, Kirkuk & Diyala

*** South – Babil, Wasit, Karbala, Najaf, Diwaniyah, Dhi Qar, Muthanna, Maysan & Basra

OVERVIEW

Political

Nechirvan Barzani sworn in as president of Iraqi Kurdistan

The newly elected president of the Kurdistan Region, Nechirvan Barzani, was sworn in on June 10 at a ceremony in Erbil attended by local and foreign representatives. Former President Massoud Barzani, Iraqi President Barham Saleh and Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu were present. Massoud Barzani, who is also Nechirvan Barzani's uncle, "expressed his full support for the new president". A Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) delegation, led by the party's deputy leader Kosrat Rasul, was also present. Nechirvan Barzani took his oath at the Saad Abdulla Palace Hall instead of the parliament. According to the parliament website the session took place at the hall rather than the parliament building, which is smaller, in order to accommodate all the guests. Meanwhile, Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi has congratulated Nechirvan Barzani on his election "We work together on enhancing the constitutional relationship between the Kurdistan region and Iraq, within the preservation of the country's unity and its territorial integrity" Mahdi said. The prime minister also called for "working together to face the challenges to security".

Iraqi Kurdistan parliament backs Masrour Barzani as PM

Members of the Iraqi Kurdistan parliament voted in favour of tasking Masrour Barzani with forming the new regional government at a session on June 11. Of the 97 MPs who were present at a session dedicated to the vote, 87 MPs backed Barzani, who is the KDP candidate for the post. The previous day, Nechirvan Barzani was sworn in as president of the region, at a ceremony attended by local and foreign representatives. Masrour Barzani will now be tasked by the new president to form the ninth Kurdistan Regional Government which is expected to take place on June 12. The PM-designate then has 30 days to form the cabinet, which will then be presented to parliament for a vote. KDP-affiliated media have stressed that the government will be formed by the end of June.

Saeroon alliance attacks PM Mahdi: unable to overcome the crises

As parliamentary sessions are due to recommence following the Eid holiday, Moqtada al-Sadr's Saeroon coalition has criticised Prime Minister Mahdi as being "unable to overcome the crises in government". According to a Saeroon MP Jawad al-Musawi, "the delay of Abdul-Mahdi in resolving and sending candidates for the vacant [Ministry] portfolios, is a clear violation of the Constitution, and a sign of weakness in the management and his handling of responsibility". Musawi also said that he was currently in discussions with other political parties to decide if a no-confidence vote in Al-Mahdi was required, following indications that the provincial elections would be delayed until 2020.

Iraqi PM speaks out as MPs petition against him

Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi has said that only parliament can decide whether to remove him from his post and pledged to complete the cabinet. During his weekly press conference on June 11, Abdul Mahdi said pressures by political factions have prevented the cabinet from implementing its programme. "The prime minister is responsible for the performances of ministers and not political blocs," he said. "A government that is less than a year old cannot resolve all the issues that have accumulated since the late [19]80s all at once," he said. He denied rumours that he had resigned from his post, referring to such rumours as "empty... speculation". "There is a ministerial programme that outlines the ministers' duties and it is not possible for a political party to be responsible for a minister," he said. "Parties have no authority over the state, the only authority over the state is the parliament," he continued. The premier also said that Iraq is continuing to push for de-escalation between the US and Iran, noting that Baghdad has received international support in this regard. He pointed to a recent meeting with the German president, dubbing it "positive" and referring to consensus over the issue. "We stand before the anniversary of the fall of Mosul, which is a painful memory," he said, noting that nevertheless Iraq united and defeated the "imaginary" Islamic State (IS) group. He thanked the Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani for his fatwa calling on people to fight the group, as well as other groups such as the Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF) and the Kurdish Peshmerga for helping confront IS. "This was a major lesson; when we are united we can defeat a huge

challenge such as the challenge posed by IS to Iraq," he said, noting that the group continues to threaten parts of the country, but that Iraq will continue fighting the group. He also called on people to "step out of the mentality" that Iraq is a "crisis country", noting that Iraq is facing challenges, but it is on a trajectory of recovery. "Sometimes, cabinets are delayed for an entire year," he said. Mahdi also addressed the ongoing crop fires throughout the country during his press conference, stating that this is a yearly occurrence and calling on people "not to inflate matters". "Every acre that is burned is a loss to Iraq," but fires this year are fewer than last year, while more agricultural lands are being grown, he noted. This comes as IS has claimed the fires as a new form of jihad in both Iraq and Syria, while political factions in Iraq have pointed fingers at various groups, claiming that the burning of the crops is an example of foul play. Abdul Mahdi said only 35 of the fires were the result of intentional attacks, while the remaining fires were caused by electrical sparks, cigarettes and other origins.

New US Ambassador takes up role

The new US Ambassador to Iraq, Matthew Tueller, has officially taken up his role after submitting his credentials to the Iraqi Foreign Minister, Mohammed Ali al-Hakim, during a meeting on Jun 09. Hakim and Tueller reportedly discussed bilateral relations between the two countries, where they both emphasised the importance of cooperation in all areas.

Leader's Top Military Aide: Iran Strategically Tied to Iraq, Syria

A top Military Aide to the Iranian Supreme Leader, Major General Yahya Rahim Safavi has stated that Iraq and Syria play a complementary strategic role to Iran, and further stressed the need for using the two countries' huge markets for exports. "The pivot of Iran, Iraq, Syria and the Mediterranean (region) is an economic, political, security and defensive axis against the Zionist regime and the US," General Safavi said in the Southwestern city of Ahvaz on Jun 12. "Iraq and Syria strategically play a complementary role to Iran", saying that the Iraq and Syria's markets are a target for Iran's exports and adding that Tehran can increase the value of its exports to Iraq to \$20bn from the current \$10bn. General Safavi also suggested that the three countries would be connected by railroads, saying "If we extend our railroads to Baghdad through Khosravi border terminal or connect Khorramshahr [in Iran's Khuzestan Province] to Basra [in Iraq], we will in fact create a corridor that connects the Central Asian countries to the Mediterranean through Iran, Iraq, and Syria. This is a geo-economic phenomenon that can earn billions of dollars for Iran in transit revenues,"

Security

Two oil tankers evacuated in Gulf of Oman

Multiple media sources have indicated that as of mid-morning on the Jun 13, two oil tankers were targeted by suspected attacks in the Gulf of Oman, approximately 45 kilometres off the Iranian coastline. One of the vessels involved was identified as the MT Front Altair, a Marshall Islands flagged crude oil tanker, which had reportedly been loaded at a port in the Gulf and was carrying 75000 tons of naphtha, a petrochemical feedstock. The vessel was reportedly on its way to the far East. The second was identified as the Kokuka Courageous, a Panama flagged oil tanker that was reportedly carrying methanol. The crews from both vessels were successfully evacuated and according to a statement from Commander Joshua Frey, a US Navy Fifth Fleet spokesman, the US Navy were assisting the two vessels after having received two separate distress calls at 0612 and 0700 local time. As a result of the attacks, all major Gulf stock markets dropped following the news, and oil prices rose by about 4%. These latest incidents come just a month after a similar incident occurred, in which four other shipping vessels were targeted in the region, with Saudi Arabia and the US saying that the attacks, using limpet mines, were Iranian-sponsored. In this latest incident Iran was quick to attempt to divert accusations of involvement by announcing that Iranian search and rescue teams had already picked up 44 sailors from the two tankers and took them to Jask on the southern coast of Iran.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has now publicly accused Iran of attacking the tankers and has instructed the US ambassador to the UN to raise the issue before the security council. Pompeo stated that "this assessment is based on intelligence, the weapons used, the level of expertise needed to execute the operation, recent similar Iranian attacks on shipping and the fact that no proxy group operating in the area has the resources and proficiency

to act with such a high degree of sophistication". His statement was followed by the release of a video purportedly showing Iran trying to hide its involvement in the attacks, with suspected members of Iran's Revolutionary Guard removing an unexploded limpet mine from one of the tankers. The US has reportedly sent the missile destroyer USS Mason to the Gulf of Oman in response. Meanwhile, as expected, Iran has denied involvement, describing Mr Pompeo's "accusations towards Iran" as "alarming". Meanwhile, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry has condemned the attacks saying that "Iraq stands against any aggression, rejects escalation in the region and calls for solving crises through peaceful ways". The statement added that Iraq urges all regional players to start a dialogue to maintain security and stability in the region.

Opposition in Iraq to Turkish military operations in the KR-I growing

Domestic opposition to Turkey's military campaign against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in northern Iraq is growing. Muqtada al-Sadr condemned the military campaign and said that he rejects all "all empty and meaningless treaties" between Ankara and Baghdad over this operation and called on the Iraqi Government to cancel all agreements that undermine Iraq's sovereignty. He also called on Turkey to stop seek a peaceful solution to the conflict, describing the PKK as merely an 'opposition' group to Turkey. His reference to the group as 'opposition' goaded Turkey's Ambassador to Iraq, Fatih Yildiz. "We are speaking to those who claim to be friends of Turkey and await our friendship. There is no need to use dodgy expressions concerning the PKK, because the PKK is not of an opposition formation. The PKK is a terrorist organization," Yildiz said in a tweet. Meanwhile, lawmakers from the New Generation Movement such as Yusra Rajab, called on the Prime Minister to intervene immediately to take a stance against Turkey's military campaign. Rajab claimed that her party called on the Speaker of Parliament, Mohammed al-Halbousi, to summon Turkish ambassador to Iraq through the Iraqi Foreign Ministry and gave him an official letter of protest over the Turkish strikes and the deployment of Turkish forces inside Iraq's territory.

Member of Security and Defence committee accuses US of monitoring Shia militias in Iraq

A member of the Iraqi Security and Defence Committee, Ali Jabbar has made a statement saying that the US CENTCOM commander Kenneth McKenzie's announcement that the US would be deploying more reconnaissance assets to the Gulf is evidence that the US is monitoring the PMUs within Iraq. Jabbar said that this has not been agreed with the Iraqi government or the Iraqi military and said that the US was not authorised to conduct such missions over Iraq, and was a violation of Iraq's sovereignty, adding that "the objective of this process is to gather information about the headquarters of the popular crowd [PMU] throughout the country.

Iraqi MP warns against 'powerful' militias in Diyala

An Iraqi Sunni member of parliament has warned against the deteriorating security in some parts of Diyala Province, east of Baghdad, saying the situation is reminiscent of the sectarian strife of 2006 and 2007 that left many thousands of Sunni and Shia Iraqis dead. Raad al-Dahlaki accused unidentified "militias and armed gangs" of carrying out killings and displacements against local residents of the province that borders Iran. "Militias and armed gangs imposed their supremacy over the law as they prevented security leaders from changing any local officials in the areas under their control," Dahlaki said in a statement on Jun 08. "This indicates how powerful these outlawed groups are," he added. Dahlaki described the current situation in Diyala as "a new plot to undermine security and stability and bring back the killing and displacement scenario which swept the province in 2006 and 2007". He urged the chief commander of the armed forces, Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi, to shoulder responsibility and send army forces to enforce law, square up to the "militias and militant gangs", and enable local security leaders to carry on their powers and take what they see as necessary to restore security and stability.

Iraqi Fire Service says 236 fires destroyed over 5,000 hectares of farmland

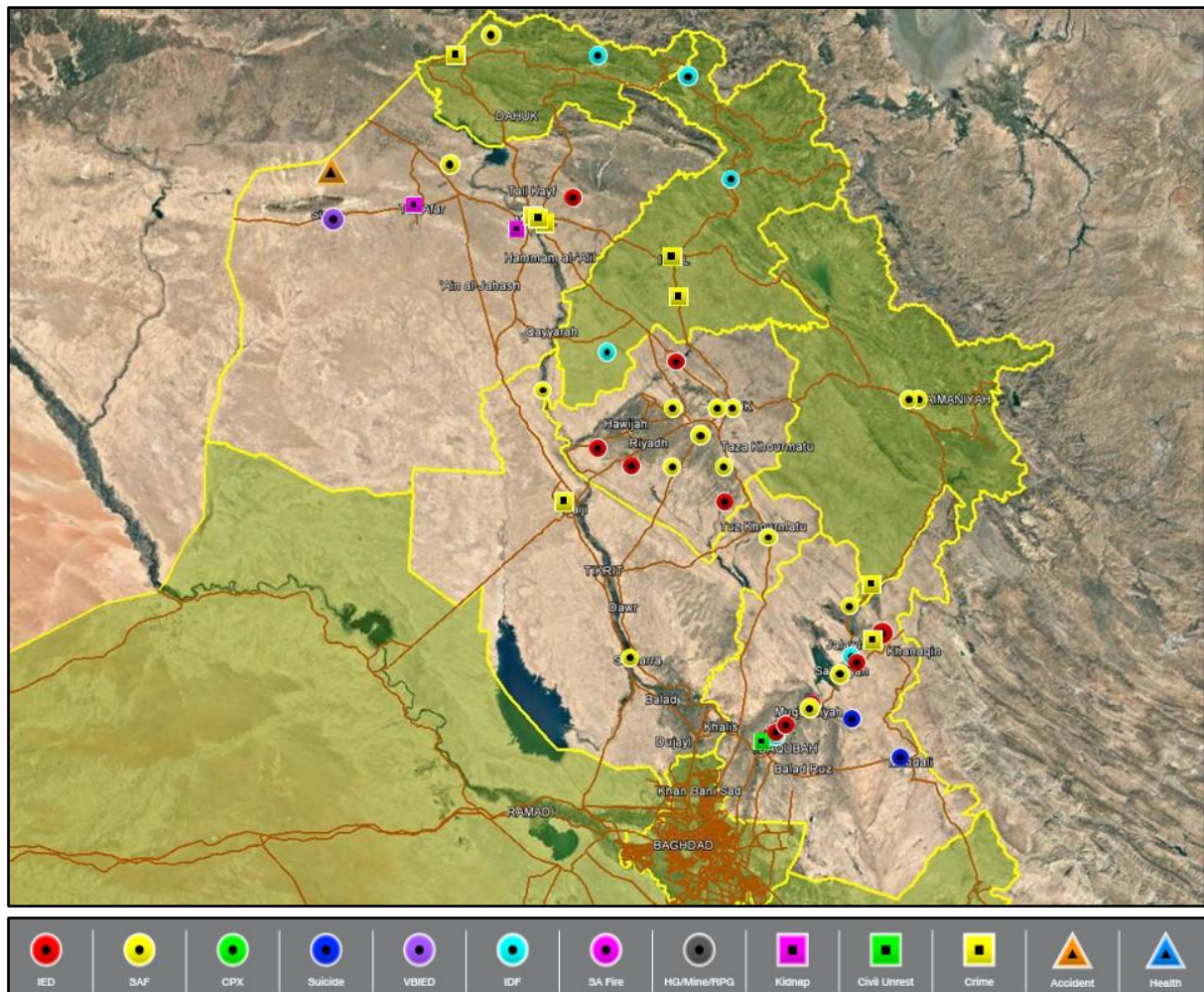
The Iraqi fire service said 236 fires had destroyed more than five thousand hectares of farmland in northern Iraq in a month. Farmers in the country's breadbasket had been hoping for bumper wheat and barley harvests in May and June following heavy winter rains, although the spate of arson attacks have meant that this is no longer a possibility. The Iraqi fire service says that in a single month, 236 fires destroyed 5,183 hectares (more than 12,800 acres) of farmland -- the equivalent of more than 7,000 football pitches.

CoR to form specialist committee over agricultural fires

It was also reported that The Iraqi Council of Representatives has decided to form a specialist committee to assess the damage to farmers' crop fields over the last few months, in a bid to possibly offer compensation to those affected by the recent fires. The Iraqi parliament directed a number of lawmakers to personally visit areas where farmlands have been burned and to compensate the affected people based on the findings that emerge from the committee. The committee will include members of the Security and Defence Committee as well as the Regions and Provinces Committee. During the parliamentary session, Lawmaker Turhan al-Mufti echoed the government's claims that the majority of these fires have not been as a result of terrorism or deliberate sabotage. He claims that 40,000 dunams of land have been burned deliberately while the other 110,000 dunams burned due to other factors such as "electrical faults". However, the decision is timely as farmers have grown increasingly frustrated over the lack of measures taken to prevent the fires from occurring by relevant authorities and little effort made by the government to compensate those who had been affected.

Deputy Governor of Basra warns over potential demonstrations this summer

The deputy governor of Basra province, Hamed al-Hamdi, has warned that high unemployment and lack of electricity could reignite tensions and see the return of widespread demonstrations in Basra province. He stated that Basra's rate of unemployment now amounts to more than 40% and said this will increase unless more employment opportunities can be created, including within oil companies operating in the province. He also stated that the GoI should fulfil its promised 10-point plan to provide more employment, and also provide better essential service infrastructure including electricity. Al-Hamdi stated that he expected "the youth of Basra" to begin new demonstrations this summer.

WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT**Countrywide Military/Security Situation****Northern Provinces**

In the Kurdistan region, once again, security incidents have been dominated by the Turkish military's ongoing "Operation Claw" against PKK militants operating in the north of Iraq. The HPG, a military wing of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) said in a statement that two of its fighters were killed in contacts with Turkish troops in Khwakurk, northeast of Erbil, and three others were killed in Turkish airstrikes in the Avasin area of Dohuk province. The HPG claimed that 20 x Turkish soldiers were also killed in clashes in the area this week. An airstrike on the evening of Jun 12 carried out by the Turkish Air Force reportedly targeted a gas station near Amedi district, east of Dohuk province resulting in a number of locals being evacuated. Separately, a deliberate fire broke out in the vicinity of Qushtapa sub-district in southwest Erbil province that destroyed more than 100 acres of agricultural lands. Meanwhile, in Sulaymaniyah province, two people were slightly wounded in gunfire outside the City Cinema in Sulaymaniyah late on Jun 07 according to reports. It is not yet clear what the motivation was for this attack. Separately, unidentified gunmen opened fire on the headquarters of the Change Movement (Gorran) in Sulaymaniyah on Jun 11, killing a security guard. A source from Gorran told press that a number of gunmen opened fire at the Movement's headquarters at 03:00 a.m. on June 11. The headquarters' guards responded to the attack but one of the guards was shot dead. A member of Gorran National Assembly, Khalil Sarkani accused an armed faction linked to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) of being behind the attack.

In Nineveh province, during a spate of arson attacks on agricultural land in the province this week, a fire deliberately set on agricultural fields in three villages near Bashik town, eastern Mosul resulted in the death of a local farmer who was attempting to extinguish the blaze. Earlier on Jun 06, four firefighters were injured in an IED detonation while they were attempting to extinguish a blaze engulfing a number of farms in the same town. The IED reportedly targeted a fire appliance, with ISF stating that IS were responsible. Two Yezidi farmers also died after crop fields caught fire in Sinjar on the night of Jun 08. It was stated that fires destroyed more than five thousand dunams of farmland in Burk, Khanasur, and Dgori communities as well as the foothills of Sinjar Mountain. The Farmers died as they were trying to extinguish the fire in Burk community. Meanwhile, IS claimed an attack against the Shingal Resistance Units (YBS) in Sinjar on Jun 11. The semi-official Islamic State media outlet, Amaq, claimed its fighters ambushed a "military unit of the PKK" near Hellus village in Madiwan and then detonated a VBIED against a group of PKK forces near the al-Jazira complex in the vicinity of Sinjar (Shingal) mountain. Reporting indicated that the attack was successfully repelled and the VBIED was destroyed before it reached its target. Following the incident, the YBS deployed more forces to the area, prompting IS fighters to retreat.

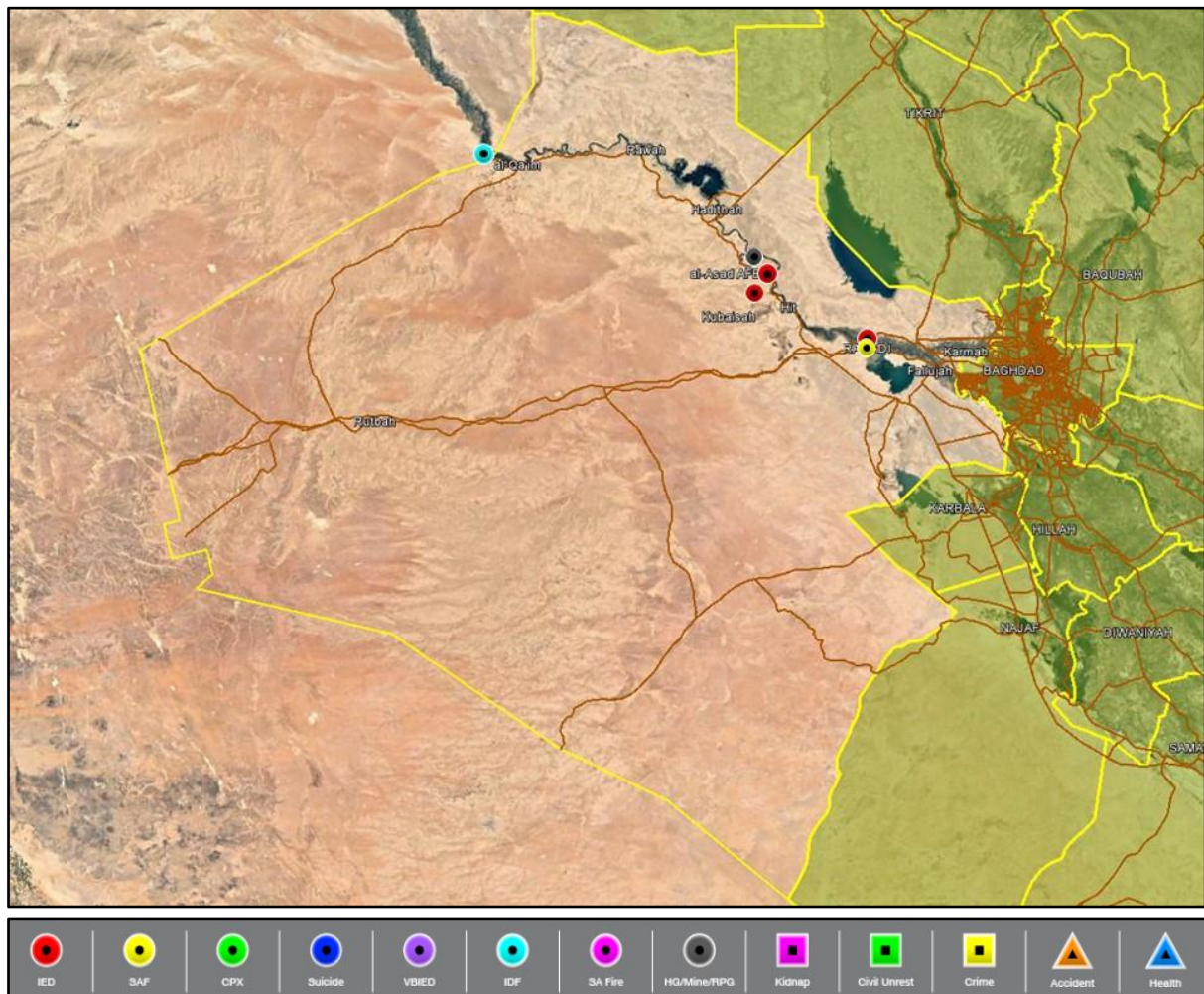
Meanwhile, the KDP has reportedly been in talks with Baghdad to reassume administrative responsibilities in the provincial government of Nineveh. The head of the KDP's office in Mosul, Ali Khalil, told party affiliated media that the party is seeking to take up positions that include head of general education, health director, police director and intelligence director. According to Khalil, these positions were controlled by the party before the emergence of the IS in the province. He argues that given that the KDP occupies a quarter of seats in the provincial council, the party should be given more prominent positions in the administration of the province.

A busy reporting period in Kirkuk province. An ISF member was killed and two others were wounded in a roadside IED detonation near the village of al-Saadouniya in Hawijah district and a civilian bystander was killed, and a federal police officer wounded in a separate IED detonation near the village of al-Asriyah also in Hawijah district. Two civilians were wounded when a roadside IED detonated in Dibis District and in a separate incident, an IED detonated near a civilian's vehicle, also in Dibis, causing material damage only. US-led coalition warplanes reportedly carried out multiple airstrikes targeting IS hideouts in the Makhmour district on Jun 08, and an IED detonated near a civilian's vehicle in the Wadi al-Shai area of Daquq on Jun 07, causing material damage only. An ISF member was also wounded when a roadside IED detonated in Khanaqin District on Jun 08. Meanwhile, a detachment of the 61st (former IZ-based) IA Infantry Special Brigade reportedly killed one IS militant and arrested three others who were allegedly part of an IS sleeper cell in an intelligence-led operation in Benja Ali district in southern Kirkuk city. In addition, elements of the 6th Federal Police Division killed two IS militants near the Mullah Abdullah sub-district, south west of Kirkuk. IS also reportedly claimed an attack that purportedly targeted a joint French-Kurdish patrol in Kirkuk province. In a brief statement issued on June 11 and dated June 10, IS said its militants had targeted a French-Peshmerga military vehicle with an IED, allegedly wounding two passengers, saying the attack took place "in the village of Qarah Shay north of [the town of] Kifri". A UVIED detonated beneath a civilian vehicle on the Baghdad Road area in the al-Wasiti district of southern Kirkuk city, causing material damage only and a number of shootings were also reported in the province this week with a civilian being shot and injured in the Hay Al-Wasiti area of southern Kirkuk city. Unidentified gunmen also shot at a PMU patrol in the Zaitun area in Rashid district, Hawijah, injuring one PMF member. Finally, several unidentified gunmen shot at ISF in Daquq District, injuring one ISF member.

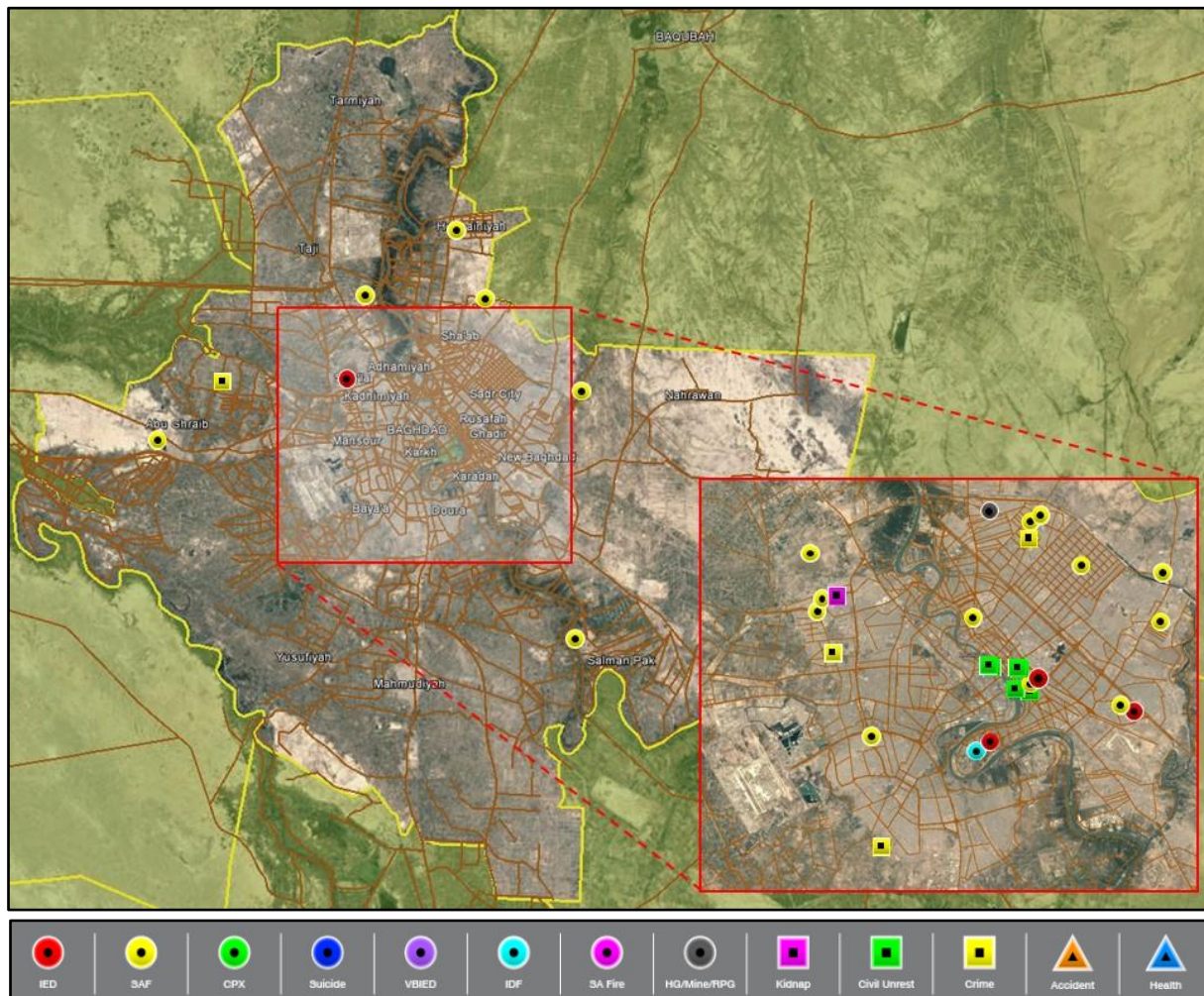
In Salah-al-Din, on the night of Jun 14, three mortar rounds landed inside Balad Air Base, although reporting suggests no casualties were sustained. In addition, unconfirmed reports stated this week that "unidentified armed groups" took control of grain storage Silo in Tuz Khurmatu, demanding that farmers pay a tax to access the site. while a well-informed source said farmers had to pay money to store their grain in the Silo. Also in Tuz Khurmatu, in the village of Quri Jay, uncorroborated reporting stated that joint Peshmerga and US forces carried out a military operation to eliminate IS insurgent cells located in the area. In addition, the PMUs announced on Jun 12 that "a terrorist plot" had been foiled and two prominent IS members killed in al-Hadhar district in Shirqat, south of Mosul. The statement added that the suspects were linked to an IS leader in the Diwan al-Amn area named as Abu Suleiman al-Askari. A PMU spokesman also stated that the captured insurgents were planning to carry out

kidnappings of civilians in Shirqat. In addition, and also in Shirqat, ISF-backed Sunni tribesmen reportedly killed two IS militants in an intelligence-led operation carried near Aitha village and in a separate incident in the same village, an unknown gunman shot and wounded one civilian. Several gunmen in Samara District shot at an ISF checkpoint, injuring three ISF members and four IEDs were found and cleared in the Mukayshfah region, also in Samarra district.

Another busy reporting period in Diyala. The PMU's 110th Bde (Shia Feyli Kurds) reportedly thwarted an IS attack on Bani Ka'ab village in the Saadiyah sub-district of Khanaqin, and a civilian was wounded in an IED detonation in the outskirts of Khanaqin district. (NFDK). In addition, an IS militant wearing an explosive vest was killed and an ISF officer wounded in a clash near the Klal area on the outskirts of Mandali sub-district, 90 km east of Baqubah. The militant was reportedly intending to target an amusement park in the area. Three mortar rounds reportedly targeted an ISF building in Jalawla Sub district, wounding two ISF members, and an IED detonated in Abarah Sub district, causing material damage only. ISF also reportedly commenced another intelligence-led operation to search for and arrest IS militants in the al-Neda area of Muqdadiyah district in the eastern part of the province this week. It was reported that so far during the operation, ISF have killed a suicide bomber and arrested a further three insurgents. It was also reported that two mortar shells impacted in Jaizani village in al-Abbarah sub-district on June 08, although no casualties were reported. A farmer was killed in an IED detonation near the village of al-Mukheisah within the Waqif Basin, 23 km north east of Baqubah and in a separate incident, another farmer was wounded when a sound bomb IED detonated inside an orchard in the village of Sherik near Khanaqin, 100 km north east of Baqubah. Pro-government Sunni tribal militant reportedly thwarted an IS attack near the village of Mubarak al-Farhan, west of al-Adhaim in a contact that lasted approximately 15 minutes. There were no reports of casualties however. Finally, two mortar rounds reportedly detonated in the village of Abu Khamis (22kms south of Baquba) on Jun 14.

Anbar Province

Reporting from Anbar province was this week dominated by ISF operations, concentrated in the western and northern areas of the province. It was also reported that the weekly newspaper for IS has claimed arson attacks targeting farms in Al Anbar for the third week in a row. The latest issue of al-Naba, which was released on June 06, claimed that a farm was torched in al-Mashari, near the border town of Qaim in the western Anbar Province, giving the date of attack as "this week". The column claimed the land belonged to a man named Mohamed Radhi al-Mahlawi, allegedly a leader in the PMF. Meanwhile, an IED detonated near a civilian's house in Ramadi District, causing material damage and also in Ramadi, following a dispute, an unidentified gunman shot and wounded a civilian on Jun 09. Separately, Iraqi F-16 warplanes carried out airstrikes inside the Syrian territories, targeting two separate IS hideouts in the Sousa area in Syria, killing 34 militants. In addition, Sunni tribesmen reportedly killed three IS militants in an operation in the Zumar Valley in al-Baghdadi sub-district in Hit and Iraqi security forces launched a new military operation to track down IS militants in the country's western desert. Units from the army, police and paramilitaries started a joint operation to "cleanse" the Al-Jazirah desert across Nineveh and Anbar provinces of IS remnants, according to local press reports.

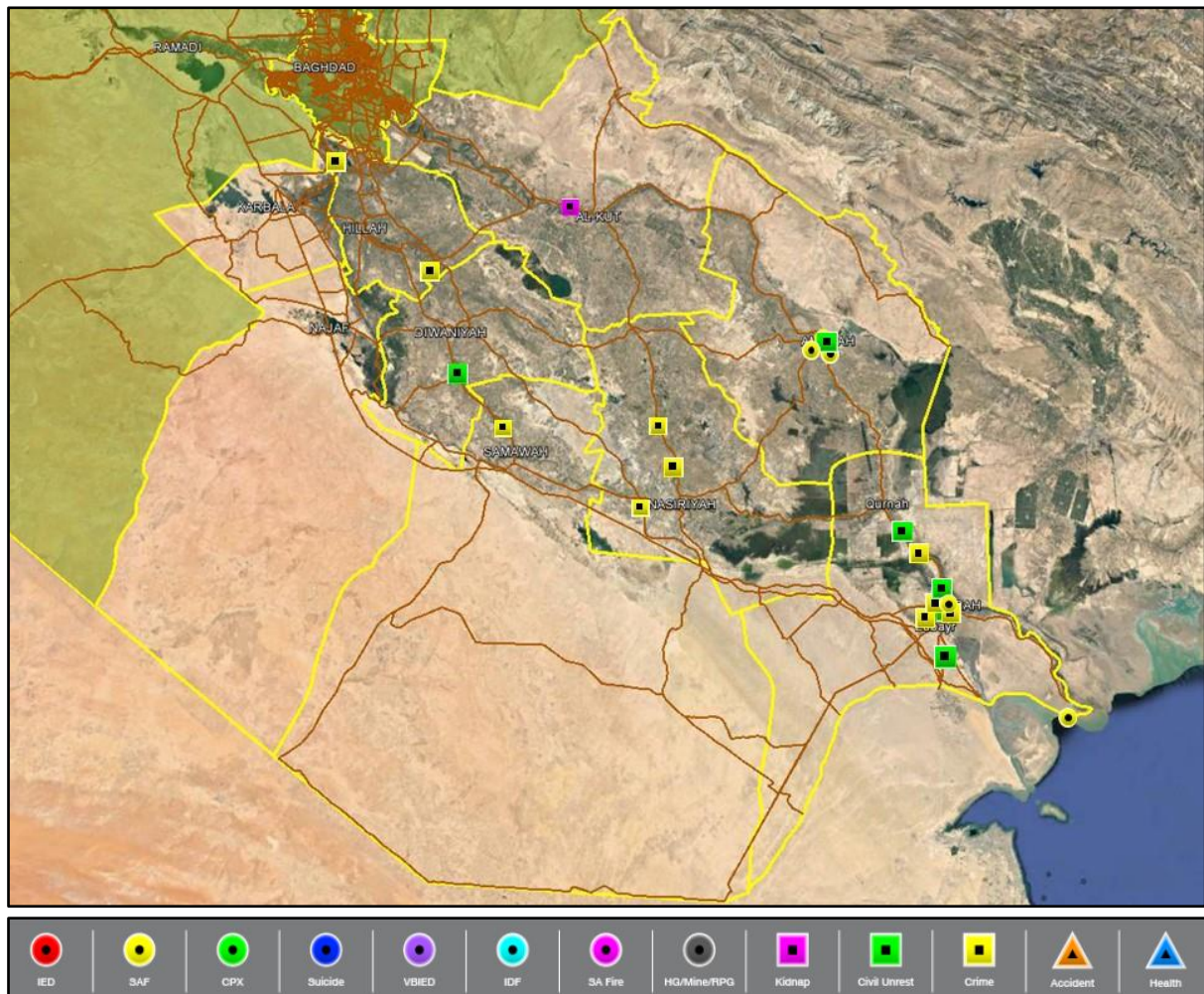
Capital Region (Including Baghdad City)

There has been a significant increase in non-Sunni insurgency related security incidents in Baghdad City this week. At 0425hrs on Jun 13 an IED reportedly detonated in the Abu Nawas area in southern Rusafah district with the target assessed to be a liquor store. On the same day at 2222hrs two IED detonations were reported in Shu'la and Al-Wathba Square in Rusafah. At least one of the devices detonated in a market area although no casualties were reported. The attacks appeared to fit the usual intimidation modus operandi, rather than Sunni-terrorism related. At approximately 0130hrs on June 14, an explosion was heard in IVO the al-Zawiya Mosque in Karadah district with conflicting reports saying that the detonation was caused by either a mortar round or a 107mm rocket, landing in the garden of a civilian home. No casualties were reported, with some sources saying that the firing point was in the Baladiyat in New Baghdad district. The areas of New Baghdad and Sadr City to the east of the city have also been the firing points of previous IDF attacks aimed at the US Embassy which may have also been the target in this latest incident. Meanwhile, at 0345hrs on Jun 15, another detonation was noted in the Dar Madani area of Jadriyah district in Karadah with mixed press reporting stating that this was another IDF attack similar to the one the night before. However, social media reports suggested the incident was an IED that detonated against a Saudi-owned travel and tourism company. Again, there were no reports of casualties.

Other security incident in the city this week have conformed to regional norms with shooting incidents recorded in Shu'la, Kadhimiyah district, Saba Qusoor, Adhamiyah district and New Baghdad. A hand grenade detonated in front of a civilian's house in the Shaab area of Adhamiyah, causing material damage only and an unidentified gunman shot at a liquor store in the Bataween area of Rusafah. Two people were also

reportedly wounded when a low-yield IED detonated near a football field in New Baghdad district

In the wider Baghdad belts, several gunmen in Abu Ghraib district shot at an ISF sentry sangar, wounding one ISF member and a gunman shot and wounded one civilian in Madain District. A civilian was killed in a SAF incident in Husseiniya district, north east of Baghdad and a roadside IED detonated on a highway in Abu Ghraib District with no injuries or damage reported. An ISF member was also shot and killed in the same district.

Southern Provinces

Babel province an IED reportedly detonated near the residential property of a PMU member in Kefal district in the south of the province. In Diwaniyah, an unknown individual shot and killed one civilian in Al-Hamza Al-Sharqi District and a firearms dealer was arrested in Sumer sub-district, north of Diwaniyah after an exchange of gunfire with ISF, no casualties were reported. In Maysan, an employee of the High Independent Electoral Commission (IHEC) tasked to update voter biometrics in the region, was accidentally wounded and his vehicle damaged when tribal skirmishing erupted in the Abu Rummanah district in southern Amarah city. Dozens of people also demonstrated in the Imam Sadiq district in central Amarah city, over the lack of electricity service and one person was reportedly wounded in a tribal skirmishing erupted in the slums of Abu Rummanah district in southern Amarah city.

No notable incidents were recorded in Basra over the reporting period, with all incidents remaining low-level – a SAF incident in Jubaila on the 11th (no casualties) being the most violent. Reporting from the city was characterised by ISF-led arrest operations which remain concentrated on criminal activity and the possession of narcotics. Protests/demonstrations linked to employment opportunities and basic service provision have made an unwelcome return and are likely to increase to mark 12 months since the start of the Basra Protest Committee. There have been almost nightly protests in relation to electricity provision in the usual hotspots of Qarmat Ali, Abu al-Khasib and al Faw. Employment related demonstration were also conducted at the BGC on June 09 and at Majnoon on Jun 11. Both were peaceful, but for the first time in a while, the locals present were demanding the removal of foreign workers. Activists on social media have also begun to canvass Basrawis for protest action in

relation to the provision - or perceived lack - of electricity. The respite from this activity seemingly soon to be over, as June 20 is being mooted as the date for the first major event. Meanwhile, on Jun 10 a number of flyers were distributed to cafés, restaurants and music venues – the majority also known to employ female staff – warning them of violent retribution if they continued to operate in what the publishers perceived as un-Islamic activity. An attack last week on June 02 targeted a café in the Hay al Zahriya district for this alleged activity – the Zarzour restaurant could therefore also be under scrutiny. The leaflets and the threats of violence have been taken seriously by the security committee and an investigation has been launched to identify the source.

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	PMF – Popular Mobilisation Forces
Bn - Battalion	Pol - Point of Impact (for IDF)
BXP - Border Crossing Point	PoO - Point of Origin (for IDF)
CET - Convoy Escort Team	PSAF - Precision Small Arms Fire
CLC - Concerned Local Citizens	PSC - Private Security Company
CoP - Chief of Police	PSD - Private Security Detail
CP - Check Point	RCIED - Remote-Controlled IED
C-PERS - Captured Personnel	RPG - Rocket Propelled Grenade
CPX - Complex Attack (attack using multiple weapon systems)	RTA - Road Traffic Accident
CQA - Close Quarter Assassination/Attack	SAF - Small Arms Fire
DBS - Drive by Shooting	SAFIRE - Surface to Air FIRE
Div - Division	SF - Special Forces
DoD - Department of Defense	SVBIED - Suicide Vehicle Borne IED
DoS - Department of State	SVEST - Suicide Explosive Worn Vest
DoS - US Department of State	TCN - Third Country National
ECP - Entry Control Point	TCP - Traffic Control Point
EFP - Explosively Formed Projectile	Technical - An improvised weapon-mounted pick-up truck
EOD - Explosive Ordnance Disposal (Bomb Squad)	TTP - Tactics, Techniques and Practices
ERW - Explosive Remnants of War	UVIED - Under Vehicle IED
FoM - Freedom of Movement	UXO - Unexploded Ordnance
Gol - Government of Iraq	VBIED - Vehicle Borne IED
HCN - Host Country National	VCP - Vehicle Checkpoint
HG - Hand Grenade	WIA - Wounded in Action
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	

GARDAWORLD INFORMATION SERVICES

From our management offices and field offices in strategic locations our constant monitoring of the high-risk environments in which we work is conveyed through our range of .Xplored™ risk analysis reports. The reports contain detailed updates, delivering current and relevant ground-truth information to assist both our personnel and our clients in their decision-making.

Our wider risk management solutions provide members of the defense, diplomatic, development, oil & gas and infrastructure sectors operating in potentially high-risk and complex environments with a comprehensive range of risk analysis, intelligence, crisis response, and training services. These services are designed to provide clients with the proactive capability to remain aware in potentially hostile environments and identify risks while strengthening their reactive capacity in emergency situations.

Our current regular reporting geographies include: Nigeria, Mali, Libya, Iraq, Afghanistan and Yemen on a daily, weekly, fortnightly, and monthly basis.

Through our constant monitoring and predictive threat analysis our Information Services team help you plan for, manage, and respond to risks.

For more information on our .Xplored reports or for information about our special-to-task reports tailored to individual client requirements, please contact us: or contact our regional representative iraq.ram@garda.com (Mobile: +964 7823 783 972)

For more information on how our services can support your business in Iraq contact:
Daniel Matthews, Senior Director Iraq daniel.matthews@garda.com

GARDAWORLD**A global leader in comprehensive security and risk management**

GardaWorld International Protective Services is the international security division of GardaWorld Security Corporation, the world's largest privately owned security company with over 62,000 global staff.

We support clients in emerging, complex and high-risk markets around the world with static security, security consulting, risk analysis and reporting, crisis management and business continuity, mobile security, close protection, training and kidnap for ransom and extortion response solutions.

We work across multiple business sectors to provide protection and security for clients in the extractives, aerospace and defense, critical infrastructure, government and diplomatic and development sectors to secure employees, assets, and reputation so clients can focus solely on running daily operations and growing their business.

Discover more about the markets we serve and to learn how our international security solutions can help you contact us today: gwinfo@garda.com

Middle East

International Protective Services Headquarters
Office 2502, Tower 2, Currency House
DIFC, PO Box 482069
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

United States

1101 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 1725
Arlington, VA, 22209
United States

UK

5th Floor
1, London Bridge
London
SE1 9BG

Europe

37-39 rue des Deux Eglises
1000 Brussels
Belgium

garda.com