

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Insurgents Targeting Government Ahead of Elections

The co-ordinated bombings in Baghdad today demonstrate that terrorists are increasing their attacks on state interests in Iraq.

AKE statistics indicate that government interests, political figures and state employees accounted for around ten per cent of all terrorist targets over the course of November. This is an increase from six per cent in October.

Officials continue to report that levels of violence have decreased in Iraq over the course of 2009, but security remains tantamount for personnel and businesses operating in the country.

The Labour and Interior Ministries were two of the targets in a spate of co-ordinated bombings which took place in the city centre today. Tens of people are reported to have been killed and many more injured.

On 25 October similar attacks targeted the Ministry of Justice and provincial administration headquarters. On 19 August bombers targeted the Finance and Foreign Ministries. Over 170 people were killed in both incidents, with hundreds more injured.

It is likely that terrorists are trying to discredit the government ahead of national elections due early next year. Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki has been campaigning on a platform of having increased security over his current term in office. Major bombings discredit this campaign, especially when they take place in the heart of the capital where security is supposed to be tightest.

The electoral law has been agreed by the Iraqi parliament and the UN is now pushing for the poll to be held in late February. Further mass-casualty terrorist attacks should be expected in the run-up to the event and companies will need to assess their security measures, particularly if they intend to visit government ministries or meet with officials to discuss their business.

Ends

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 AKE intelligence department produces a weekly Iraq Security Briefing containing analysis, incident maps, projections and risk mitigation advice for companies operating in the country. For further details, please contact john.drake@akegroup.com directly.