

>>> "Stockholm, Sweden SWEST ERU" <stockholm@unhcr.org> 18-12-2007

10:18 >>>

Dear Sir/Madam,

1. Please find attached herewith the Addendum to UNHCR's Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-Seekers. In August 2007, UNHCR issued its Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-seekers ("Eligibility Guidelines"). The purpose of the Eligibility Guidelines was to facilitate the assessment of the international protection needs of Iraqi asylum-seekers. In this respect, they would assist, among others, those responsible for the adjudication of individual claims for refugee status and those involved in the establishment of government policy in relation to Iraqi asylum-seekers. It should also be recalled that they complement UNHCR's Return Advisory and Position on International Protection Needs of Iraqis outside Iraq of 18 December 2006 (corrigendum April 2007).

2. The Eligibility Guidelines were based primarily on information up to mid-February 2007. In response to requests for updated country of origin information on the situation in Central and Southern Iraq, particularly in light of recent development in those regions of the country, UNHCR is now issuing an Addendum to update the Eligibility Guidelines in this regard. The focus of this update is on developments in Central and Southern Iraq from February to November 2007. While there have been developments in the three Northern Governorates of Sulaymaniyah, Erbil and Dahuk during this period, particularly in relation to tensions at the border with Turkey, these are not addressed in this Addendum, as, on the whole, they have not been as significant with regard to the international protection considerations for asylum-seekers from Iraq.

3. The Addendum deals primarily with the significant security and political developments in Iraq between February and November 2007. It covers a number of key topics and issues that were originally addressed in the Eligibility Guidelines, such as the general security situation, sectarian violence, sectarian segregation, and political reconciliation. Other topics are addressed for the first time in the Addendum and include the "surge" of U.S. troops, the development of "awakening" movements (tribal and insurgency groups turning against Al Qa'eda in Iraq), the "freeze" of activities of the Jaish Al-Mahdi (Mehdi Army), and the handover of security and increasing Shi'ite-on-Shi'ite violence in Southern Iraq.

4. The information shows that there have indeed been some improvements in the security situation in parts of Central Iraq. The most noteworthy security development is the significant decrease in sectarian killings and overall civilian casualties. The level of human rights abuses and sectarian and intra-sectarian violence, however, remains high in Central and Southern Iraq. Civilian casualties are still at a high level, with acts of targeted violence, including car bombings, suicide attacks, small arms engagements, kidnappings and extra-judicial killings a regular occurrence in many parts of Central and Southern Iraq, although the intensity varies from Governorate to Governorate. Political and sectarian assassinations, abductions and killings of journalists, other professionals, members of religious and ethnic minority groups, persons not considered to be following "Islamic" rules and former Ba'athists remain a reality.

The Iraqi Security Forces continue to face serious challenges in maintaining law and order.

5. In terms of political developments, the Addendum highlights, among others, a unity accord which was signed in late August 2007 by senior Shi'ite and Sunni Arab and Kurdish political leaders, in which they agreed to release thousands of prisoners being held without charge.

The accord also signaled efforts to foster greater national reconciliation. However, despite the accord, passage of key legislation on issues such as oil, de-Ba'athification, the disarmament of militias and provincial elections continues to be stalled. The Government remains weakened by the withdrawal from the Iraq cabinet of several political factions including the Sadr and Sunni blocs. Many of the hoped-for political advances in Iraq have not yet occurred. The situation remains highly volatile and unpredictable.

6. Both internal and external displacement continues to occur, due to serious human rights violations and sectarian and intra-sectarian violence. Displaced persons find it increasingly difficult to move both within Iraq as well as to neighbouring countries given more restrictive entry policies implemented at Governorate and state borders. On the other hand, a major development in the period since the Eligibility Guidelines were issued is that there have been returns of displaced Iraqis, both within the country and from outside. Several key aspects of these movements, however, remain unknown or unclear. The number of returns appears to be relatively modest. Clear trends regarding the returns cannot be established, nor can the motives behind them or their sustainability. From the testimonies provided by returnees interviewed by UNHCR concerning their reasons for returning and the objective situation in Iraq, UNHCR could not conclude that the returns signal a situation which would warrant, at this stage, a change in its position concerning Iraqi asylum-seekers.

7. The updated information does not show that in the period between February and December 2007, even the most positive security and political improvements have yet translated into political reconciliation, the building of strong and non-sectarian state institutions, the re-establishment of law and order, reconstruction and the adequate provision of services. UNHCR is thus maintaining the position, set out in the Eligibility Guidelines originally, with regard to assessing the international protection needs of Iraqi asylum-seekers. In brief, that position is as follows:

With regard to Iraqi asylum-seekers from Central and Southern Iraq:

-- UNHCR considers Iraqi asylum-seekers from Central and Southern Iraq to be in need of international protection.

-- Iraqi asylum-seekers from Central and Southern Iraq should be considered as refugees based on the 1951 Convention criteria.

-- Where such asylum-seekers are not recognized under the 1951 Convention refugee criteria, international protection should be afforded through the application of an extended refugee definition, or otherwise through a complementary form of protection.

-- UNHCR considers that an internal flight or relocation alternative (IFA/IRA) in Central and Southern Iraq is on the whole not available. When, however, the availability of an internal flight or relocation alternative must be assessed in a national procedure, it should be examined cautiously, taking

into account the particular circumstances of the applicant. The question of the availability of an IFA/IRA in the three Northern Governorates for individuals from Central and Southern Iraq must be carefully assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration, in particular, the relevance and reasonableness analysis in the Eligibility Guidelines.

As concerns Iraqi asylum-seekers from the three Northern Governorates:

--- International protection needs of asylum-seekers from the three Northern Governorates should be individually assessed based on the 1951 Convention refugee definition. In cases where an asylum-seeker is not recognized as a refugee under the 1951 Convention but nevertheless demonstrates protection needs for which complementary forms of protection may be appropriate, the case should be assessed accordingly.

--- UNHCR considers that there is no IFA/IRA available for asylum-seekers from the three Northern Governorates in Central and Southern Iraq. Whether an IFA/IRA may be available for them within the three Northern Governorates themselves must be examined carefully on a case-by-case basis. Special attention should be paid to the categories of individuals highlighted in the Eligibility Guidelines who clearly would not be able to find an IFA/IRA in the three Northern Governorates.

In all cases, due attention should be paid to possible grounds for exclusion, in accordance with Article 1(F) of the 1951 Convention.

8. The Addendum has a general external circulation and may be shared with partners and others who may have an interest in its contents. It will be posted on UNHCR's Refworld website. Due to the complexity of compiling a comprehensive view of the ever changing situation in any country of origin, MENA Bureau and DIPS welcome any and all comments or suggestions for improving and updating this document

9. We hope this Addendum proves useful.

Thank you.



**ADDENDUM TO UNHCR's
ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES
FOR ASSESSING THE INTERNATIONAL
PROTECTION NEEDS OF IRAQI
ASYLUM-SEEKERS**

This report has been produced by UNHCR on the basis of information obtained from a variety of publicly available sources, analyses and comments, as well as from information received by UNHCR staff or staff of implementing partners in Iraq. The information contained does not purport to be either exhaustive with regard to conditions in the country surveyed nor conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. The inclusion of third party information or views in this report does not constitute an endorsement by UNHCR of this information or views.

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Geneva
December 2007**

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List of abbreviations

AINA	Assyrian International News Agency
AFP	Agence France-Presse
AQI	Al-Qa'eda in Iraq
BBC	British Broadcasting Company
CFR	Council on Foreign Relations
CPA	Coalition Provisional Authority
CoR	Council of Representatives
CSIS	Center for Strategic and International Studies
CS Monitor	Christian Science Monitor
DPA	Deutsche Presse-Agentur
EFP	Explosively Formed Penetrator
GAO	Government Accountability Office (United States)
IAF	Iraqi Accordance Front
IBC	Iraq Body Count
ICG	International Crisis Group
IDP	Internally displaced person
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IFA/IRA	Internal flight/relocation alternative
IIP	Iraqi Islamic Party
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPS	Inter Press Service
IRCS	Iraqi Red Crescent Society
IRIN	Integrated Regional Information Networks (United Nations)
ISF	Iraqi Security Forces
IWPR	Institute for War and Peace Reporting
JAM	Jaish Al-Mahdi (Mahdi/Mehdi Army)
KDP	Kurdistan Democratic Party
KIU	Kurdistan Islamic Union
KRG	Kurdistan Regional Government
KUNA	Kuwait News Agency
MEMRI	Middle East Media Research Institute
MNF-I	Multinational Forces in Iraq
MoDM	Ministry of Displacement and Migration
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NIC	National Intelligence Council
NIE	National Intelligence Estimate
NPR	National Public Radio
PIC	Provincial Iraqi Control
PUK	Patriotic Union of Kurdistan
RFE/RL	Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty
RPG	Rocket-propelled grenade
SC	Security Council (United Nations)
SCIRI	Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq
SIIC	Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council
UIA	United Iraqi Alliance
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations

UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
UNAMI HRO	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, Human Rights Office
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
US	United States
USDoD	United States Department of Defense
USDoS	United States Department of State
USIP	United States Institute of Peace
VOA	Voice of America
VOI	Voices of Iraq

Executive summary

In August 2007, UNHCR issued its *Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-seekers* (“Eligibility Guidelines”).¹ The purpose of the Guidelines was to facilitate the assessment of the international protection needs of Iraqi asylum-seekers. In this respect, they would assist, among others, those responsible for the adjudication of individual claims for refugee status and those involved in the establishment of government policy in relation to Iraqi asylum-seekers. They complement *UNHCR’s Return Advisory and Position on International Protection Needs of Iraqis outside Iraq* of 18 December 2006 (corrigendum April 2007).²

The Eligibility Guidelines were based primarily on information up to mid-February 2007. In response to requests for updated country of origin information on the situation in Central and Southern Iraq, particularly in light of recent development in those regions of the country, UNHCR is now issuing an Addendum to update the Eligibility Guidelines in this regard. The focus of this update is on developments in Central and Southern Iraq from February to November 2007. While there have been developments in the three Northern Governorates of Sulaymaniyah, Erbil and Dahuk during this period, particularly in relation to tensions at the border with Turkey, these are not addressed in this Addendum, as, on the whole, they have not been as significant with regard to the international protection considerations for asylum-seekers from Iraq.

The Addendum deals primarily with the significant security and political developments between February and November 2007. It covers a number of key topics and issues that were originally addressed in the Eligibility Guidelines, such as the general security situation, sectarian violence, sectarian segregation, and political reconciliation. Other topics are addressed for the first time in the Addendum and include the “surge” of U.S. troops, the development of “awakening” movements (tribal and insurgency groups turning against Al-Qa’eda in Iraq), the “freeze” of activities of the Jaish Al-Mahdi (Mehdi Army), and the handover of security and increasing Shi’ite-on-Shi’ite violence in Southern Iraq.

The information shows that there have indeed been some improvements in the security situation in parts of Central Iraq. The most noteworthy security development is the significant decrease in sectarian killings and overall civilian casualties. The level of human rights abuses and sectarian and intra-sectarian violence, however, remains high in Central and Southern Iraq. Civilian casualties are still at a high level, with acts of targeted violence, including car bombings, suicide attacks, small arms engagements, kidnappings and extra-judicial killings a regular occurrence in many parts of Central and Southern Iraq, although the intensity varies from Governorate to Governorate. Political and sectarian assassinations, abductions and killings of journalists, other professionals, members of religious and ethnic minority groups, persons not considered to be following “Islamic” rules and former Ba’athists remain a reality. The Iraqi Security Forces continue to face serious challenges in maintaining law and order.

¹ UNHCR, *UNHCR’s Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-seekers*, August 2007, available in UNHCR’s Refworld at <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refworld/rwmain?docid=46deb05557> (further: “UNHCR, *Eligibility Guidelines* August 2007”).

² UNHCR, *UNHCR Return Advisory and Position on International Protection Needs of Iraqis Outside Iraq*, 18 December 2006 (Corr., April 2007), available in UNHCR’s Refworld at <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refworld/rwmain?docid=46371aa72>.

In terms of political developments, the Addendum highlights, among others, a unity accord which was signed in late August 2007 by senior Shi'ite and Sunni Arab and Kurdish political leaders, in which they agreed to release thousands of prisoners being held without charge. The accord also signaled efforts to foster greater national reconciliation. However, despite the accord, passage of key legislation on issues such as oil, de-Ba'athification, the disarmament of militias and provincial elections continues to be stalled. The Government remains weakened by the withdrawal from the Iraq cabinet of several political factions including the Sadr and Sunni blocs. Many of the hoped-for political advances in Iraq have not yet occurred. The situation remains highly volatile and unpredictable.

Both internal and external displacement continues to occur, due to serious human rights violations and sectarian and intra-sectarian violence. Displaced persons find it increasingly difficult to move both within Iraq as well as to neighbouring countries given more restrictive entry policies implemented at Governorate and state borders. On the other hand, a major development in the period since the Eligibility Guidelines were issued is that there have been returns of displaced Iraqis, both within the country and from outside. Several key aspects of these movements, however, remain unknown or unclear. The number of returns appears to be relatively modest. Clear trends regarding the returns cannot be established, nor can the motives behind them or their sustainability. From the testimonies provided by returnees interviewed by UNHCR concerning their reasons for returning and the objective situation in Iraq, UNHCR could not conclude that the returns signal a situation which would warrant, at this stage, a change in its position concerning Iraqi asylum-seekers.

The updated information does not show that in the period between February and December 2007, even the most positive security and political improvements have yet translated into political reconciliation, the building of strong and non-sectarian state institutions, the re-establishment of law and order, reconstruction and the adequate provision of services. UNHCR is thus maintaining the position, set out in the Eligibility Guidelines originally, with regard to assessing the international protection needs of Iraqi asylum-seekers. In brief, that position is as follows:

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- Where such asylum-seekers are not recognized under the 1951 Convention refugee criteria, international protection should be afforded through the application of an extended refugee definition, or otherwise through a complementary form of protection.
- UNHCR considers that an internal flight or relocation alternative (IFA/IRA) in Central and Southern Iraq is on the whole not available. When, however, the availability of an internal flight or relocation alternative must be assessed in

a national procedure, it should be examined cautiously, taking into account the particular circumstances of the applicant. The question of the availability of an IFA/IRA in the three Northern Governorates for individuals from Central and Southern Iraq must be carefully assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration, in particular, the relevance and reasonableness analysis in the Eligibility Guidelines.

As concerns Iraqi asylum-seekers from the three Northern Governorates:

- The international protection needs of asylum-seekers from the three Northern Governorates should be individually assessed based on the 1951 Convention refugee definition. In cases where an asylum-seeker is not recognized as a refugee under the 1951 Convention but nevertheless demonstrates protection needs for which complementary forms of protection may be appropriate, the case should be assessed accordingly.
- UNHCR considers that there is no IFA/IRA available for asylum-seekers from the three Northern Governorates in Central and Southern Iraq. Whether an IFA/IRA may be available for them within the three Northern Governorates themselves must be examined carefully on a case-by-case basis. Special attention should be paid to the categories of individuals highlighted in the Eligibility Guidelines who clearly would not be able to find an IFA/IRA in the three Northern Governorates.

In all cases, due attention should be paid to possible grounds for exclusion, in accordance with Article 1(F) of the 1951 Convention.

I. Introduction

As highlighted in *UNHCR's Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Iraqi Asylum-seekers* of August 2007, for several years, the situation in many parts of Iraq has been marked by sectarian killings, large-scale suicide attacks, roadside bombs, and fighting between insurgency groups and the MNF-I/ISF, which have all resulted in high civilian casualties and displacement.³ The country has been plagued by a general collapse of the law and order system and violence perpetuated for sectarian or political reasons.

In this Addendum, which updates the Eligibility Guidelines with country of origin information on Central and Southern Iraq from February to November 2007, Section II provides an overview of the major political and security developments over the last year.⁴ These have been primarily of a military nature and include the increase of US troops in and around Baghdad (the “surge”),⁵ the emergence of armed conflict between Sunni tribes and insurgent groups on the one hand, and against Al-Qa’eda in Iraq (AQI) on the other,⁶ and the declared freeze of the Jaish Al-Mahdi (Mehdi Army) activities.⁷ Section II also examines sectarian segregation, the hand-over of security in Southern Iraq, the escalation of intra-Shi’ite violence, and civilian security. The widely reported recent returns of displaced persons from places of internal and external displacement is also addressed.

The effects of these developments on the security situation are set out, Governorate by Governorate, in Section III (Central Iraq) and Section IV (Southern Iraq). It will be seen that there has been a partial improvement of the security situation in Central Iraq with a decreasing number of attacks,⁸ sectarian killings and overall civilian casualties,⁹ although, in other parts, civilian casualties remain high. Some insurgent groups, in order to avoid confrontation with the MNF-I/ISF have moved to other Governorates, which have since seen the number of violent incidents rise. In Southern Iraq, these military developments have had little effect on the security situation, and an escalation in intra-Shi’ite violence has been observed.¹⁰

³ See UNHCR, *Eligibility Guidelines August 2007*, pp. 23, see above footnote 1.

⁴ See also: Alissa J. Rubin, *A Calmer Iraq: Fragile, and Possibly Fleeting*, New York Times, 5 December 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/05/world/middleeast/05surge.html>.

⁵ See below Section II.1: The “Surge”.

⁶ See below Section II.2: “Awakening” movements.

⁷ See below Section II.3: “Freeze” of Mehdi Army activities.

⁸ The US military reported on 15 November 2007 a sharp decrease in the number of roadside bombs and other homemade explosive devices in Iraq with 1,560 IED directed at the MNF-I or Iraqis identified in October 2007, down after a steady monthly decline from 3,239 in March. However, the military conceded that 1,560 was still a “significant number”; Stephen Farrell, *Fewer Roadside Bombs in Iraq*, U.S. Says, The New York Times, 16 November 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/16/world/middleeast/16iraq.html>. On 12 November 2007 the US military announced that rocket and mortar attacks in Iraq have dipped to their lowest level since February 2006; one day earlier, Prime Minister Al-Maliki said that car bombs and roadside bombings in Baghdad had dropped by 77% compared to levels prior to the launch of the “surge”; BBC, *Iraq rocket fire ‘falls sharply’*, 12 November 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7090535.stm.

⁹ See below Section II.7: Civilian security, a) Civilian casualties.

¹⁰ See below Section II.6: Hand-over of security in Southern Iraq and escalation in intra-Shi’ite fighting.

II. Major political and security developments

1. The “Surge”

Since February 2007, there has been a gradual increase of US troops in Baghdad, Al-Anbar and the so-called “Baghdad belt”.¹¹ In addition, the MNF-I/ISF has led several large-scale security operations against armed groups.¹²

In testimony to Congress on 10 and 11 September 2007, General David H. Petraeus, the MNF-I Commander in Iraq, reported that this “surge” of US troops, as it is known, had led to a reduction of AQI’s capabilities and the disruption of Shi’ite militia extremists.¹³ According to General Petraeus, “*the military objectives of the surge are, in large measure, being met,*” with “*(t)he security situation in Iraq(...) improving.*”¹⁴

The increased US military presence has helped prevent large-scale attacks and reduce the sectarian killings that had become a common occurrence in Baghdad and other areas of Central Iraq. These incidents have, however, by no means ceased. There continue to be regular car bombs, suicide attacks, small arms fire and mortar attacks, targeting the MNF-I/ISF and the civilian population. The most recent incidents in Baghdad and other areas of Central Iraq show that the situation remains highly fragile with armed groups still capable of operating and causing civilian casualties. For example, on 1 December 2007, dozens of suspected AQI fighters raided the Shi’ite village of Duwailiya in the Governorate of Diyala, killing at least 14 people, including women and children, and destroying ten houses.¹⁵ On 23 November 2007, a bomb exploded at Al-Ghazl pet market in central Baghdad, killing at least 13 people and injuring 60 others.¹⁶ One day earlier, on 22 November 2007, ten mortar bombs landed inside Baghdad’s heavily fortified Green Zone, which houses the US and British embassies, the Iraqi parliament and many government ministries. The same day, suspected AQI fighters launched a surprise attack on the ISF and armed tribal members in the Hur Rijab area in southern

¹¹ The US military temporarily increased its force levels in Baghdad and surrounding regions by 28,500 troops. By mid June 2007, all additional troops were in place; Alister Bull, *US says Iraq troop surge complete*, Reuters, 15 June 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/BUL522174.htm>.

¹² These include the “Baghdad Security Plan”, conducted in Baghdad and “Operation Phantom Thunder”, which included simultaneous operations in Diyala (“Operation Arrowhead Ripper”), Babel (“Operation Marne Torch” and “Operation Commando Eagle”) and Al-Anbar Governorates between June and August 2007; US Central Command, *MNC-I conducts Operation Phantom Thunder*, 20 June 2007, [http://www.centcom.mil/sites/uscentcom2/Lists/Current Press Releases/DispForm.aspx?ID=5154](http://www.centcom.mil/sites/uscentcom2/Lists/Current%20Press%20Releases/DispForm.aspx?ID=5154).

¹³ General David H. Petraeus, *Report to Congress on the Situation in Iraq*, 10-11 September 2007, <http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/pdfs/Petraeus-Testimony20070910.pdf> (further: “Petraeus, *Report to Congress September 2007*”). The UN Secretary-General, in his latest report to the Security Council, stated that “*(t)he multinational force and the Iraqi Security Forces operations have been instrumental in reducing the number of mass-casualty incidents by imposing increasing measures to interdict the movement of weapon systems and explosive devices;*” UN Security Council, *Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1770 (2007)*, 15 October 2007, S/2007/608, para 54, available in UNHCR’s Refworld at <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refworld/rwmain?docid=471855f62> (further: “UN SC, *Report October 2007*”).

¹⁴ Petraeus, *Report to Congress September 2007*, p. 1, see above footnote 13.

¹⁵ BBC, *Militants kill 14 Iraqi villagers*, 1 December 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7122598.stm.

¹⁶ Stephen Farrell, *Bomb at a Market Shatters Lull for Baghdad*, The New York Times, 24 November 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/24/world/middleeast/24iraq.html>.

Baghdad, using rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons. The attack sparked a fierce battle, reportedly leaving at least two dozen people dead.¹⁷

There are indications that the main players in the violence in Iraq, i.e. AQI and the Mehdi Army, have not been totally defeated.¹⁸ Reportedly, many AQI extremists relocated further east and north to avoid confrontation with the MNF-I/ISF and their tribal allies.¹⁹ Indeed, the Governorates of Diyala, Salah Al-Din, Kirkuk and Ninewa have all seen high levels of insecurity, including several of the most high-profile attacks, in 2007. The Mehdi Army, which kept a rather low profile in recent months in Baghdad and officially froze its activities as of late August 2007,²⁰ is said to have partially relocated to the Southern Governorates, where it is now involved in ongoing battles with other Shi'ite groups.²¹ Muqtada Al-Sadr,²² the radical cleric who formed the Mehdi Army in 2003, is said to be reasserting control over it, including by allowing the US military to pursue disloyal elements.²³ According to some observers, fighting by AQI and the Mehdi Army could re-ignite on a large scale once the "surge" ebbs.²⁴

¹⁷ Ann M. Simmons and Tina Susman, *Battle in Baghdad kills at least 24*, Los Angeles Times, 23 November 2007, <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-iraq23nov23,1,6273392.story?track=rss>.

¹⁸ General Petraeus assessed in late October 2007 that AQI no longer operates in large numbers in any neighborhood of Baghdad. But he also cautioned, saying that "(t)hey remain very lethal, very dangerous, capable at any point in time, if you will, of coming back off the canvas and landing a big punch, and we have to be aware of that"; Joshua Partlow and Amit R. Paley, *Sunni Violence in Baghdad Called Disrupted*, The Washington Post, 28 October 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/27/AR2007102701460.html>. A top US military commander in Iraq said in October 2007, that US forces had "defeated" AQI in Al-Anbar Governorate; Meredith Buel, *US Military says Iraqi Al-Qaida Group Defeated in One Province*, VOA, 15 October 2007, <http://www.voanews.com/english/2007-10-15-voa50.cfm>. On the same day, The Washington Post newspaper reported that "the US military believed it has dealt devastating and possibly irreversible blows to the terrorist organization in Iraq in recent months, leading some generals to advocate a declaration of victory over the group." According to Lt. Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, the second-ranking US commander in Iraq, AQI's support structures and supply lines had been weakened and their capabilities have been "degraded" by 60 to 70% since early 2007; Thomas E. Ricks and Karen DeYoung, *Al-Qaeda In Iraq Reported Crippled*, The Washington Post, 15 October 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/14/AR2007101401245.html>. See also Greg Bruno, *Profile: Al-Qaeda in Iraq (a.k.a. al-Qaeda in Mesopotamia)*, CFR, 15 November 2007, <http://www.cfr.org/publication/14811/>.

¹⁹ International Crisis Group (ICG) refers to this tactic as "recoil, redeploy and spoil"; Peter Harling and Joost Hiltermann, *Eyes wide shut*, Le Monde Diplomatique, May 2007, <http://mondediplo.com/2007/05/04iraq>. See also: AP, *Violence appears to be shifting from Baghdad*, 25 August 2007, <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/20440397/>; USDoD, *Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq*, Report to Congress In accordance with the Department of Defense Appropriations Act 2007 (Section 9010, Public Law 109-289), June 2007, p. 20, <http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/pdfs/9010-Final-20070608.pdf>; Aasim Taha, *Al-Qaeda reportedly taking strongholds in Hamrin mountain*, VOI, 27 April 2007, http://www.iraquupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/16868target=_blank.

²⁰ See Section II.3: "Freeze" of Mehdi Army activities.

²¹ See Section II.6: Hand-over of security in Southern Iraq and escalation in intra-Shi'ite fighting.

²² See for more background on Muqtada Al-Sadr: UNHCR, *Eligibility Guidelines August 2007*, see above footnote 1, for example at p. 41.

²³ Kristin Roberts, *US analysts see Sadr move aimed at Mehdi Army rogues*, Reuters, 29 August 2007, <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN29364154>. See also: Babak Rahimi, *Moqtada al-Sadr Stepping into the Power Vacuum*, The Jamestown Foundation, Terrorism Focus, Volume 4, Issue 19, 19 June 2007, <http://www.jamestown.org/terrorism/news/article.php?articleid=2373480>; Damien Cave, *Radical cleric in Iraq reins in his militia*, International Herald Tribune, 25 February 2007, <http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/02/25/news/baghdad.php>. See also Section II.3: "Freeze" of Mehdi Army activities.

²⁴ Robert Malley and Peter Harling of the ICG draw parallels between the Baghdad "surge" and "Operation Sinbad" in Basrah, which "at best, froze in place the existing situation and balance of power, creating an illusory stability that concealed a brutal and collective tug-of-war-in-waiting. Once the

There are also concerns over the security situation that will follow a (gradual) withdrawal of US troops and other MNF-I forces.²⁵ The US is in the process of pulling out some forces in the Governorates of Al-Anbar and Diyala²⁶ and is expected to return to pre-“surge” levels by July 2008, leaving roughly 130,000 troops in Iraq.²⁷ Given the lack of political reconciliation²⁸ and prevailing sectarianism within the ISF,²⁹ several experts believe that sectarian killings could once more escalate.³⁰ The US Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction warned, in October 2007, that

*“(I)n areas that included mixed Sunni-Shia populations, we were told, the departure of U.S. forces would produce open battlegrounds of ethnic cleansing.”*³¹

British version of the surge ebbed, the struggle reignited.” They predict that “even should the armed opposition weaken, even should sectarian tensions abate, and even should the surge momentarily succeed, Basra’s fate is likely to be replicated throughout the country on a larger, more chaotic, and more dangerous scale”; see: Robert Malley and Peter Harling, *A lesson in Iraqi illusion*, The Boston Globe, 8 July 2007, http://www.boston.com/news/globe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2007/07/08/a_lesson_in_iraqi_illusion/. See footnote 215 below for more on “Operation Sinbad”.

²⁵ See for example, Richard A. Oppel, *Falluja’s Calm Is Seen as Fragile if U.S. Leaves*, The New York Times, 19 August 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/19/world/middleeast/19falluja.html>.

²⁶ Reuters, *US pulling 3,000 troops from Iraq’s Diyala province*, 13 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L13727119.htm>. See also: Sam Dagher, *In key Iraqi area, US starts pulling back*, Christian Science Monitor, 2 November 2007, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/1102/p01s06-woiq.html>.

²⁷ Further reductions would be considered next spring, as conditions allow. See: Petraeus, *Report to Congress September 2007*, pp. 6-7, see above footnote 13.

²⁸ See below Section II.5: Political reconciliation.

²⁹ According to the most recent GAO report, the Iraqi Government has made limited progress in developing effective and non-sectarian forces despite intense US efforts to train and equip about 360,000 Iraqi soldiers and police officers with the aim of gradually transferring security responsibilities to them, and, ultimately, withdrawing US troops from Iraq. It assessed that the ISF have grown in size and are increasingly leading counterinsurgency operations, but by September 2007, only about 10 of 140 Iraqi Army, National Police and Special Operations Forces are operating independently from the MNF-I; GAO, *Securing, Stabilizing and Rebuilding Iraq, GAO Audits and Key Oversight Issues*, Testimony Before the Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, U.S. House of Representatives, 30 October 2007, p. 8, <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08231t.pdf> (further: “GAO, *Iraq Report October 2007*”). With regard to the Iraqi Army, the USDoD assessed that “the development of a unified, nonsectarian force that will be capable of securing the country in the event of a withdrawal of Coalition forces is hampered by the loyalty of soldiers within many military units to their tribal and ethno-sectarian or political affiliations and associated militias;” USDoD, *Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq*, Report to Congress In accordance with the Department of Defense Appropriations Act 2007 (Section 9010, Public Law 109-289), September 2007, p. 31, <http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/pdfs/Signed-Version-070912.pdf> (further: “USDoD, *Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq September 2007*”). An assessment prepared by a commission of retired senior US military officers and headed by retired Marine General James Jones, said that Iraq’s Army and Special Forces, despite some progress made, will be unable to take over internal security from US forces in the next 12 to 18 months. The MoI, it says, is “dysfunctional” and is “a ministry in name only” with “sectarianism and corruption being pervasive” and crippling “the ministry’s ability to (...) provide internal security for Iraqi citizens.” It assessed the Iraqi Police as “incapable today of providing security at a level sufficient to protect Iraqi neighbourhoods from insurgents and sectarian violence.” Further it also described the 25,000-member Iraqi National Police as “ineffective” and riddled with sectarianism. The commission recommended that the National Police be disbanded and reorganized; Independent Commission on the Security Forces of Iraq, *The Report of the Independent Commission on the Security Forces of Iraq*, 6 September 2007, <http://media.csis.org/isf.pdf> (further: “Jones report September 2007”).

³⁰ See below Section II.4: Sectarian segregation.

³¹ As an example, the report referred to Baghdad’s Dora market as a place where Shi’ite militias could be expected to expel Sunni shopkeepers if US forces withdrew; Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, *Review of the Effectiveness of the Provincial Reconstruction Team Program in*

This is of particular concern for formerly mixed areas, where one group has temporarily driven out its rivals, and in areas where homogenous Sunni and Shi'ite neighborhoods border each other.³²

2. “Awakening” movements

In late 2006, Sunni tribes³³ and former insurgent groups³⁴ in Al-Anbar Governorate began to turn against AQI, which had its stronghold there. In early 2007, the US military started to support and train these groups, which it calls “concerned local citizens” or “auxiliary security forces”. It encouraged these “awakening” movements to spread into other Governorates, including Baghdad,³⁵ Diyala,³⁶ Salah Al-Din,³⁷

Iraq, 18 October 2007, p. 24, <http://media.mcclatchydc.com/smedia/2007/10/18/10/basra-Seibel.source.prod.affiliate.91.pdf>.

³² Reuters, *US report warns of new ethnic cleansing in Iraq*, 18 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N18437055.htm>. Peter Harling and Joost Hiltermann from the ICG asserted that “(O)nce the US military, having pacified Sunni districts, hands them over to Iraqi security forces known to be aligned with Shia death squads, these districts will prove hard to reconquer. The nominally non-partisan surge may end up tilting the balance in favour of Shia militias;” Peter Harling and Joost Hiltermann, *Eyes wide shut*, Le Monde Diplomatique, May 2007, <http://mondediplo.com/2007/05/04iraq>. See also: Martin Fletcher, *A ‘Sunni awakening’ – and a recurring nightmare*, The Times, 10 September 2007, http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/guest_contributors/article2412837.ece.

³³ Sheikh Abdul Sattar Abu Risha, a Sunni tribal leader in Al-Anbar Governorate, was instrumental in forming the “Anbar Awakening” a coalition of tribal sheikhs and former Sunni insurgent groups to fight AQI in the Governorate. Tribal and insurgent leaders had become increasingly frustrated with the behaviour of the extremists, who were trying to enforce their hard-line interpretation of Islamic law, assassinated tribal and insurgent figures, threatened tribes’ local interests and claimed a leading role in the Sunni insurgency. US President George W. Bush met Sheikh Abu Risha and other tribal leaders during a highly symbolic trip to Al-Anbar Governorate on 3 September 2007. On 13 September 2007, Sheikh Abu Risha was assassinated outside his home in Al-Anbar’s capital Ramadi. Sheikh Abu Risha’s brother Ahmed took over the leadership of the movement and vowed to continue the fight against AQI; see: VOA, *Al-Qaida Claims Responsibility for Killing of Sunni Tribal Leader*, 14 September 2007, <http://www.voanews.com/english/2007-09-14-voa10.cfm>; BBC, *Obituary: Abdul Sattar Abu Risha*, 13 September 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/6993370.stm; Mark Kukis, *Turning Iraq’s Tribes Against Al-Qaeda*, Time, 26 December 2006, <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1572796,00.html>.

³⁴ Including the Islamic Army in Iraq, the 1920 Revolution Brigades and the Mujaheddin Army. The Islamic Army in Iraq, the largest Sunni insurgent group consisting mainly of former Ba’athists and army officers, severed its ties with AQI after several months of infighting in April 2007. The group nevertheless said that it remained committed to its opposition to the Iraqi Government and the presence of foreign troops in the country; Al Jazeera, *Iraqi group ‘splits’ from al-Qaeda*, 12 April 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/16414; *ibidem*, *Sunni group condemns Iraq al-Qaeda*, 6 April 2007, <http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/A6EC4EAB-854C-4D2F-A922-754648CDED8D.htm>. See also: Bernhard Zand, *Insurgents in Iraq Turn on Each Other*, Der Spiegel, 12 June 2007, <http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,487882,00.html>; Bill Roggio, *Islamic Army of Iraq splits from al Qaeda*, The Long War Journal, 12 April 2007, http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2007/04/islamic_army_of_iraq.php.

³⁵ For example, in June 2007, a fierce battle broke out in Baghdad’s Al-Amiriyah District between AQI on one side and local residents, the Islamic Army of Iraq and the 1920 Revolution Brigades on the other; John Ward Anderson, *Sunni Insurgents Battle in Baghdad*, The Washington Post, 1 June 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/31/AR2007053100455.html>. Reportedly, the Anbar Salvation Council also sent in a unit to fight AQI. See also: AFP, *Sunni fighters take on Qaeda in Baghdad street*, 1 June 2007, http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticleNew.asp?xfile=data/focusoniraq/2007/June/focusoniraq_June3.xml§ion=focusoniraq.

³⁶ In May 2007, tribal leaders announced the formation of a tribal alliance to cleanse the Governorate of foreign fighters and AQI; DPA, *Tribal leaders in Diyala announce alliance against al-Qaeda*, 10 May

Ninewa,³⁸ Kirkuk³⁹ and Babel,⁴⁰ where the Sunni insurgency has led a violent campaign against the MNF-I/ISF and Iraqi civilians. Such “concerned citizens” man checkpoints, conduct patrols and provide the MNF-I/ISF with intelligence on insurgent activities, using their local knowledge and contacts.⁴¹

AQI responded to the “awakening” movements by announcing an assassination campaign against leaders of Sunni tribal and insurgent groups, as well as civilians cooperating with them or criticizing AQI. It said it had formed “*special security committees*” to “*assassinate the tribal figures, the traitors, who stained the reputations of the real tribes by submitting to the soldiers of the Crusade.*” It also posted a list of names of tribal leaders on the internet, some with photos. The faces of those killed were crossed out. A significant number of tribal leaders have been assassinated in 2007 by AQI.⁴²

Similarly, local Shi’ite tribal movements hostile to the Mehdi Army and its perceived links with Iran, and frustrated with fighting among rival militias, have been emerging in the Babel, Wassit, Diwaniyah and Kerbala Governorates.⁴³ It was reported in October

2007, <http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/61245.html>. See also: Bill Roggio, *The Diyala Salvation Front*, The Long War Journal, 10 May 2007, http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2007/05/the_diyala_salvation.php; VOI, *Sunni tribal leaders join Diala Rescue Council*, 11 September 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/21621.

³⁷ The *Salah Al-Din Awakening* was formed in late May 2007; Bill Roggio, *Al Qaeda suicide bombers target the Salahadin Awakening*, The Long War Journal, 9 October 2007, http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2007/10/al_qaeda_suicide_bom.php; RFE/RL Newline, *Salah Al-Din Tribes Mobilizing to Fight Al-Qaeda...*, 25 May 2007, Volume 11, Number 96, <http://www.rferl.org/newsline/2007/05/6-SWA/swa-250507.asp>.

³⁸ Salem Areef, *Mosul tribes rally to fight al-Qaeda*, Azzaman, 19 September 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/21908; Bill Roggio, *Violence in Iraq drops dramatically*, The Long War Journal, 14 October 2007, http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2007/10/violence_in_iraq_dro.php.

³⁹ Information received by UNHCR, November 2007.

⁴⁰ In October 2007, 31 tribal sheikhs (two thirds Sunni and one third Shi’ite) from Mahmoudiyah signed a statement committing themselves to help ensure that the ISF have sole responsibility for security in Mahmoudiyah, that tribal members provide information on terrorist and criminal activity and that the community takes responsibility for the large number of citizens who have been displaced by the violence. See: USIP, *USIP-Facilitated Iraq Reconciliation Agreement a Key Breakthrough for Stability Effort in South Baghdad’s “Triangle of Death”*, 19 October 2007, http://www.usip.org/newsmedia/releases/2007/1019_iraq_reconciliation.html; the full statement can be found at: http://www.usip.org/iraq/mahmoudiya_accord.pdf.

⁴¹ Sumedha Senanayake, *Iraq: Al-Anbar Initiative Makes Progress, But Baghdad Remains Wary*, RFE/RL, 2 November 2007, <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/11/484ec3e1-8dc7-4722-98a7-19bb6f41ad06.html>. See also: Bill Roggio, *An interview with the “Lion of Arab Jabour”*, The Long War Journal, 22 September 2007, http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2007/09/an_interview_with_th.php.

⁴² Bill Roggio, *Al Qaeda’s Ramadan assassination campaign*, The Long War Journal, 6 October 2007, http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2007/10/al_qaedas_ramadan_as.php. See also: MEMRI, *Al-Qaeda in Iraq Publishes List of Tribal Leaders It Intends to Assassinate Before ‘Id Al-Fitr*, 24 September 2007, http://www.thememriblog.org/blog_personal/en/3005.htm; AP, *Al Qaeda Group Threatens Iraqi Sunnis Who Cooperate With U.S.*, 15 September 2007, <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,296897,00.html>; Jane’s, *Al-Qaeda in Iraq’s assassination campaign*, 15 October 2007, http://www.janes.com/news/security/terrorism/jtic/jtic071015_1_n.shtml; Bill Roggio, *Al Qaeda suicide bombers target the Salahadin Awakening*, The Long War Journal, 9 October 2007, http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2007/10/al_qaeda_suicide_bom.php. See also the incidents included in the various Annexes.

⁴³ Bill Roggio, *Violence in Iraq drops dramatically*, The Long War Journal, 14 October 2007, http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2007/10/violence_in_iraq_dro.php. See also: Gordon Lubold, *A variation on a successful effort appears to be curbing attacks south of Baghdad*, Christian Science

2007 that “*relations ha[d] soured*” between the Mehdi Army and Shi’ites in several Shi’ite neighbourhoods in Baghdad. Reportedly, residents accuse the Mehdi Army of criminal acts, including the killing of Shi’ite civilians.⁴⁴ Popular resistance against the Mehdi Army may not, however, become as widespread as Sunni resistance against AQI, due to its hardline brand of Islam and indiscriminate killing of civilians which have alienated many Sunnis.⁴⁵

The US has expressed hope that its cooperation with these new “auxiliary security forces” will produce political reconciliation from the “bottom up”, given that reconciliation efforts at the national level have stalled.⁴⁶ These initiatives have been acknowledged to have contributed to a reduction in violence.⁴⁷ On the other hand, tribal and insurgent fighters, who engage in assassinations and detention of alleged AQI fighters, largely do not operate under clear military command structures, and their loyalty is not always clear.⁴⁸ The Iraqi Government, though generally supporting the “awakening” movements,⁴⁹ has on several occasions expressed concern, if not outright

Monitor, 2 October 2007, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/1002/p01s07-wome.htm>; Kim Gamel, *U.S. expands Anbar model to Iraq Shiites*, AP, 17 September 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/21798; Bill Roggio, *Sheikh Sattar assassin captured by US forces*, The Long War Journal, 16 September 2007, http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2007/09/sheikh_sattar_assass.php. On the frustration of some tribal leaders over the militias’ influence, see Mariam Karouny, *Shi’ite tribal leaders in Iraq say Islamism on rise*, Reuters, 16 October 2007, <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSKAR64431320071016?pageNumber=1>.

⁴⁴ Sabrina Tavernise, *Relations Sour Between Shiites and Iraq Militia*, The New York Times, 12 October 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/12/world/middleeast/12mahdi.html>.

⁴⁵ Nidhal al-Laithi, *U.S. accused of taking sides in Shiite factional fighting*, Azzaman, 18 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24120; Alexandra Zavis, *\$5.2m buys security and loyalty for today*, Los Angeles Times, 17 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24059.

⁴⁶ US President George W. Bush said “(A)s reconciliation occurs in local communities across Iraq, it will help create conditions for reconciliation in Baghdad”; see: Fred W. Baker III, *Bush Hails Local-Level Political Progress in Iraq*, American Forces Press Service, 18 August 2007, <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=47101>. See also: Section II.5: Political reconciliation.

⁴⁷ The National Intelligence Council (NIC) in its latest National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) assessed “that the emergence of “bottom-up” security initiatives, principally among Sunni Arabs and focused on combating AQI, represent the best prospect for improved security over the next six to 12 months, but we judge these initiatives will only translate into widespread political accommodation and enduring stability if the Iraqi Government accepts and supports them;” NIC, *Prospects for Iraq’s Stability: Some Security Progress but Political Reconciliation Elusive*, August 2007, p. 2, http://www.dni.gov/press_releases/20070823_release.pdf (further “NIE August 2007”).

⁴⁸ Joshua Partlow and Ann Scott Tyson, *Hurdles Stall Plan For Iraqi Recruits*, The Washington Post, 12 November 2007, http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/11/AR2007111101730_pf.html. See also: Ghaith Abdul-Ahad, *Meet Abu Abed: the US’s new ally against al-Qaida*, The Guardian, 12 November 2007, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/print/0,,331225411-110878,00.html>; Sam Dagher, *Will ‘armloads’ of US cash buy tribal loyalty?*, Christian Science Monitor, 8 November 2007, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/1108/p01s04-wome.html>.

⁴⁹ On 11 November 2007, Iraq’s “De-Ba’athification Commission” announced that it had reinstated 70 former Ba’ath Party members, including university professors and teachers, officers of the disbanded Iraqi Army and former policemen to their jobs after they joined the fight against AQI in Al-Anbar Governorate; AP, *Government panel reinstates former Saddam supporters who turned against al-Qaida*, 11 November 2007, <http://www.ihl.com/articles/ap/2007/11/11/africa/ME-GEN-Iraq-SaddamLoyalists.php>. On 14 October 2007, Ammar Al-Hakim, son of SIIC leader Abdel Aziz Al-Hakim, visited Al-Anbar Governorate and meet with Ahmed Abu Risha, the leader of the Anbar Awakening Council; AP, *Iraqi Shiite leader visits Sunni province in reconciliatory gesture*, 16 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/22906. On 2 October 2007, Prime Minister Nuri Al-Maliki met with Ahmed Abu Risha and expressed the Government’s support for the Anbar tribes; VOI,

opposition, to US support of what it considers to be new militias, fearing that they may turn against the Government once AQI has been defeated.⁵⁰ Certain members of the awakening movements may even be new actors of persecution.⁵¹ The Iraqi Government has so far been reluctant to make significant political concessions to the Sunni Arab resistance and to include large numbers of tribal and insurgent fighters in the regular ISF.⁵² As a result, there is a risk of a continued proliferation of armed groups in Iraq, further undermining the Government's monopoly on the legitimate use of force.⁵³

PM meets Anbar Awakening Council leader, stresses support for tribes, 2 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/22439.

⁵⁰ In particular as the "Anbar model" is applied in Baghdad and other mixed Governorates, the Iraqi Government has expressed its unease and in some cases outright opposition; for example, in October 2007, a group of tribesmen from Al-Anbar were brought into Baghdad's Saidiyah neighbourhood ("Saidiyah Awakening") to clamp down on JAM militia. This move was condemned by the Iraqi Government, which accused the tribal fighters of abusing their authority and being involved in kidnappings, killings and extortion; Sabah Jerges, *Iraqi leaders turn against US-created 'militias'*, Middle East Online, 5 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/22563. See also: Joshua Partlow, *Shiite Bloc Condemns U.S. Policy Of Recruiting Sunni Tribesmen*, The Washington Post, 3 October 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/02/AR2007100202380.html>; Sumedha Senanayake, *Iraq: Al-Anbar Initiative Makes Progress, But Baghdad Remains Wary*, RFE/RL, 2 November 2007, <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/11/484ec3e1-8dc7-4722-98a7-19bb6f41ad06.html>; The Economist, *I want to kill you, but not today*, 4 October 2007, http://www.economist.com/world/africa/displaystory.cfm?story_id=9905536; Ann Scott Tyson, *Tribal Members Join in Effort To Assist U.S., Iraqi Forces*, The Washington Post, 30 September 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/29/AR2007092901528.html>; Sumedha Senanayake, *Iraq: Plan To Arm Additional Sunni Groups Poses Risks*, RFE/RL, 22 June 2007, <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/06/9dc208ba-ff55-4ce4-9ab3-2dfdf787dfde.html>; Nancy A. Youssef and Leila Fadel, *Critics: Arming Sunni militias undercuts Iraqi government*, McClatchy Newspapers, 17 June 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/world/story/16989.html>.

⁵¹ Ali al-Fadhily, *Iraq: A Tenuous 'Peace' in Al-Anbar*, IPS, 29 November 2007, <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=40280>.

⁵² According to senior US military officials, the Iraqi Government has so far resisted to incorporate the nearly 70,000 tribal and insurgent fighters into the regular ISF, fearing that they could turn against the Government. Reportedly, only about 1,600 of the "volunteers" have been trained and sworn in to the ISF, mainly the police; Joshua Partlow and Ann Scott Tyson, *Hurdles Stall Plan For Iraqi Recruits*, The Washington Post, 12 November 2007, http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/11/AR2007111101730_pf.html. At the same time, Prime Minister Al-Maliki announced the recruitment of 18,000 members of Shi'ite militias (Badr Organization and Dawa) into the ISF. The decision sparked anger and deep concern from several political factions, particularly Sunni groups who accuse the ISF of being infiltrated by Shi'ite militias; Alwan Hussain, *More militia members join army, police*, Azzaman, 13 November 2007, <http://www.azzaman.com/english/index.asp?fname=news/2007-11-9ed.htm>. US Lt. Col. Richard Welch, who works primarily with Sunni tribal leaders and has negotiated with insurgents, said that former Sunni insurgents and tribal leaders will expect something in return for having turned on AQI, but the Iraqi Government "has been hesitant to grant concessions;" Leila Fadel, *Despite violence drop, officers see bleak future for Iraq*, McClatchy Newspapers, 15 August 2007, http://www.mcclatchydc.com/staff/leila_fadel/story/18927.html. See also: Reuters, *Iraqi govt to pay most citizen patrols by mid-2008*, 5 December 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L05573605.htm>.

⁵³ Alexandra Zavis, *\$5.2m buys security and loyalty for today*, Los Angeles Times, 17 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24059. See also: Thomas E. Ricks, *Iraqis Wasting An Opportunity, U.S. Officers Say*, The Washington Post, 15 November 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/14/AR2007111402524.html>; Sam Dagher, *Will 'armloads' of US cash buy tribal loyalty?*, Christian Science Monitor, 8 November 2007, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/1108/p01s04-wome.html>; Sumedha Senanayake, *Iraq: Al-Anbar Initiative Makes Progress, But Baghdad Remains Wary*, RFE/RL, 2 November 2007, <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/11/484ec3e1-8dc7-4722-98a7-19bb6f41ad06.html>; Ann Scott Tyson, *Tribal Members Join in Effort To Assist U.S., Iraqi Forces*, The Washington Post, 30 September 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/29/AR2007092901528.html>;

In particular in areas with mixed populations (e.g. Baghdad, Diyala, Babel), there are concerns that these tribal and insurgent groups have now become yet another party to the sectarian conflict.⁵⁴

Finally, it should be noted that the “awakening” movement is not a monolithic bloc, but consists of various actors with more or less legitimacy within the Sunni community and may eventually engage in feuds against each other over economic, political and military influence.⁵⁵

3. “Freeze” of Mehdi Army activities

The Eligibility Guidelines had highlighted that the Jaish Al-Mahdi (or Mehdi Army) is considered responsible for the murder and displacement of Sunnis by death squads in the country.⁵⁶ During the “surge”, it maintained a low profile, avoiding direct confrontation with the MNF-I.⁵⁷ In late August 2007, Al-Sadr ordered the temporary “freeze” of all activities of the Mehdi Army. This move was made in order to pursue rogue elements of the movement, restore internal discipline and improve the Mehdi Army’s public image.⁵⁸

Renewed involvement of Mehdi Army in fighting, in particular in Southern Iraq,⁵⁹ has raised doubts over Al-Sadr’s intentions and/or his ability to control the more radical

Nancy A. Youssef and Leila Fadel, *Critics: Arming Sunni militias undercuts Iraqi government*, McClatchy Newspapers, 17 June 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/world/story/16989.html>.

⁵⁴ For example, in the Governorate of Diyala, the police is reportedly dominated by the Badr Organization, which is accused of sectarian killings; Ahmed Ali, *IRAQ: Sectarianism Splits Security in Diyala*, IPS, 7 August 2007, <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=38813>. See also: Colin Kahl, Shawn Brimley, *The Sorcerer’s Apprentice*, Foreign Policy, September 2007, http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=3968; Gordon Lubold, *A quieter Anbar Province rebuilds*, Christian Science Monitor, 5 September 2007, p. 3, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0905/p01s01-wome.html?page=1>; Sumedha Senanayake, *Iraq: Plan To Arm Additional Sunni Groups Poses Risks*, RFE/RL, 22 June 2007, <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/06/9dc208ba-ff55-4ce4-9ab3-2dfdf787dfde.html>.

⁵⁵ Jim Lobe, *IRAQ: Toward National Reconciliation or a Warlord State?*, IPS, 20 November 2007, <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=40140>. See also: Alexandra Zavis, *\$5.2m buys security and loyalty for today*, Los Angeles Times, 17 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24059; Sam Dagher, *Will ‘armloads’ of US cash buy tribal loyalty?*, Christian Science Monitor, 8 November 2007, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/1108/p01s04-wome.html>.

⁵⁶ UNHCR, *Eligibility Guidelines* 2007, pp. 41, 51-53, see above footnote 1.

⁵⁷ Sudarsan Raghavan, *For U.S. and Sadr, Wary Cooperation*, The Washington Post, 16 March 2007, http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/03/15/AR2007031502447_pf.html. See also: Damien Cave, *Iraq Rebel Cleric Reins In Militia; Motives at Issue*, The New York Times, 25 February 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/02/25/world/middleeast/25sadr.html>; BBC, *US says Shia cleric has left Iraq*, 14 February 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/6361453.stm; Charles Crain, *How Sadr Plans to Ride Out the Surge*, The Time, 2 February 2007, <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1585521,00.html>.

⁵⁸ Ewen MacAskill, *Al-Sadr declares ceasefire in Iraq*, The Guardian, 31 August 2007, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/Iraq/Story/0,,2158436,00.html>. See also: Damien McElroy, *Moqtada al-Sadr announces ceasefire in Iraq*, 31 August 2007, Telegraph, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/08/30/wiraq130.xml>; BBC, *Sadr ‘freezes’ militia activities*, 29 August 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/6968720.stm; Kristin Roberts, *US analysts see Sadr move aimed at Mehdi Army rogues*, Reuters, 29 August 2007, <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN29364154>; Lydia Khalil, *Al-Sadr’s Weakening Grip on the Mahdi Army*, The Jamestown Foundation, Terrorism Focus, Volume 3, Issue 39, 10 October 2006, <http://www.jamestown.org/terrorism/news/article.php?articleid=2370161>.

⁵⁹ See Section II.6: Hand-over of security in Southern Iraq and escalation in intra-Shi’ite fighting.

elements of his movement.⁶⁰ According to the US Department of Defense (USDoD), the freeze of activities “*will likely only apply to mainstream JAM elements, while specialized JAM units will probably continue violence aimed at Coalition forces and JAM rivals.*”⁶¹ In October 2007, Al-Sadr said the freeze remained in force and may be renewed if considered beneficial.⁶²

While the US military had previously focused on fighting Sunni insurgent groups, in recent months it increased its efforts in combating rogue Mehdi Army elements (so-called “Special Groups”).⁶³ It also started to tacitly work with moderate Mehdi Army elements to stabilize Baghdad neighborhoods.⁶⁴ This has, reportedly, led to a reduction of sectarian killings in Baghdad.⁶⁵ However, based on past experience,⁶⁶ it is believed that Al-Sadr may be keeping his forces intact in anticipation of a US withdrawal from Iraq.⁶⁷

⁶⁰ As seen in the past, “*the suspension of activities could also be a stall tactic to give his militia time to regroup and wait for a more opportune moment to act;*” Sumedha Senanayake, *Iraq: Is Al-Sadr Saving Face, Or Biding His Time?*, RFE/RL, 5 September 2007, <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/09/8951752e-81d1-4cd5-b876-d687450e9da1.html>; Charles Crane, *Is Iraq’s Sadr Mending His Ways?*, Time, 31 August 2007, <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1657964,00.html>.

⁶¹ USDoD, *Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq September 2007*, p. 19, see above footnote 29.

⁶² AP, *Iraq’s Al-Sadr says freeze of militia’s military activity remains in force*, 24 October 2007, <http://www.ihl.com/articles/ap/2007/10/24/africa/ME-GEN-Iraq-Mahdi-Army.php>. However, on November 2007, Bahaa al-Araji, a senior official of the Sadr Movement, said that it may not be able to keep its promise to freeze its activities in light of the US siding with its major rival, the SIIC and its Badr Organization. The statement came in relation to ongoing campaigns against Sadrists in Diwaniyah and Kerbala; Nidhal al-Laithi, *U.S. accused of taking sides in Shiite factional fighting*, Azzaman, 17 November 2007, <http://www.azzaman.com/english/index.asp?fname=news\2007-11-9\kurd6.htm>.

⁶³ US General Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker concluded that, with the influence of Sunni insurgent groups diminishing, Shi’ite extremists pose a rising threat to the US effort in Iraq. Their classified draft strategy for Iraq, which covers the period up until summer 2009, anticipates shifting the US military effort on countering Shi’ite militias; Ann Scott Tyson, *U.S. Planners See Shiite Militias as Rising Threat*, The Washington Post, 22 October 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/21/AR2007102101577.html?hpid=topnews>.

⁶⁴ Ned Parker, *Iraqi civilian deaths plunge*, Los Angeles Times, 1 November 2007, <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-violence1nov01,0,5231814.story?coll=la-home-center>. See also: Mohammed Ameer, *US forces seize rogue Sadr militant*, AFP, 27 October 2007, http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20071027/wl_afp/iraqunrest_071027112703; Sam Dagher, *US targeted Iran-tied group in raid*, Christian Science Monitor, 22 October 2007, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/1022/p06s01-wome.html>; Bill Roggio, *US kills 25 Special Groups fighters in Diyala*, The Long War Journal, 5 October 2007, http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2007/10/us_kills_25_special.php; Sudarsan Raghavan, *For U.S. and Sadr, Wary Cooperation*, The Washington Post, 16 March 2007, http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/03/15/AR2007031502447_pf.html.

⁶⁵ Joshua Partlow and Naseer Nouri, *US buoyed by fall in Iraqi death attacks*, The Observer, 4 November 2007, <http://observer.guardian.co.uk/world/story/0,,2204898,00.html>; Justin Bergman, *Al-Maliki pledges reconciliation in Iraq*, AP, 26 September 2007, http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2007-09-26-1859321802_x.htm.

⁶⁶ See, for example: Charles Crain, *Will the Shi’a Militia Truce Last?*, Times, 30 November 2007, <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1689540,00.html?xid=feed-cnn-world>, which says “*But since joining the national political process in 2004, the Sadrists have proven willing to engage in politics when it suits them and resort to violence when they feel it is necessary.*”

⁶⁷ Peter Harling and Joost Hiltermann, *Eyes wide shut*, Le Monde Diplomatique, May 2007, <http://mondediplo.com/2007/05/04iraq>. Gareth Porter, a historian and national security policy analyst, suggested that Al-Sadr was avoiding a confrontation with US forces, keeping his forces intact and awaiting the MNF-I withdrawal; Gareth Porter, *US-IRAQ: Unable to Defeat Mahdi Army, U.S. Hopes to Divide It*, IPS, 8 October 2007, <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=39565>.

4. Sectarian segregation

The issue of sectarian segregation was addressed to a limited extent in the Eligibility Guidelines.⁶⁸ It is now addressed more fully in this update due to its increasing relevance and importance as a feature of Iraqi society. Analysts say that one of the reasons for the drop in violence in Central Iraq is the scale of sectarian “cleansing” that has occurred in formerly mixed Sunni and Shi’ite areas. For example, the recent National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) on Iraq said that

*“(w)here population displacements have led to significant sectarian separation, conflict levels have diminished to some extent because warring communities find it more difficult to penetrate communal enclaves.”*⁶⁹

This is most evident in Baghdad. A US official reported that whereas Baghdad had a 65% Sunni-majority population in 2003, it has now become a 75-80% Shi’a-majority city.⁷⁰ The neighbourhood of Hurriyah, formerly Sunni-Shi’ite mixed, has become only Shi’ite. The District of Rashid, once an area with a majority Sunni population, has now a population of about 70% Shi’ite.⁷¹ In Baghdad, Shi’ites now constitute a clear majority in more than half of all neighborhoods and Sunni areas have become surrounded by predominately Shi’ite districts.⁷² Reportedly, Baghdad has become more segregated with the Sunnis living in “*ghettos encircled by concrete blast walls to stop militia attacks and car bombs.*”⁷³ In the remaining mixed neighbourhoods, mainly in the southwest of the city, sectarian violence continues to occur and unidentified bodies continue to appear daily, though in lower numbers than before.⁷⁴

While sectarian segregation may have resulted in a decrease in sectarian violence in some areas of Baghdad, sectarian violence remains high in other areas of the capital and elsewhere in the country.⁷⁵ Actors of sectarian violence, i.e. AQI, Shi’ite militias and the Shi’ite-dominated ISF, are still operational.⁷⁶ As indicated in the Eligibility Guidelines,⁷⁷ AQI aims at provoking sectarian violence between Iraq’s Shi’ite and

⁶⁸ UNHCR, *Eligibility Guidelines August 2007*, see above footnote 1, in particular pp. 54-55.

⁶⁹ NIE August 2007, p. 3, see above footnote 47. See also: Stephen Biddle and Jeffrey Friedman, *The Iraq Data Debate: Civilian Casualties from 2006 to 2007*, CFR, 28 September 2007, http://www.cfr.org/publication/14295/iraq_data_debate.html; Tina Susman, *Troop buildup fails to reconcile Iraq*, Los Angeles Times, 4 September 2007, <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-surge4sep04,0,3817546.story?coll=la-home-center>; Leila Fadel, *Despite violence drop, officers see bleak future for Iraq*, McClatchy Newspapers, 15 August 2007, http://www.mcclatchydc.com/staff/leila_fadel/story/18927.html.

⁷⁰ Nancy A. Youssef and Leila Fadel, *What Crocker and Petraeus didn’t say*, McClatchy Newspapers, 10 September 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/homepage/story/19610.html>.

⁷¹ Ned Parker, *Iraqi civilian deaths plunge*, Los Angeles Times, 1 November 2007, <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-violence1nov01,0,5231814.story?coll=la-home-center>.

⁷² NIE August 2007, p. 3, see above footnote 47. See also MNF-I, *Ethno-Sectarian Violence: Baghdad Security Districts*, published in Jones Report September 2007, p. 34, see above footnote 29.

⁷³ Leila Fadel, *Security in Iraq still elusive*, McClatchy Newspapers, 9 September 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/homepage/story/19566.html>.

⁷⁴ *Ibid*; Tina Susman, *Baghdad’s surge in sectarian ‘cleansing’*, Los Angeles Times, 13 August 2007, http://www.philly.com/inquirer/home_top_stories/20070813_Baghdads_surge_in_sectarian_cleansing.html. See also Section III.1: Baghdad Governorate.

⁷⁵ See Section II.5: Political reconciliation.

⁷⁶ See Section II.1: The “Surge”, and Section II.3: “Freeze” of Mehdi Army activities.

⁷⁷ UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines, see above footnote 1, for example at pp. 48-49, 86-87 and 104.

Sunni communities and among Arabs and Kurds. This phenomenon continues.⁷⁸ While high-profile attacks against Shi'ite mosques such as the Samarra Mosque bombing on 13 June 2007⁷⁹ and the Al-Khailani Mosque bombing in Rusafa on 19 June 2007⁸⁰ failed to provoke widespread sectarian violence as was the case in 2006,⁸¹ it is expected that AQI will continue such operations,⁸² and sectarian violence will remain high in Iraq over the next six to twelve months.⁸³

5. *Political reconciliation*

The US military and independent experts agree that military force alone will not be sufficient to halt the violence in Iraq.⁸⁴ Rather, from the outset, the Baghdad Security Plan was intended to provide “*breathing space*” for the Government to take political steps towards national reconciliation.⁸⁵ However, as Vali Nasr, a CFR Middle East expert, put it: “*It is the political impasse that is causing the security problem, and it is the political impasse that has to be solved if there is to be an end to the fighting.*”⁸⁶

To date, political reconciliation among Iraq's warring factions has been limited.⁸⁷ In late August 2007, a unity accord was signed by senior Shi'ite and Sunni Arab and Kurdish political leaders, in which they agreed to release thousands of prisoners being held without charge. The unity accord signalled efforts to foster greater national reconciliation.⁸⁸ Despite the accord, however, passage of legislation key to political stability in Iraq (i.e. on oil,⁸⁹ reversal of “De-Ba'athification”, provincial elections, amnesty to insurgents, disarmament of militias, and the revision of the constitution)

⁷⁸ See Section III.1: Baghdad Governorate.

⁷⁹ John Ward Anderson and Joshua Partlow, *Shiite Shrine in Samarra Is Hit Again*, The Washington Post, 14 June 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/06/13/AR2007061300356.html>.

⁸⁰ USDoD, *Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq September 2007*, p. iv, see above footnote 29.

⁸¹ RFE/RL, *Iraq: Uneasy Calm Follows Attacks On Key Shi'ite Shrine*, 14 June 2007, <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/06/a172de88-2e22-4432-8f73-1e6d41314b36.html>.

⁸² *Ibid.* See also below Section II. 6 (Hand-over of security in Southern Iraq and escalation in intra-Shi'ite fighting) on reported attempts to stir Shi'ite-on-Shi'ite violence in Southern Iraq.

⁸³ The NIE assessed that “*sectarian violence will remain high*” in the coming six to twelve months, even as the security situation continues to “*improve modestly*”; NIE August 2007, p. 1, see above footnote 47.

⁸⁴ See for example, USDoD, *Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq September 2007*, p. 8, see above footnote 29; Leila Fadel, *Despite violence drop, officers see bleak future for Iraq*, McClatchy Newspapers, 15 August 2007, http://www.mcclatchydc.com/staff/leila_fadel/story/18927.html.

⁸⁵ The White House, *President's Address to the Nation*, 10 January 2007, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/01/20070110-7.html>; CNN, *No military solution to Iraq, U.S. general says*, 9 March 2007, <http://edition.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/meast/03/08/iraq.petraeus/index.html>.

⁸⁶ Tina Susman, *Iraqi civilian deaths climb again*, Los Angeles Times, 1 September 2007, <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-violence1sep01.0.3069115.story>.

⁸⁷ In the words of the UN Secretary-General, the challenge ahead is “*to transform these military-political developments into a basis for national reconciliation.*” See: UN SC, *Report October 2007*, para. 65, see above footnote 13.

⁸⁸ Megan Greenwell, *Iraqi Leaders Reach Accord On Prisoners, Ex-Baathists*, The Washington Post, 27 August, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/26/AR2007082601185.html>; BBC, *Iraqi leaders sign unity accord*, 26 August 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/6964933.stm.

⁸⁹ According to the Iraqi Minister of Oil, Dr. Hussein Al-Shahristani, adoption of the draft law on oil might be delayed for several months due to “*differences*” among the parliamentary blocs; VOI, *Iraqi oil law might take months to pass – minister*, 17 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24038.

continues to be stalled.⁹⁰ The US has called on Iraq's leaders to take advantage of the improved security situation to make progress towards reconciliation, noting that otherwise Iraq risked "*falling back to the more violent patterns of the past*".⁹¹

The withdrawal of several political groups⁹² from the Government has also weakened the "national unity government" of Prime Minister Al-Maliki and has further set back hopes of reconciliation. The ongoing deadlock over the fate of three senior military officials of the former regime of Saddam Hussein found guilty of war crimes, puts further strain on the already weak Government.⁹³

⁹⁰ For an overview of key political developments in Iraq, see UN SC, *Report October 2007*, Section II, see above footnote 13. In remarks to the Washington Post, Lt. Gen. Raymond Odierno, stressed that the current reduction in violence offered a window of opportunity for the Government to reach out to the Sunnis, but that it was "*unclear how long that window is going to be open*"; Thomas E. Ricks, *Iraqis Wasting An Opportunity, U.S. Officers Say*, The Washington Post, 15 November 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/14/AR2007111402524.html>.

⁹¹ BBC, *US calls for Iraqi reconciliation*, 2 December 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7123872.stm.

⁹² Politicians loyal to Shi'ite cleric Muqtada Al-Sadr quit the Government on 15 April 2007 in protest at Prime Minister Al-Maliki's refusal to set a timetable for the withdrawal of the MNF-I from Iraq, leaving six cabinet posts vacant. In August 2007, the largest Sunni Arab faction in the Council of Representatives (CoR), the Iraqi Accordance Front (IAF), pulled out its five ministers as well Deputy Prime Minister Sallam Al-Zawbaie, accusing the Government of sectarianism. On 26 August 2007, the secular political alliance Iraqi National List, led by former Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, withdrew from the Government, saying that its 14 demands to the Government, including reconsidering the law on terrorism, purging the ISF of "disloyal elements" and suspending the De-Ba'athification law pending the enactment of a new law, were not considered. The alliance had held five posts in the Government. On 30 October 2007, the CoR approved two new ministers (health, agriculture), though not without controversy, with the IAF calling the vote "*illegal*" because of the lack of the required quorum; VOI, *IAF says parliament's decision to appoint two ministers "illegal"*, 30 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23477. See also: VOI, *Allawi's bloc quits Maliki government*, 24 August 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/21037; Stephen Farrell, *Violence Rages in Iraq as Sunni Bloc Leaves Cabinet*, The New York Times, 1 August 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/01/world/middleeast/02baghdadcnd.html>; Valentinas Mite, *Al-Sadr Bloc Quits Iraqi Government*, RFE/RL, 16 April 2007, <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/4/BCEFB770-5F5B-4B22-89B6-ED8A7A1C1589.html>.

⁹³ The three men, Ali Hassan Al-Majid ("Chemical Ali"), Hussein Rashid Al-Tikriti, a senior military chief, and former Defence Minister Sultan Hashem, were sentenced to death by the Iraqi High Tribunal in June 2007 for their role during the genocidal "Anfal" campaign, in which an estimated 180,000 people died. The sentence was upheld by an appeals court in September 2007. But senior Sunni figures, including Vice-President Tareq Al-Hashemi, insist that Sultan Hashem was a career soldier following orders of the political leadership. They argue that sparing him from death would foster national reconciliation, while hanging him would have the reverse effect, convincing Sunnis that this was sectarian revenge directed against Sunnis. Vice-President Al-Hashemi threatened to resign if the execution went ahead. Another aspect of the controversy centres on a dispute over powers within the Iraqi system. Al-Hashemi insists that the Presidency Council, of which he is a member together with President Jalal Talabani and Shi'ite Vice-President Adel Abd Al-Mehdi, has the final say in signing death sentence decrees as spelled out by the Constitution, while Prime Minister Al-Maliki says this does not apply to special tribunals. President Talabani, a former human rights lawyer, opposes the death sentence on principle and refuses to sign any death sentence. A Supreme Court ruling on the issue of judicial reviews is still being argued over. On 12 November, the US military, which has physical custody of the convicts, refused to hand over the three men to the Iraqi Government for hanging until, it said, authorities resolved their legal and procedural differences; Jim Muir, *Political delay on Iraq death row*, BBC, 14 November 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7093759.stm. See also: Sam Dagher, *The Sunni in Iraq's Shiite leadership*, Christian Science Monitor, 14 November 2007, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/1114/p01s02-wome.html>; The Washington Times, *U.S. won't release condemned prisoners*, 13 November 2007, <http://www.washingtontimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071113/FOREIGN/111130053/1003>.

The Eligibility Guidelines addressed the state of government institutions in Iraq, highlighting that they were marred by weakness, ineffectiveness and sectarian divisions.⁹⁴ As of November 2007, government institutions remain weak, ineffective and sectarian.⁹⁵ Experts see an increasing risk of Iraq breaking into fiefdoms of various warring parties, turning Iraq into a “failed state”.⁹⁶ The central Government has little control over increasingly factionalized armed groups fighting for control in the country. It also suffers from a rising tide of corruption⁹⁷ and increasing criminality.⁹⁸ There is a widespread loss of popular confidence in state institutions and their ability to provide basic services.⁹⁹ According to the most recent US Government Accountability Office

⁹⁴ UNHCR, *Eligibility Guidelines August 2007*, Chapter II (Background information), see above footnote 1.

⁹⁵ Prime Minister Al-Maliki’s recent approval to hold a trial for two senior Shi’ite former Health Ministry officials accused of killing and kidnapping hundreds of Sunnis, including in Baghdad hospitals, will be a major test for the Iraqi judicial system to deal with sectarian crimes; Reuters, *Ex-officials to face trial for Iraq militia support*, 17 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/RYA748829.htm>; Michael R. Gordon, *Iraqi Premier Wants Trial of 2 Shiites in Killings*, The New York Times, 16 November 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/16/world/middleeast/16trial.html>; Richard A. Oppel Jr. and Alissa J. Rubin, *Execution case tests Iraq’s bid to ease divide*, International Herald Tribune, 26 October 2007, <http://www.ihl.com/articles/2007/10/27/africa/27sultan.php>.

⁹⁶ Recently, on the basis of twelve political, economic, military, and social indicators for state vulnerability, Iraq was identified as the second most unstable country in the world in 2007; The Fund for Peace and Foreign Policy magazine, *The Failed States Index 2007*, July/August 2007, http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=3865&page=7. The annual index has been published by US-based think-tank Fund for Peace and US Foreign Policy magazine since 2005. According to Prof. Marc Lynch of George Washington University, the strategy of reducing violence by making deals with dominant local powers is leading to the creation of a “warlord state, along the Basra model, with power devolved to local militias, gangs, tribes, and power-brokers, with a purely nominal central state”; Thomas E. Ricks, *Iraqis Wasting An Opportunity, U.S. Officers Say*, The Washington Post, 15 November 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/14/AR2007111402524.html>. See also: Carlos Pascual and Ken Pollack, *Salvaging the Possible: Policy Options in Iraq*, Foreign Policy at Brookings, Policy Paper No. 2, September 2007, http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2007/09iraq_pascual02/pascual_pollack200709.pdf; Robert Malley and Peter Harling, *A lesson in Iraqi illusion*, The Boston Globe, 8 July 2007, http://www.boston.com/news/globe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2007/07/08/a_lesson_in_iraqi_illusion/; Gareth Porter, *Accepting Realities in Iraq*, Chatham House and University of Exeter, Middle East Programme Briefing Paper, MEP BP 07/02, May 2007, http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/publications/papers/download/-/id/501/file/9934_bp_iraq0507.pdf.

⁹⁷ Stuart Bowen, the US Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, testified before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on 4 October 2007, that the “*rising tide of corruption in Iraq*” is “*a second insurgency*” that “*stymies the construction and maintenance of Iraq’s infrastructure, deprives people of goods and services, reduces confidence in public institutions, and potentially aids insurgent groups reportedly funded by graft derived from oil smuggling or embezzlement*”; House of Representatives, Resolution 734, 110th Congress, 1st Session, 11 October 2007, <http://oversight.house.gov/documents/20071012141329.pdf>; a leaked US Embassy in Baghdad draft report reviewing corruption cases handled by the Iraqi Commission on Public Integrity, said that the Iraqi Government “*is not capable of even rudimentary enforcement of anti-corruption laws*”; CNN, *Draft report: Iraq government ‘not capable’ of fighting corruption*, 27 September 2007, <http://edition.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/meast/09/27/iraq.draft.report/>. See also: Ali al-Mawsawi, *Defense, oil and trade most corrupted ministries, commission says*, Azzaman, 15 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23988; Renee Schoof, *Iraqi judge: Corruption undermines Iraq’s future*, McClatchy Newspapers, 4 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/homepage/story/20242.html>.

⁹⁸ Damien Cave, *Nonstop Theft and Bribery Stagger Iraq*, The New York Times, 2 December 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/02/world/middleeast/02baghdad.html>.

⁹⁹ The latest of four opinion polls commissioned by the BBC and ABC suggests that Iraqis are increasingly disillusioned with their Government. More than a quarter of those polled in 2005 said that they thought the Government was doing a “*very good job*”, whereas by August 2007, this figure has fallen

(GAO) report, the ineffectiveness of the Shi'ite-dominated Government is a primary reason for the lack of progress in national reconciliation.¹⁰⁰ It assessed that “(m)inistries within the Iraqi government continued to be controlled by sectarian factions and are used to maintain power and provide patronage.”¹⁰¹

An indication of the Government's poor capacity has been its inability to fully spend available reconstruction funds. According to the GAO, a large portion of Iraq's USD10 billion budget allocated for capital projects and reconstruction will go unspent by the end of 2007.¹⁰² According to Oxfam, Iraqis are suffering from a growing lack of food, shelter, water and sanitation, health care, education, and employment. Fifteen percent of Iraqis are food-insecure and in dire need of humanitarian assistance; 70% are without adequate water supplies (compared to 50% in 2003); 80% lack effective sanitation; 28% of children are malnourished (compared to 19% before the 2003 invasion); and 92% of Iraqi children suffer learning problems, mostly due to the climate of fear.¹⁰³

A key political issue, as elaborated in the Eligibility Guidelines, the status of Kirkuk and other Arabized areas of Iraq, remains unresolved. Article 140 of the Constitution provides for the “normalization” of the situation in Kirkuk and other Arabized areas by 31 December 2007, calling for a three-step process including the return of the formerly displaced and restitution of their properties, the taking of a census and, finally, the holding of a referendum no later than 31 December 2007 to determine the status of these areas.¹⁰⁴ However, the status of these “disputed areas” remains unresolved and the implementation of Article 140 of the Constitution continues to hold potential for further conflict among sectarian groups, particularly in relation to the future of Kirkuk and control of the immense natural resources located in that region.¹⁰⁵ To date, no agreement has been reached on any aspect of the census or referendum, e.g. who will be permitted to vote, who will oversee the poll and which areas will be covered by the referendum. The referendum itself has now in fact been postponed until 2008. On 17 November 2007, the Council of Representatives (CoR) ordered an inquiry into the

to 6%. Also some 66% of those polled registered their disapproval of the way Prime Minister Al-Maliki was handling his job. Iraqis also expressed their dissatisfaction with the provision of public services such as electricity (58% said it was “very bad”), fuel for cooking or driving (59% said it was “very bad”) and clean water (40% said it was “very bad”) and another 43% said that they the availability of jobs was “very bad”; BBC/ABC News, *Iraq Poll September 2007*, 10 September 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/10_09_07_iraqpoll.pdf.

¹⁰⁰ GAO, *Iraq Report October 2007*, pp. 9-10, see above footnote 29. It mentioned that the Iraqi Government had so far met only one of eight legislative benchmarks aimed at promoting national reconciliation, i.e. protecting the rights of minority political parties in the Iraqi Constitution and legislation. It partially met another benchmark by enacting legislation on the formation of regions, but that law will not be implemented until April 2008; *ibidem*, pp. 6-7.

¹⁰¹ *Ibidem*, p. 8; also the USDoD analyzed that “in the short term, Iraqi political leaders will likely be less concerned about reconciliation than with consolidating power and posturing for a future power struggle;” USDoD, *Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq September 2007*, pp. iv, 1-3, see above footnote 29.

¹⁰² By mid July 2007, Iraq's ministries had only spent 24% of their 2007 capital budgets; GAO, *Iraq Report October 2007*, pp. 1 and 12, see above footnote 29. See also James Glanz, *Provinces Use Rebuilding Money in Iraq*, The New York Times, 1 October 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/01/world/middleeast/01reconstruct.html>.

¹⁰³ Oxfam International, *Rising to the humanitarian challenge in Iraq*, Briefing Paper, July 2007, http://www.oxfam.org/en/files/bp105_humanitarian_challenge_in_iraq_0707.pdf/download.

¹⁰⁴ UNHCR, *Eligibility Guidelines August 2007*, Chapter II.B.2 De-Arabization (pp. 29 and following), see above footnote 1.

¹⁰⁵ See Section III.1: Baghdad Governorate.

delay of the referendum.¹⁰⁶ The Kurdish Alliance has emphasized that the delay was for technical and not political reasons.¹⁰⁷

6. *Hand-over of security in Southern Iraq and escalation in intra-Shi'ite fighting*

After the fall of the former regime in 2003, the UK forces were assigned to run the four most Southern Governorates of Basrah, Muthanna, Missan and Thi-Qar (Multi-National Division South-East), while the other five Governorates came under Polish command (Multi-National Division Central South). Security has now been handed over to Provincial Iraqi Control (PIC) in the Governorates of Muthanna,¹⁰⁸ Thi-Qar,¹⁰⁹ Najef,¹¹⁰ Missan¹¹¹ and Kerbala.¹¹² On 3 September 2007, British troops completed a withdrawal from downtown Basrah, moving to Basrah Air Station outside the city. However, UK commanders have stated that they are prepared to return to Basrah City if necessary.¹¹³ With the expected handover of security in Basrah to the PIC, which is still planned for December 2007,¹¹⁴ the UK's role will shift from combat to a "security overwatch" role.¹¹⁵

¹⁰⁶ Sameer N. Yacoub, *Iraqi Parliament Probes Kirkuk Vote*, AP, 18 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24116.

¹⁰⁷ Sumedha Senanayake, *Iraq: Kirkuk Referendum Likely To Be Delayed*, RFE/RL, 13 September 2007, <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/09/77A2D8AB-39B5-43DC-9A49-672B349D17B3.html>; VOI, KC: No problem with postponing referendum on Kirkuk, 11 September 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/21618.

¹⁰⁸ British and Australian troops transferred security to PIC on 13 July 2006; UK Ministry of Defence, *Iraqis take control in Al Muthanna*, 13 July 2006, <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/DefenceNews/MilitaryOperations/IraqisTakeControlInAlMuthanna.htm>.

¹⁰⁹ British and Italian forces handed over security to PIC on 22 September 2006; Army Sgt. Frank Pellegrini, *Iraqis take control in Dhi Qar*, Multi-National Force – Iraq, http://www.mnf-iraq.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5855&Itemid=109.

¹¹⁰ Security was handed over on 20 December 2006; UK Ministry of Defence, *Defence Secretary welcomes handover of An-Najaf province*, 20 December 2006, <http://www.mod.uk/defenceinternet/defencenews/militaryoperations/defencesecretarywelcomeshandoverofannajafprovince.htm>.

¹¹¹ The handover of security to PIC took place on 18 April 2007; UK Ministry of Defence, *Iraqi forces take control of Maysaan Province*, 18 April 2007, <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/DefenceNews/MilitaryOperations/IraqiForcesTakeControlOfMaysaanProvincevideo.htm>.

¹¹² Security in the Governorate of Kerbala, from where Polish forces withdrew by the end of 2005 and US forces pulled out in June 2007, was handed over to PIC on 29 October 2007; Reuters, *Iraqis take control of security in 8th province*, 29 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KHA933952.htm>. Kerbala is only the eighth of Iraq's 18 Governorates to revert to Iraqi control, despite US President Bush's prediction in January 2007 that the Iraqi Government would have responsibility for security in all Governorates by November; The White House, *President's Address to the Nation*, 10 January 2007, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/01/20070110-7.html>. According to the USDoD, "the increase in violence in some parts of Iraq" is the reason for not transferring security responsibility to all Governorates as previously scheduled. It notes that "(T)he principal impediment causing the delay in transitioning security to Iraqi control is a lack of capability in the Iraqi Police Service (IPS), which prevents them from being able to manage the provincial security situation." It expects that all Governorates could transition to PIC "as early as July 2008;" USDoD, *Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq September 2007*, p. 27, see above footnote 29.

¹¹³ Kim Sengupta, *Surge in Basra killings may force British back to city*, The Independent, 26 September 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/22193; Sam Dagher, *As British troops exit Basra, Shiites vie to fill power vacuum*, Christian Science Monitor, 17 September 2007, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0917/p01s08-wome.html>.

¹¹⁴ BBC, *UK 'failed to make Basra safe'*, 3 December 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/7124042.stm.

¹¹⁵ USDoD, *Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq September 2007*, p. 28, see above footnote 29.

In the past, sectarian violence and Sunni insurgency activities have played a limited or no role in most Governorates, with the notable exception of Basrah, Babel and Wassit Governorates, which contain mixed Sunni-Shi'ite areas. In general, Southern Iraq has a more homogenous population of mostly Arab Shi'ite Muslims. While all of the Southern Governorates have seen anti-coalition operations by either Sunni and or Shi'ite armed groups, the drawdown of the foreign troops' presence has resulted in a significant reduction in attacks against the MNF-I.

The withdrawal of UK troops from Southern Iraq, however, has also resulted in a marked increase in sectarian and intra-sectarian violence in the region, especially with the relocation of the Mehdi Army to Southern Iraq due to the US troop surge in Central Iraq.¹¹⁶ Increasingly, the Southern Governorates have become the battlefield of rival Shi'ite militias over political power and religious legitimacy,¹¹⁷ oil resources, smuggling routes¹¹⁸ and territory. The two major actors are the Mehdi Army, loyal to radical Shi'ite cleric Muqtada Al-Sadr, and the Badr Organization, which is linked to the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council (SIIC), the dominant party in the ruling coalition (UIA) of Prime Minister Al-Maliki.¹¹⁹ The latter is largely in control of the security forces in several Southern Governorates.¹²⁰ According to USDoD, the local security

¹¹⁶ See above Section II.1: The "Surge".

¹¹⁷ The families of SIIC leader Abdul-Aziz Al-Hakim and Muqtada Al-Sadr have been locked in a long-running competition over political and religious leadership of Iraq's Shi'ites; Babak Rahimi, *A Shiite Storm Looms on the Horizon: Sadr and SIIC Relations*, The Jamestown Foundation, Terrorism Monitor, Volume 5, Issue 10, 24 May 2007, <http://www.jamestown.org/terrorism/news/article.php?articleid=2373425>. See also: The Economist, *Fearing Shia chaos in Iraq*, 5 September 2007, http://www.economist.com/daily/news/displaystory.cfm?story_id=9752829; ICG, *Iraq's Muqtada Al-Sadr: Spoiler or Stabiliser?*, Middle East Report N° 55, 11 July 2006, http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/middle_east_north_africa/iraq_iran_gulf/55_iraq_s_muqtada_al_sadr_spoiler_or_stabiliser.pdf. Al-Sadr and Al-Hakim also disagree over Iraq becoming a federal state. Al-Hakim's call for the formation of a nine-province Shi'ite "super-region" with Basrah as its major centre, is rejected by Al-Sadr, who has his staunch base in Sadr City in Baghdad and vows for a strong central state; see for example, Aljazeera, *Al-Sadr bloc rejects federalism*, 14 October 2007, <http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/D30D2678-D3A8-47FE-ACAE-FC684E5D1FD8.htm>. See also: The Economist, *Fearing Shia chaos in Iraq*, 5 September 2007, http://www.economist.com/daily/news/displaystory.cfm?story_id=9752829; Sam Dagher, *Momentum is building for a federation of southern provinces in a further challenge to Iraq's national unity*, Christian Science Monitor, 6 August 2007, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0806/p01s03-woiq.htm>. The two protagonists reportedly also represent different social classes with Al-Sadr's movement empowering primarily impoverished Shi'ites, while SIIC is supported by middle and upper-class Shi'ites and the traditional clerical leadership; AP, *Violence in Iraq's south threatens to overshadow gains elsewhere*, 31 August 2007, <http://www.ihf.com/articles/ap/2007/08/31/africa/ME-ANL-Iraq-Shiites-Fighting-Shiites.php>.

¹¹⁸ According to Gulf News, there are 40 to 55 private militias who specialize in oil smuggling to Iran and stealing copper wires from electric grids; Basil Adas, *Basra police chief 'ready to deal with armed militias'*, Gulf News, 7 October 2007, <http://archive.gulfnews.com/articles/07/10/08/10158772.html>. See also: ICG, *Where Iraq is Heading? Lessons from Basra*, Middle East Report N° 67, 25 June 2007, p. 12, http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/middle_east_north_africa/iraq_iran_gulf/67_iraq_less_ons_from_basra.pdf (further: "ICG, *Basra report June 2007*"). On car smuggling through Basrah's ports, see Ghaith Abdul-Ahad, *When night falls, the assassins gather in Hayaniya Square*, The Guardian, 17 November 2007, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,2212584,00.html>. One report also indicated increasing smuggling of drugs; Patrick Cockburn, *Opium: Iraq's deadly new export*, The Independent, 23 May 2007, http://news.independent.co.uk/world/middle_east/article2573299.ece.

¹¹⁹ Formerly the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI).

¹²⁰ AP, *Violence in Iraq's south threatens to overshadow gains elsewhere*, 31 August 2007, <http://www.ihf.com/articles/ap/2007/08/31/africa/ME-ANL-Iraq-Shiites-Fighting-Shiites.php>.

forces are more interested in containing the influence of the Mehdi Army than in law enforcement.¹²¹

Violence has been rising in the South over the past several months. According to the latest quarterly Pentagon report on Iraq, security in the South took “*a notable turn for the worse in August [2007]*”. That month, two provincial governors were assassinated.¹²² Clashes have erupted in several cities between the Mehdi Army and Badr militia and police affiliated to the Badr Organization. The relocation of Mehdi Army fighters from Baghdad to Southern Iraq,¹²³ for example to Diwaniyah, has resulted in several fierce clashes between militias and the MNF-I/ISF.¹²⁴ There have also been allegations that Iran has intensified its training, arming and funding of Shi’ite militias.¹²⁵

The gradual reduction of British forces¹²⁶ and the lead-up to provincial elections scheduled to take place next year,¹²⁷ have led some analysts to express fear of an intra-sectarian civil war that could unseat the ruling Shi’ite coalition of Prime Minister Al-Maliki.¹²⁸ On 6 October 2007, Muqtada Al-Sadr and SIIC leader Abdul-Aziz Al-Hakim

¹²¹ USDoD, *Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq September 2007*, p. 24, see above footnote 29.

¹²² See below footnote 239.

¹²³ USDoD, *Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq September 2007*, p. 24, see above footnote 29; Ann Scott Tyson, *Attacks among Shiites rising in southern Iraq*, The Washington Post, 18 September 2007, <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/09/18/MN9RS8616.DTL>. See also: Damien McElroy, *Moqtada al-Sadr announces ceasefire in Iraq*, Telegraph, 31 August 2007, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/08/30/wiraq130.xml>; Sumedha Senanayake, *Iraq: Al-Sadr Tries New Tactics, But Strategy Still The Same*, RFE/RL, 10 April 2007, <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/04/44204d6b-7af2-4143-87ce-27273a572656.html>.

¹²⁴ See Section IV.2: Diwaniyah, Missan, Wassit, Muthanna and Thi-Qar Governorates

¹²⁵ The NIE on Iraq noted that Iran has been “*intensifying aspects of its lethal support for select Shi’a militants*” since at least the beginning of 2006 and reports that explosively formed penetrator (EFP) attacks have risen dramatically; NIE August 2007, p. 4, see footnote 47. In November 2007, however, US Lt. Gen. Raymond T. Odierno said that the number of EFPs in Iraq has dropped by nearly half in recent months, from a peak of 99 in July to 53 in October 2007, a possible indication that Iran undertakes efforts to stop the flow of weapons from Iran, though the exact motives remain unclear; Jim Mannion, *US puzzled by drop in Iran-related attacks in Iraq*, Middle East Online, 18 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24092; Ann Scott Tyson, *U.S. Sees Decline In Bombs In Iraq*, The Washington Post, 2 November 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/01/AR2007110102362.html>.

¹²⁶ On 8 October 2007, Prime Minister Gordon Brown told the House of Commons that of the approximately 5,000 troops now in Basrah will be reduced to 2,500 by spring 2008, with a strong likelihood that all British soldiers would leave Iraq by the end of 2008; Jane Perlez, *Britain to Halve Its Force in Iraq*, The New York Times, 8 October 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/09/world/europe/09britain.html>.

¹²⁷ Reuters, *Iraqis take control of security in 8th province*, 29 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KHA933952.htm>.

¹²⁸ Tina Susman, *Shi’ite clerics agree to end bloody rivalry*, Los Angeles Times, 7 October 2007, http://www.boston.com/news/world/articles/2007/10/07/shiite_clerics_agree_to_end_bloody_rivalry/. See also: Sumedha Senanayake, *Iraq: Is Al-Sadr Saving Face, Or Biding His Time?*, RFE/RL, 5 September 2007, <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/09/8951752e-81d1-4cd5-b876-d687450e9da1.html>; AP, *Violence in Iraq’s south threatens to overshadow gains elsewhere*, 31 August 2007, <http://www.ihf.com/articles/ap/2007/08/31/africa/ME-ANL-Iraq-Shiites-Fighting-Shiites.php>; Karen DeYoung and Thomas E. Ricks, *As British Leave, Basra Deteriorates*, The Washington Post, 7 August 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/06/AR2007080601401.html>; Babak Rahimi, *A Shiite Storm Looms on the Horizon: Sadr and SIIC Relations*, the Jamestown Foundation, Terrorism Monitor Volume 5, Issue 10, 24 May 2007, <http://www.jamestown.org/>

pledged to cease violence for six months.¹²⁹ However, recent fighting among the militias in several Southern cities raises concerns over the agreement's sustainability.¹³⁰

Allegations have been made that AQI and other Sunni groups are taking advantage of the unstable situation in Southern Iraq and instigating further violence. Diwaniyah's security chief, Sheikh Hussein Hadi Al-Buderi, alleged that "*there is a presence of al-Qaeda now in Diwaniyah,*" which he blames for the recent escalation in violence in the Governorate. Basrah's police chief blamed AQI for a suicide bombing which killed three policemen and injured 20 people in Basrah City on 25 September 2007, saying "*(i)t seems that al-Qaida wants to make use of the fragile situation in the city caused by the tension among the parties and the city's officials*".¹³¹

7. Civilian security

a) Civilian casualties

The rate of violent deaths in Iraq is a significant indicator of population security. As elaborated in the Eligibility Guidelines, following the bombing of the Samarra shrine in February 2006, sectarian violence escalated significantly with civilian death rates in Iraq at a high level.¹³² In recent months, a downward trend in attacks, sectarian killings and overall civilian casualties has been observed. Most available data sources show an overall increase in civilian casualties until some point near the end of 2006, with a general decline in 2007. The UN Secretary-General found that "*(t)here has been a marked decline in civilian casualties,*"¹³³ and "*September [2007] witnessed the lowest number of Iraqi casualties for the year.*"¹³⁴

According to the US military commander in Iraq, General David H. Petraeus, testifying before Congress on 10 and 11 September 2007, the overall number of security incidents is on the decline and ethno-sectarian killings are "*substantially*" down as compared with the situation in December 2006. He further assessed that "*(T)he number of overall civilian deaths has also declined during this period (...)*".¹³⁵ The Petraeus report and

terrorism/news/article.php?articleid=2373425; CFR, *Knights: British-Patrolled Province in 'Shiite Civil War'*, 23 February 2007, <http://www.cfr.org/publication/12692/knights.html>.

¹²⁹ Reportedly, the agreement calls for a ceasefire, an end to negative propaganda in the news media and the formation of joint committees in the Governorates to mediate disputes; see Tina Susman, *Shiite militia leaders agree to truce*, The Baltimore Sun, 7 October 2007, <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/world/iraq/bal-te.iraq07oct07,0,900549,full.story>.

¹³⁰ On 23 October 2007, Azzaman reported civilian casualties as a result of militia fighting in several Southern cities, in particular in Diwaniyah and Kerbala, and says that the agreement to halt fighting between the two groups has "*collapsed*". Reportedly, some neighborhoods of Diwaniyah have turned into battlefields; Azzaman, *Street fighting reported in southern cities*, 23 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23184. See also: VOI, *Karbala deputy governor says militias behind armed clashes*, 23 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23175.

¹³¹ Darrin Mortenson, *Iraqi Violence Moves South*, Time, 19 October 2007, <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1673730,00.html>. See also: Robert H. Reid, *Suicide Attack Hits Iraqi City of Basra*, The Washington Post, 25 September 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/25/AR2007092500330.html>.

¹³² See UNHCR, *Eligibility Guidelines August 2007*, p. 23, see above footnote 1.

¹³³ UN SC, *Report October 2007*, para 54, see above footnote 13.

¹³⁴ *Ibidem*, para 65.

¹³⁵ Statistics of the US military are based on a combination of MNF and Iraqi authorities' data collection; Petraeus, *Report to Congress September 2007*, see above footnote 13.

subsequent releases of casualty statistics by the Iraqi Government and other sources¹³⁶ have, however, triggered a debate over the reliability and interpretation of such data,¹³⁷ including how civilian deaths are counted, the steepness of the decline in casualties,¹³⁸ and the conclusions to be drawn from this decline about the current security situation in the country.

Despite the reduction in civilian casualties, significant numbers of Iraqi civilians continue to be killed on a daily basis and, as noted by General Petraeus, “*the numbers (...) are still at troubling levels.*”¹³⁹ The UN Secretary-General also indicated in his October 2007 report that

“both Sunni and Shiite armed groups have carried out systematic and widespread attacks against civilians through suicide bombings, abductions and extrajudicial executions, making no distinction between civilians and combatants. The violence has affected all of Iraq’s ethnic groups and communities, including minority

¹³⁶ According to the statistics by the Iraqi ministries of Interior, Health and Defense, civilian casualties in October 2007 were the lowest recorded this year with 758 civilians killed, down from 844 in September 2007 and 1,733 in August 2007. At the same time, ISF fatalities increased; VOI, *October 2007: Civilian casualties drop, Iraqi forces’ fatalities rise*, 1 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23538; Reuters, *Civilian Killings in Iraq Plunge in September: Government*, 2 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/22421.

¹³⁷ See for example, Michael Dobbs, *Iraqi Civilian Deaths, Part II*, The Washington Post, October 2007, http://blog.washingtonpost.com/fact-checker/2007/10/iraqi_civilian_deaths_part_ii.html. See also: Clark Hoyt, *The Public Editor; The Reality in Iraq? Depends on Who’s Counting*, The New York Times, 7 October 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/07/opinion/07pubed.html>; Stephen Biddle and Jeffrey Friedman, *The Iraq Data Debate: Civilian Casualties from 2006 to 2007*, CFR, 28 September 2007, http://www.cfr.org/publication/14295/iraqi_data_debate.html; Kirk A. Johnson, *Understanding Violence and Civilian Casualty Rates in Iraq: An Insider’s View*, The Heritage Foundation, 10 September 2007, <http://www.heritage.org/Research/MiddleEast/wm1605.cfm>; Karen DeYoung, *Experts Doubt Drop In Violence in Iraq*, The Washington Post, 6 September 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/05/AR2007090502466.html>; Hannah Fischer, *Iraqi Civilian Deaths Estimates*, Congressional Research Service Report for Congress, 5 September 2007, http://www.cdi.org/PDFs/CRS_on_Civilian_Casualties_2007.pdf.

¹³⁸ According to General Petraeus, the decline between December 2006 and August 2007 was “over 45 percent”; Petraeus, *Report to Congress September 2007*, see above footnote 13. However, this assessment also includes “unverified” data provided by the Iraqi Government. Taking into account only verified MNF data, civilian deaths in Iraq fell by about 12% in the same period; Michael Dobbs, *Iraqi Civilian Deaths, Part II*, The Washington Post, October 2007, http://blog.washingtonpost.com/fact-checker/2007/10/iraqi_civilian_deaths_part_ii.html. Petraeus’ spokesman, Colonel Steven A. Boylan, acknowledged that “host nation” data used by MNF statisticians was frequently “unverified” and “possibly inflated”; *ibidem*, *Counting Civilian Deaths in Iraq*, The Washington Post, October 2007, http://blog.washingtonpost.com/fact-checker/2007/10/counting_civilian_deaths_in_ir.html. According to Iraq Body Count (IBC), there has been some decline in civilian deaths since December 2006, but it said that it is less pronounced than claimed by the MNF-I. It also noted that 2007 data could only “be regarded as an improvement” in comparison with data of the last six months of 2006, when violent deaths hit an all-time high. It concludes that despite “a modest improvement in the security situation for ordinary Iraqis post-surge”, the “first six months of 2007 was still the most deadly first six months for civilians of any year since the invasion;” IBC, *The Baghdad ‘surge’ and civilian casualties*, September 2007, <http://www.iraqbodycount.org/analysis/numbers/baghdad-surge/>. According to IBC, early indications for 2007 are that approximately 20,000 civilian deaths occurred between January and September 2007 and it is expected that 2007 will be “the second-worst calendar year for violence in Iraq since the 2003 invasion, trailing only behind 2006, and still almost twice as deadly for civilians as the first year;” remarkably, IBC reports that 2007 has seen the worst bombings (including more than 50 civilian deaths) since the fall of the former regime and the highest number thereof. As of early October, there have been 20 such attacks in 2007 only, resulting in over 2,000 civilian deaths; *ibidem*, *Large bombings claim ever more lives*, 4 October 2007, <http://www.iraqbodycount.org/analysis/numbers/biggest-bombs/>.

¹³⁹ Petraeus, *Report to Congress September 2007*, p. 1, see above footnote 13.

groups. Scores of civilians were reportedly killed during military operations of the multinational force against insurgents or militias”¹⁴⁰

According to Anthony H. Cordesman, analyst with the private Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, the decline in violent deaths has been a positive trend, but he cautioned against being overly optimistic, saying it was too early to know if it will last.¹⁴¹ The NIE of August 2007 assessed that “*the level of overall violence, including attacks on and casualties among civilians, remains high.*”¹⁴²

b) Displacement and returns

Both internal and external displacement continues to occur in Iraq due to serious human rights violations and sectarian and intra-sectarian violence. By the end of October 2007, approximately 1,128,440 persons had been displaced since the Samarra bombing in February 2006, including some 596,220 in Central Iraq and some 368,820 in Southern Iraq.¹⁴³ Increasingly, Governorates are closing their borders to internally displaced persons (IDPs) citing security concerns and lack of absorption capacity.¹⁴⁴

Although uncertainty about the number of returnees to Central Iraq exists, there have been reports that many IDPs and refugees have returned to their former place or area of residence, primarily to Baghdad.¹⁴⁵ The absence of accurate baseline data and the lack of monitoring, information and reporting about the routes of return and areas of return make it extremely difficult to establish the extent to which current movements have been safe, dignified or voluntary.¹⁴⁶

¹⁴⁰ UN SC, *Report October 2007*, para 36, see above footnote 13.

¹⁴¹ Steven R. Hurst, *Iraqi deaths fall by 50 percent*, AP, 3 October 2007, http://www.iraquupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/22469. Also, the USDoD assessed in its latest report to Congress that “(I)t is too early to determine the sustainability of these trends;” USDoD, *Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq September 2007*, p. 20, see above footnote 29.

¹⁴² NIE August 2007, p. 1, see footnote 47.

¹⁴³ While the increase has not been as significant as in previous months, more than 75,000 persons were newly displaced between August and September 2007. See: *Cluster F Update on IDPs*, 19 September 2007, http://www.unhcr.org/iq/clusterFreports/Cluster_F_Update_on_IDPs_September_19_f.pdf; *Cluster F Update on IDPs*, 21 November 2007, http://www.unhcr.org/iq/clusterFreports/Cluster_F_Update_on_IDPs_2007_November_21.pdf. Figures have been provided by the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) and Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG).

¹⁴⁴ Basrah Governorate recently shut its borders for IDPs. Hassan Abdul-Kareem, a senior official in Basrah’s Governing Council, said the Governorate “cannot cope with any more families seeking refuge in our province, whatever their reasons. The governorate is seriously affected by the high number of displaced families.” According to the local council and MoDM, more than 40 IDP families have been arriving on a daily basis in Basrah. Reportedly, dozens of families were turned away by Basrah security forces; IRIN, *IRAQ: Basra closes doors to displaced*, 12 November 2007, <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=75255>.

¹⁴⁵ Prime Minister Al-Maliki credited the improved security situation for the returns, saying that 7,000 families had returned to Baghdad; Cara Buckley, *Iraq Premier Sees Families Returning to Safer Capital*, The New York Times, 12 November 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/12/world/middleeast/12iraq.html>. See also: IRIN, *IRAQ: Thousands return home as violence drops, government says*, 4 November 2007, <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportId=75141>.

¹⁴⁶ According to the MoDM of the Government of Iraq, some 3,460 IDP families have returned to Baghdad between February and November 2007, mostly between March and June, and a further 6,000 families are awaiting registration. Concerning refugees, the MoDM believes that approximately 30,000 families have returned from Syria.

Despite notable improvements in the security situation in the past few months, the ongoing conflict in many parts of the country and the fluctuating levels of violence raise questions about the safety of the current returns and their sustainability. The Iraqi government and the UN are stepping up efforts to address the immediate needs of these returnee families, given the prevailing situation in Iraq.

UNHCR is currently examining the trends, motives and sustainability of these recent returns. There are indications that persons do not necessarily return to their places of origin but rather to areas where their sectarian group is in control. Interviews with some returnees have shown that only a small minority have returned because of an improvement in the security situation.¹⁴⁷ Returnees from neighbouring countries have claimed that they were returning because they depleted their savings and/or were unable to renew their visas.¹⁴⁸ Others appear to be returning due to the lack of services in the area of displacement and/or because they wish to take advantage of the financial reintegration assistance provided by the Government to returnees in Baghdad (approximately USD800).

Despite the afore-mentioned returns, some sources have claimed that, in fact, the numbers are dropping as of November.¹⁴⁹ Caution has been urged by several actors, including UNAMI, the Iraqi Government and the US military.¹⁵⁰ It should also be noted that the Iraqi Government has urged refugees in some countries not to go back to their homes yet, saying the country was unprepared to accommodate their return.¹⁵¹ The US military has warned that the Iraqi Government has yet to develop a plan to absorb the returnees and prevent their return from setting off a new round of sectarian violence as many returnees find their houses occupied by members of the opposite sect.¹⁵²

Given the reasons provided for returning to Iraq and the conditions prevailing in the country, the returns are not indicative of developments that would warrant, at this stage, a change in UNHCR's position concerning Iraqi asylum-seekers and, therefore, UNHCR is of the opinion that the situation is not conducive to return.

¹⁴⁷ UNHCR, *Iraq: UNHCR cautious about returns*, UNHCR Briefing Notes, 23 November 2007, <http://www.unhcr.org/news/NEWS/4746da102.html>.

¹⁴⁸ Reportedly, over 46,000 Iraqis returned in October 2007, mainly from Syria. While some seem to be returning due to improved security, others return due to stricter visa regulations imposed on Iraqis in Syria since October and difficulties to make ends meet; IRIN, *IRAQ: Refugees forced home as funds dry up*, 12 November 2007, <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=75257>. See also: BBC, *Iraqis return home 'in thousands'*, 21 November 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7105216.stm; Wisam Mohammed, *FEATURE-Homesick Iraqi refugees return to uncertain future*, Reuters, 20 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/COL929138.htm>; Nancy A. Youssef, *Baghdad refugees happy to be home again*, McClatchy Newspapers, 20 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/iraq/story/21802.html>; Jay Deshmukh and Nafia Abdel Jabbar, *It's good to be home, say displaced Iraqis*, AFP, 13 November 2007, http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20071113/lf_afp/iraqunrestdisplaced_071113060241.

¹⁴⁹ See, for example, Iraqi Red Crescent Organization, *Iraqi returnees from Syria*, Update 1, 30 November 2007, http://www.iraqredcrescent.org/Returnees_update_1_EN.pdf.

¹⁵⁰ Amit R. Paley, *Iraq Urges Refugees To Stay Put*, The Washington Post, 5 December 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/04/AR2007120401971.html>.

¹⁵¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁵² See: Haider Salahuddin, *Feature – Iraqi refugees return to face uncertainty at home*, Reuters, 1 December 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L30246588.htm>; Michael R. Gordon and Stephen Farrell, *Iraq Lacks Plan on the Return of Refugees, Military Says*, The New York Times, 30 November 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/30/world/middleeast/30refugees.html>.

III. Security situation in Central Iraq

1. Baghdad Governorate

The Baghdad Security Plan,¹⁵³ the Mehdi Army's temporarily laying down of arms¹⁵⁴ and advanced stages of sectarian segregation¹⁵⁵ have resulted in decreasing levels of violence in Baghdad. Some signs of normalcy have returned to parts of the city with more shops open and people in the streets and markets.¹⁵⁶ Despite these positive trends, however, Baghdad remains the most violent area in Iraq.¹⁵⁷ Sectarian killings continue to be prevalent in mixed areas, mostly in Baghdad's western districts, with several bodies found shot dead on a regular basis, often with signs of torture.¹⁵⁸ Given that non-state actors remain operational and given that they demonstrated their ability to fill security vacuums left after the relocation of US troops, the potential for renewed sectarian violence remains.¹⁵⁹

Though Baghdad has not seen any mass casualty incidents in recent months and the overall number of attacks has decreased, the MNF-I/ISF and the civilian population remain targets of daily roadside bombings, car bombs, suicide attacks, small arms fire and mortar attacks. MNF-I military offensives and raid and search operations continue to result in civilian casualties¹⁶⁰ and private security companies have been accused of using excessive force, and of wounding or killing civilians.¹⁶¹

¹⁵³ On 14 February 2007, the MNF-I/ISF launched the "Baghdad Security Plan" (*Fardh Al-Qanoon*) aimed at clearing out extremists from neighbourhoods, re-establishing security by maintaining a full-time presence on the streets before handing it over to the ISF ("clear, control and retain"). During these three phases, neighbourhood economies should be stimulated and reconstruction be initiated in order to improve the quality of life for Iraqis in Baghdad; USDoD, *DoD Special News Briefing with Colonel Burton from the Pentagon Briefing Studio*, Arlington, Virginia, 16 March 2007, <http://www.defenselink.mil/transcripts/transcript.aspx?transcriptid=3906>; Sgt. Sara Wood, *Baghdad Security Plan Can Work, Commander Says*, American Forces Press Service, 16 February 2007, <http://www.defenselink.mil/News/NewsArticle.aspx?id=3082>. The US military commander in Iraq, General David Petraeus, said that Iraq will be "doomed to continuing violence and civil strife" if the plan failed; Reuters, *New US general warns Iraq doomed if crackdown fails*, 10 February 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L10750830.htm>.

¹⁵⁴ See Section II.3: "Freeze" of Mehdi Army activities.

¹⁵⁵ See Section II.4: Sectarian segregation.

¹⁵⁶ See for example, Damien Cave and Alissa J. Rubin, *Baghdad's Weary Start to Exhale as Security Improves*, The New York Times, 20 November 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/20/world/middleeast/20surge.html>; The New York Times, *Around Baghdad, Signs of Normal Life Creep Back*, 19 November 2007, http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2007/11/19/world/middleeast/20071120_BUILDDUP_OVERVIEW.html; Leila Fadel, *Embattled Baghdad shows signs of hope*, McClatchy Newspapers, 14 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/iraq/story/21475.html>.

¹⁵⁷ See Section II.7: Civilian security / Civilian casualties.

¹⁵⁸ Please see Annex I – List of sectarian killings in Baghdad, for a list of incidents as reported by the media between 1 October and 30 November 2007.

¹⁵⁹ See above Section II.4: Sectarian segregation.

¹⁶⁰ For example, a US raid accompanied by air strikes on mostly Shi'ite Sadr City on 21 October 2007 reportedly killed as many as 49 persons, including civilians, and drew quick condemnation by Iraqi officials, including Prime Minister Al-Maliki. US military officials said that US troops came repeatedly under attack in Sadr City and that only insurgents were killed; Stephen R. Hurst, *US: Raid of Baghdad's Sadr City Kills 49*, AP, 22 October 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/21/AR2007102100664.html>. See also: Bobby Caina Calvin, *Iraqis place Sadr City toll at 17 as confusion over Sunday fighting continues*, McClatchy Newspapers, 22 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/homepage/story/20752.html>; CNN, *Iraqi PM outraged over alleged civilian casualties*, 21 October 2007, <http://edition.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/meast/10/21/iraq.fighting/>. In addition, on 31 June 2007, two raids were conducted in Sadr City, resulting in the death of 26 "terrorists"

Government officials and employees, politicians, members of religious minorities,¹⁶² journalists and media workers and other professionals continue to be targets for

according to the US military. An Interior Ministry official, Lt-Col Mahmoud Shakarchi, said all the dead were innocent civilians, including women and children; IRIN, *IRAQ: Baghdad suburb residents flee after US raids*, 3 July 2007, <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=73049>. On 27 November 2007, four personnel of the Iraqi Finance Ministry were killed and two others wounded when US forces opened fire at their bus in northeastern Baghdad; VOI, *6 finance ministry personnel killed, wounded by U.S. fire in Baghdad*, 27 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24400. See also UNAMI HRO, *Human Rights Report, 1 April - 30 June 2007*, October 2007, p. 9, http://www.uniraq.org/FileLib/misc/HR_Report_Apr_Jun_2007_EN.pdf (further: "UNAMI/HRO, *Human Rights Report October 2007*").

¹⁶¹ For example, on 11 November 2007, a guard from the US private security firm DynCorp International, which is in charge to protect US embassy personnel and affiliated contractors, reportedly shot and killed an Iraqi taxi driver in Baghdad's Uttafiyah neighbourhood; James Glanz, *Security Guard Fires From Convoy, Killing Iraqi Driver*, The New York Times, 12 November 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/12/world/middleeast/12contractor.html>. Private US security firm Blackwater has been accused of killing Iraqi civilians in an incident on 16 September 2007 in Baghdad's Mansour neighbourhood. While Blackwater claimed that there had been an attack on a convoy carrying US diplomats it was escorting, an Iraqi Government investigation produced no evidence of such an attack. It accused Blackwater of having committed "deliberate murder" by killing up to 17 civilians. The US also launched an investigation. Preliminary findings of an investigation conducted by the FBI indicate that the Blackwater employees violated deadly force rules in effect for security contractors in Iraq, saying that at least 14 of the shootings were unjustified. On 25 September 2007, the UN Working Group on the Use of Mercenaries expressed concern over the incident and denounced the immunity of private security companies. The Iraqi Government cancelled Blackwater's licence and ordered all personnel to leave Iraq immediately; see David Johnston and John M. Broder, *F.B.I. Says Guards Killed 14 Iraqis Without Cause*, The New York Times, 14 November 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/14/world/middleeast/14blackwater.html>. See also: Security Council Report, *Update Report No. 2: Iraq*, 17 October 2007, http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/site/c.gIKWLeMTIsG/b.3506921/k.97CE/Update_Report_No_2_Iraqbr17_October_2007.htm; James Glanz and Alissa J. Rubin, *Blackwater Shootings 'Murder,' Iraq Says*, The New York Times, 8 October 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/08/world/middleeast/08blackwater.html>; BBC, *Iraq shootout firm loses licence*, 17 September 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/6998788.stm. On 30 October 2007, the Iraqi Government approved a draft law revoking the immunity from prosecution private security contractors enjoy under Iraqi Law (CPA Order No. 17). The law must now be approved by the CoR; BBC, *Iraq to end contractor immunity*, 30 October 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7069173.stm. Other incidents in which civilians were killed or wounded by private security contractors have been listed by UNAMI HRO; see: UNAMI/HRO, *Human Rights Report October 2007*, p. 10, see above footnote 160. On the legal status of private security companies, see also UNHCR, *Country of Origin Information Iraq*, October 2005, pp. 45-46, available in UNHCR's Refworld at <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refworld/rwmain?docid=435637914>. Iraq says there are more than 180 security firms operating in the country, mostly from the US and Europe. The number of private security guards is estimated at between 25,000 and 48,000; Mariam Karouny, *Iraq arrests foreign guards over shooting*, Reuters, 19 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KAR979273.htm>.

¹⁶² Christians in Baghdad, and in particular in the neighbourhood of Doura, have been under intense pressure in 2007, resulting in the flight of most of them. Reportedly, militant Sunni Islamic groups issued religious edicts (*fatwa*) and distributed threatening letters, calling upon Christians to convert to Islam within 24 hours, pay an Islamic tax (*jizya*), leave or face death. Reportedly, whole Baghdad neighborhoods have been cleared out of Christians. Christians are reportedly also under pressure by Shi'ite militias, for example it has been reported that Christians in Baghdad were called upon to wear the veil. In a hearing convened by the US Commission on International Religious Freedom in July 2007, Canon Andrew White, vicar of St. George's Anglican Church in Baghdad, said that in the past three to four months, things had deteriorated considerably for religious minorities in Iraq. According to his testimony, "hundreds of Christians who could not afford to flee the country were living in churches without adequate food or water." He also mentioned that there were only eight Jews left in Baghdad, which were yet unable to leave the country; USDoS, *International Religious Freedom Report 2007 - Iraq*, 14 September 2007, <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2007/90211.htm> (further: "USDoS, *International Religious Freedom Report 2007 - Iraq*"); UNAMI/HRO, *Human Rights Report October 2007*, pp. 8, 12-

kidnapping and assassination.¹⁶³ Reports of extra-judicial killings and the use of torture by the ISF continue to emerge.¹⁶⁴

2. Al-Anbar Governorate

Al-Anbar Governorate used to be one of the most violent Governorates in the country and the stronghold of AQI. MNF-I/ISF security operations,¹⁶⁵ as well as changed tribal alliances, have led to a significant reduction in violence in the region, with many AQI fighters fleeing Al-Anbar's urban areas.

The Governorate's major towns, Ramadi and Fallujah, however, remain under extraordinary security measures with neighborhoods segregated by concrete walls, numerous checkpoints and residents required to hold special biometric identification badges.¹⁶⁶ There are concerns, though, that the ISF is too weak to establish full control and implement law and order.¹⁶⁷

13, see above footnote 160. See also: IRIN, *IRAQ: People flee Baghdad district as gunmen impose Shariah law*, 27 August 2007, <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportId=73968>; Ellen Massey, *IRAQ: Religious Minorities Hit From All Sides*, IPS, 31 July 2007, <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=38742>; Julia Duin, *Iraq's perils dire for minority faiths*, The Washington Times, 26 July 2007, <http://www.washingtontimes.com/article/20070726/NATION/107260064/1002>; Kathleen Ridolfo, *Iraq: Christian Population Dwindling Due To Threats, Attacks*, RFE/RL, 31 May 2007, <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/05/a453003e-dec4-491a-9069-81255c27a7fa.html>; AINA, *Mounting Fears of Assyrian Genocide in Iraq*, 31 May 2007, <http://www.aina.org/releases/2007053195824.htm>; AINA, *Told to Convert or Die, 21 Assyrian Families Seek Shelter in Baghdad Churches*, 18 May 2007, <http://www.aina.org/news/20070518111715.htm>; Damien McElroy, *Christians fleeing Iraq after death threats*, Telegraph, 10 May 2007, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/05/08/wiraq08.xml>; IRIN, *IRAQ: Baghdad Christians flee as violence against them mounts*, 3 May 2007, <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=71925>; AINA, *Muslims Forcing Christian Assyrians in Baghdad Neighborhood to Pay 'Protection Tax'*, 18 March 2007, <http://www.aina.org/news/20070318132901.htm>. After receiving the Chaldean Patriarch of Baghdad, Emmanuel III Delly, on 27 October 2007, Iraqi Prime Minister Al-Maliki affirmed the Government's readiness and determination to defend the Christian minority and to stop the outflow of Iraqi Christians from Iraq; AP, *Iraq's vulnerable Christian minority gets promise of support*, 27 October 2007, <http://edition.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/meast/10/27/iraq.christians.ap/>. Suhaib Nashi, General Secretary of the Mandaean Associations Union, in a hearing convened by the US Commission on International Religious Freedom, reported that Sabaeen-Mandaean families in Baghdad were given one hour to leave their homes or be killed; Julia Duin, *Iraq's perils dire for minority faiths*, The Washington Times, 26 June 2007, <http://www.washingtontimes.com/article/20070726/NATION/107260064/1002>.

¹⁶³ See Annex II – List of incidents for a list of incidents targeting Government officials and employees, politicians, members of religious minorities, journalists and media workers, and professionals.

¹⁶⁴ UNAMI HRO in its last report said that it continued to receive reports of the alleged involvement of ISF in extra-judicial killings in several incidents in Baghdad; UNAMI/HRO, *Human Rights Report September 2007*, pp. 8-9, see above footnote 160. It also stated that “continuing reports of the torture and illtreatment of detainees held in particular at pre-trial detention facilities under the authority of the Ministry of Interior in Baghdad” remain a major concern; *ibidem*, p. 4.

¹⁶⁵ As part of the “the surge”, an additional 4,000 US troops were deployed to Al-Anbar Governorate. Between 16 June and 14 August 2007, the MNF-I/ISF aimed at securing the areas of Fallujah (“Operation Alljah”), Karma and Tharthar; Bill Roggio, *Operation Phantom Thunder: The Battle of Iraq*, The Long War Journal, 21 June 2007, http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2007/06/operation_phantom_fu.php.

¹⁶⁶ Ali al-Fadhily, *IRAQ: Fallujah Now Under a Different Kind of Siege*, IPS, 20 November 2007, <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=40125>. See also: Darrin Mortenson, *How to Resurrect Fallujah*, The Time, 28 October 2007, <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1677146,00.html>; Noah Shachtman, *Iraq Diary: Fallujah's Biometric Gates (Updated)*, 31 August 2007, <http://blog.wired.com/defense/2007/08/fallujah-pics.html>; Thomas Frank, *Identification effort crosses entire war zone*, USA Today, 12 July 2007, http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/iraq/2007-07-12-database-inside_N.htm; Ali al-Fadhily, *Curfew-Bound Fallujah On The Boil Again*, IPS, 27 June 2007, <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=38336>; IRIN, *IRAQ: Fallujah security crackdown preventing access*

Despite security improvements, the Governorate sees regular clashes involving the MNF-I/ISF, tribal and insurgent groups as well as AQI and its affiliates, resulting at times in civilian casualties.¹⁶⁸ In addition, AQI continues to launch attacks against the MNF-I/ISF, tribal leaders and Government officials as well as civilians.¹⁶⁹ In November 2007, several mass graves were found in the Lake Tharthar area.¹⁷⁰ There have also been allegations of arbitrary arrests and use of torture by the ISF and tribal and insurgent groups against persons alleged to have links to AQI.¹⁷¹

3. *Diyala and Salah Al-Din Governorates*

After the formation of tribal alliances in Al-Anbar Governorate and the launch of the Baghdad Security Plan, the Governorate of Diyala became the stronghold of AQI and the most violent area in the country outside Baghdad. There were frequent attacks on the MNF-I/ISF and the civilian population, resulting in high civilian death tolls and widespread displacement.¹⁷²

Between 18 June and 19 August 2007, some 10,000 US and Iraqi troops launched a large-scale operation dubbed “Arrowhead Ripper” to oust AQI militants from the Governorate’s capital Baqubah and its surrounding areas. Insurgent groups such as the 1920 Revolution Brigades, the Mujaheddin Army and the Islamic Army worked

for aid workers, 19 June 2007, <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=72810>; Ali al-Fadhily, *Anger Builds in Fallujah Over Security Crackdown*, IPS, 5 June 2007, <http://www.antiwar.com/ips/fadhily.php?articleid=11076>; Kirk Semple, *Uneasy Alliance Is Taming One Insurgent Bastion*, The New York Times, 29 April 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/29/world/middleeast/29ramadi.html>; VOI, *U.S. forces issue special IDs for Ramadi residents*, 26 April 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/16818.

¹⁶⁷ Reportedly, the police in Al-Anbar lack equipment, fuel, weapons and vehicles. The New York Times reported in August 2007 that many Sunni leaders accused the Shiite-dominated central Government of neglecting the area for sectarian reasons, fearing that Sunni security forces might eventually turn against it after a US withdrawal; Richard A. Oppel, *Falluja’s Calm Is Seen as Fragile if U.S. Leaves*, The New York Times, 19 August 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/19/world/middleeast/19falluja.html>.

¹⁶⁸ For example, the US military acknowledged that it killed 15 civilians, including nine children, and wounded others in an operation targeting AQI in the area of Lake Tharthar on 11 October 2007. The UN urged the US to mount a vigorous investigation into the incident and to make the findings public; Suzanne Goldenberg, Ewen MacAskill and agencies, *UN calls for US to publish facts on Iraqi deaths*, The Guardian, 12 October 2007, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/Iraq/Story/0,,2189560,00.html>. See also: UNAMI/HRO, *Human Rights Report October 2007*, p. 9, see above footnote 160.

¹⁶⁹ See Annex III – List of incidents in Al-Anbar Governorate targeting specific groups for an overview of incidents involving tribal leaders and Government officials, and civilians..

¹⁷⁰ BBC, *US military ‘frees 500 detainees’*, 8 November 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7084796.stm; VOI, *U.S. army says found mass grave with 22 bodies in western Iraq*, 6 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23709.

¹⁷¹ Leila Fadel, *Security in Iraq still elusive*, McClatchy Newspapers, 9 September 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/homepage/story/19566.html>. IOM reported that IDPs suspected of having links to AQI are deported from the Governorate; IRIN, *IRAQ: IDPs in Baghdad suburb stage protest, demand protection*, 24 September 2007, <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=74454>.

¹⁷² IRIN, *IRAQ: Thousands flee upsurge in violence in Diyala province*, 14 May 2007, <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=72134>. See also: Aasim Taha, *Al-Qaeda reportedly taking strongholds in Hamrin mountain*, VOI, 27 April 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/16868; IRIN, *IRAQ: Insurgency paralyses life in Diyala*, 22 March 2007, <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=70864>; Solomon Moore, *Security collapses in Diyala province; U.S. neglect, Iraq security forces blamed*, Los Angeles Times, 7 January 2007, <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/07007/751588-82.stm>.

alongside the MNF-I/ISF against AQI.¹⁷³ As a result, the city was largely secured, but AQI continues to have a presence in other parts of the Governorate. According to Lt. Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, the second-ranking US commander in Iraq, 80% of AQI leaders in Baqubah fled before the launch of the offensive.¹⁷⁴ There are concerns over the role of tribal and insurgent groups in this mixed Governorate, which also has sizable Shi'ite and Kurdish populations.¹⁷⁵

In Salah-Al-Din, levels of violence have decreased to some extent. However, AQI still has a strong presence in pockets of the Governorate, in particular in the areas around Samarra, Tarmiyah, Dhuluiya and Baiji.¹⁷⁶ In a major incident on 7 July 2007, a suicide bomber attacked the busy central market of Amirli, a Turkmen village near the town of Tuz Khurmatu, killing more than 130 persons and wounding 240 others.¹⁷⁷

Therefore, despite relative improvements in security in parts of Diyala and Salah Al-Din Governorates due to intense security operations by MNF-I/ISF and tribal and insurgent groups, the situation remains fragile and unstable.¹⁷⁸ The Governorates are the scene of regular clashes between the MNF-I/ISF and tribal and rival insurgent factions, who are fighting AQI and its allies.¹⁷⁹ There are daily attacks on the MNF-I/ISF and those supporting them, including government officials, politicians, tribal members, contractors and translators. There are also regular attacks on civilians. Sectarian killings continue to occur in mixed areas, with bodies found tortured, shot and dumped. Doctors,¹⁸⁰ journalists and other professionals, as well as members of the former Ba'ath

¹⁷³ Sumedha Senanayake, *Iraq: Plan To Arm Additional Sunni Groups Poses Risks*, RFE/RL, 22 June 2007, <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/06/9dc208ba-ff55-4ce4-9ab3-2dfdf787dfde.html>.

¹⁷⁴ John F. Burns, *Militants Said to Flee Before U.S. Offensive*, The New York Times, 23 June 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/23/world/middleeast/23iraq.html>. See also RFE/RL, *Baghdad Truck Bomb Kills 78 As Troops Launch Offensive*, 19 June 2007, <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/06/E5F6E126-F52B-4E79-BC70-0C10B07F493B.html>.

¹⁷⁵ Sumedha Senanayake, *Iraq: Plan To Arm Additional Sunni Groups Poses Risks*, RFE/RL, 22 June 2007, <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/06/9dc208ba-ff55-4ce4-9ab3-2dfdf787dfde.html>.

¹⁷⁶ Bill Roggio, *Al Qaeda suicide bombers target the Salahadin Awakening*, The Long War Journal, 9 October 2007, http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2007/10/al_qaeda_suicide_bom.php.

¹⁷⁷ In September 2007, MNF-I/ISF arrested the alleged mastermind behind the attack, reportedly a leading figure of the AQI-linked Islamic State in Iraq; DPA, *Joint Iraqi-US forces detain mastermind behind July's Tuz bombings*, 13 September 2007, <http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/106852.html>; BBC, *Iraqi PM slams 'heinous' bombers*, 8 July 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/6281508.stm.

¹⁷⁸ Ahmed Ali, *IRAQ: Where Better Security Brings No Reassurance*, IPS, 2 November 2007, <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=39897>.

¹⁷⁹ For example, on 10 November 2007, the Islamic Army of Iraq, which previously operated closely with AQI, reportedly killed 18 AQI militants and captured another 16 in an attack on a compound near Samarra. The BBC reported that the Islamic Army of Iraq is apparently planning to use those captured in an exchange of prisoners. Fifteen fighters from the Islamic Army were also killed in the attack. Apparently, the MNF-I/ISF were not involved in the clashes; Joshua Partlow, *Rival Sunnis in Deadly Gunfight*, The Washington Post, 11 November 2007, http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/10/AR2007111000382.html?nav=rss_world. See also: Ned Parker, *Sunni-on-Sunni fighting tears apart Samarra*, Los Angeles Times, 11 November 2007, <http://www.concordmonitor.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071111/NEWS03/711110399/1007/SPOR/TS>; BBC, *Sunni group attacks al-Qaeda base*, 10 November 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7088013.stm.

¹⁸⁰ On 18 November 2007, IRIN reported about the dire lack of doctors in the Governorate of Diyala. According to Diyala's Health Department, at least 80% of the doctors in the Governorate fled due to violence. Police officer Lt. Col. Abdallah Mustafa Aydan said that between August and November 2007 there was an increase in the numbers of doctors attacked by militants and insurgents, resulting in the

Party/security services, continue to be targeted.¹⁸¹ MNF-I/ISF security operations against AQI have at times resulted in civilian casualties,¹⁸² as well as casualties among its tribal and insurgent supporters.¹⁸³

4. *Kirkuk and Ninewa Governorates*

Both Kirkuk and Ninewa Governorates include the so-called “disputed areas”, the status of which are to be determined in line with Article 140 of the Iraqi Constitution.¹⁸⁴ Various groups are vying for control over the disputed territory, in particular oil-rich Kirkuk. Extremists continue to stir sectarian violence among Arabs, Kurds and, in areas such as Kirkuk and Tal Afar, Turkmen.¹⁸⁵ Under pressure from the MNF-I/ISF and tribal alliances in Baghdad, Al-Anbar, and parts of Babel, Diyala and Salah Al-Din Governorates, AQI has regrouped in areas of Kirkuk and Ninewa Governorates. Violence in these areas has been increasing.¹⁸⁶ On 5 November 2007, the MNF-I/ISF launched a major security operation (“Operation Iron Hammer”) in the Governorates of Ninewa, Kirkuk, Salah Al-Din and Diyala to counter Al-Qa’eda there.¹⁸⁷

flight of many; IRIN, *IRAQ: Diyala desperately needs doctors*, 18 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/fbd9149dc6f4eb8fc1a838f502cc1d2c.htm>.

¹⁸¹ See for a list of incidents involving these groups: Annex IV – List of incidents in Diyala and Salah Al-Din Governorates targeting specific groups.

¹⁸² See examples provided by UNAMI HRO; UNAMI/HRO, *Human Rights Report October 2007*, pp. 9-10, see above footnote 160. The Iraqi Islamic Party (IIP) said that during “Operation Arrowhead Ripper” more than 350 persons were killed in Baqubah; VOI, *350 civilians killed during military operations in Diala – Islamic party*, 2 July 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/18919. On 27 November 2007, US forces killed two gunmen and three civilians, including a child, in an armed operation north of Baiji; VOI, *U.S. forces say killed 5, including 3 civilians*, 28 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24433.

¹⁸³ Tribal leaders from the “Taji Awakening Council” said that warplanes had mistakenly bombed their men, killing 45, on 13 November 2007. The US military had identified the tribesmen as enemy fighters. An investigation is ongoing; Reuters, *EXCLUSIVE-U.S. strikes killed pro-U.S. Iraq fighters-officer*, 18 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/COL843248.htm>; Cara Buckley, *Sunni Group Says U.S. Killed Its Members*, *The New York Times*, 17 November 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/17/world/middleeast/17iraq.html>.

¹⁸⁴ See UNHCR, *Eligibility Guidelines August 2007*, Chapter II.B.2 De-Arabization, see above footnote 1.

¹⁸⁵ For example, on 8 September 2007, a car bomb exploded near a police station in the Shi’ite Turkmen town of Basheer, 20 km southwest of Kirkuk, reportedly killing at least one policeman. Police said Turkmen residents launched a revenge attack on the Sunni town of Albu-Faraj, burning six houses; Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Sept 8*, 8 September 2007, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUKL0855513220070908?pageNumber=2>.

¹⁸⁶ AP, *Al-Qaida-linked insurgent group says it’s behind series of attacks in north*, 20 November 2007, <http://www.ihf.com/articles/ap/2007/11/20/africa/ME-GEN-Iraq-Ansar-al-Sunnah.php>. See also: Stephen Farrell, *Fewer Roadside Bombs in Iraq, U.S. Says*, *The New York Times*, 16 November 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/16/world/middleeast/16iraq.html>; Bill Roggio, *Operation Iron Hammer targets al Qaeda in Iraq’s north*, *The Long War Journal*, 12 November 2007, http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2007/11/operation_iron_hammer_1.php; Ivan Watson, *Rise in Violence Puts Kirkuk’s Future in Doubt*, 10 October 2007, <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=15134193>; Salem Areef, *Mosul tribes rally to fight al-Qa’eda*, *Azzaman*, 19 September 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/21908.

¹⁸⁷ AFP, *Operation in north Iraq nets 200 suspected militants*, 11 November 2007, http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20071111/wl_mideast_afp/iraqunrestqaeda. See also UPI, *Operation Iron Hammer pursues al-Qa’ida*, 6 November 2007, http://www.upi.com/International_Security/Emerging_Threats/Briefing/2007/11/06/operation_iron_hammer_pursues_al-qaeda/9923/.

As a detailed report of the International Crisis Group explained, Kirkuk increasingly resembles Baghdad:

*“with Arabs, Kurds, Turkomans and Chaldo-Assyrians hunkered down in neighbourhoods which, while not entirely segregated, are distinctly hostile to members of whatever community happens to be the minority.”*¹⁸⁸

Some observers note that tensions among ethnic groups over the unresolved status of Kirkuk could turn into another civil war,¹⁸⁹ possibly spreading into the Kurdistan Region.¹⁹⁰

The Governorate of Ninewa has also seen increasing levels of violence in 2007. Local authorities have reported, in September 2007, that on average 40 civilians or police had been killed in violent incidents every week since June 2007.¹⁹¹ The violence is mostly between Sunni insurgents and local ISF or Shi’ite militants. Kurds and other minorities, such as Yazidis and Christians, are also attacked by insurgents.¹⁹²

In both Governorates, there are car bombings, suicide attacks and shootings. There are also targeted kidnappings and assassinations,¹⁹³ including of government officials, politicians, religious and tribal figures, members of minority groups,¹⁹⁴ journalists, other professionals, persons affiliated with the MNF-I/ISF, humanitarian workers, and members of the former regime.¹⁹⁵ PUK and KDP offices are also a regular target for attacks.¹⁹⁶ Dead bodies are found on a regular basis, often shot and with signs of

¹⁸⁸ ICG, *Iraq and the Kurds: Resolving the Kirkuk Crisis*, Middle East Report N° 64, 19 April 2007, p. 1, http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/middle_east_north_africa/iraq_iran_gulf/64_iraq_and_the_kurds_resolving_the_kirkuk_crisis.pdf.

¹⁸⁹ KurdishMedia, *Local paper: The security situation of Kirkuk is deteriorating*, 28 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/refid/E2F-07-12-2007/article/24463.

¹⁹⁰ *Ibidem*, Executive Summary. See also: IRIN, *IRAQ: Ethnic violence forces more Arabs to flee Kirkuk*, 16 September 2007, <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=74321>. See also Sumedha Senanayake, *Iraq: Kirkuk Referendum Likely To Be Delayed*, RFE/RL, 13 September 2007, <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/09/77A2D8AB-39B5-43DC-9A49-672B349D17B3.html>.

¹⁹¹ IRIN, *IRAQ: Several local NGOs close down in Mosul*, 24 September 2007, <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=74452>.

¹⁹² *Ibid.*

¹⁹³ See Annex V – List of incidents in Kirkuk and Ninewa Governorates.

¹⁹⁴ UNAMI in its latest report said that “(m)inorities such as Christians, Yezedis and Shabaks also continued to be targeted” in Mosul. According to Iraqi Minorities Council, pamphlets were distributed in Shabak villages, threatening to kill the Shabak if they did not leave. Reportedly, between April and May 2007, approximately 20 members of the Shabak community were killed and on or about 2 May 2007, gunmen reportedly killed two Yazidi men in Mosul; UNAMI/HRO, *Human Rights Report September 2007*, pp. 8, 15, see above footnote 160.

¹⁹⁵ *Ibid.*, also for a list of targeting killings involving specific groups.

¹⁹⁶ For example, on 8 November 2007, one woman was killed and five people were wounded when a suicide car bomb exploded near the KDP headquarters in the village of Tal Asquf, north of Mosul; Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Nov 8, 8 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ANW821183.htm>. On 7 November 2007, at least 13 people were wounded in a suicide car bomb attack on the KDP headquarters in Hay Al-Askari in Kirkuk; Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of daily Violence - Wednesday 7 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 7 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21162.html>. On 11 October 2007, at least eight people, including four Peshmerga fighters, were injured when a truck crammed with explosives detonated near a Peshmerga checkpoint outside the PUK office in eastern Mosul; VOI, *Bombing targets PUK’s office in Mosul, wounds eight*, 11 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/22793. On 10 October 2007, two persons were killed and 16 wounded, including KDP members, when an explosives-rigged minibus targeted a KDP office in Khorsbat area near Mosul; VOI, *Mosul blast targets KDP’s*

torture.¹⁹⁷ There have been instances of civilians being killed during MNF-I/ISF military offensives and raid and search operations.¹⁹⁸

office, leaves 18 casualties, 10 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/22754. On 8 July 2007, unidentified gunmen attacked the PUK premises in Kirkuk and clashed with security guards, leaving one attacker dead; VOI, *Armed attack on PUK office, two bodies found in Kirkuk*, 9 July 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/19199. On 13 May 2007, at least 45 people were killed and dozens wounded by a suicide truck bombing in the town of Makhmour. The bomber crashed his truck into the offices of the KDP, where a meeting was being held at the time; BBC, *Bombings leave many dead in Iraq*, 13 May 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/6651159.stm. On 26 April 2007, two suicide bombers attacked a KDP office in the town of Zumar west of Mosul, killing three of its guards and wounding five. Also three days earlier, a suicide car bomber attacked a KDP office in another town near Mosul, killing at least 10 people and wounding 20; AP, *9 dead in Iraqi army checkpoint attack*, 26 April 2007, http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2007-04/26/content_860960.htm.

¹⁹⁷ For several examples, please see the various Annexes.

¹⁹⁸ For example, during a raid on 13 November 2007, US forces reportedly killed a wanted AQI leader as well as his wife and one-year-old child in Mosul; VOI, *U.S. forces kill family in Mosul – police*, 13 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23902. See also UNAMI/HRO, *Human Rights Report October 2007*, pp. 9-10, see above footnote 160.

IV. Security situation in Southern Iraq

1. Basrah Governorate

Basrah Governorate, which used to have a population that included Arab Shi'ites and Sunnis, Christians and Sabaeen-Mandaeans, has lost much of its mixed character due to ongoing violence and the displacement of most minorities.¹⁹⁹ The Sunni presence has shrunk from 40% to just less than 14% since 2003.²⁰⁰ Reportedly, several hundred members of the Sunni community, including its most prominent cleric in Southern Iraq, Imam Yusuf Yaqub Al-Hassan, have been murdered, and hundreds of families evicted from their homes.²⁰¹ There have also been several attacks on Basrah's Sunni mosques, most recently in June 2007.²⁰² In addition, most Christians and Sabaeen-Mandaeans have been forced to flee the Governorate.²⁰³

Basrah, Iraq's second-largest city and where most of the country's immense oil wealth²⁰⁴ and its only ports are located,²⁰⁵ is at the centre of the factional fighting. In addition to the Mehdi Army²⁰⁶ and SIIC / Badr Organization,²⁰⁷ the Islamic Fadhila Party²⁰⁸ and Thar Allah²⁰⁹ are also major actors.²¹⁰ Militias have infiltrated the local

¹⁹⁹ Sam Dagher, 'Shiite Taliban' rises as British depart Basra, *Christian Science Monitor*, 18 September 2007, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0918/p11s01-wome.html>. See also: Patrick Cockburn, *Ignominious end to futile exercise that cost the UK 168 lives*, *The Independent*, 3 September 2007, http://news.independent.co.uk/world/middle_east/article2921877.ece; ICG, *Basra report June 2007*, pp. 1-4 and 10, see above footnote 118.

²⁰⁰ *The Independent*, *Basra betrayed: When the British leave, will the Mahdi Army replace them?*, 25 February 2007, http://news.independent.co.uk/world/middle_east/article2303009.ece.

²⁰¹ *Ibid.*

²⁰² Damien Cave, *Second Sunni Mosque Is Blown Up in Basra*, *The New York Times*, 16 June 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/16/world/middleeast/16cnd-baghdad.html>. See also CNN, *Sunni mosques hit after blast at Samarra shrine*, 14 June 2007, <http://edition.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/meast/06/14/iraq.main/>.

²⁰³ VOI, *Christians leaving Basra despite decades of co-existence*, 18 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24115. See also: ICG, *Basra report June 2007*, p. 4, see above footnote 118; Kathleen Ridolfo, *Iraq: Christian Population Dwindling Due To Threats, Attacks*, RFE/RL, 31 May 2007, <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/05/a453003e-dec4-491a-9069-81255c27a7fa.html>.

²⁰⁴ Nearly 80% of Iraq's 115 billion barrels of proven reserves, the third largest in the world, are located in or near Basrah. With the northern pipelines being a frequent target of insurgents, most of the 1.6 million barrels of oil per day exported in 2006 went through the port in Basrah, making up 93% of Iraq's budget; Ben Lando, *Analysis: Oil flows in Basra power vacuum*, UPI, 16 August 2007, http://www.upi.com/International_Security/Energy/Analysis/2007/08/16/analysis_oil_flows_in_basra_power_vacuum/5416/. See also Sam Dagher, *Basra oil fuels fight to control Iraq's economic might*, *Christian Science Monitor*, 19 September 2007, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0919/p12s01-wome.html>.

²⁰⁵ Most of Iraq's imports and exports go through Basrah's Umm Qasr port.

²⁰⁶ Al-Sadr has several loyalists in the Basrah Governorate Council.

²⁰⁷ The SIIC and its affiliates hold 21 of the 40 seats in the Basrah Governorate Council.

²⁰⁸ Fadhila's spiritual leader is Najef-based cleric Ayatollah Muhammad Al-Yacoubi, who broke ranks with Muqtada Al-Sadr in 2003. Fadhila holds only 12 seats in the Basrah Governorate Council, however with the support of other parties, was able to hold the post of the Governor and one of the two Deputy Governors. Fadhila dominates the 15,000-strong Oil Protection Force. Basrah's Governor, Mohammed Al-Wa'eli has been accused of mismanagement of public funds, corruption and using the Oil Protection Force as a paramilitary specialized in crude oil theft. On 30 April 2007 a vote of no-confidence was brought against the Governor by Basrah's Governing Council and, as a result, Prime Minister Al-Maliki dismissed the Governor on 28 July 2007. Fadhila appealed the dismissal to Iraq's Supreme Court and by the time of writing, Al-Wa'eli remains in power; UN SC, *Report October 2007*, para 14, see above footnote 13. See also: Sam Dagher, *As British troops exit Basra, Shiites vie to fill power vacuum*,

security forces²¹¹ and control hospitals, the university, ports, oil facilities and power supply.²¹² These militias provide social services and impose law through extra-judicial courts.²¹³ Basrah's Deputy Governor, Loai Al-Batat, said in late October 2007 that the local security forces were unable to fully control the city.²¹⁴

Despite some initial success gained during security operation "Sinbad" between September 2006 and March 2007,²¹⁵ intra-Shi'ite fighting has again escalated with daily street battles, kidnappings and assassinations.²¹⁶ According to a Basrah-based newspaper editor, at least 300 members of Badr and SIIC have been assassinated in Basrah alone since the start of the year.²¹⁷ According to the ICG, "*the city is controlled*

Christian Science Monitor, 17 September 2007, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0917/p01s08-wome.html>; Karen DeYoung and Thomas E. Ricks, *As British Leave, Basra Deteriorates*, The Washington Post, 7 October 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/06/AR2007080601401.html>; Juan Cole, Informed Comment, 29 July 2007, <http://www.juancole.com/2007/07/basra-governor-dismissed-fadhila-brands.html>; *ibidem*, 30 April 2007, <http://www.juancole.com/2007/04/political-crisis-in-basra-as-governor.html>. On the national level, Fadhila has 15 seats in the CoR and was part of the UIC before quitting it last March in objection to what it called "*the sectarian quota policy*;" VOI, *Talks with SIIC going on, return to UIC on conditions – Fadhila member*, 27 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23326.

²⁰⁹ Thar Allah is a small party based in Basrah and headed by Yousif Al-Mussawi. It has allied itself with the SIIC and its allies in the fight to oust the Fadhila Governor.

²¹⁰ According to the USDoD, "*(h)igh unemployment throughout Basrah and an estimated 5,000 displaced families are a potentially large recruiting pool for insurgent and militia groups*;" USDoD, *Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq September 2007*, p. 25, see above footnote 29.

²¹¹ SIIC dominates the local intelligence service while the Sadrists control most of the local police force, the Facilities Protection Service and the port authority. Fadhila controls Basrah's Oil Protection Force, which is responsible for safeguarding wells, refineries and pipelines. Basrah's three ports are controlled by a range of different actors, including SIIC, Fadhila and local tribes. A smaller faction, Hezballah, is believed to control the Customs Service; see ICG, *Basra report June 2007*, p. 11, see above footnote 118.

²¹² Sam Dagher, *As British troops exit Basra, Shiites vie to fill power vacuum*, Christian Science Monitor, 17 September 2007, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0917/p01s08-wome.html>. See also Dominic Moran, *The battle for Basra begins*, ISN Security Watch, 4 September 2007, <http://www.isn.ethz.ch/news/sw/details.cfm?ID=18069>.

²¹³ Ghaith Abdul-Ahad, *When night falls, the assassins gather in Hayaniya Square*, The Guardian, 17 November 2007, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,2212584,00.html>.

²¹⁴ VOI, *Security forces cannot control Basra – official*, 30 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23474.

²¹⁵ Operation Sinbad aimed at purging militias, improving police performance and push economic reconstruction under the motto of "*clear, hold and civil reconstruction*." Initially, the operation succeeded in lowering crime, political assassinations and sectarian killings, but as of April 2007, levels of violence have again increased. For a critical analysis, see ICG, *Basra report June 2007*, p. 16, see above footnote 118. See also Karen DeYoung and Thomas E. Ricks, *As British Leave, Basra Deteriorates*, The Washington Post, 7 August 2007, http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/06/AR2007080601401_pf.html.

²¹⁶ According to the NIE of August 2007, "*Intra-Shia conflict involving factions competing for power and resources probably will intensify as Iraqis assume control of provincial security. In Basrah, violence has escalated with the drawdown of Coalition forces there. Local militias show few signs of reducing their competition for control of valuable oil resources and territory*;" see NIE August 2007, p. 2, see above footnote 47. See also: Sam Dagher, *Basra oil fuels fight to control Iraq's economic might*, Christian Science Monitor, 19 September 2007, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0919/p12s01-wome.html>; AP, *Violence appears to be shifting from Baghdad*, 25 August 2007, <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/20440397/page/2/>; Karen DeYoung and Thomas E. Ricks, *As British Leave, Basra Deteriorates*, The Washington Post, 7 August 2007, http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/06/AR2007080601401_pf.html.

²¹⁷ Sam Dagher, *As British troops exit Basra, Shiites vie to fill power vacuum*, Christian Science Monitor, 17 September 2007, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0917/p01s08-wome.html>.

by militias, seemingly more powerful and unconstrained than before.”²¹⁸ The ICG considers the port city of Basrah to be an example of Iraq’s “multiple and multiplying forms of violence”, plagued by:

*“the systematic misuse of official institutions, political assassinations, tribal vendettas, neighborhood vigilantism and enforcement of social mores, together with the rise of criminal mafias that increasingly intermingle with political actors.”*²¹⁹

In addition to intra-Shi’ite fighting, the Governorate suffers from frequent kidnappings and assassinations by armed militias, militia-infiltrated ISF and criminals, of security officials, government officials, political, tribal and religious figures, persons affiliated with the MNF-I,²²⁰ former Ba’athists,²²¹ members of religious minorities,²²² journalists,²²³ human rights activists and humanitarian workers, and other professionals.²²⁴ According to Basrah’s police chief, Major-General Abdul-Jalil Khalaf, women in Basrah are threatened, beaten and sometimes shot, if they are believed not to adhere to strictly-interpreted Islamic rules.²²⁵ The same applies to men whose clothes or

²¹⁸ ICG, *Basra report June 2007*, p. i, see above footnote 118.

²¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²²⁰ See for example, UPI, *Insurgents target Iraqi U.K. interpreters*, 17 September 2007, <http://www.newsdaily.com/TopNews/UPI-1-20070917-09565500-bc-iraq-interpreter.xml>; Martin Fletcher, *Get out or die, security force chief tells interpreters for British Army*, The Times, 14 September 2007, <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/iraq/article2448785.ece>. On the trade with names of “collaborators”, see also Ghaith Abdul-Ahad, *When night falls, the assassins gather in Hayaniya Square*, The Guardian, 17 November 2007, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,2212584,00.html>. On 24 November 2007, unidentified gunmen killed an Iraqi working for a foreign security company in Umm Qasr City; VOI, *Iraqi working for foreign security company killed, 3 bodies found in Basra*, 26 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24350.

²²¹ According to local NGOs, at least 200 former members of the ousted Ba’ath Party have been killed in Southern Iraq by July 2007. According to local police, hundreds of families have been forced to flee their homes as a consequence; IRIN, *IRAQ: Families in south displaced as former Baathists targeted*, 30 July 2007, <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=73485>. Azzaman reported on 24 July 2007 that “(m)ilitias belonging to Shiite religious factions in southern Iraq have embarked on a murderous campaign to liquidate 3,000 members of the Baath party” before the Iraqi Government finalized a law that would allow former Ba’athists to return to their previous jobs; Nidhal al-Laithi, *Campaign to liquidate 3,000 Baathists in southern Iraq*, Azzaman, 24 July 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/19840. On 22 November 2007, unidentified gunmen opened fire on Kilan Abu Hussein, a former member of the Ba’ath Party, near his house in Hayy Al-Muthallath area in northern Basrah, killing him on the spot; VOI, *Former Baathist gunned down in Basra*, 23 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24258.

²²² Sabaeen-Mandaeans reported that leaflets were distributed in June 2007 in Basrah stating, “*Sunnis and Suba [slang for Sabean-Mandaeen] get out.*” Reportedly, similar leaflets were distributed in Nassiriyah in May 2007; USDoS, *International Religious Freedom Report 2007 – Iraq*, see above footnote 162. On the situation of Christian women, see also: IRIN, *IRAQ: Extremists fuel anti-women violence in Basra*, 20 November 2007, <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=75396>; Sam Dagher, ‘*Shiite Taliban’ rises as British depart Basra*, Christian Science Monitor, 18 September 2007, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0918/p11s01-wome.html>.

²²³ Journalists and writers complain about self-censorship, in particular the role of militias and Iran are a red line that most do not dare to cross; Sam Dagher, *Christian Science Monitor*, 18 September 2007, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0918/p11s01-wome.html>.

²²⁴ See Annex VI – List of incidents in Basrah Governorate for a detailed overview of targeted killings involving specific groups.

²²⁵ Reuters, *Feature – Basra women fear militants behind wave of killings*, 5 December 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L03653895.htm>. See also: VOI, *Women under extremists’ guillotine in Basra*, 29 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/refid/E2F-07-12-2007/article/24497.

even haircuts are deemed too “Western”.²²⁶ Reportedly, measures of social control have grown more intense since the withdrawal of UK forces from Basrah City.²²⁷ Women interviewed by the BBC recently said that “*they no longer dared venture on to Basra’s streets without strict Islamic attire.*” According to Khalaf, though admitting that the actual number might be much higher, “*at least 10 women [are] killed monthly, some of them are later found in garbage dumps with bullet holes while others are found decapitated or mutilated.*”²²⁸ Police were often afraid to conduct proper investigations into the killings.²²⁹

Militia attacks on and fighting with the MNF-I/ISF are also common²³⁰ and Basrah has been the site of bomb, mortar and suicide attacks.²³¹ Criminality is also a major concern in the city.²³² Basrah’s police chief Major-General Abdul-Jalil Khalaf vowed that he “*was ready to deal with armed militias,*” saying that:

“(t)he task is very difficult and conditions are extremely dangerous because each party believes that it represents the law, and each element thinks of himself as a state hero. The city includes tens or even hundreds of militias (...).”²³³

²²⁶ IRIN, *IRAQ: Extremists fuel anti-women violence in Basra*, 20 November 2007, <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=75396>. See also: Mona Mahmoud and Mike Lanchin, *Basra militants targeting women*, BBC, 15 November 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7095209.stm; Jay Price and Ali Omar al Basri, *In Basra, vigilantes wage deadly campaign against women*, McClatchy Newspapers, 4 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/iraq/story/20234.html>.

²²⁷ Information received from UNAMI, 3 November 2007. According to Christian Science Monitor, “(P)ublic parties are banned. Selling musical CDs is forbidden in shops. Those who sell or consume alcohol face recrimination, even death. Artists and performers are severely restricted and even labeled as heretics”. See: Sam Dagher, ‘*Shiite Taliban*’ rises as British depart Basra, Christian Science Monitor, 18 September 2007, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0918/p11s01-wome.html>. See also: Mariam Karouny, *Shi’ite tribal leaders in Iraq say Islamism on rise*, Reuters, 16 October 2007, <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSKAR64431320071016?pageNumber=1>.

²²⁸ IRIN, *IRAQ: Extremists fuel anti-women violence in Basra*, 20 November 2007, <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=75396>.

²²⁹ Mona Mahmoud and Mike Lanchin, *Basra militants targeting women*, BBC, 15 November 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7095209.stm.

²³⁰ For example, on 23 October 2007, gunmen clashed with the ISF and freed a detained JAM member from the main police headquarters during the fighting; Reuters, *Gunmen clash with security forces in Iraq’s Basra*, 23 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L2337698.htm>. The UK forces in Basrah are under daily mortar and rocket bombardments; see for example, Karen DeYoung and Thomas E. Ricks, *As British Leave, Basra Deteriorates*, The Washington Post, 7 August 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/06/AR2007080601401.html>.

²³¹ For example, on 19 November 2007, six people were killed, including five children, and two others were injured when a Katyusha missile hit their house in Qibla neighborhood; Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Monday 19 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 19 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21764.html>. On 18 October 2007, one person was killed and 14 others were injured, mostly students, when an explosive device went off in front of a school in central Basrah; VOI, *15 people killed, injured as bomb explodes in central Basra*, 18 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/22990. On 25 September 2007, two policemen were killed and 17 others wounded in a suicide car bomb near a police station in Ashar neighborhood downtown Basrah City; Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Tuesday 25 September 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 25 September 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/19950.html>.

²³² Valentinas Mite, *Iraq: Karbala Fighting Raises Specter Of Broader Shi’ite Clashes*, RFE/RL, 29 August 2007, <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/08/bf1e8ee2-e8a3-49c0-9f1d-4f499743ef1b.html>. See also: Sam Dagher, *As British leave Basra, militias dig in*, Christian Science Monitor, 28 August 2007, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0828/p01s03-wome.html>.

²³³ Basil Adas, *Basra police chief ‘ready to deal with armed militias’*, Gulf News, 7 October 2007, <http://archive.gulfnews.com/articles/07/10/08/10158772.html>. Gulf News also referred to statistics from

Given the infiltration of the security forces by militia members,²³⁴ dealing with the armed militias will remain a major challenge. The local population is largely confined to homes, fearing violent battles and imposition of strict Islamic rules by militias.²³⁵ Many see no other option but to seek protection from one of the dominant actors.²³⁶

2. *Diwaniyah, Missan, Wassit, Muthanna and Thi-Qar Governorates*

These Governorates have seen several episodes of pitched battles between the Mehdi Army and Badr / Badr-affiliated ISF,²³⁷ and the assassination of SIIC members.²³⁸ In August 2007, the governors of Muthanna and Diwaniyah Governorates, both SIIC/Badr members, were killed in roadside bombings, allegedly by Mehdi Army members. Al-Sadr denies any Mehdi Army involvement.²³⁹

The MNF-I regularly clash with Mehdi Army members and, recently, a group calling itself *Kataib Al-Hussein*, or Hussein battalions.²⁴⁰ US, Polish²⁴¹ and Iraqi troops have

the University of Basrah, which indicate that there are about 250,000 individuals involved in armed militias and around 144 militia groups in Basrah.

²³⁴ See above footnote 211.

²³⁵ Sam Dagher, 'Shiite Taliban' rises as British depart Basra, *Christian Science Monitor*, 18 September 2007, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0918/p11s01-wome.html>. See also: Karen DeYoung and Thomas E. Ricks, *As British Leave, Basra Deteriorates*, *The Washington Post*, 7 August 2007, http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/06/AR2007080601401_pf.html.

²³⁶ ICG, *Basra report June 2007*, p. i, see above footnote 118.

²³⁷ For example, two days of clashes broke out between JAM fighters and the ISF in Samawa, the capital of Muthanna Governorate in July 2007, reportedly claiming eight lives and wounding over 66; VOI, *Iraqi security forces take control of Samawa as negotiations with Sadr's office fail – official*, 9 July 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/19218. The City of Nassiriyah, the provincial capital of Thi-Qar Governorate, has been the scene of fierce fighting between JAM fighters and the ISF linked to SIIC in mid June 2007. The clashes resulted in 35 persons killed and 125 wounded. The situation calmed down after US forces intervened; Michael Gordon and Alissa J. Rubin, *Heavy Fighting as U.S. Troops Squeeze Insurgents in Iraq City*, *The New York Times*, 21 June 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/21/world/middleeast/21iraq.html>; Reuters, *Police, gunmen clash in south Iraq, 35 killed*, 19 June 2007, <http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSL191306220070619>. Also in mid June, British and Iraqi troops, backed by helicopters, fought intense battles against JAM militants in Amara and Majjar Al-Kabir in Missan Governorate, killing at least 30 people, reportedly also civilians; Damien Cave, *U.S. and Iraqi Troops Begin Big Offensive*, *The New York Times*, 18 June 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/18/world/middleeast/18cnd-Iraq.html>. See also: AFP, *30 killed in battles with Shiite militants in Iraq*, 18 June 2007, http://rawstory.com/news/afp/30_killed_in_battles_with_shiite_mi_06182007.html; Stephen R. Hurst, *Shiite Militia Briefly Seizes Amarah*, AP, 20 October 2006, <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/10/20/ap/world/mainD8KSKG9G0.shtml>.

²³⁸ For example, on 3 October 2007, Ali Hussein Al-Zamli, a key SIIC leader in Diwaniyah and a member of Ifak District Council, was killed by gunmen; VOI, *Key SIIC's leader killed in Diwaniya*, 3 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/22511.

²³⁹ Mohammed Ali Al-Hasani, the Governor of Missan, was killed when the bomb exploded next to his convoy as it drove through the Governorate's capital, Samawa. The Governor was reportedly a key figure in the Badr Organization; BBC, *Roadside bomb kills Iraq governor*, 20 August 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/6954467.stm. Khalil Jalil Hamza, Governor of Diwaniyah, and the provincial police chief, Maj. Gen. Khalid Hassan, were killed in a roadside blast on 11 August 2007; Chris Collins and Leila Fadel, *Blast kills key Iraqi governor*, *McClatchy Newspapers*, 11 August 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/homepage/story/18858.html>. According to USDoD, "both governors had been pushing back on Jaysh al-Mahdi (JAM) expansion and control;" USDoD, *Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq September 2007*, p. 24, see above footnote 29.

²⁴⁰ Ali Salaman, *Security worsens in Diwaniya*, *Azzaman*, 18 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23004.

been engaged in fierce fighting with militia over control of the city of Diwaniyah.²⁴² According to Sheikh Hussein Al-Bederi, chairman of the Diwaniyah Governorate Council, 50% of the Governorate's area is outside the state's control.²⁴³ On 17 November 2007, the ISF, with backing from the MNF-I, launched a security plan codenamed "Lion's Leap" to root out militias and restore control in the Governorate.²⁴⁴ Reportedly, dozens of Mehdi Army militia were arrested and Al-Sadr's office in the town of Nafar, south of Diwaniyah City, was raided. Diwaniyah's police chief Major General Ali Akmoosh said that 70 policemen, including some officers, were dismissed for their links with militias.²⁴⁵

There have been targeted assassinations of religious and tribal leaders, security officials and persons affiliated with the MNF-I, journalists, other professionals and members of minority groups in these Governorates.²⁴⁶ Former Ba'athists also have reportedly been killed.²⁴⁷ In Wassit Governorate, what appear to be sectarian killings have also occurred.²⁴⁸ UNHCR has received information that measures of "social control" have

²⁴¹ About 2,000 MNF-I soldiers are stationed in the Governorates of Wassit and Diwaniyah and led by Polish troops as part of the MNF-I. The troops provide backing to the Iraqi Army's 8th Division and training to the ISF in these Governorates; Multinational Division Central South, *An Outline History*, <http://www.piomndcs.mil.pl/index.php?akcja=multinational>.

²⁴² For example, a roadside bomb killed seven Iraqi policemen near the city of Diwaniyah on 17 October 2007; BBC, *Roadside bomb kills Iraqi police*, 17 October 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7048442.stm. On 15 October 2007, gunmen launched simultaneous mortar and machinegun attacks on two mainly Polish military bases in Diwaniyah City, killing four children and wounding 17; Aseel Kami, *Militants mortar Polish bases in Iraq*, Reuters, 15 October 2007, http://www.boston.com/news/world/middleeast/articles/2007/10/15/militants_mortar_polish_bases_in_iraq/. On 7 October 2007, extremists carried out a mortar attack on a MNF temporary base in the Iskan District of Diwaniyah City, resulting in the injury of ten civilians including seven children in a nearby school; MNF-I, *Extremists mortar school in Diwaniyah*, 11 October 2007, http://www.mnf-iraq.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=14547&Itemid=128. Clashes broke out between JAM fighters and US forces in Kut on 18 August 2007; VOI, *Clashes broke out between fighters of Shiite leader Muqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militias and U.S. forces in Kut*, 20 August 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/20790. Fierce fighting also took place in April 2007, reportedly claiming the lives of more than 40 people, including civilians; IRIN, *IRAQ: "Humanitarian catastrophe" looms in Diwaniyah*, 11 April 2007, <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=71559>. See also: Sumedha Senanayake, *Iraq: Al-Sadr Tries New Tactics, But Strategy Still The Same*, RFE/RL, 10 April 2007, <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/04/44204d6b-7af2-4143-87ce-27273a572656.html>. Reportedly, Shi'ite militias also fight over control of the profitable opium production in the Governorate; Patrick Cockburn, *Opium: Iraq's deadly new export*, The Independent, 23 May 2007, http://news.independent.co.uk/world/middle_east/article2573299.ece.

²⁴³ VOI, *Security plan in Diwaniya starts, 12 suspects arrested*, 17 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24044.

²⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁵ AFP, *Iraq cracks down on Sadr militants*, 19 November 2007, http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20071119/wl_mideast_afp/iraqunrest_071119124824;_ylt=AuKRm9beD1tMBsuPObs4151X6GMA.

²⁴⁶ According to UNAMI HRO "(r)elatively quieter areas of Missan, Wasset, al-Muthanna and Dhi-Qar governorates were also affected by the overall climate of instability, as well as by tensions resulting in part from the rapid influx of displaced populations. Particularly prevalent were targeted assassinations, among the victims being former Ba'ath Party members, professional groups, students, members of minority groups and security officials;" UNAMI/HRO, *Human Rights Report, January – March 2007*, p. 6, http://www.uniraq.org/FileLib/misc/HR_Report_Jan_Mar_2007_EN.pdf. See also footnote 222 on threats against Sabaeen-Mandaeans.

²⁴⁷ See Annex VII – Lists of incidents in Diwaniyah, Missan, Wassit, Muthanna and Thi-Qar Governorates for a detailed overview of targeted killings involving specific groups.

²⁴⁸ For example, on 19 November 2007, police found the bodies of four men in the Tigris River near the town of Suwayra. All four had been tortured and shot; Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Nov 20, 20 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L20712603.htm>. On 18

increased.²⁴⁹ In particular, the situation of women has deteriorated in these Governorates in recent months. It was reported that in Missan Governorate militia killed a woman and her two daughters, whom they had accused of engaging in prostitution. They dragged their dead bodies into the main street of Amara and mutilated them.²⁵⁰

3. *Kerbala and Najef Governorates*

The so-called mid-Euphrates provinces, Kerbala and Najef, which are home to Shi'ite Islam's holiest sites and leading centres of Islamic theology,²⁵¹ have seen regular security incidents since 2003, including (suicide) attacks against mostly Shi'ite civilians, MNF-I and ISF and those working for them.²⁵² There have been targeted assassinations, including of religious²⁵³ and political figures, Government officials, other professionals and former Ba'athists,²⁵⁴ and armed clashes among rival Shi'ite militias and security forces. A major clash, which reportedly involved gunmen loyal to Al-Sadr and Badr-dominated security forces,²⁵⁵ occurred on 28 August 2007 during a religious festival in Kerbala. More than 50 persons were killed and 300 more wounded when gunfire, mortar shells and grenades exploded amid the worshippers.²⁵⁶ Militia also attacked numerous SIIC offices in the south-central area and in Baghdad over the following days.²⁵⁷ Despite a pledged truce between SIIC and Al-Sadr, renewed clashes

November 2007, police retrieved the bodies of two men bearing signs of torture from the Tigris River in Suwayra; Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Nov 19, 19 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L1969597.htm>. On 27 October 2007, two bodies with gunshot wounds and signs of torture were recovered from the Tigris River in Suwayra; Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 27, 27 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L27470493.htm>. On 23 November 2007, eight decomposed bodies were delivered to the main hospital in Kut over the past three days; Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Nov 23, 23 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ANW337631.htm>.

²⁴⁹ See also Mariam Karouny, *Shi'ite tribal leaders in Iraq say Islamism on rise*, Reuters, 16 October 2007, <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSKAR64431320071016?pageNumber=1>.

²⁵⁰ Information received by UNHCR, November 2007.

²⁵¹ Accordingly, Shi'ite factions also fight over control of these cities, which, in addition to its symbolic value, also attract millions of visitors every year and cash donations by pilgrims; AP, *Violence in Iraq's south threatens to overshadow gains elsewhere*, 31 August 2007, <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/08/31/africa/ME-ANL-Iraq-Shiites-Fighting-Shiites.php>.

²⁵² See Annex VIII – Lists of incidents in Kerbala and Najef Governorates.

²⁵³ For possible motives and perpetrators of these and other killings of senior Shi'ite religious leaders, Kathleen Ridolfo, *Iraq: Killings In Shi'ite Holy City Expose Growing Splits*, RFE/RL, 17 August 2007, <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/08/22663f9b-f2f0-4993-8e11-570a966bcf03.html>.

²⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁵ In Kerbala, the ISF are primarily aligned to the Badr Organization; see for example, Stephen Farrell, *50 Die in Fight Between Shiite Groups in Karbala*, The New York Times, 29 August 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/29/world/middleeast/29iraq.html>; Charles Crain, *Iraq Militias Fighting for Supremacy*, The Time, 29 August 2007, <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1657449,00.html>.

²⁵⁶ Joshua Partlow and Sudarsan Raghavan, *Sadr's Militia Blamed for Deadly Shiite-on-Shiite Melee*, The Washington Post, 7 October 2007, http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/06/AR2007100601476_pf.html. See also: Valentinas Mite, *Iraq: Karbala Fighting Raises Specter Of Broader Shi'ite Clashes*, RFE/RL, 29 August 2007, <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/08/bf1e8ee2-e8a3-49c0-9f1d-4f499743ef1b.html>.

²⁵⁷ For example, on 30 August, the SIIC's office in Kufa as well as two offices in Al-Hashimiyah area, south of Hilla, were burned; VOI, *Gunmen burn SIIC's office in Kufa*, 30 August 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/21208; *ibidem*, *Gunmen set two SIIC's offices on fire in Babel*, 30 August 2007, <http://www.aswataliraq.info/look/english/article.tpl?IdLanguage=1&IdPublication=4&NrArticle=53901&NrIssue=2&NrSection=1>. On 28 August 2007, several SIIC offices in and around Baghdad were attacked (Kadhimiya, Habibiyah, Amil and Husseinayah); Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Tuesday 28 August 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 28 August 2007,

broke out in Kerbala in late October 2007, leading to a number of civilian casualties.²⁵⁸ The situation reportedly remains tense.²⁵⁹

4. *Babel Governorate*

The Governorate of Babel has a mixed Sunni-Shi'ite population and has seen extensive sectarian killings and insurgent activities in 2005, 2006 and 2007, in particular in the so-called "Triangle of Death" south of Baghdad, which contains the towns of Yusufiyah, Mahmoudiyah, Iskandariyah, Musayyib and Latifiyah.²⁶⁰ Reportedly, AQI and other Sunni insurgent groups have established bases of operations in this area to attack Baghdad and launch attacks on the Shi'ite areas further south.²⁶¹

Over the past year, the Governorate has been the scene of some of the most devastating bombings since 2003, including a twin suicide bombing in a local market in Hilla on 1 February 2007, killing at least 60 and wounding 150,²⁶² and the killing of at least 90 Shi'ite pilgrims in a double suicide bombing in the capital Hilla on 6 March 2007.²⁶³

Between June and August 2007, the MNF-I/ISF launched two major military offensives in the Governorate of Babel directed against AQI and other extremists.²⁶⁴ More recently, local residents and tribes have taken the initiative to fight AQI along with the

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/19282.html>. Also on 29 August 2007, gunmen attacked a SIIC party headquarters with RPG in central Najef City; Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Aug 29, 29 August 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/RAS929990.htm>.

²⁵⁸ VOI, Karbala deputy governor says militias behind armed clashes, 23 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23175; *ibidem*, 33 gunmen arrested in clashes in Karbala, 22 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23114.

²⁵⁹ For more information on the uneasy truce between JAM and SIIC and the increase in targeted violence such as kidnappings and assassinations in Najef, see Charles Crain, *Waiting for a Shi'ite Civil War*, Time, 13 November 2007, <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1683561,00.html>. In Kerbala, Sadrist are accusing the ISF of systematic attacks and torture, including of women and children, while the police alleges that JAM militia carried out assassinations and other attacks against local police, saying that this was the reason for the systematic crackdown on their ranks; DPA, *Shiite police, Sadr movement at loggerheads in Karbala*, 7 November 2007, <http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/138186.html>. See also: BBC, *Mehdi Army had 'reign of terror'*, 9 November 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7087500.stm.

²⁶⁰ See for example: Bushra Juhi, *Iraq Gunmen Kidnap 20 Sunni Agency Workers*, AP, 19 July 2006, <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/07/19/ap/world/mainD8IV58O80.shtml>; AP, *Rampage kills 50 in Iraqi market*, 17 July 2006, http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/iraq/2006-07-17-iraq-violence_x.htm; Salam Farraj, *Sectarian killings spark Shiite exodus from Triangle of Death*, AFP, 20 May 2005, <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/EVOD-6CKH6N?OpenDocument&Click=>.

²⁶¹ See for example, Bill Roggio, *Operation Phantom Thunder: The Battle of Iraq*, The Long War Journal, 21 June 2007, http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2007/06/operation_phantom_fu.php.

²⁶² James Glanz, *Iraq Suicide Bombers Kill 60 and Wound 150 in Market in Southern City*, The New York Times, 2 February 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/02/02/world/middleeast/02iraq.html>.

²⁶³ BBC, *Scores of Iraqi pilgrims killed*, 6 March 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/6423633.stm.

²⁶⁴ Operation "Marne Torch" focused on the area of Arab Jabour, southeast of Baghdad, and "Commando Eagle" focused on the Mahmoudiyah region, including the "triangle of death" southwest of Baghdad; Joshua Partlow and John Ward Anderson, *Troops Pushing South Through Insurgent Area*, The Washington Post, 22 June 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/06/21/AR2007062100597.html>. See also: Bill Roggio, *Operation Phantom Thunder: The Battle of Iraq*, The Long War Journal, 21 June 2007, http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2007/06/operation_phantom_fu.php.

MNF-I, reportedly leading to a significant decrease in violence.²⁶⁵ Despite relative security in parts of the Governorate, however, daily security incidents are reported, in particular in Iskandariyah, including suicide attacks and roadside bombs,²⁶⁶ attacks on the MNF-I/ISF and those supporting them, tribal and militia violence, sectarian killings, and abductions and assassinations of local officials and civilians.²⁶⁷ Several Sunni mosques have been targeted in 2007.²⁶⁸

²⁶⁵ Bill Roggio, *Counterinsurgency success in Haswa*, The Long War Journal, 13 September 2007, http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2007/09/counterinsurgency_su.php. See also: Gerry J. Gilmore, *Citizens Groups Help Pacify Former 'Triangle of Death'*, American Forces Press Service, 5 October 2007, <http://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/iraq/2007/10/iraq-071005-afps02.htm>.

²⁶⁶ For example, on 24 July 2007, a suicide car bomb killed 26 people and wounded 70 in a crowded market in Hilla; Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, July 24*, 24 July 2007, <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSL24641760>.

²⁶⁷ See Annex IX – Lists of incidents in Babel Governorate

²⁶⁸ In apparent retaliation for an attack on the Shi'ite Khilani mosque in Baghdad on 19 June 2007, militia reportedly detonated a bomb inside a Sunni mosque in Haswa on 20 June 2007. Hours later, a mosque near Hilla and the imam's house near the mosque were targeted. The same day, Sunni mosques in Iskandariyah and Jbela were attacked; USDoS, *International Religious Freedom Report 2007 – Iraq*, see above footnote 162.

V. Conclusion

There have been improvements in the security situation in parts of Central Iraq from February to November 2007. These include, most notably, a decrease in killings and overall civilian casualties. The level of human rights violations and violence along sectarian and intra-sectarian lines, however, remains high in Central and Southern Iraq, and the ISF continue to face serious challenges in maintaining law and order. In addition, many of the hoped-for political advances have not yet occurred. The overall situation remains volatile and unpredictable.

Both internal and external displacement continues to occur, due to serious human rights violations and sectarian and intra-sectarian violence. Displaced persons find it increasingly difficult to move both within Iraq as well as to neighbouring countries given more restrictive entry policies implemented at Governorate and state borders. On the other hand, a major development in the period since the Eligibility Guidelines were issued is that there have been returns of displaced Iraqis, both within the country and from outside. Several key aspects of these movements, however, remain unknown or unclear. The number of returns appears to be relatively modest. Clear trends regarding the returns cannot be established, nor can the motives behind them or their sustainability. From the testimonies provided by returnees interviewed by UNHCR concerning their reasons for returning and the objective situation in Iraq, UNHCR could not conclude that the returns signal a situation which would warrant, at this stage, a change in its position concerning Iraqi asylum-seekers.

The updated information contained in the Addendum does not show that in the period between February and November 2007, even the most positive security and political improvements have yet translated into political reconciliation, the building of strong and non-sectarian state institutions, the re-establishment of law and order, reconstruction and the adequate provision of services. UNHCR is thus maintaining the position, set out in the Eligibility Guidelines originally, with regard to assessing the international protection needs of Iraqi asylum-seekers. In brief, that position is as follows:

With regard to Iraqi asylum-seekers from Central and Southern Iraq:

- UNHCR considers Iraqi asylum-seekers from Central and Southern Iraq to be in need of international protection.
- Iraqi asylum-seekers from Central and Southern Iraq should be considered as refugees based on the 1951 Convention criteria.
- Where such asylum-seekers are not recognized under the 1951 Convention refugee criteria, international protection should be afforded through the application of an extended refugee definition, or otherwise through a complementary form of protection.
- UNHCR considers that an internal flight or relocation alternative (IFA/IRA) in Central and Southern Iraq is on the whole not available. When, however, the availability of an internal flight or relocation alternative must be assessed in a national procedure, it should be examined cautiously, taking into account the particular circumstances of the applicant. The question of the availability of an

IFA/IRA in the three Northern Governorates for individuals from Central and Southern Iraq must be carefully assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration, in particular, the relevance and reasonableness analysis in the Eligibility Guidelines.

As concerns Iraqi asylum-seekers from the three Northern Governorates:

- The international protection needs of asylum-seekers from the three Northern Governorates should be individually assessed based on the 1951 Convention refugee definition. In cases where an asylum-seeker is not recognized as a refugee under the 1951 Convention but nevertheless demonstrates protection needs for which complementary forms of protection may be appropriate, the case should be assessed accordingly.
- UNHCR considers that there is no IFA/IRA available for asylum-seekers from the three Northern Governorates in Central and Southern Iraq. Whether an IFA/IRA may be available for them within the three Northern Governorates themselves must be examined carefully on a case-by-case basis. Special attention should be paid to the categories of individuals highlighted in the Eligibility Guidelines who clearly would not be able to find an IFA/IRA in the three Northern Governorates.

In all cases, due attention should be paid to possible grounds for exclusion, in accordance with Article 1(F) of the 1951 Convention.

The following annexes provide overviews of violent incidents as reported in the media. The individual incidents have not been verified by UNHCR and are not to be considered comprehensive. These annexes serve to illustrate the prevalence of certain types of violence and the targeting of members of specific groups as identified in the Eligibility Guidelines.

Annex I – List of sectarian killings in Baghdad

The following lists incidents as reported by the media between 1 October and 30 November 2007. Unlike previous months, when dozens of bodies were found on a daily basis in Baghdad, several bodies are still found every day.

- On 30 November 2007, the police found three bodies in Baghdad, one in Sadr City, one in Jamia'a and one in Doura.²⁶⁹
- On 29 November 2007, the police found six unidentified dead bodies in various neighborhoods in Baghdad, including four in west Baghdad (Doura, Saidiyah and Tobchi) and two in east (Bab Al-Sharji and Palestine Street).²⁷⁰
- On 28 November 2007, the police found three dead bodies throughout Baghdad, including in Doura, Al-Amel and Bayaa.²⁷¹
- On 27 November 2007, the police found three unidentified bodies in several neighborhoods in Baghdad, including two in west (Bayaa and Doura) and one in east Baghdad (Za'afaraniyah).²⁷²
- On 26 November 2007, the police found four dead bodies throughout Baghdad, including in Abu Desheer, Baya'a, Ur and Sleikh.²⁷³
- On 25 November 2007, the police found five unidentified dead bodies across Baghdad, including three in west Baghdad (Shuala, Bayaa and Saidiyah) and two in east Baghdad (New Baghdad and Ur).²⁷⁴
- On 24 November 2007, the police found four dead bodies throughout Baghdad, including in Palestine Street, Saidiyah and Al-Amel.²⁷⁵
- On 23 November 2007, the police found six unidentified bodies in Baghdad, including three in west Baghdad (Doura and Bayaa) and three in east Baghdad (Sadr City and Za'afaraniyah).²⁷⁶

²⁶⁹ Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq-Friday November 30, 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 30 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/22353.html>.

²⁷⁰ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Thursday 29 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 29 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/22283.html>.

²⁷¹ Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq-28 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 28 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/22221.html>.

²⁷² Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Tuesday 27 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 27 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/22156.html>.

²⁷³ Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq-Monday 26 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 26 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/22095.html>.

²⁷⁴ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Sunday 25 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 25 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/22083.html>.

²⁷⁵ Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq- Saturday 24 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 24 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/22053.html>.

- On 22 November 2007, the police found four dead bodies throughout Baghdad, including in Sadr City, Doura, Saidiyah and Al-Amel.²⁷⁷
- On 21 November 2007, eight bodies were found, including six bodies in western Baghdad (Saidiyah and Doura) and two bodies in eastern Baghdad (New Baghdad and Ur).²⁷⁸
- On 20 November 2007, police found six unidentified bodies, including three in western Baghdad (Al-Amel and Mansour) and three in eastern Baghdad (Sadr City and Uttafiyah).²⁷⁹
- On 19 November 2007, police found three unidentified bodies, including two in western Baghdad (Al-Ilam and Ghazaliyah) and one in eastern Baghdad (New Baghdad).²⁸⁰
- On 18 November 2007, police found four unidentified bodies in Baghdad (Ur, Saidiyah, Za'afaraniyah and Doura).²⁸¹
- On 17 November 2007, the badly decomposed remains of about 30 people were discovered by members of a local Awakening Council in the mainly Sunni district of Doura. Police estimated that the victims were killed at least six months ago.²⁸² Also, police found four unidentified bodies, including two in western Baghdad (Doura and Al-Amel) and two in eastern Baghdad (Sadr City and Sleikh).²⁸³
- On 16 November 2007, police found four unidentified bodies, including three in the western side of Baghdad (Al-Amel, Saidiyah and Washash) and one in the eastern side of Baghdad (Sadr City).²⁸⁴
- On 15 November 2007, police found six dead bodies throughout Baghdad, including in Palestine Street, Karrada, Shuala, Doura, Bayaa and Saidiyah.²⁸⁵
- On 14 November 2007, police found five unidentified bodies in Baghdad, including three in west Baghdad (Saidiyah, Doura and Ja'amia) and two in east Baghdad (New Baghdad and Jisr Diyala).²⁸⁶
- On 13 November 2007, six unidentified bodies were found in Baghdad, including three in the eastern side of Baghdad (Sadr City, Ur and Qahira) and three in the western side of Baghdad (Al-Amel, Saidiyah and Doura).²⁸⁷

²⁷⁶ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Friday 23 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 23 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21964.html>.

²⁷⁷ Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Thursday 22 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 22 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21936.html>.

²⁷⁸ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Wednesday 21 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 21 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21877.html>.

²⁷⁹ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Tuesday 20 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 20 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21817.html>.

²⁸⁰ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Monday 19 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 19 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21764.html>.

²⁸¹ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Sunday 18 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 18 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21744.html>.

²⁸² VOI, *Remains of 30 decayed bodies found in southern Baghdad*, 18 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24078. See also: BBC, *Bodies found in Iraq mass killing*, 17 November 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7099954.stm.

²⁸³ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Saturday 17 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 17 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21699.html>.

²⁸⁴ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Violence in Iraq - Friday 16 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 16 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21629.html>.

²⁸⁵ Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq-Thursday 15 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 15 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21562.html>.

²⁸⁶ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of daily violence - Wednesday 14 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 14 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21495.html>.

- On 12 November 2007, police found five dead bodies throughout Baghdad (Sadr City, Sha'ab, Mansour, Al-Amel and Doura).²⁸⁸
- On 11 November 2007, police found four unidentified bodies in Baghdad, including three in west Baghdad (Doura, Bayaa and Saidiyah) and one in east Baghdad (Sleikh).²⁸⁹
- On 10 November 2007, police found six unidentified bodies in Baghdad (three were found in the western side of Baghdad in the neighborhoods of Doura, Al-Amel and in Al-Illam and three were found in the eastern side in Sadr City, Ur and in Palestine Street).²⁹⁰
- On 9 November 2007, police found three dead bodies throughout Baghdad (Bab Al-Muatham, Saidiyah and Doura).²⁹¹
- On 8 November 2007, police found four unidentified bodies (Za'afaraniyah, Shuala, Al-Amel and Mansour).²⁹²
- On 7 November 2007, police found six unidentified bodies in the different neighborhoods in Baghdad. Four bodies were found in west Baghdad (Al-Amel, Bayaa, Saidiyah and Mansour) and two were found in east Baghdad (Qahira and New Baghdad).²⁹³
- On 6 November 2007, police found four bodies in different neighbourhoods of Baghdad, including in Al-Amel, Bayaa, Za'afaraniyah and Sadr City.²⁹⁴
- On 5 November 2007, three bodies were found in Baghdad's neighbourhoods of Doura and Bayaa in the west and in Sha'ab in the east side of the City.²⁹⁵
- On 4 November 2007, four bodies were found around Baghdad.²⁹⁶
- On 3 November 2007, four bodies were found in different districts in Baghdad, including in Al-Amel, Doura, Saidiyah and Sleikh.²⁹⁷
- On 2 November 2007, police found three unidentified bodies in the western neighborhoods of Al-Amel and Jihad and in Sadr City in the east.²⁹⁸
- On 1 November 2007, police found five dead bodies throughout Baghdad, including in the neighbourhoods of Saidiyah, Al-Amel, Doura and Sha'ab.²⁹⁹

²⁸⁷ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq Tuesday 13 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 13 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21433.html>.

²⁸⁸ Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq-Monday 12 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 12 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21368.html>.

²⁸⁹ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of daily Violence - Sunday 11 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 11 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21336.html>.

²⁹⁰ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Saturday 10 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 10 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21295.html>.

²⁹¹ Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Friday 9 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 9 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21246.html>.

²⁹² Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq Thursday 8 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 8 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21205.html>.

²⁹³ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of daily Violence - Wednesday 7 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 7 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21162.html>.

²⁹⁴ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Tuesday 6 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 6 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21122.html>.

²⁹⁵ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of daily Violence - Monday 5 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 5 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21084.html>.

²⁹⁶ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Nov 4*, 4 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ANW420899.htm>.

²⁹⁷ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of daily Violence in Iraq - Saturday 3 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 3 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21074.html>.

²⁹⁸ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of daily Violence - Friday 2 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 2 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21036.html>.

- On 31 October 2007, six unidentified bodies were found in different areas of Baghdad, including in one in each Doura, Al-Amel, Al-Shuala and Al-Ilam (western side) and in Sadr City (eastern side).³⁰⁰
- On 30 October 2007, five unidentified bodies were found in different areas of Baghdad, all with shots to the head and other parts of the body. Four bodies were found in the western side of Baghdad (Doura, Al-Saidiyah and Al-Amel) and one in Palestine Street in the eastern side.³⁰¹
- On 29 October 2007, police found four dead bodies in Baghdad (Ur, Al-Amel, Saidiyah and Doura).³⁰²
- On 28 October 2007, police found six bodies in various parts of Baghdad (Al-Amel, Doura, Kadhemiyah, Sha'ab and Sadr City).³⁰³
- On 27 October 2007, police found four unidentified bodies in the neighborhoods of Al-Amel, Doura and Shuala in the west and Waziriyah in east Baghdad.³⁰⁴
- On 26 October 2007, six bodies were found in different parts of Baghdad.³⁰⁵ Also on 26 October, police found five unidentified bodies, all of them shot, in various areas of Baghdad, mostly on the western side (Doura, Al-Amel and Al-Ilam), while one body was found in the east (New Baghdad).³⁰⁶
- On 25 October 2007, a Sunni schoolteacher was seized from his car, then shot to death by suspected Shi'ite militia when driving in a predominantly Shi'ite area in southwestern Baghdad.³⁰⁷ Also on 25 October 2007, police found five unidentified bodies, including four in western Baghdad (Doura, Al-Amel and Al-Ilam) and one in eastern Baghdad (Za'afaraniyah).³⁰⁸
- On 24 October 2007, police found six bodies, including four in the western side of Baghdad (Al-Amel and Doura) and two the eastern side (Sadr City and Sha'ab).³⁰⁹
- On 23 October 2007, police found four dead bodies throughout Baghdad (Qahira, Mansour, Al-Amel and Doura).³¹⁰
- On 22 October 2007, police found five bodies dumped across Baghdad.³¹¹

²⁹⁹ Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Thursday 1 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 1 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21009.html>.

³⁰⁰ VOI, *Six unknown bodies found in Baghdad*, 31 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23505.

³⁰¹ VOI, *Five unknown bodies found in Baghdad*, 30 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23470.

³⁰² Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Monday October 29, 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 29 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20895.html>.

³⁰³ Jenan Hussein, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Saturday 28 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 28 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20891.html>.

³⁰⁴ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of daily Violence - Saturday 27 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 27 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20889.html>.

³⁰⁵ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 26, 26 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ANW622439.htm>.

³⁰⁶ VOI, *Five unidentified corpses found in Baghdad*, 26 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23295.

³⁰⁷ Gulf News, *Sunni teacher executed by Shia militia*, 26 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23305.

³⁰⁸ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of daily Violence - Thursday 25 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 25 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20829.html>.

³⁰⁹ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Wednesday 24 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 24 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20778.html>.

³¹⁰ Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Tuesday October 23, 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 23 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20755.html>.

- On 21 October 2007, the Iraqi Army found four decayed and buried bodies, including those of three women, in western Baghdad's Amiriyah District.³¹²
- On 20 October 2007, six bodies were found in Baghdad.³¹³
- On 19 October 2007, police found six dead bodies in Baghdad (Kasra, Ur, Doura, Saidiyah, Jihad and Yarmouk).³¹⁴
- On 18 October 2007, five bodies were found in different districts of Baghdad (Sleikh, Washash, Al-Amel, Doura and Saidiyah).³¹⁵
- On 17 October 2007, four unidentified bodies were found in Baghdad, three of them in Al-Amel, Abo Desheer and Jamia'a in the west and the fourth in Sadr City in the east of Baghdad.³¹⁶
- On 16 October 2007, five bodies were found in different districts in Baghdad.³¹⁷
- On 15 October 2007, police found five dead bodies throughout Baghdad, including in Ur, Sleikh, Shuala, Doura and Jihad.³¹⁸
- On 14 October 2007, police found five bodies, including four in western Baghdad (Doura, Al-Amel, Saidiyah and Bayaa) and one in Sadr City in eastern Baghdad.³¹⁹
- On 13 October 2007, two unidentified bodies were found in Baghdad (Doura and Saidiyah).³²⁰
- On 12 October 2007, four bodies were found in different districts of Baghdad.³²¹
- On 11 October 2007, police found five unidentified bodies in different neighborhoods (Doura, Al-Amel, Saidiyah, Bayaa and Qahira).³²²
- On 10 October 2007, police found six unidentified bodies in different areas of Baghdad (Sadr City, Al-Amel, Doura, Hurriyah, Amariyah and Shuala).³²³
- On 9 October 2007, eight bodies were found in different areas of Baghdad.³²⁴

³¹¹ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Oct 22*, 22 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L22104426.htm>.

³¹² Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Oct 21*, 21 October 2007, <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSKAM127369>.

³¹³ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Oct 20*, 20 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L20179008.htm>.

³¹⁴ Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq-Friday 19 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 19 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20678.html>.

³¹⁵ Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Thursday 18 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 18 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20604.html>.

³¹⁶ Laith Hamooudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Wednesday 17 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 17 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20570.html>.

³¹⁷ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Oct 16*, 16 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ANW632382.htm>.

³¹⁸ Jenan Hussein, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq-Monday 15 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspaper, 15 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20516.html>.

³¹⁹ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of daily Violence - Sunday 14 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 14 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20512.html>.

³²⁰ Sahar Issa, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq, Saturday October 13*, McClatchy Newspapers, 13 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20510.html>.

³²¹ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Oct 12*, 12 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KHA243001.htm>.

³²² Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of daily Violence - Thursday 11 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 11 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20402.html>.

³²³ Sahar Issa, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq, Wednesday October 10*, McClatchy Newspapers, 10 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20339.html>.

- On 8 October 2007, seven bodies were found in different areas of Baghdad (Adhamiyah, Ur, Al-Amel, Al-Ilam, Doura, Washash and Shuala).³²⁵
- On 7 October 2007, six bodies were found in different districts of Baghdad (Sadr City, Sleikh, Doura, Jamia'a, Hurriyah and Jihad).³²⁶
- On 6 October 2007, police found five dead bodies in Baghdad (Ur, Al-Amel, Saidiyah and Bayaa).³²⁷
- On 5 October 2007, police found three unidentified bodies in western Baghdad (Al-Amel, Iskan and Abo Desheer).³²⁸
- On 4 October 2007, police found eight unidentified bodies, including five in the western neighbourhoods of Al-Amel, Doura and Risala and three in the eastern neighbourhoods of Ur, Sleikh and Sha'ab.³²⁹
- On 3 October 2007, police found six unidentified bodies in Baghdad, including five bodies in the western side of Baghdad (Al-Amel, Jisr Diyala, Bayaa and Doura) and one body in the eastern side of Baghdad (Ur).³³⁰
- On 2 October 2007, police found nine unidentified bodies, including seven in western Baghdad (Al-Amel, Jihad, Saidiyah, Hurriyah, Doura and Bayaa) and two in eastern Baghdad (Adhamiyah and Sleikh).³³¹
- On 1 October 2007, police found 10 dead bodies in and around Baghdad (Karrada, Al-Nidhal Street, Saidiyah, Doura, Harthiyah, Shuala and Bayaa).³³²

³²⁴ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 9, 9 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L09594029.htm>.

³²⁵ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq Monday 8 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 8 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20283.html>.

³²⁶ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of daily Violence - Sunday 7 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 7 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20278.html>.

³²⁷ Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq-Saturday 6 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 6 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20276.html>.

³²⁸ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Friday 5 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 5 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20244.html>.

³²⁹ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of daily Violence - Thursday 3 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 4 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20203.html>.

³³⁰ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq Wednesday 3 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 3 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20172.html>.

³³¹ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of Violence - Tuesday 2 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 2 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20147.html>.

³³² Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Monday 1 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 1 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20109.html>.

Annex II – List of incidents in Baghdad Governorate targeting specific groups

1. Government officials and employees

- On 20 November 2007, gunmen opened fire on the car of Dr. Moussa Jaafar, the Director of Baghdad's Geological Survey Department, killing him and another passenger and wounding the driver.³³³
- On 18 November 2007, five people were killed and 10 others wounded in a car bomb attack that targeted a motorcade of Salman Mkoter, an advisor for the Iraqi Finance Minister.³³⁴
- On 6 November 2007, unknown gunmen killed engineer Aati Ali Sultan, Deputy Director of the Baghdad Sewage System Department, while he was leaving his work in Al-Ghadeer neighborhood in Baghdad.³³⁵
- On 5 November 2007, gunmen killed Hamad Abdul-Latif, a member of the Khadhra local council, in the Jamia'a District in western Baghdad.³³⁶
- On 4 November 2007, a senior official in the Ministry of Finance, Qutayba Badr Al-Din Mahmoud, was found shot dead in a vehicle along with another ministry employee in the western Baghdad district of Jamia'a.³³⁷
- On 1 October 2007, unknown gunmen shot dead Taleb Al-Obeidi, a senior official at the Ministry of Housing and Construction, when leaving his office in Al-Nahda area in central Baghdad.³³⁸
- On 23 September 2007, Higher Education Minister, Abd Dhiab Ajaili, survived an assassination attempt as he returned to Baghdad from Tikrit. Ajaili was unhurt but two of his bodyguards were killed when a roadside bomb exploded near his convoy and insurgents opened fire.³³⁹
- On 16 September 2007, in different incidents, gunmen killed two members of the Municipality Council of Bayaa and Doura Districts.³⁴⁰
- On 2 August 2007, gunmen killed the Director of Finance and Administration in the Ministry of Industry and Minerals in a drive-by shooting in central Baghdad.³⁴¹
- On 11 June 2007, Hamad Abdul Latif, a council member from the Karrada District of central Baghdad, was slain by armed men who ambushed his car.³⁴²

³³³ CNN, *Helicopter crash raises death toll in Iraq*, 20 November 2007, <http://edition.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/meast/11/20/iraq.main/>.

³³⁴ VOI, *Bombing attack on official's motorcade leaves 15 casualties*, 18 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24110.

³³⁵ VOI, *Gunmen kill senior employee in Baghdad*, 6 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23719.

³³⁶ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Nov 5, 5 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L05618046.htm>.

³³⁷ VOI, *Two finance ministry employees gunned down in Baghdad*, 4 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23602.

³³⁸ VOI, *Senior official at Housing Ministry killed in Baghdad*, 1 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/22401.

³³⁹ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Sept 23, 23 September 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/RAS359660.htm>.

³⁴⁰ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Sept 16, 16 September 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KAM643304.htm>.

³⁴¹ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Aug 2, 2 August 2007, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUKANW27733320070802>.

- On 11 June 2007, Ismail Al-Jiburi, a judge at the Adhamiyah courthouse in Baghdad was shot dead. His body reportedly remained on the streets for several days thereafter.³⁴³
- On 12 April 2007, an explosion at the CoR's premises in Baghdad's International Zone killed at least eight people, including Sunni politician Mohammed Awad of the National Dialogue bloc, and wounded 23.³⁴⁴
- On 23 March 2007, Salam Al-Zubaie, one of two deputies to Prime Minister Al-Maliki, was seriously wounded in a suicide bombing in a mosque.³⁴⁵

2. *Politicians*

- On 22 October 2007, gunmen killed Ahmed Al-Mashhadani, an advisor of senior Sunni politician Adnan Al-Dulaimi in Baghdad.³⁴⁶
- On 11 October 2007, gunmen killed the son of an Islamic Party official in northeastern Mosul.³⁴⁷
- On 4 October 2007, at least 14 people were killed and 75 wounded in a car bomb attack in central Baghdad which interior ministry sources said targeted the convoy of Iraq's Minister of Industry.³⁴⁸
- On 5 August 2007, Hazim Al-Araji, a leader of the Sadrist movement, escaped an assassination attempt when gunmen in army uniforms attacked him as he left a Sadr office in the northwestern Kadhemiyah District of Baghdad.³⁴⁹

3. *Journalists and media workers*

- On 22 November 2007, Iraqi journalists Abdul-Wahid Te'ma and his wife So'dad Al-Salihi, both correspondents for the London-based Al-Hayat newspaper in Baghdad, were targets for an assassination attempt by unidentified gunmen who opened fire at them while getting into their vehicle in al-Karrada.³⁵⁰
- On 16 November 2007, Muntazer Al-Zaidi, a correspondent for Al-Baghdadiya TV, was kidnapped in central Baghdad. He was released after two days. Reportedly, he was questioned closely about his work and beaten until he lost consciousness by his abductors.³⁵¹

³⁴² Doug Smith, *Iraqi council member slain in ambush*, Los Angeles Times, 11 June 2007, [http://www.santafenewmexican.com/World%20News/War in iraq Iraqi council member slain in ambush](http://www.santafenewmexican.com/World%20News/War%20in%20iraq/Iraqi_council_member_slain_in_ambush).

³⁴³ UNAMI/HRO, *Human Rights Report October 2007*, p. 11, see above footnote 160.

³⁴⁴ Karin Brulliard and Robin Wright, *Blast Kills 8 at Iraqi Parliament Building*, The Washington Post, 13 April 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/04/12/AR2007041200265.html>.

³⁴⁵ AP, *Iraqi deputy prime minister wounded in suicide bombing*, 23 March, <http://www.ihf.com/articles/2007/03/23/news/iraq.php>.

³⁴⁶ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 22, 22 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L22104426.htm>.

³⁴⁷ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct. 11, 11 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L11590349.htm>.

³⁴⁸ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 4, 4 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KAM439402.htm>.

³⁴⁹ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Aug 5, 5 August 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KAM532207.htm>.

³⁵⁰ VOI, *2 journalists survive assassination attempt in central Baghdad*, 22 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24288.

³⁵¹ Reuters, *Kidnapped Iraqi reporter freed, says no ransom paid*, 19 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L19159708.htm>.

- On 27 October 2007, the body of Shehab Mohammed Al-Hitti, a journalist with Baghdad News, was found in a northern district of the capital. He had been abducted the same day in Al-Jami'a in the east of Baghdad while on his way to work.³⁵²
- On 14 October 2007, Salih Saif Aldin, a reporter with the Washington Post, was shot in his forehead in Baghdad's southwestern neighbourhood of Saidiyah, where he reportedly wanted to interview residents about the sectarian violence there.³⁵³
- On 24 September 2007, gunmen killed Jawad Al-Daami, a journalist for Baghdadiya TV, in Al-Qadissiya District of southwestern Baghdad.³⁵⁴
- On 13 July 2007, Khalid W. Hassan, a journalist for the New York Times, was shot dead in Saidiyah district in Baghdad when driving to work.³⁵⁵
- On 28 June 2007, Louaï Souleimane, a reporter with the Mosul-based Nineveh Al-Hurra newspaper, which is published by the Christian organization Beit Nahrain, was found dead in Mosul, his body riddled with bullets.³⁵⁶
- On 7 and 27 June 2007 respectively, Mohammed Hilal Karji and Sarmad Hamdi Al-Hassani, both working for Baghdad TV, were kidnapped and killed in Baghdad. On 31 May 2007, Said M. Fakhry, an AP Television News cameraman, was killed in Baghdad.³⁵⁷
- On 18 May 2007, cameraman Alaa Uldeen Aziz and soundman Saif Laith Yousuf, both working for ABC News were killed in an ambush on their car when returning home from work in Baghdad.³⁵⁸
- On 5 April 2007, a suicide car bomb exploded outside the headquarters of Baghdad TV before gunmen stormed in, killing the station's deputy director Thaer Ahmed and one of his assistants and wounding at least 10 other employees.³⁵⁹
- On 20 February 2007, the body of Abderrazak Hashim Al-Khakani, a journalist with radio Jumhuriyat Al Iraq, was discovered in a Baghdad morgue, one week after he had been kidnapped in eastern Baghdad. Apparently he had been shot. On 19 February 2007, Hussein Al-Zubaydi, a journalist with the weekly "al-Ahali", was killed by gunmen in unclear circumstances in Baghdad.³⁶⁰

³⁵² RSF, *Shehab Mohammed al-Hitti*, 27 October 2007, http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=24201.

³⁵³ Joshua Partlow and Amit R. Paley, *Reporter For Post Is Fatally Shot In Baghdad*, The Washington Post, 15 October 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/14/AR2007101400612.html>.

³⁵⁴ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Sept 24, 24 September 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L24264118.htm>.

³⁵⁵ AP, *Iraq journalist for N.Y. Times shot to death*, 13 July 2007, <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/19743721/>.

³⁵⁶ UNESCO, *Director-General condemns murders of three Iraqi journalists*, 9 July 2007,.

³⁵⁷ AP, *Two Iraqi journalists kidnapped and killed*, 4 July 2007, <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/07/04/africa/ME-GEN-Iraq-Journalists-Killed.php>.

³⁵⁸ ABC News, *Two ABC News Journalists Killed in Iraq*, 18 May 2007, <http://abcnews.go.com/US/story?id=3187521&page=1>.

³⁵⁹ AP, *Two Iraqi journalists kidnapped and killed*, 4 July 2007, <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/07/04/africa/ME-GEN-Iraq-Journalists-Killed.php>; RFE/RL, *Nearly 20 Iraqi, Foreign Troops Killed In Latest Attack*, 5 April 2007, <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/04/2117564f-7cdd-421d-9c92-ef0eebb2662d.html?rapage=2>.

³⁶⁰ UNESCO, *Director-General condemns killing of Iraqi journalists Hussein Al Zubaydi and Abderrazak Hashim Al-Khakani*, Press Release N°2007-18, 28 February 2007, http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=36899&URL_DO=DO_PRINTPAGE&URL_SECTION=201.html.

4. Other professionals

- On 15 November 2007, a gunman riding a motorcycle killed Suad Kukaz, Al-Amal High School Principle, as she left her home in Kadhemiyah.³⁶¹
- On 13 November 2007, IRIN reported that male gynaecologists are being targeted by Islamic extremists. According to Mayada Zuhair, spokeswoman for the Women's Rights Association, two male doctors were reportedly killed last week after leaving their clinics. A message left near their bodies indicated that this was "*the end for any doctor who insists in invading the privacy of Muslim women.*" Many others had received threatening letters.³⁶²
- On 7 November 2007, gunmen killed a female teacher in a drive-by shooting in the Mansour District of western Baghdad.³⁶³
- On 4 November 2007, gunmen killed a woman principal at Al-Mustakbal primary school and wounded a woman principal at Um Qassir school, both in the southern Saidiyah District.³⁶⁴
- On 19 October 2007, the body of Dr. Mohammad Kazem Al-Ettabi, a former professor at Baghdad University, was found a few hours after being kidnapped from his house in Al-Aman near Sadr City.³⁶⁵
- On 20 September 2007, gunmen killed Mustafa Kadhim, a senior judge, and his driver in a drive-by shooting in central Baghdad.³⁶⁶
- On 4 August 2007, gunmen killed a doctor in a drive-by shooting in the Jamia'a District in western Baghdad.³⁶⁷
- On 23 May 2007, technology professor Ali Hussein Ali was killed in a drive-by shooting in Palestine Street.³⁶⁸

³⁶¹ Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq-Thursday 15 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 15 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21562.html>.

³⁶² IRIN, *IRAQ: Male gynaecologists attacked by extremists*, 13 November 2007, <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=75275>.

³⁶³ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Nov 7, 7 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L07353207.htm>.

³⁶⁴ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Nov 4, 4 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ANW420899.htm>.

³⁶⁵ VOI, *Kidnapped professor found dead in eastern Baghdad*, 19 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23035.

³⁶⁶ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Sept 20, 20 September 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L20734165.htm>.

³⁶⁷ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Aug 4, 4 August 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L04735726.htm>.

³⁶⁸ AFP, *At least 22 killed in Iraq unrest*, 23 May 2007, <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2006/05/23/1645751.htm>.

Annex III – List of incidents in Al-Anbar Governorate targeting specific groups

1. Tribal and religious leaders opposing AQI

- On 16 October 2007, gunmen killed tribal leader Sheikh Saleh Fezea Shneitar along with his son and nephew near Fallujah. The tribal leader was a member of the “Anbar Awakenings Council”.³⁶⁹
- On 13 September 2007, Sheikh Abu Risha was assassinated outside his home in Al-Anbar’s capital Ramadi.³⁷⁰
- On 12 August 2007, gunmen shot and killed Fawaz Sadae Sarih, chief of the Albu Khalifah tribe, outside his house in Al-Garma District east of Fallujah.³⁷¹
- On 11 August 2007, Sunni cleric Sheik Wathiq Al-Obeidi, who had recently spoken against AQI, was seriously injured when his home in Baghdad was bombed; the same day, Sheikh Fawaq Sadda’ Al-Khalifawi, a local clan chief, who had recently joined the Anbar Awakening, was gunned down in his home in Albu Khalifa, west of Baghdad.³⁷²
- On 25 June 2007, six tribal leaders, including Sheik Fasal Al-Gaood, who was instrumental in the formation of the *Anbar Salvation Council* in November 2006, were assassinated in the Mansour Hotel in Baghdad, where tribal sheiks who had joined forces with the US were scheduled to meet.³⁷³

2. Government officials

- On 31 October 2007, Qassem Marei Al-Kabessi, the mayor of the town of Al-Ratba escaped an attempt on his life when unknown gunmen opened fire at his motorcade.³⁷⁴
- On 23 April 2007, unknown gunmen shot and killed Sami Abdul-Hamid Al-Nayel, Chairman of Fallujah local council in central Fallujah. Al-Nayel was the fourth council chairman killed in Fallujah after Sheikh Kamal Al-Tikriti, Najam Abdullah Al-Isawi and Abbas Al-Dabbas.³⁷⁵

3. Civilians

- On 28 November 2007, a mortar shell targeted a popular market in Al-Haqlaniyya City, killing five individuals and injuring 11 others.³⁷⁶
- On 21 November 2007, a suicide car bomber blasted a police checkpoint outside the courthouse in Ramadi, killing up to six people and wounding as many as 22.³⁷⁷

³⁶⁹ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Oct 16*, 16 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ANW632382.htm>.

³⁷⁰ See above footnote 33.

³⁷¹ VOI, *Unknown gunmen kill tribal chief near Falluja*, 14 August 2007, http://www.iraquupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/20600.

³⁷² AP, *2 attacked after public stances against al-Qaida*, 11 August 2007, <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/12773600/>.

³⁷³ Mohammed al Dulaimy and Hannah Allam, *A U.S. ally in Iraq is murdered*, McClatchy Newspapers, 25 June 2007, http://www.mcclatchydc.com/staff/hannah_allam/story/17347.html.

³⁷⁴ VOI, *Mayor survives assassination attempt in Anbar*, 31 October 2007, http://www.iraquupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23513.

³⁷⁵ Nasser Khalil, *Head of Falluja local council killed*, VOI, 23 April 2007, http://www.iraquupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/16689.

³⁷⁶ VOI, *Mortar attack leaves 16 casualties in Anbar*, 28 November 2007, http://www.iraquupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24494.

- On 21 November 2007, a car bomb exploded outside a courthouse in Ramadi and killed at least six people, including women and children.³⁷⁸
- On 4 September 2007, at least two policemen were killed and 13 people, including six policemen, were wounded when a suicide bomber detonated a car rigged with explosives in Ramadi.³⁷⁹
- On 5 June 2007, a suicide car bomber struck a local market in Amiriyah south of Fallujah, killing 15 people and wounding 13.³⁸⁰
- On 6 April 2007, a suicide bomber exploded a truck full of chlorine near a police station killing at least 27 people, including many women and children, in Ramadi.³⁸¹

³⁷⁷ Robert H. Reid, *Suicide Car Bomber Strikes Ramadi*, AP, 22 November 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/21/AR2007112100321.html>.

³⁷⁸ Reuters, *Car bomb in Iraq's Ramadi kills six – police*, 21 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L21589200.htm>.

³⁷⁹ VOI, *Suicide bombing kills two, wounds 13 in Ramadi*, 4 September 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/21363.

³⁸⁰ CNN, *Suicide car bomb kills 15 in Iraq*, 5 June 2007, <http://edition.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/meast/06/05/iraq.main/>.

³⁸¹ AFP, *Chlorine truck bomb kills 27 in Iraq*, 6 April 2007, http://www.khaleejtimes.ae/DisplayArticleNew.asp?xfile=data/focusoniraq/2007/April/focusoniraq_April43.xml§ion=focusoniraq. See also: Bill Roggio, *Al Qaeda's Chlorine Attacks: The Dirty War in Anbar*, *The Long War Journal*, 17 March 2007, http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2007/03/al_qaedas_chlorine_a.php.

Annex IV – List of incidents in Diyala and Salah Al-Din Governorates targeting specific groups

1. MNF-I/ISF

- On 30 November 2007, unidentified gunmen intercepted five taxis on the road between Baghdad and Kirkuk near Khalis and killed five Iraqi Army soldiers onboard. The other passengers were taken to an unknown place.³⁸²
- On 29 November 2007, gunmen opened fire on General-Brigadier Hamid Ibrahim, the head of Hibhib police, in Baqubah, injuring two of his guards.³⁸³
- On 28 November 2007, a female suicide bomber wearing an explosives-packed vest wounded seven US soldiers and five Iraqi civilians in Baqubah.³⁸⁴
- On 29 November 2007, mortars hit Al-Salam police station in Baqubah, injuring two policemen.³⁸⁵
- On 27 November 2007, a suicide bomber posing as a shepherd killed four policemen and two civilians and wounded 13 others, in an attack on the Diyala Governorate police headquarters in the City of Baqubah. Three women were killed in random gunfire which broke out after the blast.³⁸⁶
- On 24 November 2007, gunmen kidnapped the son of the assistant of Diyala Police Chief in Kanaan, north of Baqubah.³⁸⁷
- On 4 November 2007, a car bomb killed three people and wounded 13 others in Tikrit according to the police. A police source in Baghdad put the death toll at five. A parked car bomb targeting a police patrol near Samarra killed four people and wounded 11.³⁸⁸
- On 1 November 2007, five persons, including three army soldiers, were killed and 18 others were injured when a truck rigged with explosives went off targeting an Iraqi Army vehicle patrol in Al-Saadiya district in Diyala Governorate.³⁸⁹ Also on 1 November 2007, a roadside bomb targeted the convoy of Balad Ruz police chief, killing six of the bodyguards and injuring two others.³⁹⁰
- On 29 October 2007, at least 28 policemen were killed and 17 policemen and three Iraqi civilians wounded in a suicide attack in Baqubah.³⁹¹ Also on 29 October 2007, the police

³⁸² VOI, *Gunmen kill 5 Iraqi soldiers near Khalis*, 30 November 2007, <http://www.aswataliraq.info/look/english/article.tpl?IdLanguage=1&IdPublication=4&NrArticle=61705&NrIssue=2&NrSection=1>.

³⁸³ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Thursday 29 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 29 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/22283.html>.

³⁸⁴ AP, *Female suicide bomber wounds 7 US soldiers, 5 Iraqi civilians northeast of Baghdad*, 29 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24498.

³⁸⁵ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Thursday 29 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 29 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/22283.html>.

³⁸⁶ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Nov 27, 27 November 2007, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUKKAM73781320071127>.

³⁸⁷ Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq- Saturday 24 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 24 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/22053.html>.

³⁸⁸ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Nov 4, 4 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ANW420899.htm>.

³⁸⁹ VOI, *Diala bombing leaves 23 casualties*, 1 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23539.

³⁹⁰ Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Thursday 1 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 1 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21009.html>.

³⁹¹ Joshua Partlow, *Suicide Bomber on Bike Kills 28 Iraqi Policemen*, The Washington Post, 30 October 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/29/AR2007102900471.html>

chief of Muqtadiyah and seven of his bodyguards were kidnapped at an Iraqi Army checkpoint.³⁹²

- On 10 October 2007, six people were killed and 10 wounded when a car bomb exploded near the convoy of Colonel Jassim Hussein Mohammed, the chief of security of Salah Al-Din Governorate.³⁹³
- On 9 October 2007, at least 22 people including three policemen were killed and 26 others wounded in two car bombs in eastern Baiji. The first car bomb targeted the house of Baiji police commander Colonel Saad Al-Nofoos while the second car targeted the house of the head of Baiji Tribes Support Office, Thamir Al-Otla.³⁹⁴
- On 8 October 2007, a suicide car bomber killed 10 civilians and wounded eight people, including three policemen, in an attack on a police station near Samarra.³⁹⁵
- On 2 October 2007, a suicide bomber killed four civilians and two policemen when he detonated his explosives outside a police station in the town of Khalis.³⁹⁶
- On 22 August 2007, at least 20 people were killed and 50 wounded when a suicide bomber rammed a fuel tanker into Baiji police station.³⁹⁷

2. Government officials and politicians

- On 26 November 2007, gunmen shot dead Ahmed Hassan, the Mayor of Al-Zohour neighborhood in Tikrit, in front of his house. Other armed men threw an explosive charge at a house of the Mayor of Al-Jamaaiya neighborhood in Tikrit, causing severe material damage to the house but no casualties. A media source from Salah Al-Din Governorate reportedly said that *"leaflets were distributed in the past few days in some neighborhoods in Tikrit, sending death-threats to mayors and noted persons as a result of their cooperation with police forces in the city."*³⁹⁸
- On 11 November 2007, the deputy mayor of Wajihyah village, 20 km east of Baqubah survived an assassination attempt in his village. Two of his guards were injured in the incident.³⁹⁹
- On 20 September 2007, gunmen assassinated Khalid Al-Bayati, a local council member of Tuz Khurmatu as he headed home from work.⁴⁰⁰
- On 13 August 2007, kidnappers seized the mayor of the town of Dijla, near Tikrit.⁴⁰¹

³⁹² VOI, *Al-Muqdadia police chief, seven bodyguards kidnapped at army checkpoint*, 29 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23341.

³⁹³ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Oct 10*, 10 October 2007, <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSL10563288>.

³⁹⁴ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq-Tuesday 9 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 9 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20308.html>.

³⁹⁵ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Oct 8*, 8 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L08101863.htm>.

³⁹⁶ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Oct 2*, 2 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KAM227630.htm>.

³⁹⁷ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Aug 22*, 22 August 2007, <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSKAR265928>.

³⁹⁸ VOI, *Gunmen gun down mayor in Tikrit*, 29 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24522.

³⁹⁹ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of daily Violence - Sunday 11 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 11 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21336.html>.

⁴⁰⁰ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Sept 20*, 20 September 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L20734165.htm>.

⁴⁰¹ Reuters, *FACTBOX: Security developments in Iraq, Aug 13*, 13 August 2007, <http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSL132595520070813?pageNumber=2>.

3. Tribal members

- On 30 November 2007, a member of a local awakening group in Al-Duluiyah was killed and two others were injured in a raid that targeted an alleged AQI house.⁴⁰²
- On 29 November 2007, gunmen killed the son of Sheikh Dhamin Al-Ajeel on the way of Dour to Al-Bou Ajeel, east of Tikrit. Reportedly, the victim's father, a tribal leader fighting AQI, was the target of the attack.⁴⁰³
- On 27 November 2007, Sheikh Hadi Muhammad Jassim, a leader of Al-Aankabiya tribe was killed during clashes between AQI gunmen and tribesmen in Al-Bu Aziz village, north of Baqubah.⁴⁰⁴
- On 26 November 2007, Iraqi police said AQI gunmen attacked a local awakening group in Kanan south of Baqubah, killing one member of the group and destroying two houses, including the group's headquarter.⁴⁰⁵
- On 9 November 2007, five Sunni Arab tribal leaders and members of the Diyala Salvation Council, were killed in a suicide attack near the town of Khalis; ten others were wounded in the blast.⁴⁰⁶
- On 28 October 2007, gunmen kidnapped ten members of the "Diyala Salvation Council", a tribal group fighting AQI in the Governorate. The group was attacked when returning from Baghdad where it had met with a tribal advisor for Prime Minister Nuri Al-Maliki. Also on 28 October 2007, gunmen killed three tribesmen, members of a local "Awakenings Council", in a drive-by shooting in Dhuluiya in the Governorate of Salah Al-Din.⁴⁰⁷
- On 18 October 2007, police found the dead body of a member of the local Awakening Council in Dour.⁴⁰⁸
- On 15 October 2007, a suicide car bomb killed six members of a tribal police unit aligned to the US military in an attack on a checkpoint near Balad.⁴⁰⁹
- On 9 October 2007, up to 22 civilians were killed and many wounded when two suicide truck bombs exploded in Baiji, targeting a senior police chief and a leader of the Salah Al-Din Awakening Council.⁴¹⁰
- On 4 October 2007, Sheikh Muawiya Jebara, a senior member of the *Salah Al-Din Awakening Council*, and three of his bodyguards were killed as his convoy traveled near Samarra.⁴¹¹

⁴⁰² Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq-Friday November 30, 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 30 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/22353.html>.

⁴⁰³ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Thursday 29 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 29 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/22283.html>.

⁴⁰⁴ VOI, *Aankabiya chieftain killed in Diala clashes*, 27 November 2007, http://www.iraquupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24435.

⁴⁰⁵ Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq-Monday 26 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 26 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/22095.html>.

⁴⁰⁶ BBC, *Sunni chiefs killed in Iraq blast*, 9 November 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7088013.stm.

⁴⁰⁷ Reuters, *Gunmen kidnap 10 anti-Qaeda tribal figures in Iraq*, 28 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KHA863802.htm>. See also: Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Oct 18*, 18 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ANW861348.htm>.

⁴⁰⁸ Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Thursday 18 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 18 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20604.html>.

⁴⁰⁹ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Oct 15*, 15 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KAM536376.htm>.

⁴¹⁰ Deborah Haynes, *Suicide bombs target opponents of al-Qaeda*, The Times, 9 October 2007, <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/iraq/article2621280.ece>.

⁴¹¹ BBC, *Iraqi Sunni tribal leader killed*, 4 October 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7028934.stm.

- On 22 July 2007, five Sunni tribal leaders opposed to AQI were killed and 12 others wounded when a suicide bomber drove a minivan packed with explosives into a house where they were meeting in Taji. The US military said three locals had died and no tribal leaders were among the dead.⁴¹²

4. Contractors

- On 12 November 2007, an IED targeted the vehicle of workers for the Dijla Company, which carries concrete material to MNF-I/ISF in the District of Tuz Khurmatu, wounding all five guards.⁴¹³

5. Translators

- On 4 October 2007, gunmen killed a translator working for the US forces in the small town of Siniya, near Baiji.⁴¹⁴

6. Civilians

- On 30 November 2007, three mortar shells slammed into Hibhib town west of Baqubah, killing three residents and injuring two others.⁴¹⁵
- On 29 November 2007, unknown gunmen abducted 14 civilians at a fake checkpoint on the main road near Albo Shahan village, northeast of Baqubah.⁴¹⁶
- On 29 November 2007, mortars hit Al-Salam area (Anbakiyah and Shahan villages), killing 12 people and injuring 25 others.⁴¹⁷
- On 23 November 2007, gunmen broke into Jalawla school for boys and beheaded the guard and his wife spreading the news in village that their two daughters were not following Islamic laws.⁴¹⁸
- On 18 November 2007, three children were killed and four others wounded when an IED went off in a football field in Baqubah.⁴¹⁹
- On 16 November 2007, three civilians were injured in an IED explosion south of Baqubah and six civilians were wounded when three mortar shells hit Thiyabat area north of Baqubah.⁴²⁰
- On 10 November 2007, seven mortar shells hit a market in Balad Ruz, killing three children and wounding three children and two women.⁴²¹
- On 29 October 2007, a car bomb killed eight people and wounded 13 in the town of Siniya, near Baiji in the Governorate of Salah Al-Din.⁴²²

⁴¹² Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, July 22, 22 July 2007, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUKRAS24322320070722>.

⁴¹³ VOI, *5 guards of contracting company wounded by IED in Touz Khormato*, 13 November 2007, http://www.iraquupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23870.

⁴¹⁴ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 4, 4 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KAM439402.htm>.

⁴¹⁵ Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq-Friday November 30, 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 30 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/22353.html>.

⁴¹⁶ VOI, *14 civilians abducted in DIALA fake checkpoint*, 29 November 2007, http://www.iraquupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24537.

⁴¹⁷ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Thursday 29 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 29 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/22283.html>.

⁴¹⁸ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Friday 23 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 23 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21964.html>.

⁴¹⁹ VOI, *IED kills 3 children, wounds 4 in central Baaquba*, 19 November 2007, http://www.iraquupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24125.

⁴²⁰ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Violence in Iraq - Friday 16 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 16 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21629.html>.

⁴²¹ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Saturday 10 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 10 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21295.html>.

- On 25 October 2007, two women and two children were killed in a mortar attack in the town of Khalis.⁴²³
- On 23 October 2007, a roadside bomb exploded near a minibus, killing three people and wounding 10 on the main road near Baqubah.⁴²⁴
- On 12 October 2007, a woman was killed and 16 people, mostly children, were wounded in an IED explosion inside a market in a Shi'ite neighbourhood of Tuz Khurmatu.⁴²⁵
- On 9 October 2007, up to 22 civilians were killed and many wounded when two suicide truck bombs exploded in Baiji, targeting a senior police chief and a leader of the "Salah Al-Din Awakening Council".⁴²⁶
- On 24 September 2007, a suicide bomber attacked a reconciliation gathering of Shi'ite and Sunni tribal leaders, Governorate officials and security commanders in Baqubah, killing at least 21 people, including the city's police chief and other senior security officials and tribal leaders.⁴²⁷
- On 16 September 2007, suspected AQI militants killed 14 people and torched at least 12 shops in the predominantly Sunni Arab town of Muqtadiyah.⁴²⁸

7. Sectarian killings

- On 23 November 2007, policemen and local residents salvaged three unidentified bodies from the River Tigris in eastern Al-Dalouiya City in Salah Al-Din Governorate. The bodies had their limbs tied and showed signs of torture and gunshots. The city police and local residents reportedly salvaged eight unidentified bodies from the River Tigris in less than a week.⁴²⁹
- On 20 November 2007, police found the bodies of three men shot and bound in the town of Dhuluiya.⁴³⁰
- On 4 November 2007, police found three bodies with gunshot wounds and signs of torture in southern Tikrit. One of the dead was a police lieutenant-colonel.⁴³¹
- On 3 November 2007, police found six unidentified bodies in Khalis town, all bearing signs of torture.⁴³²
- On 25 October 2007, the bodies of eight people were found dumped in Baqubah.⁴³³

⁴²² Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Oct 29*, 29 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L29285528.htm>.

⁴²³ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Oct 25*, 25 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L25352951.htm>.

⁴²⁴ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Oct 23*, 23 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KAM331896.htm>.

⁴²⁵ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Friday 12 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 12 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20447.html>.

⁴²⁶ Deborah Haynes, *Suicide bombs target opponents of al-Qaeda*, The Times, 9 October 2007, <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/iraq/article2621280.ece>.

⁴²⁷ Sudarsan Raghavan, *Suicide Attack Kills 21 at Gathering Intended to Reconcile Iraqi Factions*, The Washington Post, 25 September 2007, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/24/AR2007092400181.html>.

⁴²⁸ Reuters, *Militants kill 14 in attack on Iraq town – police*, 16 September 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L16683146.htm>.

⁴²⁹ VOI, *3 unknown bodies found in Dalouiya*, 23 November 2007, http://www.iraquupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24290.

⁴³⁰ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Nov 20*, 20 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L20712603.htm>.

⁴³¹ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Nov 4*, 4 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ANW420899.htm>.

⁴³² Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of daily Violence in Iraq - Saturday 3 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 3 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21074.html>.

- On 14 October 2007, the Iraqi Army found 10 bodies in a village northwest of Baqubah. According to Dr. Ahmed Faoud at the local hospital the bodies all appeared to have been shot and were decomposed.⁴³⁴
- On 12 October 2007, in a would-be suicide attack, a bomb killed a child and wounded 13 others in a playground in Tuz Khurmatu, a mainly Turkmen district in the largely Sunni Governorate of Salah al-Din.⁴³⁵
- On 4 October 2007, police found three bodies near the town of Tuz Khurmatu. Police also found the body of a man near the town of Tikrit.⁴³⁶
- On 3 October 2007, gunmen killed four members of the same family as they were moving to another house leaving their own in the religiously mixed city of Baqubah. Also on 3 October 2007, police found the body of a civilian, who was shot in different parts of his body in Khanaqeen.⁴³⁷

8. Journalists

- On 14 October 2007, unknown gunmen assassinated three employees of Salaheddin Newspaper, including a journalist, his driver and bodyguard, on the Kirkuk-Riyadh highway.⁴³⁸
- On 11 June 2007, Aref Ali Falih, a correspondent of the independent news agency Voices of Iraq was killed by a roadside bomb in Khalis.⁴³⁹

9. Other professionals

- On 29 October 2007, men using a governmental vehicle kidnapped Professor Sulaiman Mustafa, a Diyala university professor, from his house in Baqubah.⁴⁴⁰
- On 28 October 2007, academic Jamal Mustafa was abducted from his house in Baqubah.⁴⁴¹
- On 14 September 2007, the body of a local judge was found in Balad.⁴⁴²

10. Members of the former Ba'ath Party/security services

- On 15 September 2007, gunmen in police uniforms and driving an ambulance killed Khalid Rasheed, a former Iraqi Army Brigadier-General, and two others outside his house in Baqubah.⁴⁴³

⁴³³ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Oct 25*, 25 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L25352951.htm>

⁴³⁴ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Oct 14*, 14 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L14188021.htm>.

⁴³⁵ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Oct 12*, 12 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KHA243001.htm>.

⁴³⁶ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Oct 4*, 4 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KAM439402.htm>.

⁴³⁷ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Oct 3*, 3 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L03191741.htm>. See also: Laith Hammoudi; *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq Wednesday 3 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 3 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20172.html>.

⁴³⁸ Jenan Hussein, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq-Monday 15 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspaper, 15 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20516.html>.

⁴³⁹ Arab Press Network, *Four Iraqi Reporters Murdered*, 29 June 2007, <http://www.arabpressnetwork.org/articlesv2.php?id=1220>.

⁴⁴⁰ Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Monday October 29, 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 29 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20895.html>.

⁴⁴¹ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Oct 30*, 30 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KAM036873.htm>.

⁴⁴² Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Sept 14*, 14 September 2007, <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSANW425509>.

Annex V – List of incidents in Kirkuk and Ninewa Governorates

1. Car bombings, suicide attacks, shootings, and targeted kidnappings and assassinations

- On 25 November 2007, a roadside bomb targeting a US patrol wounded six people in the City of Mosul.⁴⁴⁴
- On 23 November 2007, two bomb attacks carried out AQI militants in the City of Mosul killed 21 people.⁴⁴⁵
- On 22 November 2007, a car bomb targeting a police patrol killed two civilians and wounded 12 others, including two policemen, in a southern area of Mosul.⁴⁴⁶
- On 18 November 2007, three civilians were killed and 16 people injured including five policemen when a suicide car bomb attacked a police check point in central Mosul.⁴⁴⁷
- On 16 November 2007, gunmen executed five civilians in front of the public in Mosul Al-Jadida.⁴⁴⁸
- On 15 November 2007, a suicide car bomber killed six people when he rammed his vehicle into a police convoy in Kirkuk. The police said that the dead included three schoolchildren and that the person who seemed to be the target, Gen. Khattab Abdullah Aref, a senior policeman who has led the fight against AQI in the area, was seriously wounded.⁴⁴⁹
- On 10 November 2007, four civilians were killed and 16 others were injured including women and children, when an IED exploded targeting a bus nearby the stock market in central Mosul.⁴⁵⁰
- On 28 October 2007, a suicide bomber killed at least seven people and injured 25 in a huge explosion that ripped through shops and set cars ablaze in the predominantly Kurdish neighborhood of Al-Iskan in Kirkuk.⁴⁵¹
- On 18 October 2007, a parked car bomb wounded three soldiers and five people when it targeted an army patrol in central Hawija.⁴⁵²
- On 16 October 2007, a suicide truck bomb targeting a police station killed four policemen, a woman and wounded 80 people in Mosul.⁴⁵³

⁴⁴³ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Sept 15*, 15 September 2007, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUKL1525844720070915>.

⁴⁴⁴ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Nov 25*, 25 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ANW527524.htm>.

⁴⁴⁵ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Nov 24*, 24 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ANW431344.htm>.

⁴⁴⁶ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Nov 22*, 22 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L2216008.htm>.

⁴⁴⁷ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Sunday 18 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 18 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21744.html>.

⁴⁴⁸ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Saturday 17 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 17 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21699.html>.

⁴⁴⁹ Stephen Farrell, *Fewer Roadside Bombs in Iraq, U.S. Says*, The New York Times, 16 November 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/16/world/middleeast/16iraq.html>.

⁴⁵⁰ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Saturday 10 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 10 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21295.html>.

⁴⁵¹ VOI, *Kirkuk blast casualties rise to 32*, 29 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23357.

⁴⁵² Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Oct 18*, 18 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ANW861348.htm>.

- On 12 October 2007, a car bomb in the City of Kirkuk killed at least seven people and wounded 50 others, including the Kirkuk's traffic police chief.⁴⁵⁴
- On 24 September 2007, a suicide truck bomb killed at least six people, including two policemen and a soldier, and wounded 17 in an attack on a checkpoint near a village between Tal Afar and Mosul.⁴⁵⁵
- On 10 September 2007, a suicide truck bomb killed 10 people and wounded 78 near Mosul.⁴⁵⁶
- On 16 September 2007, five civilians were killed and 22 injured when a suicide bomber wearing an explosive vest detonated himself in a café in the centre of Tuz Khurmatu.⁴⁵⁷
- On 6 August 2007, at least 28 people, including 12 children, were killed in a suicide truck-bomb blast in the Saadeh District of Tal Afar.⁴⁵⁸
- On 16 July 2007, three suicide car bomb attacks in Kirkuk killed at least 85 people and injured up to 180 others.⁴⁵⁹
- On 27 March 2007, a suicide truck bombing in a Shi'ite area of Tal Afar killed 83 persons. In what appeared to be a retaliatory act, gunmen stormed homes in a Sunni area of the city, killing 70 people, wounding 30 and abducting others.⁴⁶⁰

2. *Dead bodies found*

- On 27 November 2007, the Iraqi army found four bullet-riddled bodies in western Mosul, two of them were identified. The bodies bore signs of gunshot wounds to the head and chest.⁴⁶¹
- On 26 November 2007, three bodies were found in different parts of Mosul City, including one with gunshot wounds.⁴⁶²
- On 27 November 2007, the police found two unidentified bodies at the bank of Al-Zab River in Zab area west of Kirkuk.⁴⁶³
- On 27 November 2007, the bodies of four people with gunshot wounds were found dumped in the west of Mosul.⁴⁶⁴

⁴⁵³ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 16, 16 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ANW632382.htm>.

⁴⁵⁴ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 12, 12 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KHA243001.htm>.

⁴⁵⁵ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Sept 24, 24 September 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L24264118.htm>.

⁴⁵⁶ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Sept 10, 10 September 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KAM030375.htm>.

⁴⁵⁷ Sahar Issa, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq*, Sunday 16 September, McClatchy Newspapers, 16 September 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/19758.html>.

⁴⁵⁸ Aljazeera, *Dozens dead in Iraq suicide blast*, 6 August 2007, <http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/5861859F-145D-4645-8D8A-B0695BDB157C.htm>.

⁴⁵⁹ BBC, *Iraq oil city blasts kill dozens*, 16 July 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/6900553.stm.

⁴⁶⁰ Alissa J. Rubin, *Iraqi Shiites kill dozens in revenge attack*, International Herald Tribune, 27 March 2007, <http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/03/28/news/iraq.php>. See also: BBC, *Gunmen kill dozens in Iraqi town*, 28 March 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/6502337.stm.

⁴⁶¹ VOI, *Four bullet-riddled bodies found in Mosul*, 28 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24453.

⁴⁶² Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Nov 26, 26 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L26128095.htm>.

⁴⁶³ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq – Tuesday 27 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 27 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/22156.html>.

⁴⁶⁴ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Nov 27, 27 November 2007, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUKKAM73781320071127>.

- On 22 November 2007, the decapitated body of a man was found in the City of Kirkuk. The body showed signs of torture.⁴⁶⁵
- On 22 November 2007, the police found two unidentified corpses in Al-Senaa al-Qadeema region in western Mosul. The bodies bore signs of gunshot wounds to the head and the chest.⁴⁶⁶
- On 17 November 2007, police found five unidentified dead bodies in different parts of Mosul City, including one of a police officer.⁴⁶⁷
- On 13 November 2007, the Kurdish security (*Asayish*) found a body of a civilian in Lailan District southeast of Kirkuk City. Signs of shooting were obvious on the body.⁴⁶⁸
- On 11 November 2007, police found an unidentified headless body near Hawija.⁴⁶⁹
- On 5 November 2007, six people, including a woman, were found shot dead in northeastern Mosul. Some bore signs of torture. Also, a decapitated body was found in the southwest of the city.⁴⁷⁰
- On 3 November 2007, two bodies were found in different parts of Mosul.⁴⁷¹
- On 31 October 2007, the bodies of eight people including three policemen were found shot and burned in two districts in western Mosul.⁴⁷²
- On 30 October 2007, police found three unidentified bodies in Al-Wehda neighborhood in south-eastern Mosul, while a fourth body was found in Badoush region, west of Mosul. The bodies bore signs of gunshot wounds.⁴⁷³
- On 26 October 2007, five unidentified bodies were found in Mosul.⁴⁷⁴
- On 24 October 2007, four bodies, including a woman and a girl, were found in Mosul.⁴⁷⁵
- On 22 October 2007, police found five bodies, including one of a female lawyer, in various parts of Mosul.⁴⁷⁶
- On 20 October 2007, a body with gunshot wounds and signs of torture was found southwest of Kirkuk.⁴⁷⁷
- On 16 October 2007, a body with gunshot wounds and signs of torture was found in Kirkuk.⁴⁷⁸

⁴⁶⁵ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Nov 22, 22 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L2216008.htm>.

⁴⁶⁶ VOI, *Policemen injured, two bodies found in Mosul*, 22 November 2007, http://www.iraquupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24223.

⁴⁶⁷ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq – Saturday 17 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 17 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21699.html>.

⁴⁶⁸ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq Tuesday 13 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 13 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21433.html>.

⁴⁶⁹ VOI, *Headless corpse found in Kirkuk*, 12 November 2007, <http://www.aswataliraq.info/look/english/article.tpl?IdLanguage=1&IdPublication=4&NrArticle=60022&NrIssue=2&NrSection=1>.

⁴⁷⁰ Reuters, *Factbox – Security developments in Iraq*, 5 Nov 2007, 5 November 2007, <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/YSAR-78NSWR?OpenDocument>.

⁴⁷¹ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Nov 3, 3 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L03102855.htm>.

⁴⁷² Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 31, 31 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ANW179567.htm>.

⁴⁷³ VOI, *Four unknown bodies found in Ninewa*, 30 October 2007, http://www.iraquupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23464.

⁴⁷⁴ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 26, 26 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ANW622439.htm>.

⁴⁷⁵ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 24, 24 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KAM427495.htm>.

⁴⁷⁶ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 22, 22 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L22104426.htm>.

⁴⁷⁷ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 20, 20 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L20179008.htm>.

- On 4 October 2007, two bodies were found in Mosul, reportedly they were shot in the head.⁴⁷⁹
- On 3 October 2007, police found two bodies, tortured and shot dead, in the town of Rashad. Also on 3 October 2007, police of Perdy area north of Kirkuk found two unidentified bodies, both burnt.⁴⁸⁰
- On 2 October 2007, two burnt bodies were found outside Kirkuk and another two bodies, including one of an officer in the former Iraqi Army, were found in Mosul.⁴⁸¹
- On 1 October 2007, four bodies, including a policeman, were found in different parts of Kirkuk.⁴⁸²

3. Government officials

- On 29 November 2007, gunmen opened fire on the District Mayor of Hawija, Amar Mohammad Al-Hamadani, as he was in a convoy on his way home. He was injured and one of his guards was killed.⁴⁸³ In another attack, the home of another district council head in Kirkuk was badly damaged by a bomb.⁴⁸⁴
- On 23 November 2007, gunmen killed Khamis Rodhan Saleem, a member of the local council of Al-Riyadh town, on a main road west of Kirkuk.⁴⁸⁵
- On 11 November 2007, Ninewa Governor Duraïd Kashmoula and General-Brigadier Wathiq Al-Hamadni, the chief in command of Mosul police, survived unharmed two attempts on their lives when two roadside bombs detonated near their motorcade in Mosul.⁴⁸⁶
- On 6 November 2007, gunmen killed Aref Yousuf Qonbor, a member of Ninewa's Governing Council and chairman of the Governorate's Culture and Information Committee, and wounded his bodyguard in a drive-by shooting in northeastern Mosul. Also on 6 November 2007, gunmen killed the mayor of Al-Manzila village, which belongs to Hawija town, while he was in Hawija market with his son, who was injured in the incident.⁴⁸⁷

⁴⁷⁸ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 16, 16 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ANW632382.htm>.

⁴⁷⁹ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 4, 4 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KAM439402.htm>.

⁴⁸⁰ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 3, 3 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L03191741.htm>. See also: Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq Wednesday 3 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 3 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20172.html>.

⁴⁸¹ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 2, 2 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KAM227630.htm>.

⁴⁸² Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 1, 1 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L01227033.htm>.

⁴⁸³ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq – Thursday 29 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 29 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/22283.html>.

⁴⁸⁴ DPA, *Tikrit official, US soldier killed, and six civilians hurt in Iraq*, 29 November 2007, <http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/150200.html>.

⁴⁸⁵ Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq – Saturday 24 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 24 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/22053.html>.

⁴⁸⁶ VOI, *Ninewa governor survives attempted assassination*, 12 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23840. See also: Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of daily Violence – Sunday 11 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 11 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21336.html>.

⁴⁸⁷ VOI, *Gunmen kill Ninewa local council member in Mosul*, 6 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23705. See also: Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq – Tuesday 6 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 6 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21122.html>.

- On 27 October 2007, the Governor of Mosul, Duraid Kashmoula, escaped an assassination attempt when a bomb exploded near his convoy in Mosul.⁴⁸⁸
- On 30 September 2007, a member of the Ninewa Governorate Council and his three guards were killed when gunmen sprayed their car with bullets in southeast Mosul.⁴⁸⁹
- On 25 September 2007, the head of the local council of Hawija town, Hussein Ali Salih, was injured with one of his guards and a third civilian when a suicide car bomb targeted his convoy in Hawija.⁴⁹⁰
- On 20 September 2007, gunmen killed Sheikh Khalid Salim Faris Al-Bayati, member of the local Council in Tuz Khurmatu.⁴⁹¹
- On 22 August 2007, a car bomb exploded near a convoy carrying the head of Hawija City Council, wounding two of his guards, in Hawija.⁴⁹²
- On 24 June 2007, a Hamid Nabil, a Shabak representative of Mosul City Council was assassinated in front of his home in Mosul.⁴⁹³

4. **Politicians**

- On 25 November 2007, unidentified gunmen killed Muhammed Hamad Mizlam, an IIP member, in eastern Mosul.⁴⁹⁴
- On 27 October 2007, gunmen killed Khalid Fathi, a member of the IIP, and three others who tried to retrieve his body in Mosul.⁴⁹⁵
- On 15 October 2007, police found the body shot and bound of a member the Mosul City Council.⁴⁹⁶
- On 4 October 2007, gunmen opened fire on a house at Zimmar neighborhood of Mosul, injuring a woman. Police said the woman's son, who is a member of the KDP, was the target of the attack.⁴⁹⁷
- On 16 September 2007, Mulla Yaseen Suleiman Ahmed, a prominent member of the Kurdistan Islamic Union (KIU) was killed in Mosul. The assassination came after the bombing and destruction of the KIU's main office in Mosul on 14 September 2007. Also on 16 September 2007, a roadside bomb exploded near the convoy of a KDP member, wounding a guard and a pedestrian in the City of Kirkuk, police said.⁴⁹⁸

⁴⁸⁸ KUNA, *Governor of Mosul escapes assassination*, 27 October 2007, <http://www.kuna.net.kw/newsagenciespublicsite/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=1852274&Language=en>.

⁴⁸⁹ Reuters, *FACTBOX: Security developments in Iraq*, Sept 30, 30 September 2007, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/UKNews1/idUKKAM05057820070930?pageNumber=2>.

⁴⁹⁰ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq – Tuesday 25 September 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 25 September 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/19950.html>.

⁴⁹¹ Sahar Issa, *Round-Up of Daily Violence in Iraq- Thursday 20 September 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 20 September 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/19840.html>.

⁴⁹² Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Aug 22, 22 August 2007, <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSKAR265928>.

⁴⁹³ Kurdish Media, *Kurdish journalist assassinated in Mosul*, 25 June 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/18644.

⁴⁹⁴ VOI, *Gunmen kill IIP member in Mosul*, 25 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24346.

⁴⁹⁵ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 27, 27 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L27470493.htm>.

⁴⁹⁶ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 15, 15 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KAM536376.htm>.

⁴⁹⁷ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of daily Violence – Thursday 3 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 4 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20203.html>.

⁴⁹⁸ Sahar Issa, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq*, Sunday 16 September, McClatchy Newspapers, 16 September 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/19758.html>. See also: Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Sept 16, 16 September 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KAM643304.htm>.

- On 3 and 4 September 2007, gunmen killed two KDP members in two separate incidents in Mosul.⁴⁹⁹

5. Religious figures

- On 29 September 2007, gunmen assassinated three Muslim clerics in different incidents in Mosul, including Sheikh Azhar Ahmad Al-Dulaimi, imam of the Al-Sahaba Mosque in western Mosul, Sheikh Salem Sheet Mohammad Al-Hamadani, imam of the Mahmoud Al-Sadeq Mosque, and Sheikh Ghanim Qassem, the imam of the Al-Mehdi Mosque.⁵⁰⁰

6. Tribal figures

- On 12 November 2007, Ali Mubarak Al-Gahishi, a tribal leader from Tal Afar, was gunned down in Al-Mazraa village in eastern Tal Afar.⁵⁰¹
- On 12 August 2007, gunmen killed the head of the Sunni Arab Al-Jubour tribe and wounded two of his sons when they burst into his house in Al-Zap southwest of Kirkuk City.⁵⁰²
- On 26 September 2007, a suicide car bomb hit a house of a tribal leader near the town of Sinjar, killing five people and wounding nine others.⁵⁰³
- On 5 June 2007, three leaders of major tribes in Mosul were gunned down by unidentified assailants.⁵⁰⁴

7. Members of minority groups

- On 12 November 2007, Asia News reported that Khaled Sako, a Chaldean Christian and owner of a liquor store in Mosul, was shot dead in front of his house the previous week.⁵⁰⁵
- On 5 November 2007, IRIN, sourcing the Christian Peace Association (CPA), reported that “in the past two months, at least 27 Christians were killed in Mosul and Kirkuk as they were leaving their churches or community prayers in private residences” and many others had received threatening letters telling them to leave within a month.⁵⁰⁶
- On 27 September 2007, gunmen shot and killed David Shamoun, a Christian, in the market area in Qaraqush southeast of Mosul.⁵⁰⁷
- On 14 August 2007, hundreds of Yazidis were killed by truck bombs in the villages of Kahtaniya and Al-Jazeera in the Sinjar District of Ninewa Governorate.⁵⁰⁸

⁴⁹⁹ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Sept 4*, 4 September 2007, <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSL04519512>.

⁵⁰⁰ UPI/KUNA, *Three Muslim clerics killed in Mosul*, 30 September 2007, http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/Top_News/2007/09/30/three_muslim_clerics_killed_in_mosul/3428/.

⁵⁰¹ VOI, *Talafar chieftain, 4 attackers killed*, 12 November 2007, <http://www.aswataliraq.info/look/english/article.tpl?IdLanguage=1&IdPublication=4&NrArticle=60040&NrIssue=2&NrSection=1>.

⁵⁰² Reuters, *FACTBOX: Security developments in Iraq, Aug 13*, 13 August 2007, <http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSL132595520070813>.

⁵⁰³ Reuters, *Car bomb kills five people in northern Iraq*, 26 September 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/22226.

⁵⁰⁴ Azzaman, *Tribal leaders under attack*, 5 June 2007, <http://www.azzaman.com/english/index.asp?fname=news/2007-06-05/kurd.htm>.

⁵⁰⁵ Asia News, *Baghdad's "successes" vs Mosul's "hell"*, 13 November 2007, <http://new.asianews.it/index.php?l=en&art=10785&size=A>.

⁵⁰⁶ IRIN, *IRAQ: Christians seek new life in Europe*, 5 November 2007, <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=75149>.

⁵⁰⁷ Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq – Friday 28 September 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 28 September 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20061.html>.

⁵⁰⁸ Reuters/AFP, *U.S. Army Says Mastermind Of Iraqi Yezidi Attacks Killed*, 9 September 2007, <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/09/B4E819B4-B246-4D2D-9DD2-EE912F77DB52.html>. See

- On 10 August 2007, the bodies of two Yazidis were found near the small town of Rashad, south of Kirkuk. The reason for their killing was not known.⁵⁰⁹
- On 3 June 2007, Father Ragheed Ganni, a Chaldean priest, and three deacons were killed in front of the Holy Spirit Church in Mosul after completing Sunday mass. Reportedly, the bodies were still lying in the street for hours as no one dared to retrieve them.⁵¹⁰
- On 22 April 2007, gunmen executed 23 Yazidis in Mosul, reportedly in retaliation for the killing of Du'aa Khalil, a Yazidi girl that was stoned to death by her family in April 2007.⁵¹¹

8. Journalists

- On 28 October 2007, armed men kidnapped Muhammad Sari Kahya, the assistant editor of the Turkmen Al-Ikhaa magazine, in central Kirkuk.⁵¹²
- On 20 September 2007, gunmen assassinated a radio presenter, Muhannad Ghanim, who worked for the IIP's Dar Al-Salam radio in Mosul.⁵¹³
- On 4 September 2007, gunmen killed Aamir Al-Rashidi, a cameraman working for a local television channel in Mosul.⁵¹⁴
- On 24 June 2007, Zina Shukir Mahmud Doski, a Kurdish female journalist working for the KDP Arabic paper Al-Haqiqa, which is issued in Mosul, was assassinated in Mosul by unidentified gunmen.⁵¹⁵
- On 7 June 2007, Sahar Hussein Al-Haideri, a journalist with VOI and IWPR, was shot dead outside her home in Mosul.⁵¹⁶
- On 29 May 2007, gunmen killed Mahmoud Hakim Mustafa, editor-in-chief of Hawadith weekly newspaper, near his home in Kirkuk.⁵¹⁷
- On 9 May 2007, three Iraqi journalists and their driver were dragged from their car, tortured and then shot dead near the town of Rashad south-west of Kirkuk.⁵¹⁸
- On 12 April 2007, the bodies of radio newscaster Iman Youssef Abdullah and her husband Moayad Hamid, the deputy head of Mosul Laborers' Union, were found dead in their car in Mosul's neighborhood of Tahrir; Abdullah worked for a local PUK radio station.⁵¹⁹

also: The Telegraph, *Iraq bombs: 500 die in worst terror attack*, 20 August 2007, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/08/16/wiraq316.xml>.

⁵⁰⁹ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Aug 11*, 11 August 2007, <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSL11463992>.

⁵¹⁰ Asia News, *A Chaldean priest and three deacons killed in Mosul*, 3 June 2007, <http://www.asianews.it/index.php?l=en&art=9442&size=A>.

⁵¹¹ Kathleen Ridolfo, *Iraq: Christian Population Dwindling Due To Threats, Attacks*, RFE/RL, 31 May 2007, <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2007/05/a453003e-dec4-491a-9069-81255c27a7fa.html>.

⁵¹² VOI, *Gunmen kidnap Turcoman magazine journalist in Kirkuk*, 29 October 2007, http://www.iraquupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23354.

⁵¹³ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Sept 20*, 20 September 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L20734165.htm>.

⁵¹⁴ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Sept 4*, 4 September 2007, <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSL04519512>.

⁵¹⁵ Kurdish Media, *Kurdish journalist assassinated in Mosul*, 25 June 2007, http://www.iraquupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/18644.

⁵¹⁶ IWPR, *Iraqi Reporter Latest Victim of Violence Against Women Journalists*, Iraqi Crisis Report, 7 June 2007, http://iwpr.net/?p=icr&s=f&o=336147&apc_state=henh.

⁵¹⁷ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, May 29*, 29 May 2007, <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSL29110390>.

⁵¹⁸ Reuters, *Iraqi journalists killed near Iraq's Kirkuk*, 9 May 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L09633068.htm>.

⁵¹⁹ AP, *Radio newscaster and husband found dead in Mosul*, 13 April 2007, <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/04/13/africa/ME-GEN-Iraq-Journalist-Killed.php>.

9. Other professionals

- On 30 November 2007, unidentified gunmen in a speeding car shot and killed a restaurant owner.⁵²⁰
- On 22 November 2007, the decapitated body of university lecturer from Tikrit was found in the City of Mosul.⁵²¹
- On 1 November 2007, Sabri Abdul-Jabar, a university professor in Kirkuk, was found shot dead two days after being kidnapped in a town near Kirkuk.⁵²²
- On 31 October 2007, Dhahir Al-Bayati, chief judge of the Kirkuk Appeal Court, escaped an assassination attempt when gunmen opened fire at his car, killing one of his guards and seriously wounding another.⁵²³
- On 26 October 2007, gunmen killed a nurse in a drive-by shooting outside the major hospital in central Hawija south of Kirkuk.⁵²⁴
- On 1 October 2007, two unknown men kidnapped Hisham Al-Qazzaz, a doctor and manager of the Ibn Sina Hospital in Mosul City.⁵²⁵
- On 1 September 2007, police found the body of a member of the Mosul Judicial Council in the west of the city. He had been shot several times.⁵²⁶
- On 25 August 2007, the body of a university lecturer was found in southeast Mosul, five days after he was abducted.⁵²⁷
- In May 2007, Najm Al-Iraqi, dean of the Sports College of the University of Mosul, was shot dead.⁵²⁸
- On 16 April 2007, gunmen killed Jaffar Hassan, the dean of the Political Science College, and Talal Younis Al-Jalili, a professor at the University's College of Arts in Mosul.⁵²⁹

10. Persons affiliated with the MNF-I/ISF

- On 29 November 2007, a car bomb targeted local police vehicle in Al-Shirqat, killing four police officers.⁵³⁰
- On 25 September 2007, gunmen kidnapped Khaleel Al-Byati, a contractors working with the MNF-I in Kirkuk.⁵³¹

⁵²⁰ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Nov 30, 30 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L30476302.htm>.

⁵²¹ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Nov 22, 22 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L2216008.htm>.

⁵²² Reuters, *Factbox – Security developments in Iraq*, 01 Nov 2007, 1 November 2007, <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/YSAR-78JJH9?OpenDocument>.

⁵²³ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 31, 31 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ANW179567.htm>.

⁵²⁴ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 26, 26 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ANW622439.htm>.

⁵²⁵ KUNA, *Doctor kidnapped, university professor killed by car bomb in Iraq*, 1 October 2007, <http://www.kuna.net.kw/home/Story.aspx?Language=en&DSNO=1024557>.

⁵²⁶ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Sept 1, 1 September 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L01538062.htm>.

⁵²⁷ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Aug 25, 25 August 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L25357414.htm>.

⁵²⁸ UNAMI/HRO, *Human Rights Report October 2007*, p. 8, see above footnote 160.

⁵²⁹ CNN, *Iraq dean, professor killed*, 17 April 2007, <http://edition.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/meast/04/16/iraq.main/>.

⁵³⁰ Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq-Friday November 30, 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 30 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/22353.html>.

⁵³¹ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq – Tuesday 25 September 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 25 September 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/19950.html>.

11. Humanitarian workers

- On 24 September 2007, IRIN reported that at least five local NGOs, including two which provided humanitarian assistance to IDPs, had recently closed their offices in Mosul due to increased violence directed against aid workers and volunteers. Reportedly, the NGOs had all received threatening letters telling them to stop their activities in Mosul.⁵³²

12. Members of the former regime

- On 20 September 2007, gunmen killed a former member of the Ba'ath Party in the town of Hawija⁵³³
- On 13 September 2007, the body of a former Iraqi Army Major-General was found in central Mosul after he was abducted by gunmen three days earlier.⁵³⁴
- On 23 May 2007, a former official of the Ba'ath Party was killed in a drive-by shooting outside his home in Mosul.⁵³⁵

⁵³² IRIN, *IRAQ: Several local NGOs close down in Mosul*, 24 September 2007, <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=74452>.

⁵³³ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Sept 20, 20 September 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L20734165.htm>.

⁵³⁴ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Sept 14, 14 September 2007, <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSANW449334>.

⁵³⁵ AFP, *At least 22 killed in Iraq unrest*, 23 May 2007, <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2006/05/23/1645751.htm>.

Annex VI – List of incidents in Basrah Governorate

1. Security officials

- On 7 November 2007, a roadside bomb targeted the commander in chief of Basrah Police and the commander of Basrah Operation Centre's convoy on the road that leads to Al-Zubayr, injuring four guards.⁵³⁶
- On 3 November 2007, Basrah's heads of the Iraqi Army and Police, General Mohan Al-Firaiji and Major-General Abdul-Jalil Khalaf survived an assassination attempt unhurt. Khalaf, Basrah's chief of police, had also survived earlier attempts on his life, e.g. on 24 October 2007 and on 1 October 2007.⁵³⁷
- On 21 September 2007, a police Brigadier-General was wounded by a sniper in Basrah.⁵³⁸
- On 17 September 2007, the deputy of Basrah police, Brigadier-General Edan Jaber Kareem, survived an assassination attempt when a sniper targeted his vehicle in Kut Al-Hajaj area downtown Basrah City.⁵³⁹

2. Government officials

- On 8 November 2007, at least four people were wounded in a roadside bomb targeting the car of Qahtan Al-Moussawi, a senior education official in Basrah Governorate.⁵⁴⁰
- On 6 November 2007, Ali Hussein, the head of the Abi Al-Khaseeb Municipal Council survived an attempt on his life when unidentified gunmen opened fire on his motorcade in the district's marketplace, injuring three bodyguards.⁵⁴¹
- On 5 November 2007, gunmen threw grenade at the head of the environment department's house in northern Basrah trying to assassinate him, but he survived and had only some damage to the house.⁵⁴²
- On 27 October 2007, gunmen Ausama Al-Abadi, member of the Supreme Election Committee in Basrah.⁵⁴³

⁵³⁶ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of daily Violence - Wednesday 7 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 7 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21162.html>.

⁵³⁷ Reuters, *Heads of army and police in Basra escape bomb attack*, 3 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/MAR331188.htm>. See also: Reuters, *Iraq's Basra police chief escapes assassination bid*, 24 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KHA455146.htm>; VOI, *Basra police chief escapes assassination attempt*, 1 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/22404.

⁵³⁸ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Sept 22, 22 September 2007, <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSL22562391>.

⁵³⁹ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Violence in Iraq - Monday 17 September 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 17 September 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/19761.html>.

⁵⁴⁰ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Nov 8, 8 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ANW821183.htm>.

⁵⁴¹ VOI, *Head of municipal council escapes life attempt in Basra*, 6 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23724.

⁵⁴² Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of daily Violence - Monday 5 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 5 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21084.html>.

⁵⁴³ Jenan Hussein, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq - Saturday 28 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 28 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20891.html>.

3. Political figures

- On 6 November 2007, gunmen attacked the convoy of Ali Hussein, the head of the local Council of Abu Al-Khaseeb, a town 20 km south of Basrah City. Ali Hussein survived the attack, but three of his guards were injured.⁵⁴⁴
- On 27 October 2007, gunmen attacked a convoy of the Islamic Party, killing one member and injuring three. Two members were kidnapped.⁵⁴⁵

4. Tribal and religious figures

- On 5 October 2007, in different incidents, gunmen killed Sheikh Yasir Al-Yasiri, a lecturer in Al-Sadr religious university when they attacked him in his house in Al Hussein neighborhood west Basrah, and Sheikh Khalid, a lecturer in Al-Sadr religious university in Al-Hartha area north of Basra City.⁵⁴⁶
- On 20 September 2007, Sheikh Amjed Al-Janabi, representative of Grand Ayatollah Al-Sistani in Basrah, was assassinated on his way to the mosque in Basrah City centre.⁵⁴⁷
- On 18 September 2007, gunmen attacked Emad Abdul Kareem, one of Grand Ayatollah Al-Sistani's representatives in Basrah and imam of Mussa Al-Kathum mosque, as he left the mosque in Al-Hussein neighborhood in west Basrah. Kareem was injured and one of his bodyguards was killed.⁵⁴⁸
- On 11 September 2007, unknown gunmen killed Sayyed Hussein Al-Husaini, a Sistani representative in Basrah and the Imam of the Al-Mahtah mosque, in his house in Al-Jiniynah neighborhood in northern Basrah.⁵⁴⁹
- On 1 September 2007, Sheikh Muslim Al-Battat, the imam and preacher of Al-Orwa mosque and an aide of Grand Ayatollah Ali Al-Sistani, was shot dead in Al-Farsi area in central Basrah.⁵⁵⁰
- On 10 August 2007, gunmen killed Wisam Al-Maliki, son of the sheikh of the Bani Malik tribe of Prime Minister Al-Maliki, in the southern town of Garna.⁵⁵¹

5. Members of religious minorities

- On 28 October 2007, gunmen sprayed a car carrying five bodyguards of the head of local Sunni Endowments department in Basrah.⁵⁵²

⁵⁴⁴ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq – Tuesday 6 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 6 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21122.html>.

⁵⁴⁵ VOI, *Three Islamic party members killed, injured, two kidnapped*, 29 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23350.

⁵⁴⁶ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq – Friday 5 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 5 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20244.html>.

⁵⁴⁷ Sahar Issa, *Round-Up of Daily Violence in Iraq – Thursday 20 September 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 20 September 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/19840.html>.

⁵⁴⁸ Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq – Tuesday 18 September 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 18 September 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/19805.html>.

⁵⁴⁹ VOI, *Sistani aide assassinated in Basra*, 11 September 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/21630.

⁵⁵⁰ Tina Susman, *Another Sistani aide slain in Iraq*, Los Angeles Times, 2 September 2007, <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-iraq2sep02.0.2625205.story>.

⁵⁵¹ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Aug 10, 10 August 2007, <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSKHA040382>.

⁵⁵² CBS/AP, *Petraeus: Iraqi "Mafia" Is Latest Danger*, 28 October 2007, <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/10/28/iraq/main3421081.shtml>.

6. Human rights activists and humanitarian workers

- On 26 September 2007, Intersos, one of UNHCR's partners in Iraq, announced the kidnapping and subsequent killing of one of its employees, Salah Abdul Hadi Muttar Khamis, in Basrah.⁵⁵³

7. Other professionals

- On 25 November 2007, gunmen opened fire on an employee of the Basrah criminal court in Basrah City when he was about to leave the building killing him immediately.⁵⁵⁴
- On 15 October 2007, the body of Amin Abdul Aziz Sarhan, professor at Baghdad University, who had been kidnapped days earlier, was found in northern Basrah.⁵⁵⁵
- On 12 October 2007, Zuhair Al-Barazanchi, a medical doctor, was abducted by gunmen on his way home from his clinic in Al-Ashar neighborhood. Dr. Al-Barazanchi is the Chief of the Laboratories Department in Basrah General Hospital and a major in the former Iraqi Army.⁵⁵⁶
- On 31 July 2007, pharmacists in the City of Basrah went on strike after gunmen kidnapped the Head of the Pharmacists' Syndicate one day earlier.⁵⁵⁷
- On 23 July 2007, almost 150 doctors began a three-day strike in Basrah, demanding better protection for themselves and their families. According to the head of the Basrah Doctors' Association, 12 doctors had been killed in Basrah since 2003 and many others had fled the city.⁵⁵⁸

⁵⁵³ Intersos, *Iraq: Assassination of Intersos operator*, 26 September 2007, <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/ACIO-77FDAU?OpenDocument>.

⁵⁵⁴ Hussein Kadhim, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq – Sunday 25 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 25 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/22083.html>.

⁵⁵⁵ VOI, *Kidnapped professor found dead in Basra*, 15 October 2007, http://www.iraquupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/22885.

⁵⁵⁶ Sahar Issa, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq, Saturday October 13*, McClatchy Newspapers, 13 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20510.html>.

⁵⁵⁷ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, July 31*, 31 July 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KAM146978.htm>.

⁵⁵⁸ IRIN, *IRAQ: Basra doctors on strike, demand protection*, 25 July 2007, <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=73399>. See also ICG, *Basra report June 2007*, p. 4, see above footnote 118.

Annex VII – Lists of incidents in Diwaniyah, Missan, Wassit, Muthanna and Thi-Qar Governorates

1. Religious leaders

- On 20 September 2007, Sheikh Ahmed Abdul-Kareem Al-Barqaawi, a Sistani aide in the City of Diwaniyah, was killed in a drive-by shooting.⁵⁵⁹

2. Tribal leaders

- On 16 October 2007, gunmen shot to death two tribal leaders and two relatives in separate attacks in Nassiriyah.⁵⁶⁰
- On 3 October 2007, gunmen killed members of tribal/insurgent groups opposing AQI in Diwaniyah City Council while he was going to a mourning ceremony south of Diwaniyah City.⁵⁶¹

3. Security officials

- On 16 November 2007, an army officer was killed and his brother, also an officer in the Iraqi Army, was injured when gunmen attacked them with small fire near their house in central Amara. According to the police, the two brothers are officers in the emergency battalion of Missan Governorate.⁵⁶²
- On 24 September 2007, Wassit Governorate police chief Abdul-Hanin Al-Imara escaped an assassination attempt when gunmen opened fire on his convoy in Kut, wounding two of his guards.⁵⁶³

4. Persons affiliated with the MNF-I

- On 22 November 2007, an interpreter working for the US forces was killed by unidentified gunmen on in the City of Kut.⁵⁶⁴
- On 19 November 2007, an Iraqi translator, who used to work for the MNF-I in Nassiriyah until the month before, was shot dead by gunmen.⁵⁶⁵
- On 31 August 2007, unidentified gunmen killed Hussein Aziz, an interpreter working with the MNF-I in Kut.⁵⁶⁶
- On 22 July 2007, another interpreter working for the US army was killed by gunmen in Kut.⁵⁶⁷

⁵⁵⁹ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Sept 21, 21 September 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KHA121665.htm>.

⁵⁶⁰ Wire reports, *Security forces, tribal leaders are Iraq attack targets*, 16 October 2007, <http://www.abqtrib.com/news/2007/oct/16/security-forces-tribal-leaders-are-iraq-attack-tar/>.

⁵⁶¹ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq – Wednesday 3 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 3 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20172.html>.

⁵⁶² Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Violence in Iraq – Friday 16 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 16 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21629.html>.

⁵⁶³ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Sept 24, 24 September 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L24264118.htm>.

⁵⁶⁴ VOI, *Unidentified gunmen kill interpreter for U.S. forces in Kut*, 24 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24301.

⁵⁶⁵ AFP, *Iraq cracks down on Sadr militants*, 19 November 2007, http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20071119/wl_mideast_afp/iraqunrest_071119124824;_ylt=AuKRm9beD1tMBsuPObs4151X6GMA.

⁵⁶⁶ VOI, *Gunmen kill interpreter in Wassit*, 31 August 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/21273.

5. Journalists

- On 6 August 2007, Hassan Shaheed Al-Azawi, a journalist with the Al-Sabah newspaper went missing in Kut.⁵⁶⁸
- On 30 May 2007, Nizar Al-Radhi, an employee of the independent news agency VOI and correspondent of RFE/RL's Radio Free Iraq, was fatally shot and several of his colleagues were wounded when three gunmen in a pickup opened fire on them in Amara.⁵⁶⁹

6. Other professionals

- On 23 November 2007, gunmen kidnapped the manager of a grain company in Thi-Qar Governorate on the road between Nasseriyah and Basrah.⁵⁷⁰
- On 3 November 2007, gunmen wounded Dr. Jabbar Yasser Al-Mayah, the President of Wassit University, and three of his guards in Kut.⁵⁷¹
- On 2 October 2007, gunmen killed primary school teacher Alaa Al-Zubaidi in a drive-by shooting in Suwayra.⁵⁷²
- On 29 June 2007, police forces found the body of a university professor, who worked at the Faculty of Management and Economics in Baghdad University, in Al-Ezza region in southwestern Kut.⁵⁷³
- On 3 February 2007, Gunmen killed Jaishi Al-Ameer, a lawyer who police said defended militants, in Kut.⁵⁷⁴

7. Former Ba'athists

- On 22 October 2007, gunmen killed a former member of the former Ba'ath Party in a drive-by shooting in Kut.⁵⁷⁵
- On 23 July 2007, police reported that gunmen shot dead a former Ba'ath Party member in Amara.⁵⁷⁶
- On 15 April 2007, Jassem Mohammed Firaawn, a former Ba'ath Party member, was reportedly killed in an explosive device attack in central Amara.⁵⁷⁷
- On 11 March 2007, gunmen shot dead a former Ba'ath Party member in Diwaniyah.⁵⁷⁸

⁵⁶⁷ AP, U.S.: Smugglers nabbed in Iraq may have links to Iran, 22 July 2007, <http://edition.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/meast/07/22/iraq.main.ap/>.

⁵⁶⁸ KUNA, Iraqi reporter goes missing south of Baghdad, 7 August 2007, <http://www.e.gov.kw/Default.aspx?pageid=282&nid=173027>.

⁵⁶⁹ UNESCO, Director-General condemns killing of four journalists in Iraq: Aidan Abdallah Al-Jamiji, Mahmud Hassib Al-Kassab, Abdel-Rahman Al-Issawi, and Nizar Al-Radhi, 11 June 2007, http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=38251&URL_DO=DO_PRINTPAGE&URL_SECTION=201.html.

⁵⁷⁰ Reuters, FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Nov 23, 23 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ANW337631.htm>.

⁵⁷¹ VOI, Gunmen wound Wassit University president in Kut, 3 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23582.

⁵⁷² Reuters, FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Oct 2, 2 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KAM227630.htm>.

⁵⁷³ VOI, Body of university professor found in Kut, 30 June 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/18902.

⁵⁷⁴ Reuters, FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Feb 3, 3 February 2007, <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSKHA320811>.

⁵⁷⁵ Reuters, FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Oct 22, 22 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L22104426.htm>.

⁵⁷⁶ Middle East Times, 17 killed in Iraq bombings, shootings, 23 July 2007, <http://www.metimes.com/storyview.php?StoryID=20070723-072241-6539r>.

⁵⁷⁷ Nizar al-Radi, Former Baathist killed in Missan, VOI, 15 April 2007, <http://www.iraqinews.com/articlenews.php?id=4704>.

Annex VIII – Lists of incidents in Kerbala and Najef Governorates

1. Civilians

- On 8 September 2007, a roadside bomb killed five people in a busy market place in Kufa, the base of Muqtada Al-Sadr. Also in Kufa, a suicide car bomber killed 10 people when he drove a minibus into an open market packed with morning shoppers in May 2007.⁵⁷⁹
- On 28 April 2007, eleven people were killed and 25 others were wounded in a suicide car bombing in Kerbala.⁵⁸⁰
- On 14 April 2007, a suicide car bomber killed at least 40 people and wounded scores at a crowded bus station near the Imam Hussein shrine in the City of Kerbala.⁵⁸¹

2. MNF-I and ISF and those working for them

- On 31 July 2007, the body of a translator working for the police was found in Kerbala after he was kidnapped from his house by unidentified gunmen.⁵⁸²

3. Religious and political figures

- On 24 September 2007, gunmen severely injured Adel Waheed Abood, the Secretary General of the National Accordance Front in Najef, Adel Waheed Abood. Abood was a nominee for the position of Governor in Najef Governorate.⁵⁸³
- On 8 September 2007, a drive-by shooting took the life of a tribal sheikh who reportedly worked closely with Al-Sadr's office in Najef.⁵⁸⁴
- On 7 September 2007, gunmen shot and killed Mohammed Garaawi, a prominent aide to Muqtada Al-Sadr in Najef City. Reportedly, the killing was an act of retaliation for the killing of several aides to Grand Ayatollah Ali Al-Sistani in previous months.⁵⁸⁵
- On 2 August 2007, Sheikh Fadhil Aqil, an aide to Grand Ayatollah Ali Al-Sistani was killed in a drive-by shooting outside his home in Najef.⁵⁸⁶

4. Government officials

- On 29 August 2007, gunmen killed a local energy official in Najef near his house in a drive-by shooting.⁵⁸⁷

⁵⁷⁸ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, March 11*, 11 March 2007, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUKIBO12943920070311>.

⁵⁷⁹ Alissa J. Rubin, *Blast Kills 15 in Shiite Area of Baghdad*, The New York Times, 9 September 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/09/world/middleeast/09iraq.html>. See also: Reuters, *Bomb in Iraqi market kills five – police*, 8 September 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/B706449.htm>.

⁵⁸⁰ Reuters, *Eleven killed in suicide bomb in Iraq's Kerbala*, 28 April 2007, <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSL28718560>.

⁵⁸¹ Sami al-Jumaili, *Suicide bombers kill dozens in Iraq*, Reuters, 14 April 2007, <http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSPAR34073020070414>.

⁵⁸² VOI, *Kidnapped translator found dead in Karbala*, 31 July 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/20150.

⁵⁸³ Sahar Issa, *Round-up of Daily Violence, Monday 24 September 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 24 September 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/19893.html>.

⁵⁸⁴ Alissa J. Rubin, *Blast Kills 15 in Shiite Area of Baghdad*, The New York Times, 9 September 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/09/world/middleeast/09iraq.html>.

⁵⁸⁵ Sam Enriquez, *Key aide to cleric Sadr killed in Iraq*, Los Angeles Times, 9 September 2007, <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-iraq9sep09.0.5836483.story>.

⁵⁸⁶ VOA, *Iraqi Top Shi'ite Cleric's Aide Killed in Najaf*, 3 August 2007, <http://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/iraq/2007/08/iraq-070803-voa01.htm>.

5. Other professionals

- On 28 October 2007, unidentified gunmen killed Dr. Adel Abdul-Hadi, a professor of philosophy at the College of Arts, Kufa University, while returning home in eastern Najef.⁵⁸⁸
- On 22 August 2007, armed men stabbed a female professor to death in Kufa.⁵⁸⁹

6. Former Ba'athists

- On 22 November 2007, gunmen killed Wahab Jabur Haloub, a former member of the Ba'ath Party, in Al-Mualimeen area south of Najaf.⁵⁹⁰
- On 9 August 2007, gunmen killed Mohammad Abdul Amir Al-Shafei in front of his house in Al-Nasr neighborhood in northern Najef; reportedly, he was a leading figure in the former Ba'ath Party in the city.⁵⁹¹
- On 2 July 2007, gunmen killed a former Ba'ath Party member near his home in Najef.⁵⁹²

⁵⁸⁷ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Aug 30, 30 August 2007, <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSKAM037104>.

⁵⁸⁸ VOI, *University Professor killed in Najaf*, 29 October 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/23395.

⁵⁸⁹ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Aug 22, 22 August 2007, <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSKAR265928>.

⁵⁹⁰ Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq – Thursday 22 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 22 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21936.html>.

⁵⁹¹ VOI, *Two gunmen kill former Baathist in northern Najaf*, 10 August 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/20480.

⁵⁹² Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, July 2, 2 July 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/BUL262585.htm>.

Annex IX – Lists of incidents in Babel Governorate

1. *MNF-I/ISF and those supporting them*

- On 15 November 2007, a bomber wearing a vest packed with explosives killed two people and wounded six at a meeting of local Sunni Arab tribal sheikhs in Iskandariyah.⁵⁹³
- On 14 November 2007, a suicide bomber targeted a funeral ceremony in Mueilha area in northern Babel Governorate, killing Emad Al-Gartani, the head of the awakening council in that area, and injuring ten others.⁵⁹⁴
- On 29 September 2007, six members of the local Awakening Council were injured when they were attacked by gunmen in Jurf Al-Sakar area.⁵⁹⁵
- On 7 July 2007, a suicide truck bomber killed 23 new army recruits when he rammed into their vehicle near the town of Haswa.⁵⁹⁶
- On 25 June 2007, a suicide car bomber killed eight police recruits and wounded 31 more in Hilla.⁵⁹⁷

2. *Tribal and militia violence*

- On 14 October 2007, Mehdi Army clashed with Sunni Arab tribesmen in the town of Haswa. MNF-I/ISF quelled the fighting, killing four Shi'ite fighters and detaining 17. The same day, police reported that gunmen wounded a local official of Al-Sadr's office north of Hilla.⁵⁹⁸
- On 6 October 2007, the beheaded body with signs of torture of a member of a Sunni Arab tribe working with the MNF-I was found in Iskandariyah.⁵⁹⁹
- On 19 June 2007, two tribal leaders were killed and their driver wounded by a roadside bomb in Iskandariyah.⁶⁰⁰

3. *Sectarian killings*

- On 18 November 2007, the body of a man who had been shot in the head was found in Iskandariyah. Another decomposed body of a man was found in the town of Latifiyah.⁶⁰¹
- On 15 November 2007, police found the body of a 25-year-old woman who was shot and tortured in the town of Mahaweel.⁶⁰²

⁵⁹³ Reuters, *Sectarian strife still great threat, leaders say*, 15 November 2007, http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php/article/24005.

⁵⁹⁴ Mohammed Al Dulaimy, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq – Thursday 15 November 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 15 November 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/21562.html>.

⁵⁹⁵ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq – Saturday 29 September 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers 29 September 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20105.html>.

⁵⁹⁶ Reuters, *Truck bomb kills more than 20 Iraqi army recruits*, 8 July 2007, <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2007/07/08/1973036.htm>.

⁵⁹⁷ AFP/Reuters, *Suicide car bomber kills 8 police recruits in Iraq*, 25 June 2007, <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2007/06/25/1961521.htm>.

⁵⁹⁸ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Oct 14*, 14 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L14188021.htm>.

⁵⁹⁹ Reuters, *FACTBOX – Security developments in Iraq, October 6*, 6 October 2007, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUKL0552846520071006?pageNumber=2>.

⁶⁰⁰ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, June 19*, 19 June 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L19240036.htm>.

⁶⁰¹ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Nov 19*, 19 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L1969597.htm>.

- On 8 November 2007, two blindfolded, handcuffed bodies were found with gunshot wounds in Mahaweel.⁶⁰³
- On 6 November 2007, police said they found two bodies tortured and shot near Latifiyah.⁶⁰⁴
- On 26 October 2007, two handcuffed and blindfolded bodies were found with gunshot wounds in Latifiyah.⁶⁰⁵
- On 25 October 2007, a handcuffed and blindfolded body with gunshot wounds to the head was found in Mahaweel.⁶⁰⁶
- On 24 October 2007, a body with gunshot wounds to the head and signs of torture was found in Mahaweel.⁶⁰⁷
- On 12 October 2007, a body was found in Mahaweel.⁶⁰⁸
- On 11 October 2007, two bodies, including one a policeman, were found handcuffed and blindfold in Latifiyah.⁶⁰⁹
- On 9 October 2007, police said three unidentified bodies were found in Al-Qasim area.⁶¹⁰
- On 7 October 2007, police retrieved two bodies, shot and stabbed, from the Euphrates River near the town of Musayyib.⁶¹¹
- On 5 October 2007, a body with gunshot wounds was found in a canal in the town of Kifl.⁶¹²
- On 1 October 2007, two bodies were found in the town of Mahaweel.⁶¹³

4. Local officials and civilians

- On 19 November 2007, Abu-Ahmed Al-Basri, an advisor to Prime Minister Al-Maliki, survived an assassination attempt when his convoy was targeted by an IED.⁶¹⁴
- On 13 November 2007, an Iraqi construction worker who was on contract with the US military was killed in a drive-by shooting in Hilla.⁶¹⁵

⁶⁰² Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Nov 15, 15 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KAM532116.htm>.

⁶⁰³ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Nov 8, 8 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ANW821183.htm>.

⁶⁰⁴ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Nov 6, 6 November 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L06585854.htm>.

⁶⁰⁵ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 26, 26 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ANW622439.htm>.

⁶⁰⁶ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 25, 25 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L25352951.htm>.

⁶⁰⁷ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 24, 24 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KAM427495.htm>.

⁶⁰⁸ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 12, 12 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KHA243001.htm>.

⁶⁰⁹ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct. 11, 11 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L11590349.htm>.

⁶¹⁰ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq – Tuesday 9 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 9 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20308.html>.

⁶¹¹ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 7, 7 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KAM728574.htm>.

⁶¹² Reuters, *REFILE-FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 5, 5 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L05528465.htm>.

⁶¹³ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq*, Oct 1, 1 October 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L01227033.htm>.

⁶¹⁴ Middle East News, *Three children killed in bomb attack on Iraqi playground (Roundup)*, 19 November 2007, http://news.monstersandcritics.com/middleeast/news/article_1374779.php/Three_children_killed_in_bomb_attack_on_Iraqi_playground_Roundup.

- On 22 October 2007, an Iraqi contractor working for the US military was kidnapped while leaving the base in Iskandariyah. Also, two civilians were killed in an IED explosion in Al-Mahaweel.⁶¹⁵
- On 20 October 2007, gunmen killed Mohammed Al-Rubaiee, the Mayor of Hettin neighborhood in Hilla.⁶¹⁷
- On 19 October 2007, unidentified gunmen killed Mohammed Hashim, leader of the SIIC's party operations in Iskandariyah.⁶¹⁸
- On 4 October 2007, an IED attack targeted the motorcade of Abbas Hamzeh Hasan, the Mayor of Iskandariyah, killing him and four of his bodyguards.⁶¹⁹
- On 7 September 2007, gunmen shot dead a woman employee in the Communications Ministry outside her house in Hilla.⁶²⁰
- On 23 July 2007, a lawyer was killed in a drive-by shooting south of Hilla.⁶²¹

⁶¹⁵ AP, *Key Sadrist calls for new parliament; 9 killed in violence in Iraq*, 13 November 2007, <http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/003200711131722.htm>.

⁶¹⁶ Paul von Zielbauer, *Iraqi Journalist Reported Missing After Driver's Body Found*, The New York Times, 23 October 2007, <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/23/world/middleeast/23iraq.html>. See also: Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of Daily Violence in Iraq Monday – 22 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 22 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20715.html>.

⁶¹⁷ Laith Hammoudi, *Round-up of daily Violence in Iraq – Saturday 20 October 2007*, McClatchy Newspapers, 20 October 2007, <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/212/story/20709.html>.

⁶¹⁸ AP, *Local leader of biggest Shiite party gunned down in Iskandariyah*, 19 October 2007, <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21382153/>.

⁶¹⁹ Aseel Kami and Aws Qusay, *Bombs kill Iraqi mayor, wound tribal leader*, Reuters, 4 October 2007, http://www.boston.com/news/world/middleeast/articles/2007/10/04/bombs_kill_iraqi_mayor_wound_tribal_leader/.

⁶²⁰ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Sept 8*, 8 September 2007, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUKL0855513220070908?pageNumber=2>.

⁶²¹ Reuters, *FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, July 23*, 23 July 2007, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L2331479.htm>.