



Provincial Status Report

Network of Iraqi Facilitators

Report duration: July 07 – July 22, 2015

Issuance: 13/2015

Date: July 27, 2015

This report gathers information from local sources at different governorates. This report does not represent the views of Sanad Organization and does not represent its position. The purpose behind this report is follow up on the political and security updates in Iraq during the period of the report.

Summary of Important Events:

- Public Mobilization Forces declare advancement towards sieging Ramadi city on three access points as a step to enter the city
- US military consultants supervise and train local tribe fighters in Anbar province, while providing light weapons to stand against ISIS militants
- Demonstrations in Maysan province condemn the lack of electricity and basic services in the province
- More than 4000 internally displaced families have returned back to Tikrit city in Salah Al Din Province
- Facilities in Tikrit city have been under construction (i.e. Tikrit General Hospital and Tikrit main bridge that connects Tikrit to surrounding towns and sub districts)

Emerging Events

Nineveh Province.

The case of sacking the governor of Nineveh province have been referred to the federal court of law after being processed in the administrative court. Lawsuit may be taken into consideration or be dismissed as a final judgment.

Salah Al Din Province:

The return of the first portion of internally displaced families to Al Dour district has been expected to take place as of the first day of Eid holiday.

Public Mobilization factions in some areas in the province are reportedly handing over control to local Public Mobilization factions in Salah Al Din Province.



Security and Political developments:

Anbar Province:

Ongoing military clashes in Saqlawiya city, where Iraqi security forces try to cut the ammunition paths from the Islamic State militants in Faluja city. Popular Mobilization Crowd, Iraqi security forces and tribal forces have been able to advance towards the outskirts of Ramadi city. In the meantime an attack on Haditha rural area by ISIS militants accompanied by five bombed cars have been confronted by tribal mobilization forces of Haditha city which is still standing against ISIS.

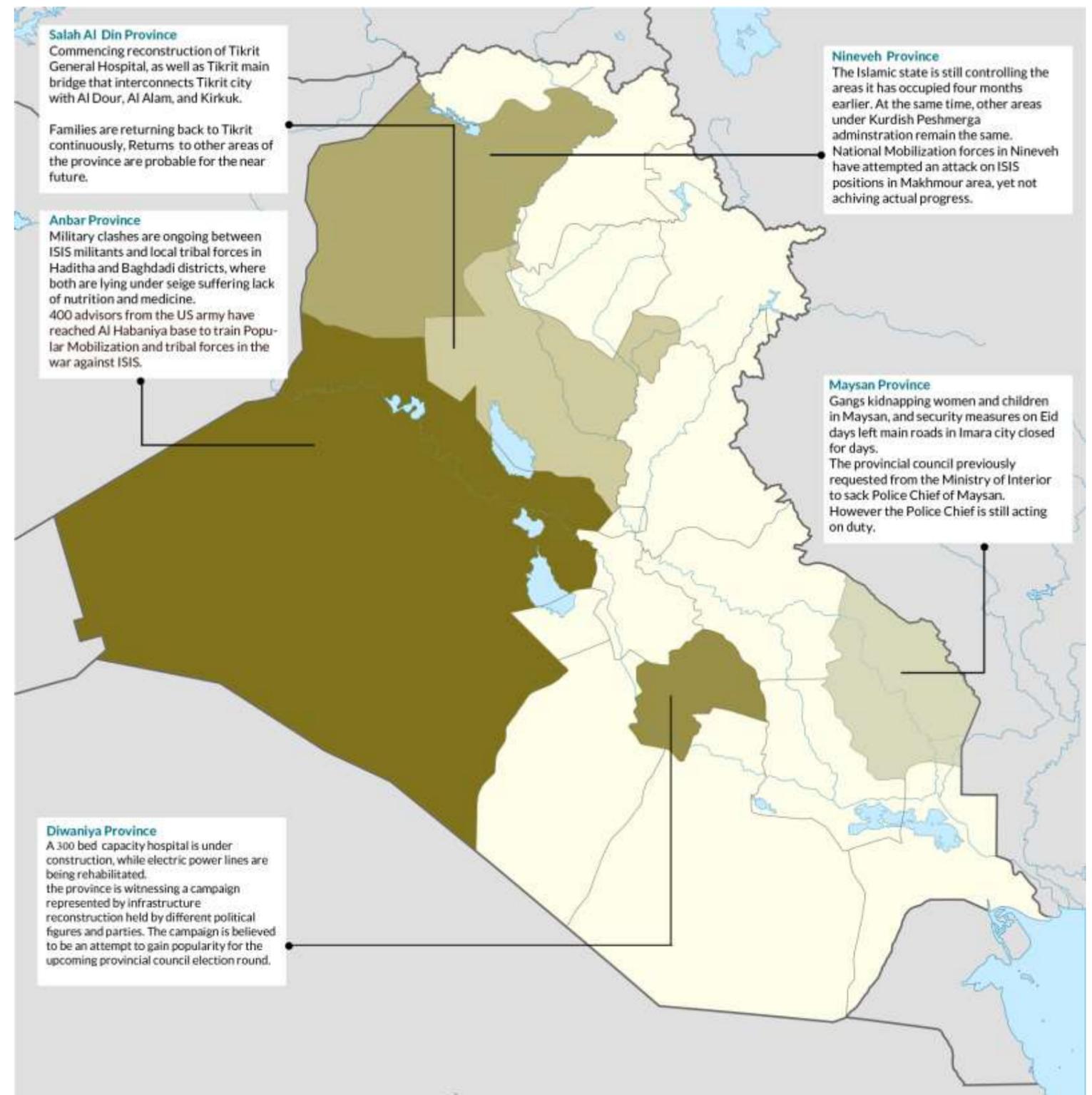
400 military advisors from the US army have reached Al Habaniya military base to train Popular Mobilization Forces and tribal forces to fight ISIS militants. The base has been provided with surveillance balloon to contain the security situation.

Iraqi security forces took back University of the Anbar after it was under the control of ISIS militants. With the ongoing air strikes of the International Coalition, battles are taking place simultaneously in areas such: Elbu Eitha and Al Jazeera.

The Risks:

Deterioration on the humanitarian situation in Haditha rural area. Hunger outbreak caused the death of several civilians among them children and women. Meanwhile, Anbar local government had pleaded for providing airlift to transport the civilians under siege, note that trade convoys could reach Haditha under the radar of Islamic State militants. In Ramadi city, ISIS has been prohibiting people from leaving the city, however, some families could flee through the desert and Al Asad military base in Salah Al Din province. Despite the risks, families fleeing through the desert are preamble to International Coalition's airstrikes for being confused with ISIS militants.

IDPs are suffering the lack of basic life needs in camps all over Iraq. Public opinion of Anbar citizens is displeased with the performance of the provincial council and the governorate office for not making adequate efforts to help the IDPs. Therefore people and activists from Anbar were optimistic about the decision of dissolving the current formation of the provincial council.



Tribal leaders from Anbar province and some provincial council members have been seeking national and regional support to provide relief to the people and arming tribal fighters in Anbar province. most of which are the initiative conducted through the Ministry of trade that aims to provide monthly food supplies for displaced families in Kurdistan region in coordination with the immigration department.

Solution Opportunities:

Meanwhile, conducting awareness-raising activities might seem slightly impossible due to the hard situations endured by Ramadi IDPs all over the country. However it is important to identify the roles and responsibilities of officials in the local government of Anbar province through certain activities in which might help reduce the gap between the internally displaced citizens and local government officials, aiming to serve the IDPs the best way possible, taking into consideration the large numbers of displaced people from Anbar province since June 2014, in addition to the recent displacement caused by the collapse of Ramadi city in May, 2015.

Nineveh Province:

Islamic State militants are still controlling the areas they have attacked four months earlier. In the meantime other liberated areas by Peshmerga forces remain the same. The National Mobilization forces of Nineveh province have assaulted an Islamic State stronghold in Makhmoor region without accomplishing solid advancement.

The Risks:

The presidency of Kurdistan National Council have directly demanded the PYD Syrian Kurdish forces to set back from Qandeel region and handing it over to Peshmerga forces, hence Qandeel region lies within the Iraqi borders. This demand highlights a risk of potential conflict to take place among prominent figures in the region in post- liberation period.

On the humanitarian level, Mosul city is suffering from lack of electricity during summer season. Some official institutions in the federal government have stopped supporting the related departments in Mosul city, such as the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works. This procedure might have been because the Islamic State have been recently marketing for infrastructure reconstruction activities via social media networks, attributing the efforts to the Islamic State. ISIS is still restricting the movement of People in and out of Mosul city, where permission to leave the city is only granted at strict circumstances, while executions are still being committed against the people inside the city.

Maysan Province:

During the last week of Ramadan, three kidnappings took place in Maysan province, where gangs have reportedly resurfaced to kidnap children and women for blackmailing their families. On a side note, the demonstrations that took place in Maysan demanding improvement in electricity and other services have continued for the remainder of Ramadan holy month in ESKAN quarter, where the main expressway connecting Basra and Imara cities have been blocked as a security measure. During Eid Holidays, main roads in Maysan province have been blocked also for the same reason.

The Risks:

Public condemnation to the recently publicized decision in the provincial council, which indicates allocating 2.5 million Dinars from the general budget of the province to compensate the member of the provincial council in case his/her first degree relative has passed away. A campaign was held via social media by the public of Maysan condemning this decision, hence executing this decision has been suspended until a further notice

Solution Opportunities:

The correspondence of the provincial council to the demands demonstrated is regarded essential to the protestors. In addition to clarifying the position of the provincial council to the newly released decision on compensation fees to the members might be helpful.

Salah Al Din Province:

The number of returning families to Tikrit have increased to reach 4000 family during the last week of Holy month of Ramadan. The first portion of the returning families to Al Dour district has arrived as of the first day of Eid holidays. News have reported handing over areas to Local Mobilization forces in Salah Al Din by well know Public Mobilization factions that have been in control since Salah Al Din Liberation from ISIS. Tribes from Salah Al Din such as Elbu Ajeel, have contributed in the formation of Local Mobilization forces with 200 fighters.

Reconstruction is taking place in province, Tikrit General Hospital and Tikrit Main Bridge which is intended to be partly recovered by the end of Ramadan, are both under construction at the moment.

Military clashes are still ongoing in Beiji rural area between Iraqi Security forces and ISIS militants keeping the situation in the area undetermined.

On the civil aspect, Tikrit city is having vital signs once again where markets are opening and Tikrit General Hospital is undergoing reconstruction works.

Diwaniya Province:

A new hospital has been allocated by the governorate of a 300 bed capacity. In the meantime, electric power lines are being rehabilitated. On the health sector level, locally and nationally, low cost foodstuffs are served in hospitals relying on an official letter from the Ministry of Health. This measure is meant to enhance the participation of the public to contribute in covering the costs. In the provincial council, committees and political bodies are rallying up to gain votes of the majority preparing for the next electoral round of the provincial council.

On the humanitarian side, internally displaced families have significantly increased in number, especially after security deterioration in Anbar in the past few months. The total number of IDPs in Diwaniya province is believed to be around 9000, since the crisis initiated back in June, 2014.

The governorate has announced establishing a caravan housing project planned to hold 300 housing units. However the project has been suspended due to lack of services in the site. Some of displaced families reside in rental houses at their own expense, while others are staying at under construction housing compounds. On the economic level, the governor has payed official visits to official departments. As an outcome to his visits, financial dues are currently paid to farmers via checks that are valid until next April 2016.

The Risks:

Restraints within the local community of Diwaniya due to actions of some political figures and parties as a consequent to the upcoming provincial council election campaign. Especially initiatives targeting IDPs in the province. The public restraint has spread among the local community for many reasons, most of which are the lack of resources in the province and the special treatment IDPs are currently having rather than the local community (e.g. free medical treatment provided to IDPs in Diwaniya hospitals and health centers besides being excluded from the referral system in hospitals and health centers, which is not the case with local community of the province. These privileges in medical treatments may have led some IDPs to attend hospitals for medication even though they are not suffering from a medical condition.

People are generally complaining from a traditional social aspect, which is having to prepare expensive feasts in funerals for three days in a row, especially low income families who feel obliged to endure these financial troubles. This tradition has been familiar in the region that rely on tribal and social obligations.

Solution Opportunities:

Previously implemented initiatives in the province around certain tribal legislations and regulations could be taken as an example for potential initiatives regarding tribal/social traditions that could financially affect low income families in Diwaniya province, taking into consideration the important role of the Supreme Religious Authority in advising tribal leaderships to diminish the costs.

Politically, the opportunity is available for peaceful coexistence initiatives among host and IDP's communities in Diwaniya province through considering citizenship as the criteria rather than ethnic, sectarian, or religious affiliation.



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