

**1 Aug. 05: Likely Iranian Proxies Fire One Rocket at US Embassy.** Iraq's Security Media Cell (SMC), an official Iraqi military body, announced that unidentified militants fired one Katyusha rocket targeting the US Embassy located in Baghdad's Green Zone. The Embassy's counter-rocket, artillery, and mortar (C-RAM) defense system may have intercepted the rocket, which landed in an empty space in the Green Zone near the embassy and caused no damage. Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) discovered seven additional unfired rockets in the Dora neighborhood, approximately 7 km south of the US Embassy.

**2 Aug. 05: Prime Minister Kadhimi Meets with Protesters and the Minister of Interior to Address Security Forces' Violence against Protesters.** Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi met with Iraqi Minister of Interior Othman al-Ghanimi to discuss comprehensive reform efforts amid numerous protester allegations of Ministry of Interior (MoI) security services violently suppressing protests. Kadhimi stated that reform is necessary to ensure that ISF "respect the principles of human rights" and "build bridges of trust with the citizenry." Kadhimi met with two groups of protesters on August 5 in Baghdad and August 10 in Nasiriyah to reemphasize his intent to listen and implement the demands of the Iraqi people. Kadhimi appointed an estimated 500 protesters to likely low-level Ministry of Defense positions, a move that will prove popular with those protesters but runs counter to Kadhimi's attempts to limit Iraq's bloated public sector spending and to replace public sector jobs with private sector opportunities. Kadhimi also pledged to provide medical care to anyone injured during protests.

**3 Aug. 05: Local Police Forces Arrest Two "Major" Drug Traffickers among the Leadership of Asai'b Ahl al-Haq in Salah ad-Din Province.** Tuz Khurmatu Police Command officers arrested two drug traffickers in Tuz Khurmatu, Salah ad-Din Province. Police stated that the two men are Shi'a Turkmen officials in the Iranian proxy militia and US-designated terror group Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq. A local Kurdish police officer said that one of the traffickers had been previously arrested by the local police force and released. Tuz Khurmatu is in northeast Salah ad-Din Province, south of Kirkuk City.

**4 Aug. 06: Iraqi Ministry of Electricity in Negotiations to Import 200 Megawatts of Electricity from Turkey.** Iraqi Ministry of Electricity (MoE) spokesperson Ahmed Musa al-Abadi reported that Kadhimi approved the MoE to enter negotiations with Turkey to import 200 megawatts (MW) of electricity. Abadi said the two parties are currently "discussing technical matters" and noted that the imports will cover energy needs in northern Iraq. Kadhimi is likely looking to quell rising protests against widespread electricity shortages amid record heatwaves. Iraq currently produces or imports approximately 13,500 MW of electricity but requires an estimated 20,000 MW to meet the country's current electricity needs.

**5 Aug. 07: ISF Arrest Iranian Proxy Militant Allegedly Carrying IED Materials to Target Contractors Supporting US and Coalition Forces.** ISF arrested an individual carrying explosive materials, remote detonation devices, and small arms ammunition in his car in Dhi Qar Province. An anonymous Iraqi official told al-Araby al-Jadeed, a pan-Arab London-based media outlet, that the arrested individual is a member of the 19th Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) Brigade, Iranian proxy militia Liwa Ansar Allah al-Awfiya. The official added that the weapons were intended to target logistics and supply convoys supporting US and Coalition forces. Protesters set fire to the militia's headquarters after rumors circulated that the arrested individual intended to use the explosives to target demonstrators. Iranian proxy "shadow militias" Saraya Thawra al-Ashreen al-Thaniya and Ashab al-Kahf have repeatedly claimed improvised explosive device (IED) attacks targeting Iraqi-operated convoys supporting US and Coalition forces.

**6 Aug. 09: Likely Iranian Proxy Militia Targets Iraqi-operated Contractor Vehicle Supporting US Forces with IED.** An unnamed Iraqi security official told Iraqi news outlet Shafaq that unidentified militants detonated an IED targeting an Iraqi-operated vehicle transporting logistical supplies for US forces in Nasiriyah, Dhi Qar Province. The attack resulted in minor damage to the vehicle but no casualties. Shi'a extremist Telegram channels attributed the attack to Saraya Thawra al-Ashreen al-Thania, a likely Iranian-aligned proxy militia that emerged following the death of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Quds Force (IRGC-QF) Commander Qassem Soleimani. The militia claimed responsibility for another IED attack on an Iraqi-operated logistics convoy supporting the US-led Coalition in Dhi Qar on August 4.

**7 Aug. 10: Iraqi Parliamentary Legal Committee Confirms Upcoming Meetings to Begin Drawing Electoral Districts.** The parliamentary legal committee announced that it would moderate a meeting between various political blocs in the Council of Representatives (CoR) to begin the process of redrawing electoral districts. This measure is a legal prerequisite for holding parliamentary elections, which Prime Minister Kadhimi has scheduled for June 6, 2021. Entrenched political elites in the CoR will likely attempt to manipulate the drawing of districts to preserve their own bases of power and block new political participation. Political blocs are torn between two broad approaches for drawing electoral districts: one district per 100,000 residents, or one district per province with multiple representatives. They are also reportedly split on whether voters should directly elect their representatives or continue voting for party lists.

**8 Aug. 10: Iraqi and Saudi Officials Announce Plans to Limit Visa Requirements and to Reopen Arar Border Crossing amid Improving Relations.** Iraqi Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Qahtan al-Janabi indicated that bilateral consultations are "underway" between Iraq and Saudi Arabia to eliminate the entry visa requirement for diplomatic passport holders and cancel visa fees for normal passport holders. Omar Adnan al-Waeli, the head of the Iraqi Border Ports Authority, announced that both countries are preparing to open the Arar border crossing between Saudi Arabia and western Anbar Province "soon." Janabi added that the Arar crossing will provide an "economic leap" for surrounding cities. The opening of the Arar border crossing will likely assist Kadhimi in his attempts to bolster the devastated Iraqi economy through expanded relations with Saudi Arabia.

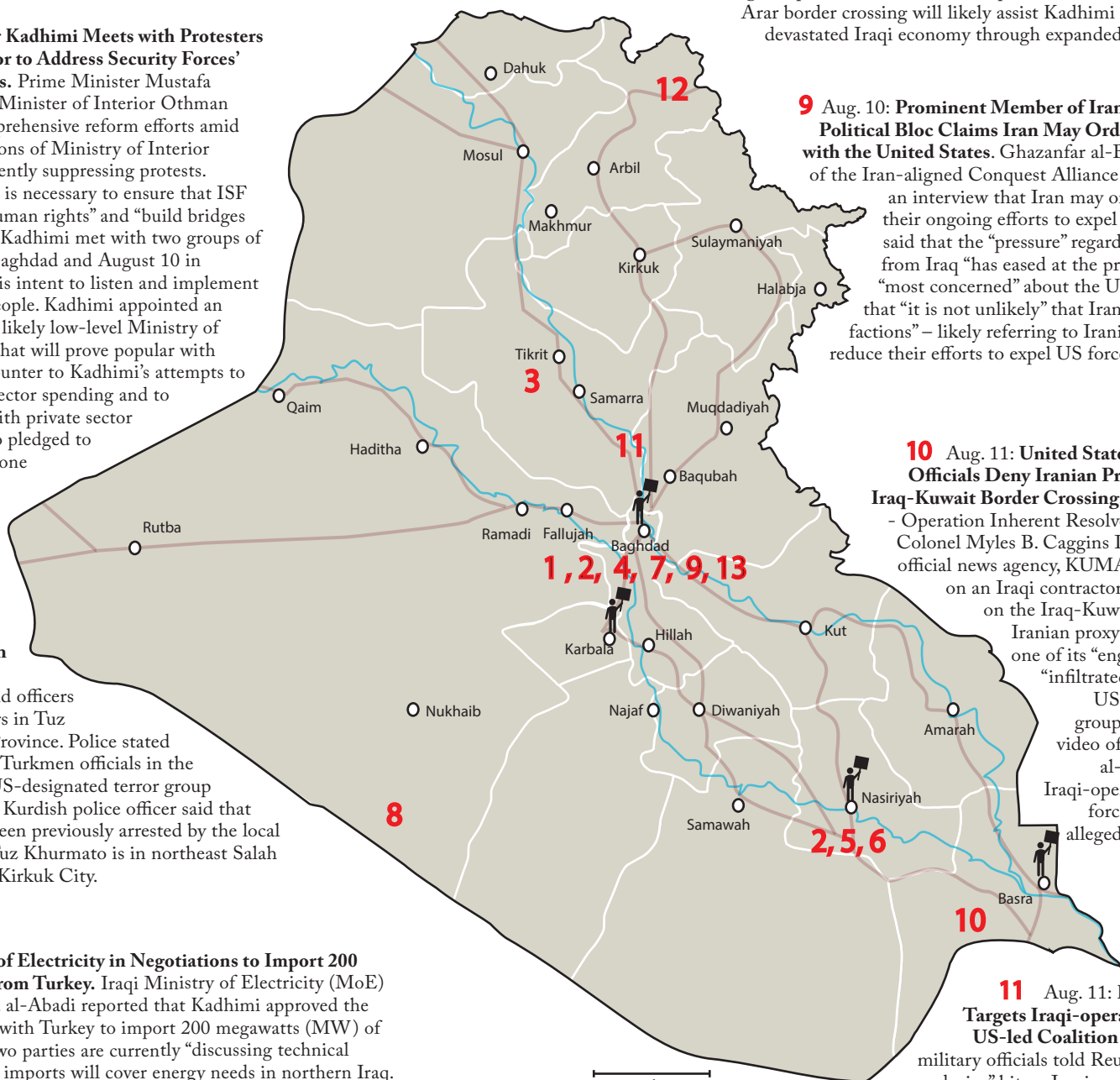
**9 Aug. 10: Prominent Member of Iran-backed Conquest Alliance Political Bloc Claims Iran May Order its Proxies to De-escalate with the United States.** Ghazanfar al-Battikh, a prominent member of the Iran-aligned Conquest Alliance parliamentary bloc, stated in an interview that Iran may order its Iraqi proxies to pause their ongoing efforts to expel US forces from Iraq. Battikh said that the "pressure" regarding the removal of US forces from Iraq "has eased at the present time," but Iran remains "most concerned" about the US presence in Iraq. He added that "it is not unlikely" that Iranians will pressure "a group of factions" – likely referring to Iranian proxy militias in Iraq – to reduce their efforts to expel US forces to "decrease tensions" with the United States.

**10 Aug. 11: United States, Iraq, Kuwait, and Militia Officials Deny Iranian Proxies' False Attack Claim at Iraq-Kuwait Border Crossing.** Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) spokesperson Colonel Myles B. Caggins III, Iraq's SMC, and Kuwait's official news agency, KUMA, denied reports of an attack on an Iraqi contractor convoy at Jraischan crossing on the Iraq-Kuwait border. Ashab al-Kahf, an Iranian proxy shadow militia, claimed that one of its "engineering and sabotage" units "infiltrated" the crossing and destroyed US equipment and vehicles. The group circulated a likely fabricated video of the purported attack. Ashab al-Kahf has repeatedly targeted Iraqi-operated convoys supporting US forces in Iraq with IEDs and has allegedly utilized drones to conduct aerial reconnaissance on US facilities.

**11 Aug. 11: Likely Iranian Proxy Militia Targets Iraqi-operated Vehicle Supporting the US-led Coalition with IED.** Unspecified Iraqi military officials told Reuters that a "planted explosive device" hit an Iraqi-operated convoy supporting the US-led Coalition near Camp Taji, approximately 25 km north of Baghdad. The attack resulted in a fire on one of the vehicles but no casualties. Saraya Thawra al-Ashreen al-Thania, an Iranian proxy shadow militia, claimed responsibility for the attack on its Telegram account. The militia also claimed responsibility for two IED attacks targeting Iraqi-operated vehicles supporting US forces in Dhi Qar Province on August 4 and 9.

**12 Aug. 11: Turkish Drone Attack Kills Two Iraqi Border Guard Commanders in Arbil Province, Triggering Backlash from Iraqi Officials.** A Turkish drone strike killed two senior officials in the Iraqi Border Guard and their driver in the Arbil Province of Iraqi Kurdistan. The drone reportedly targeted the vehicle due to its involvement in a meeting between Iraqi border officials and the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), a US-designated terrorist organization. Rudaw, a Kurdish news outlet, reported that the meeting was held because of a "quarrel" that broke out when PKK fighters approached an Iraqi Border Guard site on August 10. Iraq's Joint Operations Command described the drone strike as "blatant Turkish aggression." The government of Iraq cancelled a scheduled visit from the Turkish Defense Minister because of the strikes and formally summoned the Turkish ambassador to condemn Turkish aggression in northern Iraq for the third time since mid-June.

**13 Aug. 11: Iranian Proxy Militia Fires One Rocket at Green Zone.** Iraq's SMC reported that one Katyusha rocket fell near the 14th of July Bridge, less than one kilometer from the US Embassy. The SMC indicated that the rocket was launched from al-Rasheed Air Base, located 9 km southeast of the US Embassy. Unspecified security forces discovered and confiscated one additional rocket that was prepared to launch. The attack did not cause any casualties or material damage. Usbat al-Thairen (UaT), an Iranian proxy militia, claimed responsibility for the attack. UaT has repeatedly targeted US facilities and personnel with Katyusha rockets since Prime Minister Kadhimi took office.



- Iraqi Security Forces
- ISIS
- Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG)
- Major Cities
- Anti-ISIS Coalition
- Iran
- Iraqi Council of Representatives
- Demonstration
- Iranian Proxies
- Religious Figures
- Iraqi Prime Minister and Cabinet

Graphic by Nicole Millar, Calvin Pugh, and Brian Carter with Katherine Lawlor and Brandon Wallace  
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**Key Takeaway:** Iran's proxy militia network in Iraq is accelerating its attacks on US facilities and Iraqi contractors working with the US-led Coalition, undermining Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi's attempts to demonstrate strength and stability ahead of the next round of the US-Iraq Strategic Dialogue. Likely Iranian proxies claimed two real and one false IED attack on Iraqi contractors and likely conducted two rocket attacks on the US Embassy. The proxies aim to discourage Iraqi cooperation with the US-led Coalition and make Kadhimi appear weak ahead of the Dialogue. Kadhimi will likely struggle to constrain militia activity in the leadup to the next round of the Dialogue on August 20, which will cover a variety of mutual interests including US-Iraqi security cooperation and the future of US forces in Iraq.

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