

Press Release

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Iraq Violence Statistics and Province Analysis for 2009 Q3

International Security and Risk Mitigation Company AKE has conducted an in-depth study of violence in Iraq to map the countrywide level of risk on a provincial scale.

Statistics have been collated on attacks countrywide in the third quarter of 2009 (July-September) to work out which areas are currently the most hazardous from a security point of view. Incidents ranging from ethnic killings in the north to criminality in the south have been taken into account and the results have been mapped and analysed in the latest AKE Iraq Security Briefing.

Research highlights that Baghdad remains the most hostile part of the country. The capital accounted for 40 per cent of countrywide violence, whilst covering less than one per cent of the country's total territory. This is a rise from 36 per cent in Q2, amid an escalation in terrorist attacks, particularly in August.

The second most violent part of the country remains an-Ninawa province in the north, particularly its capital al-Mawsil (Mosul). The province accounted for 32 per cent of Iraqi violence over the analysis period, although this was a slight decline from the Q2 figure of 33 per cent. The contested neighbouring province of at-Ta'min and its main city of al-Kirkuk experienced only four per cent of countrywide violence, but underlying tensions continue to simmer in the area and levels of violence may increase over the coming months.

The central provinces, including al-Anbar, al-Babil, ad-Diyala and Salah ad-Din saw an increase in violence. They collectively accounted for 23 per cent of nationwide incidents. Al-Anbar and ad-Diyala in particular were the third and fourth most violent provinces respectively over Q3.

Kurdish Regional Government territory remained amongst the most peaceful areas of Iraq, accounting for less than one per cent of countrywide violence. Incidents that did occur were largely attributed to Turkish counter-terrorist operations around the border, although there was at least one militant attack against a checkpoint over the period.

The oil-rich province of al-Basrah was also among the more stable parts of the country. It accounted for less than one per cent of countrywide violence. However, the risk of targeted attacks against foreign investors, domestic political figures and international journalists remains high, and levels of crime appear to have increased over recent weeks.

AKE's Iraq specialist John Drake reminds firms that foreign private investment is one of the solutions to Iraq's current difficulties. With proper risk mitigation and sufficient security measures it is possible to do business in Iraq, effectively compete with business rivals and help restore Iraq to its former position of stability. Nonetheless, while numerous business opportunities are appearing in Iraq, the situation remains very challenging. Companies need to assess the risks and plan accordingly before undertaking new proposals and tenders.

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Notes to editors

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Founded in 1991 by Andrew Kain, AKE Ltd provides security and risk management to international businesses, NGOs and the Media.

AKE is a leading international security risk mitigation company providing a variety of fully integrated services. AKE distinguishes itself from other security services companies by taking a proactive, intelligence-led approach to assessing, monitoring and training for and protecting against risk.

The firm has been working in Iraq since 2003 and produces weekly security reports on emerging developments in the country. For further information on subscribing to these reports, please contact the intelligence team by emailing intel@akegroup.com or calling +44 (0) 20 7816 5454.