

Press Release

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Press contact: John Drake, Iraq Risk Consultant, AKE Ltd. +44 (0) 20 7816 5454

Iraq Suffers Violent August

There was a clear escalation in violence over the course of August in Iraq with a consistently higher than usual number of terrorist attacks and a notable rise in the number of civilian casualties. However, the level of risk was not evenly dispersed across the country, with violence concentrated in a series of hotspots.

Baghdad endured the majority of violence, accounting for 40 per cent of total attacks in the month. Most of the incidents in the city involved non-suicide bombings, although there were several shootings and rocket attacks over the period. Almost 200 people were killed and dozens more injured.

Conversely, the southern province of al-Basrah actually experienced a reduction in violence over the course of August. The critical oil hub saw very few attacks and accounted for only 0.5 per cent of countrywide violence. The few attacks which did take place, however, were highly targeted, implicating compounds and high profile facilities such as Basra Airport and a major oil refinery in ash-Shu'aybah. While violence is no longer widespread in the area, businesses and foreigners remain highly attractive for the terrorists still operating in the region, with assets involved in the oil industry particularly at risk of being attacked.

Further north, the province of an-Ninawa accounted for 33 per cent of countrywide violence over the period. Much of this took place in the ethnically divided city of al-Mawsil (Mosul) which continues to rival Baghdad in terms of share of attacks. The northern province of at-Ta'mim, which holds the disputed city of al-Kirkuk was calmer, although still experiencing four per cent of the attacks in August.

The once hostile province of ad-Diyala in the east of the country has seen a gradual reduction in violence over recent months, and in August accounted for eight per cent of countrywide attacks. Al-Anbar province, once the centre of the Sunni insurgency, saw a slight rise in violence over the month, but still only accounted for five percent of countrywide violence, far behind neighbouring Baghdad. Al-Babil province accounted for only 4.5 per cent of attacks, Salah ad-Din accounted for only 3.5 per and al-Wassit province experienced only 0.5 per cent of attacks.

Kurdish Regional Government territory in the north of the country also accounted for only 0.5 per cent of countrywide violence, but even this highlights the fact that there are no parts of Iraq that can be designated as entirely 'safe'. Businesses continue to view KRG territory as a potential investment location, and while this is certainly true, it is important to note that security will remain a consideration in the area, and there are no grounds for complacency when operating anywhere in Iraq.

AKE has mapped the above results in its weekly Iraq Security Briefing. For further details on the report or the accompanying maps, please contact the intelligence department at intel@akegroup.com

Ends

Notes to editors

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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.