



Weekly Iraq .Xplored report

28 December 2019

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Iraq

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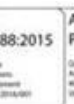
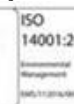


TABLE OF CONTENTS

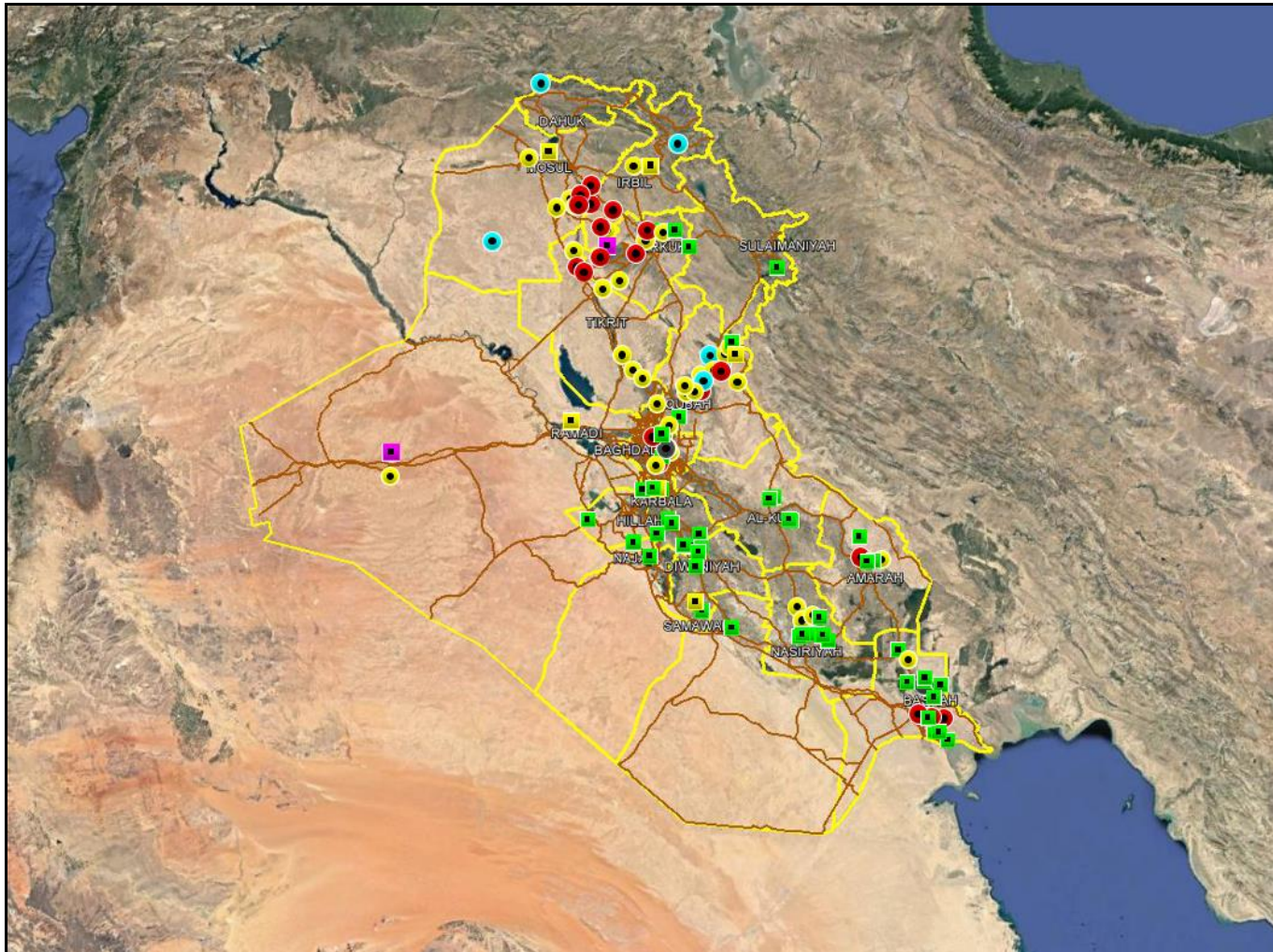
TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
ACTIVITY MAP	3
OUTLOOK	4
Short term outlook	4
Medium to long term outlook	4
SIGNIFICANT EVENTS	5
Protests Update	5
Iraqi President threatens to quit rather than nominate Al-Eidani as the next PM	5
THREAT MATRIX	5
OVERVIEW	6
Civil unrest update	6
Political	6
WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT	9
Countrywide Military/Security Situation	9
ACRONYM LIST	17
GARDAWORLD INFORMATION SERVICES	18
GARDAWORLD	18

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ACTIVITY MAP



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OUTLOOK**Short term outlook**

- Fatal demonstrations that occurred throughout the country since they started on 1 October 2019 have to date left well over 500 people dead and at least 21,000 injured according to the Iraqi Human Rights Commission. The lack of clarity concerning the nomination of the new Prime Minister is prolonging the protests, whilst the demonstrators are unwilling to consider any of the proposed candidates. Kidnappings and assassinations of people associated with the protest movement continued unabated over the course of the week, despite international condemnation. The southern provinces had previously saw the worst of the violence and this was a factor in the Prime Minister submitting his resignation to Parliament, however the intensity of the violence has tapered off somewhat over recent weeks. The burning down of the Iranian Consulate resulted in a severe crackdown by security forces and led to violence spreading across the southern provinces. Iraq had previously descended into violence on 25 October 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, it was clear that the demonstrator's anger was focused not only on the government, both national and provincial, but also the various Shia militias or the Popular Mobilisation Units as they are known. Several PMU headquarters were attacked and set on fire, with protestors accusing them of being aligned to Iran and of firing on the crowds during the previous round of protests which began on October 01. At the time of this report, protestors have attempted to enter the International Zone (IZ) on a daily basis, in order to carry out a long-term sit-in protest outside the Parliament building in the IZ, although so far, they have not succeeded in breaching ISF defences. Related protests have been reported in Najaf and Wasit provinces and a number of government buildings, political party offices, and PMU headquarters have been set on fire. Meanwhile, the government has proposed reform packages, however the protestors appear unimpressed and the likelihood of the reforms being successfully implemented looks slim. In the short term, violent demonstrations in Baghdad and the south will continue with more loss of life expected, even with the announcement that the Prime Minister will be replaced.
- 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 November 27 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.

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

Protests Update

Protests continued throughout the week as the political situation remains tense. The Fatah alliance had begun the week by pressing ahead with trying to get the nomination of the current Minister for Higher Education, Qusay al-Suhail, for the Prime Minister's position. The protestors' anger gradually increased and Fatah, who believe themselves to be the largest political bloc and therefore qualified to nominate the next PM. Once it became clear that al-Suhail's proposed about was going to be untenable, the al-Bina alliance, of which Fatah is a member, stepped in to announce that they are to offer Asaad al-Eidani, the Governor of Basra, as its pick for the top job. Protests continue across the southern provinces, the capital city and to a lesser extent, Kirkuk and Diyala provinces.

Iraqi President threatens to quit rather than nominate Al-Eidani as the next PM

The political disruption continues in Iraq as its President, Barham Salih, has threatened to resign over the decision by the al-Bina Coalition to press ahead with attempting to push through the contentious nomination of the current Governor of Basra province, Asaad al-Eidani. The President released a letter to Parliament, in which he stated that in order "to avoid more bloodshed and maintain peace" he is refusing to allow the nomination of al-Eidani for the post of Prime Minister. He went on to say that whilst he understands that his decision may be interpreted as a violation of the constitution, he will allow MPs to decide whether they should accept his resignation. The pro-Iranian al-Bina Coalition, led by the Fatah alliance, had put forward al-Eidani after Fatah's previous nominee, Qusay al-Suhail, was roundly rejected by protestors, who have been calling for a removal of the current political system. Al-Eidani's nomination, like al-Suhail's, has been contentious due to al-Eidani's crushing of protests in Basra last year and this latest nomination only serves to highlight the gulf between what the politicians see as the solution and the current issues and what the protestors are demanding. Various news outlets initially reported that the Iraqi President had quit, something which turned out to be premature. Like with Abdul Mahdi's offer to resign, there is some way to go before there's another resignation of a top-level government official.

THREAT MATRIX

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

Civil unrest update

Protests continued throughout the week as the political situation remains tense. The Fatah alliance had began the week by pressing ahead with trying to get the nomination of the current Minister for Higher Education, Qusay al-Suhail, for the Prime Minister's position. The protestors' anger gradually increased and Fatah, who believe themselves to be the largest political bloc and therefore qualified to nominate the next PM. Once it became clear that al-Suhail's proposed about was going to be untenable, the al-Bina alliance, of which Fatah is a member, stepped in to announce that they are to offer Asaad al-Eidani, the Governor of Basra, as its pick for the top job. Al-Eidani's nomination is controversial, as some point to his failings during his time as the Governor as reason enough to disregard his candidacy. This comes against the backdrop of yet more targeted assassinations and kidnappings, and the subsequent death of an activist who died several days after being targeted by an UVIED helped to fuel additional protestors, particularly in Diwaniya. Protests continue across the southern provinces, the capital city and to a lesser extent, Kirkuk and Diyala provinces.

Political**Iraqi President threatens to quit rather than nominate Al-Eidani as the next PM**

The political disruption continues in Iraq as its President, Barham Salih, has threatened to resign over the decision by the al-Bina Coalition to press ahead with attempting to push through the contentious nomination of the current Governor of Basra province, Asaad al-Eidani. The President released a letter to Parliament, in which he stated that in order "to avoid more bloodshed and maintain peace" he is refusing to allow the nomination of al-Eidani for the post of Prime Minister. He went on to say that whilst he understands that his decision may be interpreted as a violation of the constitution, he will allow MPs to decide whether they should accept his resignation. The pro-Iranian al-Bina Coalition, led by the Fatah alliance, had put forward al-Eidani after Fatah's previous nominee, Qusay al-Suhail, was roundly rejected by protestors, who have been calling for a removal of the current political system. Al-Eidani's nomination, like al-Suhail's, has been contentious due to al-Eidani's crushing of protests in Basra last year and this latest nomination only serves to highlight the gulf between what the politicians see as the solution and the current issues and what the protestors are demanding. Various news outlets initially reported that the Iraqi President had quit, something which turned out to be premature. Like with Abdul Mahdi's offer to resign, there is some way to go before there's another resignation of a top-level government official.

Protesters reject Al-Bina coalition candidate for the PM position

On December 26, protestors gathered on key squares in Baghdad, Basra and other significant southern provinces to reject the Al-Bina coalition's candidate for the Prime Minister's position. This is the second time in a week that Al-Bina's nomination has been rejected after the party had previously nominated the current Minister for Higher Education, Qusay al-Suhail earlier this week. During the recent protests, demonstrators rejected the nomination of Asaad Al-Eidani, who is the current Basra governor. The Al-Bina coalition is led by Hadi al-Amiri, the Secretary General of the Badr organisation (a prominent PMU with strong links to Iran) and the former PM, Nuri al-Maliki, who is the head of the State of Law Coalition. The coalition is seen to have a strong allegiance to Iran, something of which is not in favour with the protestors. Furthermore, protestors have stated that they will continue to reject any candidate who has previously worked in the government, thereby, precluding both above-mentioned nominations. Meanwhile, a single source report (NRT) rumoured that the Sairoon alliance, led by Iraqi Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, had also nominated four candidates on December 25. This is despite the Sairoon Alliance stating that they would not be nominating any candidates as they had stated that It should be left up to the people to select their PM. If the article is correct, the Sairoon Alliance have put forward four names including; Ahmed Karim Hamd Ajbawi, Rafid Abdulrahim Nu'man Aaraji, Saad Ghali Kazim Tamimi, and Ghazwan Yasir Minjel Shablawi, for their nomination.

Iraq's Iranian backed groups show disdain towards the President over PM post

Increased tension is developing between the President and several political groups within Iraq due to his unwillingness to authorise the candidacy of the Asaad al-Eidani, nominated by the Fatah alliance. President Salih said in a statement issued by his office that he would not name al-Eidani, the governor of Basra province as the next PM, stating "to avoid more bloodshed and in order to safeguard civil peace". This statement was released after protesters expressed their disdain for the candidate. Furthermore, the statement was shortly followed by an offer from the President to step down from his position; an offer which yet has not been ratified. Response to President Salih's actions has not been met kindly by parties in support of Fatah alliance. Media outlets such as AP News have reported statements made by the Hezbollah Brigades and Kataeb Hezbollah, criticising Salih's move and claiming his actions are "suspicious" whilst adding that he "violated the constitution by refusing to carry out his duties by naming the person who was chosen by the parliament's largest bloc". A further statement by the Hezbollah Brigades (according to AP News) stated the Brigade as saying, "We know he is carrying out an American will that aim[s] to pull the country towards chaos". Legislator Odai Awad, a member of the Iran-backed Asaib Ahl al-Haq or League of the Righteous, described Salih in an interview with a local TV station as a 'coward' and said, "every Iraqi should spit in the face of the president for what he did". Lastly, a sign of a deeper division forming within Iraq is the absence of Iraq's most powerful religious authority, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani and his usual Friday address. No reason was given for his absence, instead his representative, Ahmed al-Safi, gave only a religious sermon.

Former PM Abadi: an interim government is needed

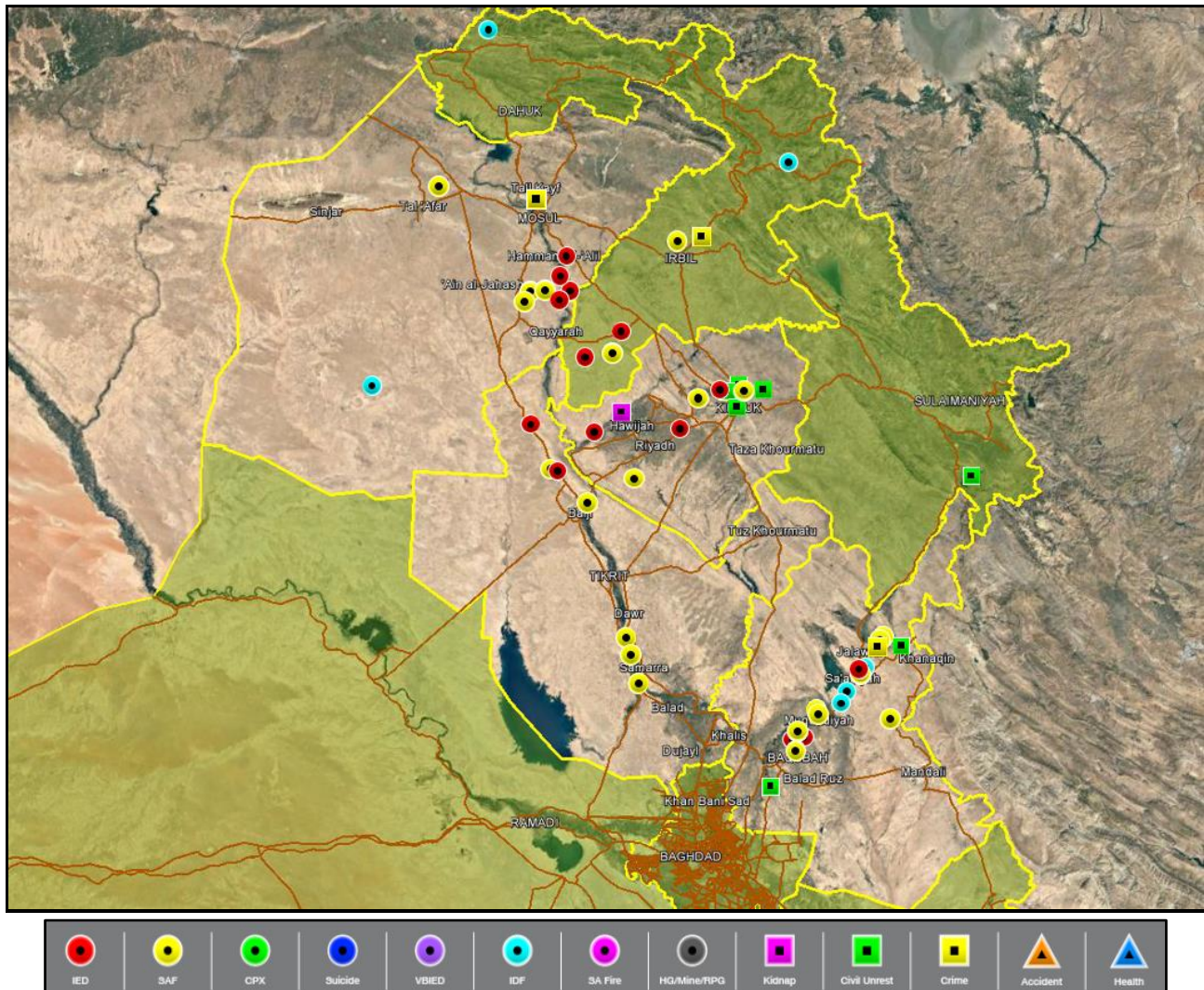
The former Prime Minister, Haider al-Abadi, has stated that an interim government is a way out of the current quagmire that is currently affecting the country. The Nasr alliance, that al-Abadi leads, has said that they have a viable roadmap that has been submitted, one that is free from political interference and would involve dissolving the current cabinet. This is one of the core demands which the general public have been protesting. The alliance believes that it could run the country until an agreement is reached between the various parties on the subject of an early election. Whilst the Nasr alliance have been promoting their version of a suitable candidate to lead an interim government, Asaib Ahl al-Haq is currently pushing for the Iraqi President, Barham Salih, to be removed from his position due to allegations of corruption. Media reports state that AAH have been canvassing other MPs for signatures to oust the President for allegedly violating the constitution through his failure to nominate a candidate to succeed Abdul Mahdi.

Leading candidate rejected by protestors as second deadline to nominate the PM is missed

On December 22, thousands of protestors reportedly gathered throughout several cities across Iraq as the latest deadline to nominate a Prime Minister passed without a resolution. Nasiriyah saw the most intense activity, as protestors blocked off traffic on the city's major bridges, leading to the local authorities to announce a public holiday for government officials on the same day. Protestors stated that they reject the nomination for the candidacy of Qusay al-Suhail, who has been put forward by the Fatah alliance and further disruption has been promised by the demonstrators should Fatah push through the nomination. The initial protests in Nasiriyah were sparked by the assassination of a civil activist on December 20, which follows a spate of abductions and kidnappings of civilians associated with the protest movement. Further demonstrations took place in Muthanna, as protestors took to the streets in Kut and forced people to stop working and return to their homes. Protestors also closed the entrance to the University of Muthanna in Samawah district. In Basra, riot police were deployed across several areas in order to prevent large gatherings of people after several groups blocked a number of roads.

Iraq passes its electoral law, challenges remain

Parliament held a session on December 24 where MPs finally approved the draft electoral law reforms. The amendment has removed the need to vote for candidates who are grouped together along party lines and is now replaced by a system where voters can choose individual candidates, which is seen as an attempt to reduce the influence of political alliances and parties. Whilst some might see this as a significant achievement by Parliament, the amendment has caused some Kurdish parties to state that the changes to the electoral law will negatively impact the influence of the Kurdish voting power in the disputed territories. Protesters in Tahrir Square overnight also criticised the amendment, stating that it might not work as initially planned.

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

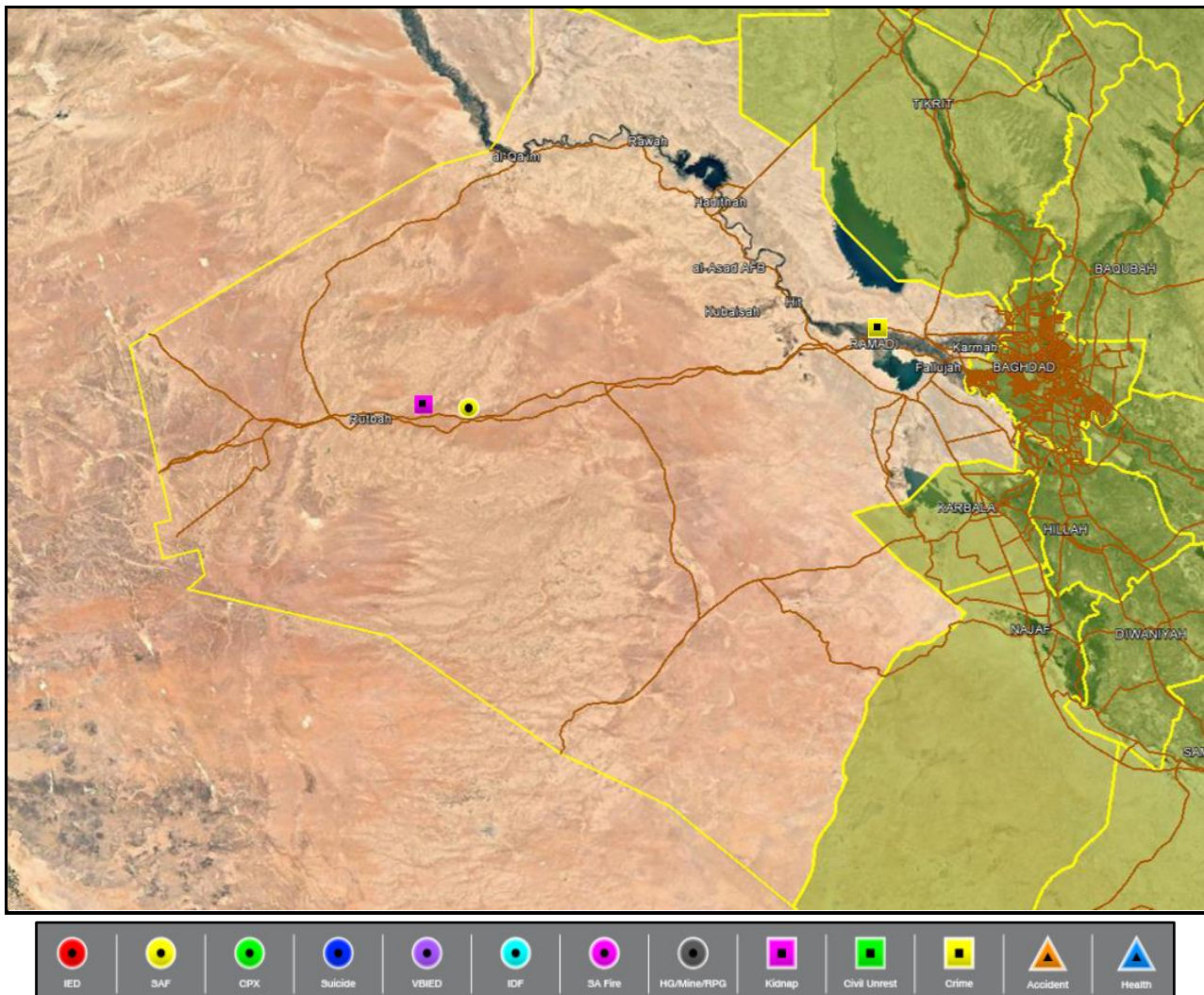
Across Erbil throughout the reporting period, Turkish airstrikes struck at three PKK targets in Drabi and Qandil mountains, although details on casualties have not been released. On December 20, families of martyrs and victims of the Anfal campaign staged protests in Halabja and Kalar against a draft reform bill that would affect pensions, allowances, and salaries in the Kurdistan Region. Finally, on December 24 a roadside IED detonated on ISF members in Makhmour district, killing two and wounding three.

In Nineveh province, a series of successful anti-IS operations took place across the area, codenamed 'Ali Wali Allah' and the aim was to eliminate IS cells. Several weapons caches, tunnel complexes and hideouts, resulting in the deaths of a number of ISF and IS fighters. The village of Hammam al-Alil, south of Mosul, witnessed heavy fighting, including SAF and IDF attacks by IS on ISF checkpoints and patrols. Finally, the ISF arrested groups of militants on terrorism charges.

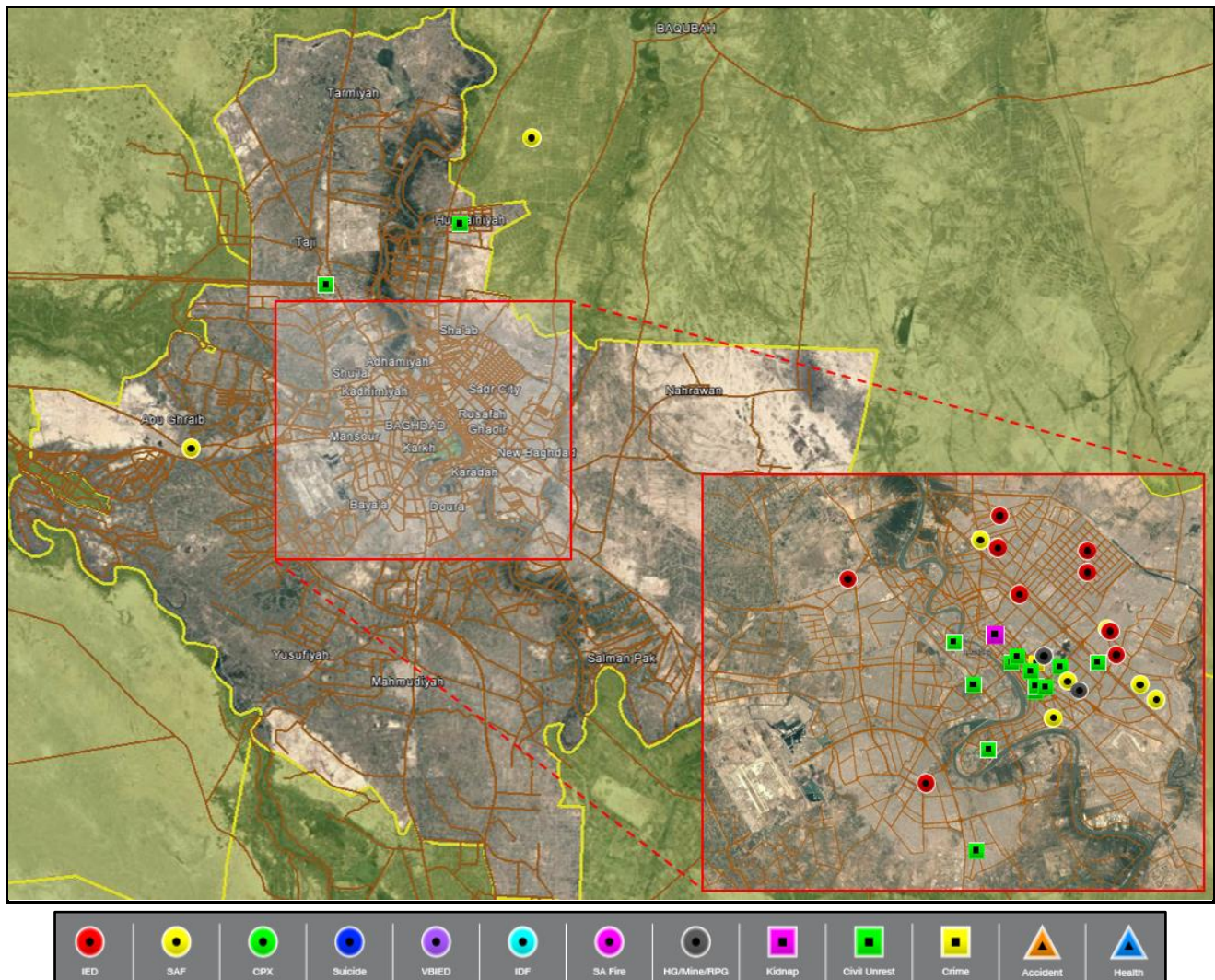
In Kirkuk, the most prominent incident occurred on December 27, when several rounds of IDF hit the K1 military base, resulting in one US defence contractor being killed and several more injured; some of which included US and Iraqi military personnel. IS activity remained high, as Peshmerga and local tribal fighter, backed by the ISF, pushed back against an attempt by IS to infiltrate several villages in the vicinity of Makhmour district. The ISF carried out clearance operations in the area as well, finding and subsequently destroying weapons caches. Meanwhile, protests took place in Kirkuk city as hundreds of temporary teachers and graduates demonstrated outside the Education Directorate, demanding employment. Finally, IS gunmen attacked a security outpost manned by Sunni tribesmen with SAF and grenades, resulting in two security members being killed.

In Salah-al-Din, the Energy Police managed to intercept and subsequently kill a suicide bomber in the Siniyah subdistrict of Baiji, as he attempted to target a security post. Security forces were killed by IS cells across the province, as activity levels remained high, and the ISF carried out a number of clearance operations that resulted in weapons caches being destroyed. In Samarra district, eleven IEDs were cleared by security forces and members of the Iraqi 14th Infantry Division were wounded by a roadside IED in in Tikrit district. Meanwhile, IS snipers targeted federal police officers in Abbasiya, killing one officer and wounding two more. Finally, IS fighters were arrested on terrorism charges in a subdistrict of Dawr on December 23.

Across Diyala, some 5,000 protestors gathered as part of the ongoing anti-government protests. Baqubah continued to witness extensive IS activity, as IS fighters targeted security forces personnel through targeted assassinations and attacks on checkpoints. An ISF operation in Muqdadiyah found and cleared several IEDs, whilst IS fighters wounded two PMU members in Baqubah. Finally, in al-Mukhisa village in Baqubah, further violence between IS fighters and security forces resulted in three ISF personnel being wounded.

Anbar Province

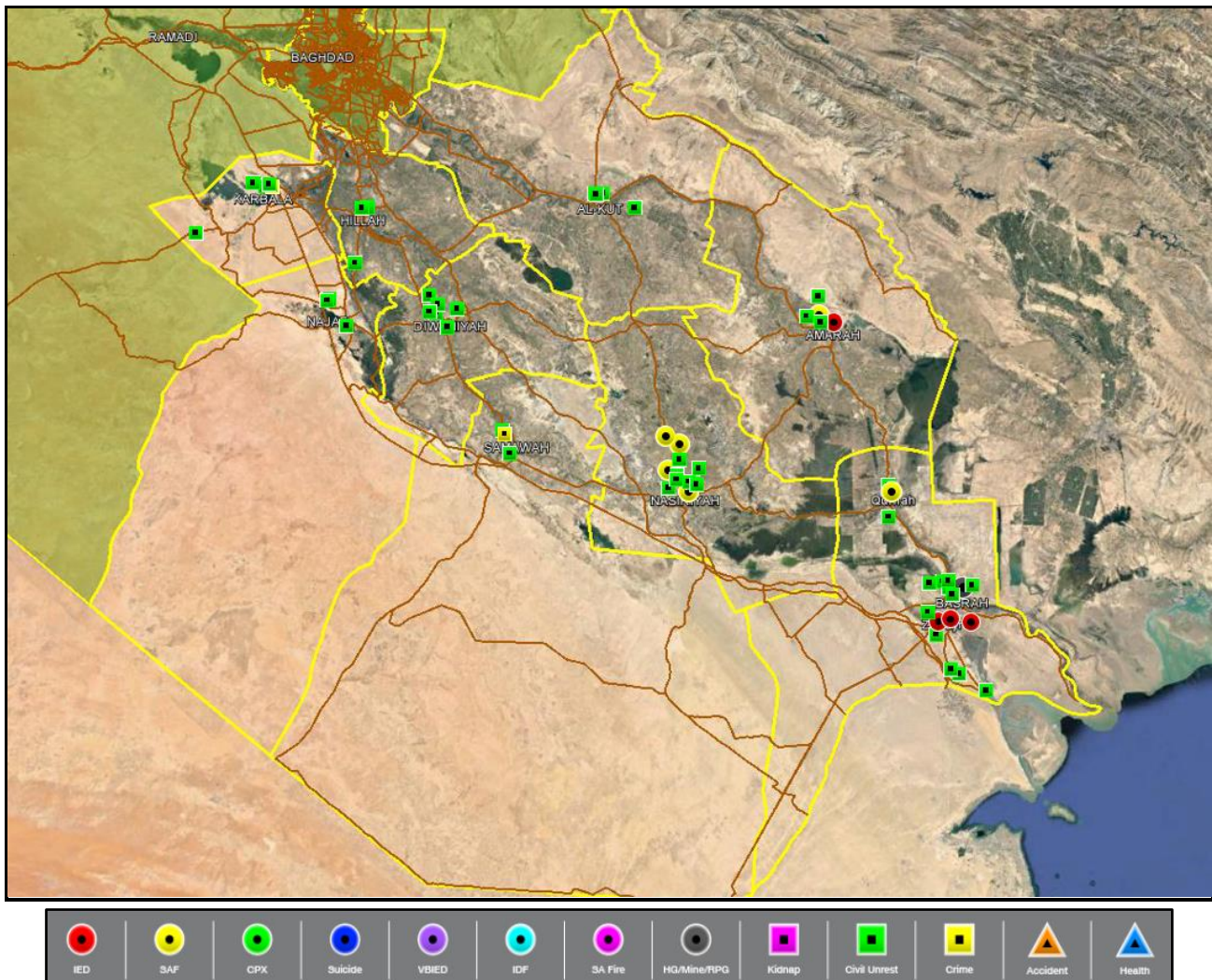
In Anbar province, the ISF released a male abductee in an operation in the al-Maqaleh area, 14 km east of Rutbah. The victim was reportedly kidnapped by three gunmen riding in a pickup truck and was found inside an underground hole. On December 20, 16 legacy IEDs and two tunnels were destroyed during a search operation carried out in several villages in Rutbah district. On December 21, ISF arrested 20 persons including several shepherds and one Sudanese national on suspicion of belong to IS during a search operation in the Houran Valley in Rutbah district. On December 23, two ISF members were killed and two others wounded when an abandoned explosives-rigged vehicle detonated at the T-1 junction in Qaim district. It was also reported that ISF imposed a curfew in the district. On Dec 26, five members of the Kata'ib Hizballah pro-Iranian Shia militia were killed in an unknown airstrike that targeted their camp in the Albu Kamal area, near the Iraqi border.

Capital Region (Including Baghdad City)

In Baghdad during the reporting week, On December 21, a protester was stabbed during an argument that escalated into a knife fight in the vicinity of al-Sinak bridge in Rusafa district. On December 19, approximately 300 Ministry of Health employees demonstrated in front of the Ministry of Health, demanding better pay. On December 19, approximately 5,000 civilians held a demonstration at Tahrir Square, demanding government reforms. On the night of December 21, three people were injured in an armed brawl in the vicinity of al-Wathba Square in Rusafa district. On December 22, an activist and doctor named Omar Yousif was released by his captors in Baghdad city. The victim was kidnapped at gunpoint shortly after he left the Tahrir Square in Rusafa two days ago. On December 22, approximately 8,000 civilians continued holding a demonstration at Tahrir Square, demanding government reforms, resulting in one civilian being killed and another wounded. On the morning of December 23, hundreds of protesters closed all main entry and exit points of Za'faraniyah area of Karada district, due to the government's failure to meet their demands. On the night of December 22, clashes renewed between protesters and riot police IVO al-Wathba Square in Rusafa district, seven protesters suffered suffocation due to the use of tear gas. On December 23, an unidentified gunman on a motorcycle targeted the house of an activist named Hisham Al-Mawzani with SAF and set a fire to his vehicle at an unspecified location in Baghdad city, although no casualties were reported. Meanwhile, on December 22 in Baghdad city, at night, protesters closed Doura highway as well as roads in the Shula and Amil neighbourhoods. In Baghdad city on the night of 24 Dec, an Iraqi comedian/actor named Aws Fadhil survived an assassination attempt in central Baghdad when two gunmen on a motorcycle opened fire on him as he drove through Arasat al-Hindiya area of Karada district. The incident is thought to be

related to a TV show in which Fadhil criticised the government for alleged corruption. Furthermore, protesters blocked the Mohammed al-Qasim highway/Route Brewers in central Baghdad city with a symbolic coffin of a prominent activist who died 23 Dec, in Diwaniyah from the injuries sustained after a UVIED attack earlier in the month. On Dec 25, two civilians were wounded when a motorcycle-borne IED detonated in al-Amin area of New Baghdad district. On Dec 25, three civilians including a woman were wounded when a motorcycle-borne IED detonated near a medical centre in Sadr city. On Dec 25, four civilians were wounded when a motorcycle-borne IED detonated near a football field in Sadr city. On Dec 25, three civilians were wounded when a motorcycle-borne IED detonated in the Baladiyat area of New Baghdad district. On December 23 in Benuk neighbourhood, east of Baghdad, an IED detonated at the residence of a civil activist causing material damages and wounding one person. Finally, on Dec 25, several gunmen on a motorcycle in the Kadhamiya district opened fire on the deputy staff administrator for Jaafar Muhammed Baqir al-Sadr, the Iraqi Ambassador to London, causing material damage.

In Baghdad province, the ISF cleared IEDs in locations across Tarmiyah, Husseinia and Abu Ghraib, whilst an IED detonated against an ISF patrol in Abu Ghraib, wounding one person. Finally, on Dec 26, approximately 200 civilians demonstrated near a checkpoint in Taji district, demanding government reforms.

Southern Provinces

Protests continued across Babel province, as part of the ongoing anti-government demonstrations. On December 22, an activist named Fadhil al-Ghazi was arrested in Babel province while he was returning from Dhi Qar province.

In Wasit province, people continued to gather to protest against the government as part of the ongoing demonstrations. Meanwhile, on Dec 24, ISF arrested 22 wanted individuals across the province.

In Karbala province, approximately 2,000 civilians demonstrated throughout Karbala province, demanding government reforms. A school near the Karbala Governorate building was set alight on the same day, although there were no injuries. On December 22, the 'Blue Hats' who are part of the Peace Brigades, withdrew from the Tarbiyah Square area in Karbala city. The checkpoint that the Blue Hats had previously manned in the area had now been handed over to the ISF. Meanwhile, December 22, protesters burned several tyres on the bridges of Ramadan and Bab Tuwajri in Karbala city, while clashes were recorded between ISF and protestors near the governorate building in which petrol bombs and stones were used. On December 24, protesters closed the al-Kheirat power plant south of Karbala. Finally, on December 23, clashes broke out between riot police and protesters in the vicinity of governorate building in Karbala city, several casualties were reported.

In Najaf during the reporting period, on December 22, protesters blocked Hwy-9 in western Najaf city with burning tyres. Meanwhile, on December 22 in Najaf, at night, protesters set alight the house of the head of Dawa party and three other houses that belong to members of the same party. On December 21, approximately 5,000 civilians demonstrated at Sadrist Square and throughout Najaf province, demanding government reform, anti-corruption, Confidential and proprietary © GardaWorld [14]

jobs, and services. The following day, protesters closed the Najaf airport and al-Askeryin roads and several bridges in Kufa district. Meanwhile, on December 24, protestors closed al-Qadisiyah street and al-Sadr bridge in Najaf city.

In Diwaniya, people continued to demonstrate throughout the reporting period, as people gathered in Hamza district, south of Diwaniyah, in support of the weekly sermon of Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, in which he called for early elections to get out of the crisis and avoid going into the unknown and chaos, as well as the election law legislation. On December 19, approximately 2,500 civilians demonstrated throughout Diwaniyah province, demanding government reforms. On the night of December 21, protesters blocked the Diwaniyah-Baghdad main road Hwy-1, with burning tyres, declaring their rejection of the premiership candidate Qusay al-Suhail, who belongs to the Fateh Alliance. Meanwhile, on the morning of December 24, protesters blocked the Diwaniyah - Najaf main bridge with burning tyres. An ISF EOD unit safely dismantled an IED attached to the back of a hand and leg cuffed to a kidnap victim, in Rif'at district of Diwaniyah city. On Dec 25, protesters set a fire to the office of a PMU faction (Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada) in the al-Urubah district of Diwaniyah city. Protesters also burned several tyres in different areas of Diwaniyah city (al-Jedariyah, al-Jaza'ir, Celebration Yard and al-Hajariya). On the night of Dec 25, protesters blocked the Jami'a street in Diwaniyah city and the road leading to the province of Najaf with burning tyres.

In Dhi Qar province, two activists survived an assassination attempt when several gunman opened fire on their vehicle whilst on route to the Al-Sahlan village in Gharaf district, resulting in serious injuries. On December 20, protesters set fire to the private residence of Dhi Qar provincial council security committee chairman Jabbar al-Mousawi and the SWAT police compound in Nasiriyah city, although no casualties were reported. On the night of December 20, protesters closed all bridges (Zeitoun, Nasr, al-Hadarat, Hwy-1 bypass and the floating bridge) in Nasiriyah city. Meanwhile, on December 20, a conflict erupted between the Albu Salih and al-Omar tribes in the al-Islah district, east of Nasiriyah, following a failed assassination attempt of the Mayor, Ahmed al-Salihi. The perpetrators are rumoured to be linked to the Al Omar tribe. On December 23, hundreds of graduates closed the state-owned Southern Refinery Company in Nasiriyah, demanding job opportunities. Protesters also staged a sit-in outside the facility. On the morning of December 23, protesters closed the Zeitoun, Nasr and al-Hadarat bridges in Nasiriyah city. Meanwhile, on December 23, protesters reportedly staged a sit-in outside the main entry of the DS-8 site in WQ1 oilfield. On December 20, in central Nasiriya city, approximately 100 women peacefully demonstrated to denounce the violence against protestors and journalists.

Across Maysan province during the reporting period, an IED detonated near a vehicle belonging to a university professor in the al-Fatimiyah district of Amarah city, without causing casualties. On December 19, approximately 7,000 civilians demonstrated throughout Maysan province, demanding government reform, anti-corruption, jobs, and services. On December 22, an activist named Hussein Naeem Bahadli was assassinated in Kahla district, south of Amarah. On December 23, a low-yield IED detonated outside the Hikma private school in northern Amarah city, without causing casualties. On December 22 in Amarah city, reports of several attacks targeting PMU leaders (Hezbollah Brigades, Badr and AAH) with use of IEDs, RPGs and SAF. Meanwhile, on December 23, a tribal conflict erupted in the Alef Dar area in Maysan province, resulting in three people being wounded, ISF made 13 subsequent arrests. On December 23, an activist named Kareem Lafta al-Bahadli was assassinated near his house in Majar al-Kabir district, south of Amarah.

In Muthanna, thousands of civilians demonstrated in Samawa district, demanding government reforms. On December 23, dozens of protesters blocked the main leading to the Samawah Oil Refinery with burning tyres and prevented tanker trucks from reaching the facility. Meanwhile, on Dec 25 in Rumaitha district, ISF arrested a gunman in possession of a knife, as he attempted to enter the sit-in area.

In Basra province, protesters blocked all roads leading to the Rumaila oil concession with burning tyres on Dec 22. Meanwhile in Al-Hussein neighbourhood in central Basra city, clashes were reported between tribes, although no further details were released. On December 21, approximately 5,000 civilians demonstrated in front of Um Qasr Port, Majnoon oilfield and throughout Basra province demanding government reforms. On Dec 24, local sources reported tribal fighting in the Shafi area, in Qurna district north of Basra, between members of the Sa'adi Nour and al-Martha tribes but no casualties have been reported. Finally in central Basra city, demonstrators

blocked the al-Tejari street with burning tyres to protest alleged nomination of Asaad Al Eidani for the Prime Minister's position.



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	

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