

**1 Jun 10: Likely Iranian Proxies Fire One Rocket near the US Embassy in Baghdad's Green Zone.** Unidentified militants fired one Katyusha rocket into Baghdad's Green Zone near the US Embassy. The rocket caused no casualties or damage. Local security officials reported that the rocket was launched from a site near the al-Sha'ab Stadium, across the Tigris River from the Green Zone. This attack was the second on US facilities in June after two months of relative calm.

**2 Jun 10-11: Kadhimi Claims Security and Intelligence Forces Thwarted Assassination Attempt during His Visit to Mosul.** Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi visited Mosul, Ninewa Province, on June 10 to commemorate the six-year anniversary of the city's fall to ISIS. He held a meeting with security and military leaders at the Ninewa Operations Headquarters to discuss the safety and security of the citizens of Iraq and attended several opening ceremonies for the anniversary commemoration. In a press conference the next day, Kadhimi announced that Iraqi security and intelligence forces had thwarted a planned assassination attempt during his visit to the city. Kadhimi did not provide additional details.

**3 Jun 10: Council of Representatives Passes Resolution to Block Taxation or Reduction of Salaries and Pensions of Lower Income or Retired Persons.** Iraq's parliament, the Council of Representatives (CoR), passed a resolution to block Kadhimi's efforts to tax or reduce pensions and salaries but did not block the salary reduction for high-income government employees, including the prime minister, president, and parliamentary speaker. The broad opposition to Kadhimi's efforts includes MPs from the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), Toward Reform, Conquest Alliance, and State of Law Coalition. CoR Finance Committee head and KDP MP Ahmed al-Saffar said both external and internal borrowing would be required to solve budget deficits despite rising oil prices.

**4 Jun 10: US Company General Electric to Invest in Key Iraqi Electric and Health Sectors.** US company General Electric (GE) announced that it would support the Iraqi electrical grid in high-density areas, citing the planned creation of eleven new substations nationwide and the need to sustain the Iraqi grid during the energy-intensive summer months. GE will also continue to support the health sector by providing advanced medical equipment. These efforts come following a June 2 meeting between US Ambassador Matthew Tueller and Iraqi Minister of Electricity Majid Mahdi, in which Tueller pledged continued investment by American companies and praised GE's efforts in Iraq. Maintaining a stable electrical grid is key to averting domestic civil unrest in Iraq.

**5 Jun 10: Shi'a Insurgent Group Falsely Claims Two Attacks on US Forces Since February.** Saraya Thawra al-Ashreen al-Ihaniya, one of the seven new Shi'a Iranian proxy militias that announced their existence since the January 3 death of former Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps - Quds Force (IRGC-QF) Commander Qassem Soleimani, released two new videos of IED attacks allegedly targeting US forces. The videos claim to show two IED attacks: one on a US military supply convoy in Nasiriyah, Dhi Qar Province, on May 20 and another near the Baghdad International Airport on June 8. However, there is no evidence of IED attacks in these locations on these dates. The group announced its existence on May 15 by posting claims of two unconfirmed IED attacks to Telegram.

**6 Jun 11: Chief of Turkish National Intelligence Makes Secret Trip to Baghdad Days before Turkish Offensive in Iraqi Kurdistan.** Anonymous sources told the London-based al-Arab newspaper that Turkish Intelligence Chief Hakan Fidan made a secret visit to Baghdad during which he met with Iraqi political figures and focused on exploring the "internal political atmosphere" surrounding the US-Iraq Strategic Dialogue. Anonymous sources said that the Iraqi Government did not officially report Fidan's visit because Baghdad refuses to guarantee the continuation of the countries' economic partnership. Iraq currently operates a significant trade deficit with Turkey.

**7 Jun 11: US Promises Continued Force Reduction in First Round of US-Iraq Strategic Dialogue.** Delegations representing the United States and Iraq held the first virtual meeting of the US-Iraq Strategic Dialogue and released a joint statement confirming that the United States will continue to reduce its force presence in Iraq due to "significant progress" in eliminating the ISIS threat. The US delegation, led by Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale, reiterated that the US seeks neither permanent bases nor a permanent military presence in Iraq. The Iraqi delegation, led by Senior Under Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa, expressed Iraq's commitment to protecting anti-ISIS Coalition forces on Iraqi soil. The United States promised to provide economic advisors to Iraq and to assist in gaining international loans and support. The US delegation also discussed furthering US investments in Iraq's energy sector. The delegations plan to hold in-depth discussions of these issues at an in-person Strategic Dialogue Higher Coordination Committee meeting in Washington, DC, in July.

**8 Jun 11: Iraqi Foreign Minister and Iranian Ambassador Discuss Strengthening Bilateral Relations.** Newly appointed Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein met with the Iranian Ambassador to Iraq Eray Masjedi in Baghdad. Masjedi congratulated Hussein on his new position. The two affirmed the deep ties between Iraq and Iraq and "the necessity for strengthening" their bilateral relationship. Masjedi also met with the Iraqi Minister of Oil on June 10, and the Iraqi Finance and Planning Ministers on June 1.

**9 Jun 11: International Coalition Spokesperson Distances the Coalition from US Actions in Iraq as Denmark Prepares to Take Over Training Mission.** Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) Spokesperson Colonel Myles B. Caggins III emphasized in an interview with Iraqi state media that the January 3 US strike that killed IRGC-QF Commander Soleimani and de facto Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis was not a Coalition operation. Caggins stressed the Coalition's commitment to Iraqi sovereignty and reiterated that all movements of Coalition troops and aircraft are undertaken with the approval of the Iraqi government. Caggins further outlined the training and technical assistance programs that the Coalition has provided to ISF, as well as the Coalition's efforts to work alongside the Iranian proxy-infiltrated PMF. Also on June 11, Denmark announced that it will deploy 285 additional military personnel to Iraq in support of the ongoing NATO training and advisory mission as Denmark prepares to assume leadership of the NATO mission from Canada.

**10 Jun 11-13: Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq Leader Qais Khazali, an Iranian Proxy and US-designated Terrorist, Tones Down Rhetoric, Leaving Room for Continued US Presence.** US-designated terrorist Qais al-Khazali, the leader of the US-designated terrorist organization and Iranian proxy militia Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq, made a series of statements via Twitter on June 11 and a speech to commemorate the sixth anniversary of the founding of the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) on June 13. Khazali directly threatened US forces and said that they "will not remain" in Iraq but also provided guidelines if they do stay. In both statements, Khazali appeared to accept the possibility of continued US force presence in Iraq, emphasizing that if they do remain, they should be governed by Iraqi law and without immunity.

**11 Jun 13: Likely Iranian Proxies Fire Two Rockets at US Forces near Camp Taji.** Unidentified militants fired two rockets toward US forces stationed at Camp Taji, 27 km north of Baghdad. The rockets fell outside the Coalition section of the airbase. The attack caused no damage or injuries. The Iraqi Security Media Cell issued an unusually strong condemnation of the attack and claimed that an unspecified unit of ISF under the Iraqi Joint Operations Command quickly captured a small cargo vehicle equipped with launchers for Katyusha rockets and an unspecified number of unfired rockets in the northern outskirts of Baghdad. They reportedly collected "useful intelligence" that may lead to the capture of those involved with the Katyushas' deployment, and vowed transparency as they continued an "intelligence mission" to pursue suspects.

**12 Jun 13: Seventh New Shi'a Militia Group Announces its Existence and Intent to Strike US Personnel in Iraq.** A new Shi'a militia group calling itself the "Zulfiqar Forces," issued a statement threatening to attack US personnel in Iraq and their Iraqi supporters. The message, which is effectively a declaration of the new group's existence, called the US-Iraq Strategic Dialogue fraudulent and demanded the full withdrawal of all US persons from Iraq. The group stated it will not accept discussions of "downsizing" and will target "the first agent [supporter of the United States] to the last soldier of the occupation." The group signed the statement in the name of the "Islamic Resistance," a shared self-description for Iran's proxy forces. This is the seventh new Iranian proxy Shi'a militia to announce its existence since the January 3 death of Soleimani.

**13 Jun 14-16: Turkey Strikes PKK Targets in Northern Iraq, Drawing Condemnation from Baghdad.** Turkey conducted airstrikes against 81 targets of the US-designated terrorist organization Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in Northern Iraq late June 14. The Turkish Ministry of Defense announced that it undertook "Operation Claw-Eagle" in response to increased attacks on Turkish army bases. Iraq's Joint Operations Command (JoC) condemned the breach of Iraqi airspace by 18 Turkish planes targeting areas in Sinjar, Makhmur, al-Kuwait, Erbil and Shirqat. The JoC said that Turkey struck areas in Sinjar, Makhmur, al-Kuwait, Erbil and Shirqat and that Turkey again struck a refugee camp near Sinjar and Makhmur. Iraqi Senior Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Abdul Karim Hashem summoned Turkish Ambassador Fateh Yildiz on June 16 and gave him a letter of protest harshly condemning Turkey's repeated violations of the "sanctity and sovereignty of Iraqi lands and airspace." The letter called for the establishment of joint cooperation on border security that would allow Turkish security concerns to be remedied in a bilateral fashion.

**14 Jun 16: Iranian Artillery Reportedly Targets Kurdish Political Opposition Alongside Turkish Airstrikes in Northern Iraq.** Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) forces fired artillery near the Iraq-Iran border while Turkish security forces launched airstrikes in the area. Sky News Arabia reported that the IRGC targeted Iraqi facilities of the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI) and the Revolutionary Party of Komala. The KDPI also said that Iran shelled the Choman region in southern Iraqi Kurdistan. Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif met with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu on June 15, the same day that Turkey announced the beginning of Operation Claw-eagle. Neither country confirmed whether the strikes were a joint operation.

**15 Jun 14: Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Engages with Iraqi Government Leaders amid Push to Increase Cooperation with Gulf States.** Ahmed Nasser al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti foreign minister, met with Iraqi President Barham Salih, Prime Minister Kadhimi, Speaker of Parliament Mohammed al-Halbousi, and Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein in Baghdad to deliver a written message from the Emir of Kuwait. Sabah emphasized that Iraq can benefit from increased electricity connectivity with Kuwait.

**16 Jun 15: Kadhimi Orders Deployment of Special Forces in Likely Power Play against Iranian Proxy Rival.** Kadhimi deployed unspecified units of the Iraqi Counterterrorism Service (CTS) to Iraq's Diyala Province on the Iranian border to seize the border crossings of Sumar-Mandali and Khosravi-Munthiriyah, ostensibly to stop illegal smuggling activity. Border crossings are used to extort illegal tolls by some Iranian proxy militia groups—in this case the Badr Organization, led by Hadi al-Ameri, which operates in eastern Diyala Province. Kadhimi is likely attempting to exercise leverage over Ameri and Badr as part of his campaign to reign in militia activity outside of state control.

**17 Jun 16: Likely Iranian Proxies Fire Three Rockets at US Forces Near Baghdad International Airport.** Unidentified militants, likely Iranian proxy militants, fired three rockets that landed near US forces stationed near the Baghdad International Airport. No casualties or damage were reported. Hours later, an unidentified Iraqi Security Forces unit seized additional rockets and wooden platforms used to fire the rockets in al-Makasib neighborhood, located just south of the airport. The use of rudimentary wood planks rather than a more sophisticated launch system suggests a less capable and likely newer Iranian proxy militia may be responsible for the attack. Traditional Iranian proxy groups like Kata'ib Hezbollah typically use well-built or concealed rail launch systems from planned positions.



- Major Cities
- Demonstration
- Possible Israeli Airstrikes
- Iraqi Security Forces
- Iranian Proxy Militias
- Religious Figures
- Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG)
- Iraqi Council of Representatives
- Iraqi Prime Minister and Cabinet

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**Key Takeaway:** Recent Iranian proxy attacks represent a major test for Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi's commitments to preserving Iraqi sovereignty and protecting US anti-ISIS forces. The attacks occurred at the start of the US-Iraq Strategic Dialogue, which aims to determine the future of US forces in Iraq. Iran's Iraqi proxies intensified both their kinetic and political lines of effort to advance Iran's key objective in the Dialogue: the rapid and complete expulsion of US forces from Iraq. Separately, Turkey also tested Kadhimi's commitment to Iraqi sovereignty by launching a new, large-scale air campaign with 81 airstrikes on sites purportedly associated with the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in northern Iraq, drawing harsh condemnations from Baghdad. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) likely took advantage of the Turkish air campaign to also target Iranian Kurdish dissidents based in Iraq in what may have been a coordinated Turkish-Iranian operation.

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