



Weekly Iraq .Xplored report

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Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Iraq

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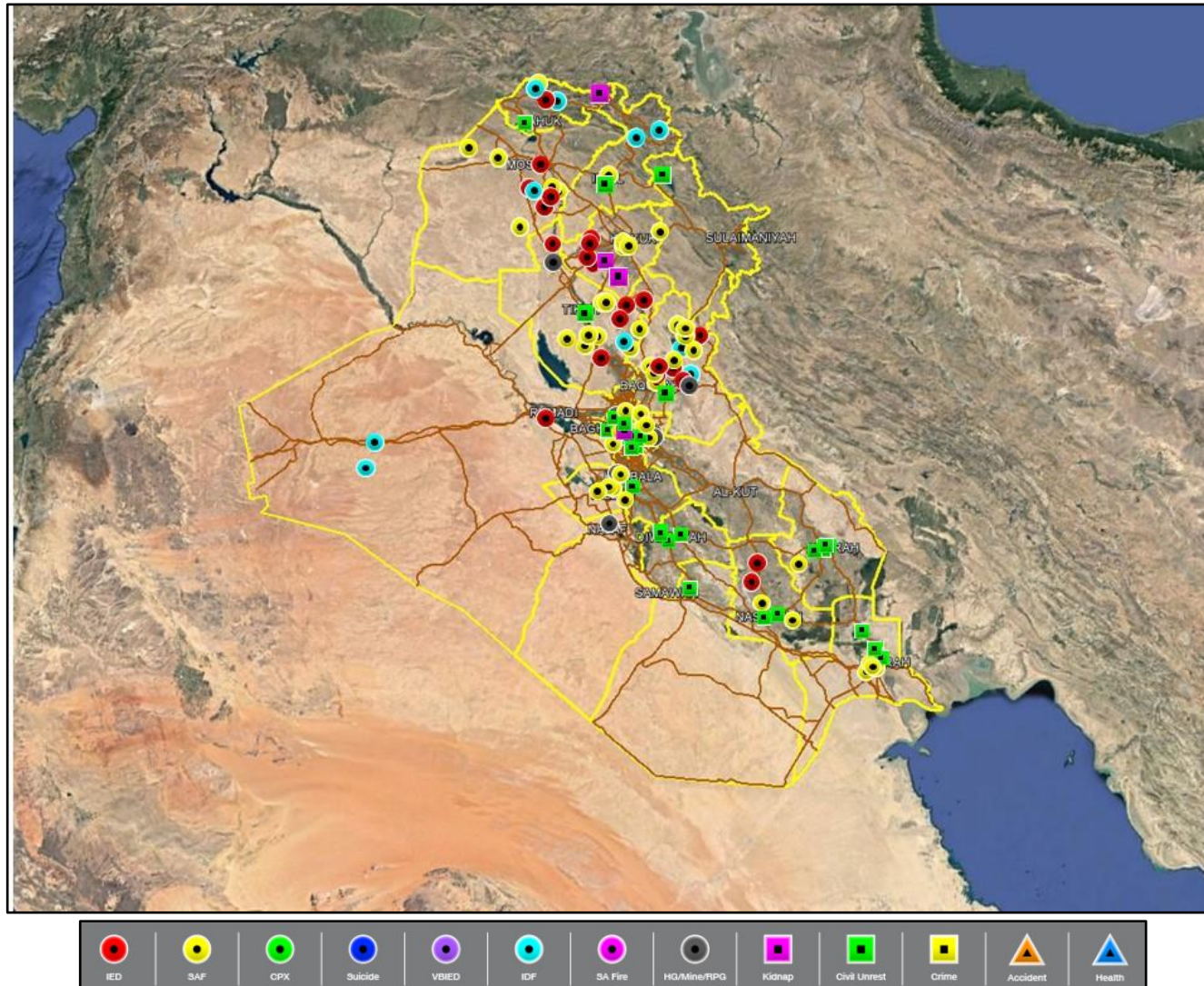
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ACTIVITY MAP



OUTLOOK**Short term outlook**

- Fatal demonstrations that occurred throughout the country since they started on 01 October 2019 have to date left 165 people dead. Baghdad witnessed the deadliest protests with 57 killed and more than 1000 people injured, 205 of whom are in a critical condition. Iraq descended into violence as protesters called for an end to rampant corruption and chronic unemployment which escalated into calls for a complete overhaul of the political system. As the protests peaked, Moqtada al-Sadr called on the government to resign. While that now seems unlikely, Sadr is still able to mobilise his followers, who have previously paralysed the country with sit-ins and will continue to exert pressure on a severely weakened Prime Minister. In the short-term, Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi's government looks likely to survive following promises of a cabinet reshuffle and lawsuits against corruption, however an absence of radical reforms will only exacerbate the problems in the country, and further demonstrations can be expected during the coming months.
- US-Iranian tensions, compounded by the downing of a US drone by Iran on Jun 20 and the June 13 attacks on shipping in the Gulf of Oman, have led to the heightened possibility of Iranian-sponsored attacks against US interests in Iraq. Rocket attacks targeting the International Zone on Sep 23, and Oct 02, 2019, and the Rumaila oilfield and Burjisiya in Basra province on Jun 18 and 19, 2019 were most likely carried out by rogue militia factions with ties to Iran. Such TTPs are consistent with standing patterns of Shia militia activity in Baghdad and the southern region at times of heightened political tensions.
- 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 (SVES) attack in Sadr City on May 09, 2019 and the low-yield multi-IED attack in eastern Baghdad on Aug 06 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 attacks are not assessed to change the security situation in the capital which has been relatively stable in 2019, however, the attacks demonstrate that IS continues to have the capability to launch operations 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 an IS resurgence in northern Iraq. 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

Iraqi Prime Minister under pressure over violent demonstrations

Politically, the reporting period has been dominated by the Iraqi government's reaction to the widespread protest violence that began throughout the country on Oct 01. Iraqi Prime Minister Mahdi is facing the biggest challenge since he took office after protests across the country cost the lives of 165 people and left more than 3000 injured. ISF clashed with protestors who had gathered in Baghdad to demonstrate against lack of employment, poor basic services and corruption. These issues have been long-standing and the failure of the government to make any tangible progress has ultimately led to the protests that began on Oct 01. The demonstrations are most likely to continue until a roadmap can be formulated by people who are trusted by both the protestors and government officials alike.

Iraqi Government issues second reforms package

The government announced on October 08 the release of second reforms package, which is aimed at meeting the demands of the protestors. The demonstrations had initially focused on unemployment issues, corruption and a need for an increase in basic services. However, after the killing of protestors, this evolved into a demand for the resignation of the government and the PM's office are under pressure to provide reforms that will satisfy the demonstrators. A 13-point plan was released, which focuses on providing subsidies and housing for the poor, alongside training and employment initiatives for unemployed youth; of which have been a driving force behind the protests.

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	Moderate

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****Iraqi Prime Minister under pressure**

Politically, the reporting period has been dominated by the Iraqi government's reaction to the widespread protest violence that began throughout the country on Oct 01. Iraqi Prime Minister Mahdi is facing the biggest challenge since he took office after protests across the country cost the lives of 165 people and left more than 3000 injured. ISF clashed with protestors who had gathered in Baghdad to demonstrate against lack of employment, poor basic services and corruption. These issues have been long-standing and the failure of the government to make any tangible progress has ultimately led to the protests that began on Oct 01. The demonstrations are most likely to continue until a roadmap can be formulated by people who are trusted by both the protestors and government officials alike. The criticism from both Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani and the populist leader of the Sairoun Alliance, Moqtada al-Sadr – himself the orchestrator of several notable protests in recent years – has resulted in a loss of support for the Prime Minister. Calls for the resignation of the entire government is likely to continue, and it is unlikely that there can be reforms put together in such a short space of time that is both constructive and feasible.

Prime Minister pledges reforms package

The Iraqi Prime Minister, Adel Abdul Mahdi, has issued a reforms package that he and his government are hoping will go some way to appeasing protestors who have disrupted large parts of the country over issues relating to high levels of unemployment, corruption and the killing and maiming of protestors during the initial protests. The PM stated that on October 06 there had been an intense session held by his cabinet to put together the reforms package that he believes will be accepted by the protestors; reforms that the PM had initially promised to implement when he took over a little under a year ago. The decree includes reforms for the distribution of land, military enlistment and an increase in basic welfare payments. Other unspecified elements of the reforms include benefits for the unemployed, however no descriptive details have so far been released.

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Iraq's President appears in a televised address, requests the protection of Iraqi citizens

Barhim Salih, the President of Iraq, has called upon the security forces to protect the lives of Iraqi citizens and criticised the attacks that have been carried out against journalists and protestors since demonstrations began on October 01. In his speech, Salih said that the current protests have come about because of the grievances felt by Iraqis and called on the Iraqi army to abide by the rules of engagement, as well as refraining from using live ammunition against citizens. He said "The youth who died in the demonstrations have left a wound on the chests that cannot be healed simply by assurances. What happened should be considered sedition and a crime which cannot be tolerated," Meanwhile, the Iraqi Prime Minister spoke on the phone to the US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, to discuss the protests, with the PM claiming that stability had been restored across the country. The press release that referred to the phone call also stated that the PM will release another reform plan during the next parliamentary session on October 08.

Iraq's top cleric blames government for 'bloodshed' in protests

Iraq's top Shia cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani has stated that he holds the government and security forces responsible for "bloodshed" during recent anti-state protests. "The government is deemed responsible when some

security personnel use excessive violence against the protesters... and when its security bodies do not protect citizens, state institutions and private properties," Sistani's spokesman Abdul Mahdi al-Karbalai said during the Friday sermon, aired live on the Shia Al-Etejah TV on Oct 11. Karbalai also denounced attacks against the media outlets that covered the protests in Baghdad. He reiterated Sistani's support for the "legitimate demands of the peaceful protesters" and urged the government and judiciary to launch a "credible investigation into all incidents that took place in the protests". He also suggested a two-week deadline to complete the investigation and announce its results. During the prayer, held in the holy city of Karbala, Sistani's spokesman called for the arrest and trial of the security personnel involved in opening fire at the protesters, noting that any reform plan will not succeed unless the state upholds its authority and imposes security. Karbalai noted that the country's top Shia clergy is "only biased towards the Iraqi people and defends its interests".

Russian Foreign Minister arrives in Baghdad for talks

The Russian Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov, met with government officials in Baghdad on October 07 to discuss a range of issues, including the current protests across Iraq and the escalating tensions in the Gulf. The Russian FM met with his Iraqi counterpart, Mohammed al-Hakim, to coordinate on solutions to reduce the potential for conflict in the region. The pair also discussed cooperation on energy issues and the fulfilment of trade agreements for arms. Iraq had previously shown an interest in purchasing the advanced Russian air defence system, S-400; and the alleged Israeli airstrikes that had targeted PMF weapons depots pushed some Iraqi politicians to demand an expedited purchase of the systems in order to deter further airstrikes on its territory. Fiscal realities meant that this did not go ahead, and it was also likely influenced by political considerations. Lavrov then travelled to Erbil for a closed-doors meeting with the Kurdish Region President Nechirvan Barzani and Kurdistan government officials, where they discussed ongoing developments in the Middle East and other pressing issues which were not specified.

Security

Protests Update – October 05 - 12

Offices and staff employed by several TV stations were attacked on October 05 in what is believed to have been a series of co-ordinated attacks. The attackers, reportedly dressed in black, carrying rifles and their faces covered, assaulted staff and destroyed equipment. The first incident is believed to have happened to NRT, who had recently reported on the Badr offices being set alight by protestors in Nasiriyah, only to find that masked men entered their offices and attacked them a couple of hours after their issued the report of the fire. Al-Hadath, another TV station, reported that masked men arrived at their premises and attacked their staff. This comes as the satellite channel Dejla was ordered by the Prime Minister's office to close down, which is possibly related to their coverage of the protests. Further reports indicated that several other TV stations including Sky News Arabia, Al-Ghad and Al-Sharqiya amongst others have also been targeted.

Sources at the US Embassy Baghdad confirmed that on the evening of 06 October, ISF used belt-fed live ammunition towards civilians, killing at least 13. As a direct consequence, PM Mahdi ordered ISF to withdraw from the area to be replaced with FEDPOL units. Media reported that fatalities had reached 104, and more than 6,000 wounded in recent days as Iraqi forces used live ammunition and tear gas to repel demonstrators who clashed with security forces as they tried to reach government and party headquarters in Baghdad and the provinces. The Iraqi Interior Ministry said on Sunday that 52 government vehicles and about 60 government and party properties had been burned. The demonstrators demanded the dismissal of PM Mahdi's government, forming a caretaker government, dissolving the Parliament and preparations for early national parliamentary elections under the supervision of the UN. Iraqi Interior Ministry spokesman Saad Maan denied that police and military troops had directly targeted the citizens. Instead, he said that "malicious hands" were targeting both the protesters and the security members. In addition, Baghdad Provincial Council on Oct 06 voted to dismiss Baghdad Governor Falah al-Jazairi amid protests in the Iraqi capital, according to local media and Anadolu Agency. The 58-member council voted unanimously to remove al-Jazairi from his post. According to the report, the provincial council will accept applications within days from candidates for the position.

Baghdad returned to a relative calm state on Oct 07 with minimal reporting of demonstrations. However, rumors of mass arrests began to circulate on social media, although these have failed to materialise to date. Social media sources reported that protestors had ransacked the offices of the Badr Organisation headquarters in Jaderiyah, Baghdad on Oct 08 and reports indicated that the Iraqi police carried out arrest operations in the eastern and northern areas of Baghdad, using photographs of alleged protestors in order to identify them. Also on Oct 08, Iraq's Ministry of Health revealed in a statement that 165 people were killed during the one week of protests. A source from the Ministry told Iraqi media reports that the majority of the victims were protesters, while part of them were security personnel. The statistics came while the situation has partially been normalised in Iraq, after nearly 6000 others were also wounded during the demonstrations. However, other media outlets claim that 180 people had died and over 7000 injured. The most fatal city was Baghdad with a total of 57 killed, 1000 wounded of whom 205 are in a critical condition. Other sources claim over 60 fatalities, 3000 wounded and over 300 detained. Meanwhile, security restrictions that were imposed on the 02 October were lifted around Baghdad's IZ.

Iraq's Parliament sat for the first time since the violent demonstrations erupted, with more than 200 parliamentarians attending an extraordinary session called by speaker Mohammed al-Halbousi, defying expectations that they would not meet quorum. MPs hosted several ministers to discuss the demonstrations, which erupted one week ago in Baghdad before spreading to the country's south. The session followed a failed attempt on Oct 05, when parliament's largest bloc, including the 54 MPs led by cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, boycotted the session. PM Mahdi held marathon meetings with Halbousi, the cabinet, tribal chiefs, and the country's top justice over the demonstrations, with his office's statements insisting life had "returned to normal" after a week of bloody demonstrations. It remains to be seen whether Halbousi and PM Mahdi's suggestions will be enough to appease protesters, who have repeatedly said they had "nothing left to lose" and scoffed at overtures by political and religious figures. Elsewhere media speculation indicated that Gen. Qasim Soleimani, Commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), had arrived in Baghdad days earlier to personally manage the crisis. One media outlet claimed that on Soleimani's orders, "Iraqi security leaders were excluded from (dealing with the protests), the internet was blocked, most local journalists covering the demonstrations were threatened and some local and Arabic satellite TV stations were set on fire." However, it is unlikely that the ISF would cede operational command to the IRGC to deal with an Iraqi national problem.

On October 09, internet outages again limited the scope of reporting on the protests, however the consensus was that the intensity of the early demonstrations had calmed down and the main area of focus was now Sadr City, as Tahrir Square had reopened. The Prime Minister also announced three days of mourning on October 10, for victims of the protests with ISF maintaining a heavy presence in the vicinity of the International Zone CPs 1 & 2. Meanwhile, the seven-day deadline that protestors had issued the government to offer some meaningful reforms passed on October 11 with only minor protest activity in Tahrir Square and other districts of Baghdad. However, it is yet to be seen if continued bickering within the government over the reshuffle of heads of ministries as part of the government's reforms plan in light of the recent violence across the country will reignite protestor anger. It is likely that there will be further disruptions.

Finally, the government announced that the internet service has been wholly restored across Iraq as at October 11, evidenced by the service continuing throughout the night and into this morning (October 12). It had been anticipated that there would be internet restrictions in place during the weekend, however this has not now materialised. On Oct 08, Iraq reimposed internet blockage nationwide, following a few hours of partially lifting the block amid nationwide unrest. The Iraqi authorities originally cut off internet services on Oct 02 one day after the outbreak of nationwide protests against corruption and unemployment. Despite this, any further outbreak of violent protests could see a reimposition of the block.

IS takes credit for creating Iraq protest conditions

Islamic State group (IS) has claimed credit for helping create the economic conditions which have led to protests in Iraq against the government, while also seeing advantages for the Sunni jihadist group in the ongoing unrest. The editorial of the latest edition of the group's weekly Arabic-language newspaper al-Naba focused on the protests which began on Oct 01 over corruption, unemployment and poor services, leading to the deaths of over 100 people.

Al-Naba argued that the economic cost of the Iraqi government's battle to defeat IS had saddled it with debt and pushed it to the brink of bankruptcy, causing successive governments to lose the support of the Shia populace because of their failure to provide services. It linked the costs of Iraq's war against IS directly with the fall of the governments of Nouri al-Maliki in 2014 and Haidar al-Abbadi in 2018 and indirectly with the protests against the current government of Adel Abdel Mahdi. The article played down the ability of the mainly Shia protestors to bring down the government but predicted that they would further weaken the government and lead to a deteriorating situation that would distract security forces from their "war with the Sunni people". The IS editorial, published on Oct 10, saw it as positive that the protests appeared to be driving divisions within Shia ranks and turning ordinary Iraqi Shia Muslims against Iran and foresaw that the protests would help pave the way for a future Sunni resurgence in Iraq.

Earlier reaction from jihadists online had also focused on the way Iran had become the target of some of the protestors' anger, with some hoping the demonstrations would curb Iranian influence in Iraq. Jihadists had mostly factually shared news of the protests, in particular information about the rising death toll and videos purporting to show security forces violently quelling the unrest. In the previous edition of al-Naba, released on Oct 03, IS factually reported on the protests in the publication's low-profile "events of the week" section, saying they represented "the latest in a series of domestic crises rocking the government". That report focused on the death toll and the government's security measures such as cutting of internet access and imposing a curfew.

Iraqi military reinforcements for the southern provinces in readiness for Arba'een

A number of military units have arrived in a number of southern provinces to reinforce existing security forces in readiness for Arba'een, according to an unnamed Iraqi official. The military will be deployed to support the Central Furat Operations, which has overall responsibility for Karbala, Najaf and several other southern cities. The official stated that the new units being redistributed across the southern provinces will aid current ISF units to implement the security that has been created in readiness for Arba'een.

Latest phase of Anti-IS operation launched by the Iraqi military

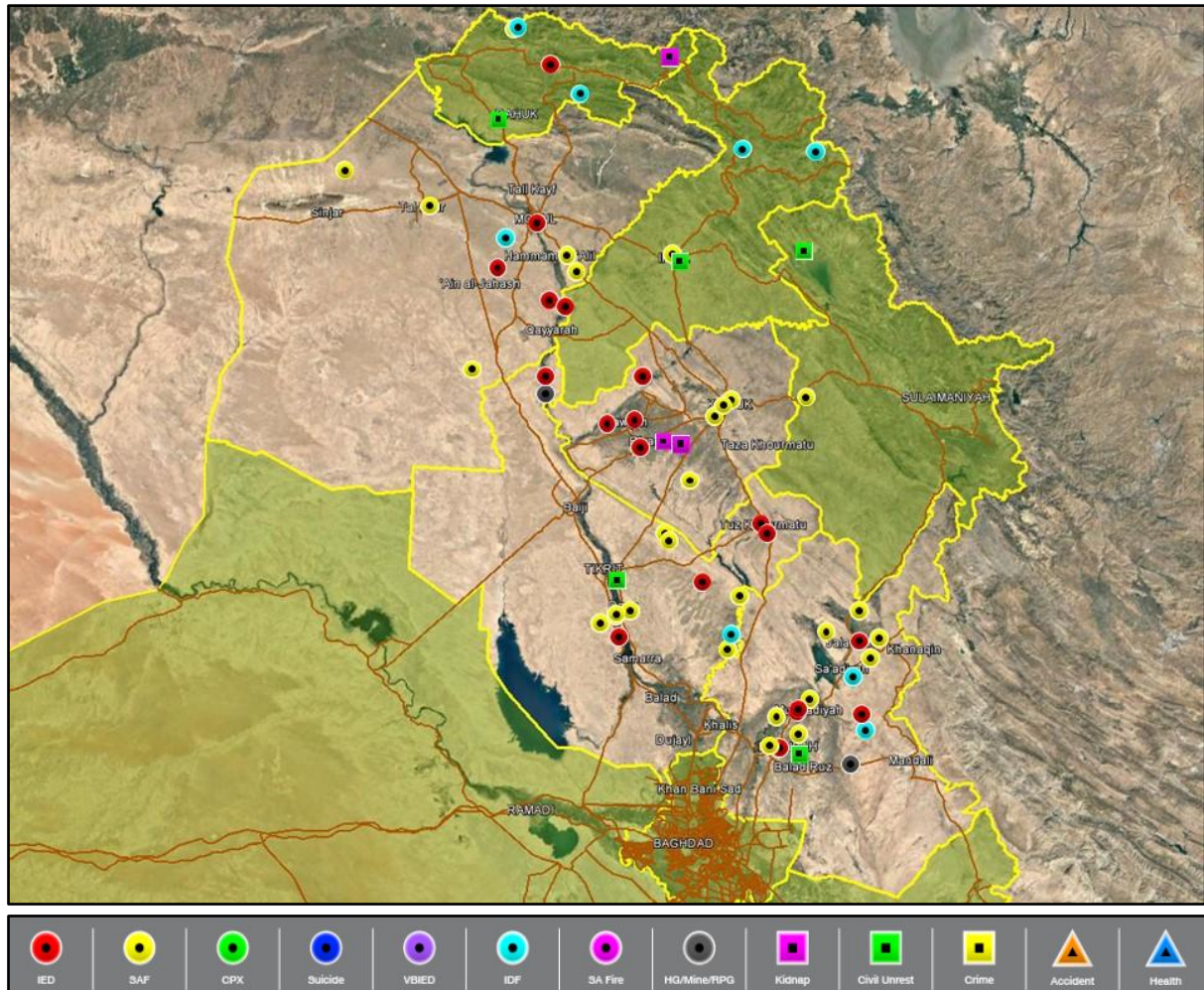
In a break away from focusing on the current protests sweeping parts of the country, the Joint Operations Command has announced the next phase of the anti-IS operation 'Will of Victory.' This latest phase, which was launched on October 06, is re-focusing operations in Anbar, Salah-al-Din and Kirkuk provinces. The ISF had previously carried out multiple operations in Diyala province, finding weapons caches, clearing IEDs and engaging in firefights with IS cells in order to provide security across the region. The last operation took place around Karbala, Najaf and the southern areas of Anbar, which was likely to be related to securing that region prior to the Arba'een commemorations that are due to start October 19. The Iraqi military has stated that all arms of the Iraqi security forces will take part in the latest phase, including the PMFs. They did not offer information on whether the US-led Coalition would be providing air support, as they have done since the inception of the 'Will of Victory' operation.

Turkish military incursion in Syria underway

International news outlets are reporting that Turkey began its incursion into northeastern Syria on the afternoon of October 09, carrying out a military offensive to create a "safe zone", essentially removing the Syrian-Kurdish fighters from the border area next to Turkey. So far, there has been at least five deaths and 25 injured due to Turkish bombardments of several towns in northeastern Syria, including Ras al-Ain. The military action came about because of the withdrawal of US forces in northeastern Syria, which left the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) without any political or military protection from a Turkish assault. The SDF later branded the move by the US a "stab in the back" and forewarned of an imminent Turkish incursion should the American forces leave. The US President, Donald Trump, made the order to withdraw US forces from the area over a number of issues that included the amount of money it was costing the US to operate in some of these conflicts, as well as frustrations over other Western states' lack of eagerness to take back their citizens who have been accused of being IS fighters who are currently residing in Kurdish-run prisons in Syria. The European Union, United Nations and others have called for a de-escalation, stating that any military action will exacerbate an already fraught region. The Arab League also weighed in, claiming that an invasion would be a "blatant violation of Syria's sovereignty and threatens Syria's

integrity.” Turkish forces, supported by rebel groups such as the Free Syrian Army (FSA), plan to create a buffer zone for the return of Syrian refugees who are living in Turkey.



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

Turkey's "Operation Claw" has continued this week with the main focus against PKK targets in Dohuk province. Turkish jets targeted suspected PKK vehicles in Mangesh sub-district on Oct 06, resulting in two PKK militants killed. Also on Oct 06, Turkish aircraft carried an airstrike on suspected PKK positions in the vicinity of the village Hizanke in Amedi district, north of Dohuk although no casualties were reported. In Sulaymaniyah, the Turkish Defence Ministry reported on Oct 07 that they killed a senior PKK commander. Ayfer Kordu was believed to be the head of the female branch of the PKK and was killed in an intelligence-led operation involving Turkish aircraft. On Oct 08, nine PKK militants were killed in a joint operation involving the Turkish military and Turkish intelligence agencies that was carried out in the Hakurk and Haftanin regions in Erbil and Dohuk provinces.

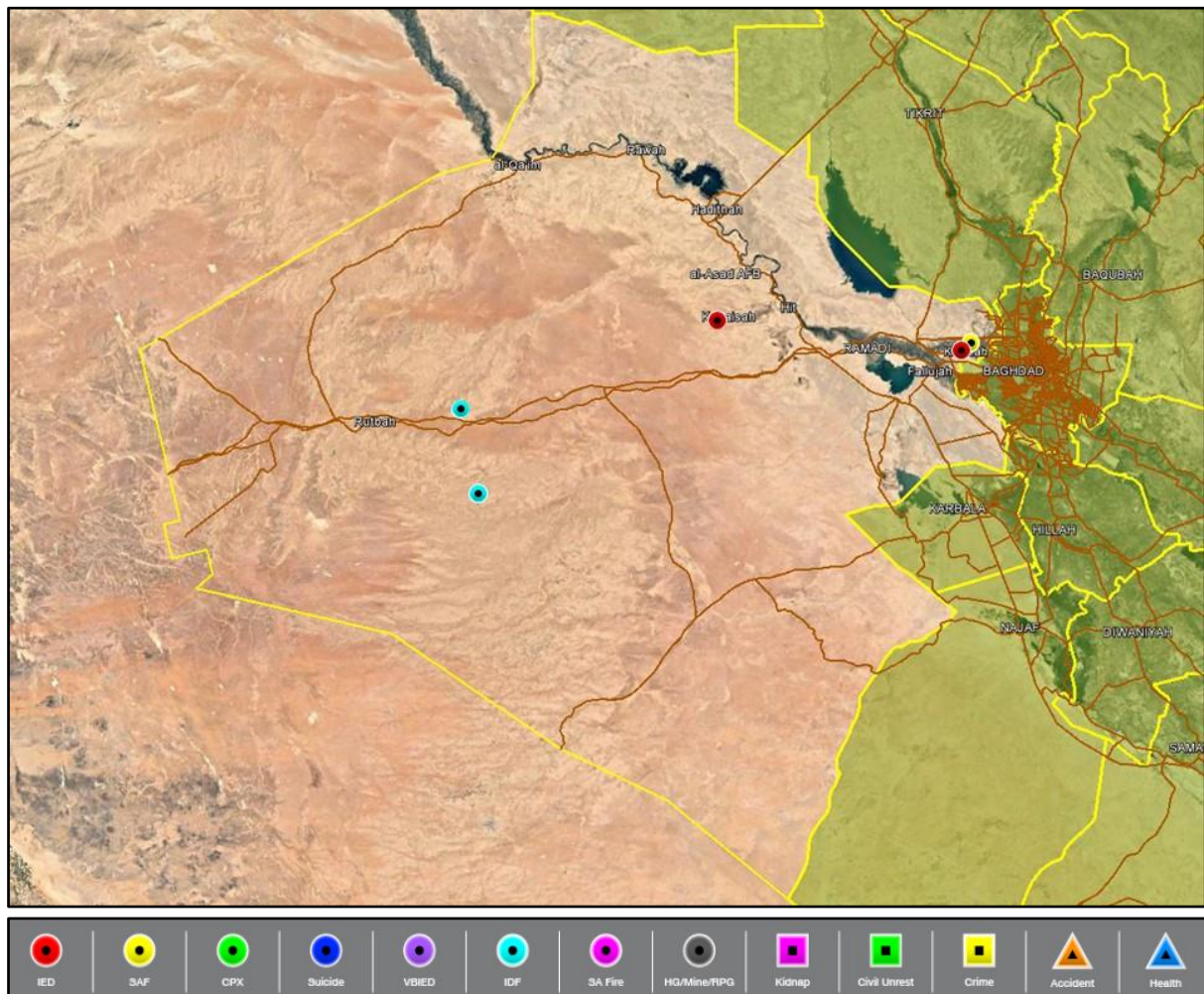
Incident patterns in the northern region remained consistent with established trends and as such no significant changes were noted this week in the overall situation. In Nineveh province, an IED detonated in Qabr Al Abd village, Hammam Al Alil sub-district, however no casualties were reported. One ISF member was killed and two others were wounded in a road-side IED detonation against a local police patrol in the village of Qabr al-Abid in Hammam al-Alil sub-district, south of Mosul and one civilian was killed and a second wounded when an IED detonated in the al-Ma'ash area in Tal Afar district, 70 km west of Mosul. During a security operation on the Syria-

Iraq border on Oct 07, ISF fired upon several IS members, killing one member and arresting six others and at least five members of the PKK were killed by an airstrike in Sihela, near the Syrian border on October 07.

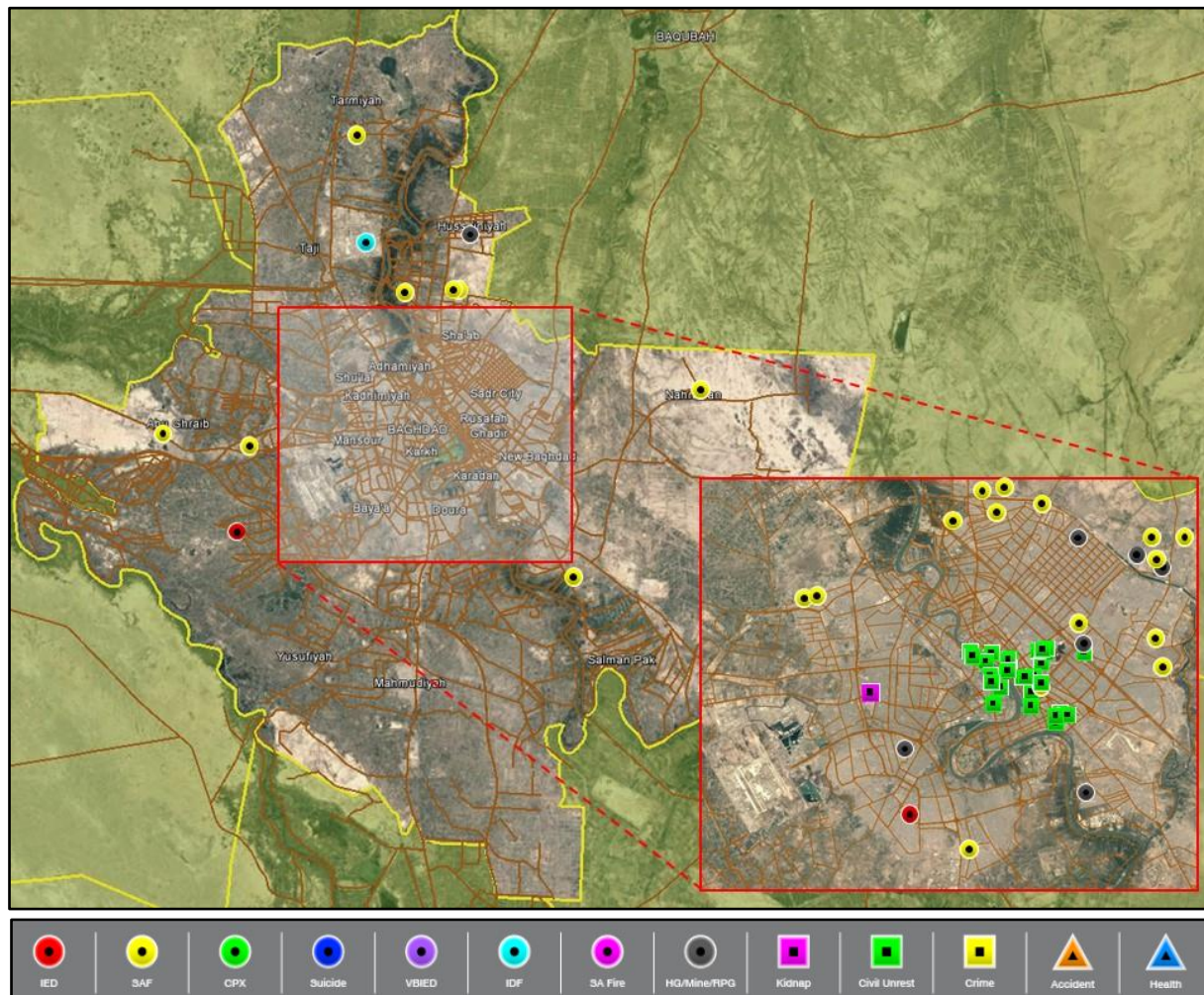
A relatively uneventful reporting period was recorded in Kirkuk province, characterised by a number of successful ISF arrest and clearance operations, however on Oct 08, a detachment of the CTS, supported by Coalition aircraft, reportedly killed seven IS militants and destroyed several tunnels, hideouts, IEDs and explosive vests in an operation in Daquq district. Also on Oct 08, IS gunmen detonated multiple IEDs against a house that belonged to a police officer in Makhmour district. No further details were obtained. Unconfirmed reports also indicated that IS gunmen beheaded five cattle herders at an unspecified location on the road that links between the Turkmen-majority Kumbetler and al-Fat'ha villages in Yaychi sub-district, north west of Kirkuk.

In Salah al-Din, relatively low levels of hostile activity were observed and reporting overall dominated by ISF operations concentrated north of Baiji and along the eastern border areas near Diyala province. However, on Oct 08, several IS members near the Alaas oilfield reportedly shot at the ISF, causing material damage only and IS fighters shot at an ISF checkpoint in the Muatibjah area, wounding two officers.

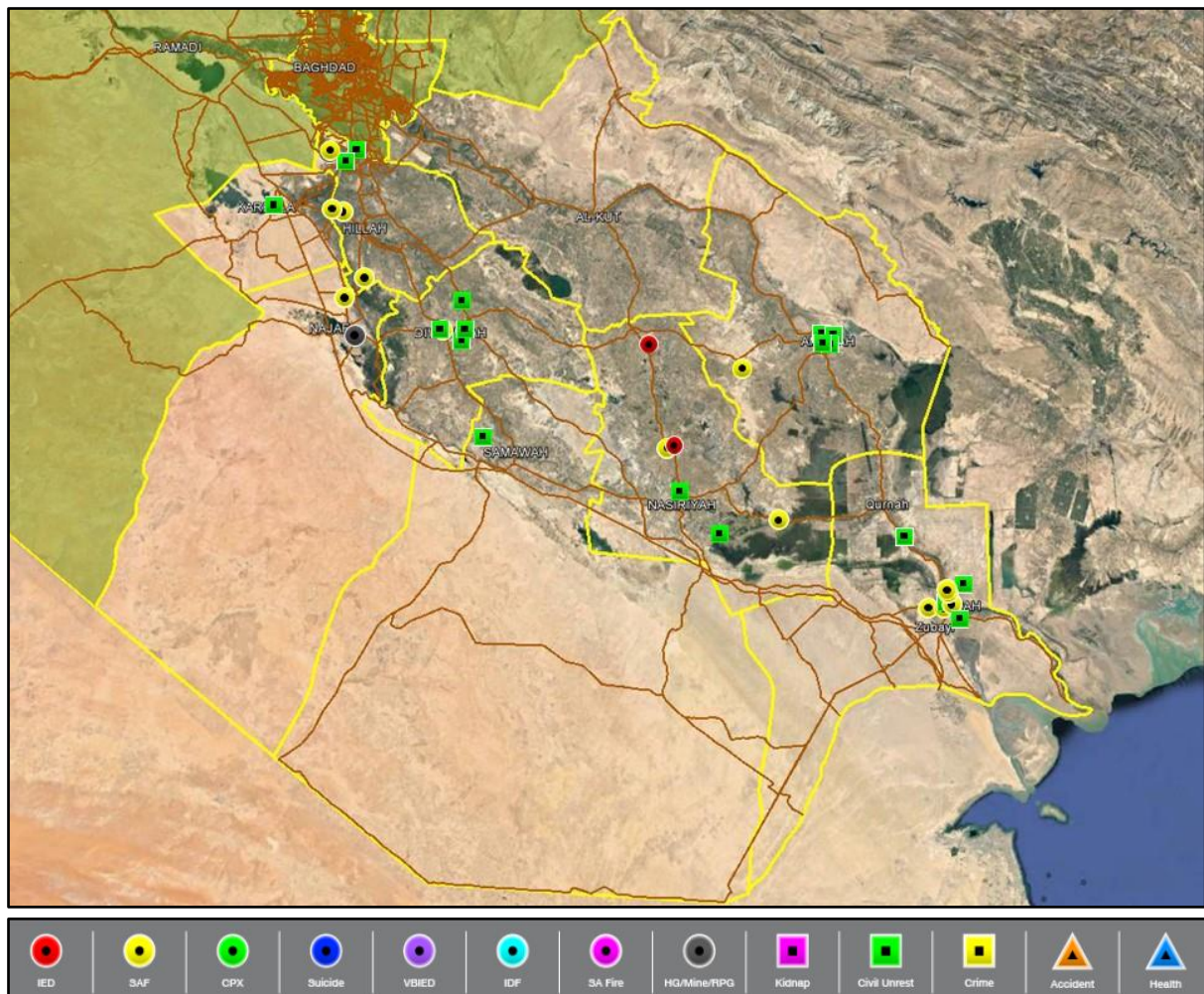
Diyala province remains unstable with high levels of activity recorded again this week. Following patterns seen in previous weeks, attacks attributable to low-level insurgency, tribal tensions and local disputes, were again recorded on a near daily basis in the Diyala River Valley, including SAF and occasional IDF targeting civilians and residential areas. Two mortars reportedly impacted in a village of Buhriz sub-district, south of Baqubah on Oct 07, without causing casualties and IS militants in Khanaqin district fired on an ISF checkpoint, killing one ISF member. Several IS fighters in the Mandali subdistrict also reportedly shot at an ISF checkpoint, wounding two ISF members and a Coalition airstrike in the Himreen Mountains killed two IS fighters and destroyed an IS location. Finally, on October 09, two ISF members were wounded when a booby-trapped device detonated inside a house during a security operation in the village of Beblan, north of Muqadiyah and an IED detonated against a civilian vehicle in the outskirts of Balad Ruz district towards the al-Nida and Karkush areas in eastern Diyala province, no casualties were reported.

Anbar Province

Activity in Anbar province this week has been dominated by search and clear operations by ISF. On Oct 06, an ISF operation in Fallujah district found and cleared one IED and another operation in the Albu Khamis area found and cleared 12 IEDs. Other notable finds this week included an ISF operation in Hit district which found and cleared 33 IEDs. An ISF operation in the Tamim area found and cleared 58 IEDs and ISF arrested two individuals in the Albu Jelaib area on terrorism charges. An ISF operation in the Albu Khamis area found and cleared 16 IEDs and another operation in the Albu Khalifa area found and cleared five 81mm mortar rounds. Finally, on October 11, ISF arrested 18 IS suspects in a security operation in Karma district in eastern Anbar province.

Capital Region (Including Baghdad City)

The reporting period was dominated by ongoing violent protests in central Baghdad city. A timeline of these incidents is included within the security paragraph at page 7 of this report. Protests aside, low-level violence has continued and confined to less affluent areas in the city that are characterised by high levels of violence and tensions. On Oct 07, gunmen in the Hurriyah area shot and killed one civilian and a hand grenade detonated in front of a civilian's house in the Saydia area, causing material damage only. On Oct 09 a gunman in the Sheikh Omar area shot and killed one civilian and a hand grenade detonated in front of the An-Nahar News office in the Sadoun area, wounding one ISF member. Several gunmen in the Shula area also reportedly shot at a civilian's house and then threw a hand grenade, causing material damage. In the wider belts area, activity was characterised by low-level criminal and tribally motivated violence with at least five people killed in Za'faraniyah district. A hand grenade detonated in front of a civilian's house in the Hussainiya area, wounding one person and ISF arrested one individual in Tarmiyah district on terrorism charges.

Southern Provinces

The overall situation in the southern region has reflected that of Baghdad with violent demonstrations recorded during the start of the reporting period but tapering off towards the end of the week. Wasit province saw at least two protestors killed by ISF in Kut city on Oct 07 and Oct 10 during protests which saw up to 800 civilians in attendance. In Babel, a violent protest was reported IVO governorate building in Hillah city with the facility later being set on fire by protestors. 400 civilians also demonstrated in Qasim district, demanding government reforms, anti-corruption efforts, employment opportunities and an increase in basic services on Oct 06. On Oct 06, hundreds of demonstrators congregated in central Najaf with Police stating that they dispersed groups of protestors in the 20th Revolution Square, using physical force and tear gas. Demonstrators set fire to the provincial building.

In Diwaniya demonstrations involving thousands of people were reported in Diwaniyah city during the week, as violent clashes occurred between demonstrators and security forces in the vicinity of the provincial government compound. Protesters subsequently stormed the Provincial Council, resulting in the killing of two civilians and one security member and wounding 64 others including 40 ISF members. The ISF announced a curfew in Diwaniyah as of 1300 hrs on October 05 until further notice. A detachment of the CTS arrived in the province to provide security. Two bodyguards of a member of the provincial council were arrested for shooting at protestors, however no further details were obtained. On Oct 07, another demonstrator was killed, and 10 others were wounded in the al-Oruba district in Diwaniyah city, as the security forces opened fire to disperse the crowds who tried to enter the provincial government building. During the demonstrations, it was reported that 49 civilians and three ISF members were injured.

In Dhi Qar on October 04, two civilians were killed, and 31 others wounded including four police members in clashes between ISF and protestors erupted near the governorate building in Nasiriyah city, as protestors reportedly attempted to storm the facility, a curfew was later imposed by the ISF. People also demonstrated in the al-Fajer sub-district, Qalat Sukkar, north of Nasiriyah, demanding reforms and improved services. Several protestors stormed the local council building in Rifa'i district, north of Nasiriyah. Clashes erupted between ISF and demonstrators in the vicinity. On Oct 05, 14 demonstrators including three ISF members were reportedly wounded in a riot in Nasiriyah city and offices belonging to the Iraqi Communist Party were set alight by protestors, as were the offices of the PMU faction Saraya al-Khorasan. The Hikma Front, the State of Law (Dawa) party, the al-Fadhila Islamic Party, the Badr Organization, Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq and Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq were also set on fire. It was reported that security guards of the Badr office in Nasiriyah city opened fire on demonstrators as approached building to prevent the protestors from entering. Twenty-seven civilians and seven ISF members were wounded.

In Muthanna on October 04, a protest was reported in Rumaitha district, north of Samawah, on the main route that links between Samawah and Rumaitha Hwy-8. Eyewitnesses reported that protestors set tyres alights, restricting access to the highway and reportedly threatened to stop operations of the Chinese firm ZPEC at the facility if job opportunities were not provided. Over 100 civilians also demonstrated in Darraji subdistrict, demanding government reforms, anti-corruption efforts, employment opportunities and improved services. On the same day, 2500 civilians demonstrated in Samawa.

In Basra, on October 04, approximately 1000 civilians demonstrated in the Qurna area, demanding government reforms, anti-corruption efforts, employment opportunities and improved services. On October 06, between 200 and 300 protestors gathered on the Rumaila oil concession to protest over pay. The incident passed off without incident. On October 04, 1000 civilians demonstrated in the Qurna area. On the same day, several unidentified gunman in Abu Sakhair area shot and killed one civilian. Unidentified gunmen in al-Faw district shot and killed one civilian. On October 05, the chairman of a local council in the al-Bahhar sub-district, al-Faw, was reportedly killed by SAF. The motive for the killing is not known. Finally, on October 08, approximately 500 civilians demonstrated in the Ma'qil area, demanding government reforms.

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
GoI - 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	

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