

1 Kurdish parties split over impending no-confidence vote of Finance Minister. The Kurdistan Alliance fractured over an impending no-confidence vote against Finance Minister Hoshyar Zebari, a member of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP). Opposition parties, including the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and Gorran, indicated that they would vote for Zebari's dismissal in order to undercut the KDP's influence. The division in the Kurdistan Alliance has also exposed a split in the PUK, which divided over the survival of Zebari. An Iranian delegation arrived in Suleimaniyah on September 5 to meet with the PUK, likely to both urge support for Zebari and to heal the internal rift. President Fuad Masoum, also a member of the PUK, likewise arrived in Suleimaniyah to meet with PUK officials on September 4 and 5. However, no vote occurred on September 6 due to a lack of quorum.

10 CoR Speaker submits three nominations for Defense Ministry. Council of Representatives (CoR) Speaker Salim al-Juburi submitted three names for the vacant position of Defense Minister to Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi on September 2. The list was reportedly submitted on behalf of the Sunni Etihad bloc. Two of the three candidates are affiliated with the Reform Front, former PM Nouri al-Maliki's shadow party in the CoR, and are from the Jubur tribe. Juburi later clarified his nominations, stating he was simply passing on the names, not selecting candidates. Juburi may be aligning with the Reform Front as he is losing his support base in Etihad. He may try to appease and support the Reform Front in the hopes that the party will guarantee his survival as CoR Speaker.

9 Iranian Ambassador meets with Hakim, Maliki. Iranian Ambassador to Iraq Hassan Danaifar met with ISCI leader Ammar al-Hakim and former PM Nouri al-Maliki on September 3 and 4, respectively, to discuss security and political developments, including efforts to retake Mosul and the role of the Popular Mobilization in the operations. The meetings came prior to Hakim's selection for chairman of the National Alliance.

8 Ammar al-Hakim selected as new chairman of National Alliance. The pan-Shi'a National Alliance selected on September 5 leader of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq (ISCI) Ammar al-Hakim as its chairman. Hakim succeeds Ibrahim al-Jaafari who has held the position for upwards of six years. The decision, though unexpected, has received support from political parties across the spectrum, including Sunni and Kurdish parties. Hakim called on September 6 for national unity and for the reactivation of the General Commission to support consensus decisions.

2 ISIS launches double spectacular attacks near Tuz Khurmato. The Ministry of Interior reported that ISIS launched a two-step attack on September 4, targeting the village of Shah Shiwan northeast of Tuz Khurmato. ISIS first detonated a Vehicle-Borne IED (VBIED) then an attacker detonated a Suicide Vest (SVEST). ISIS claimed the attacks, which killed six people and injured nine others.

3 ISIS launches deadly attack on security headquarters south of Samarra. ISIS launched a multi-axis offensive against an ISF headquarters in Mutabija in Dulaimiyah District, south of Samarra, on September 2. A Salah al-Din security source stated that the attack killed eight soldiers and police and wounded 20 others. The Popular Mobilization stated that the attack killed 54 fighters from the Jubur tribe and injured eight others, but that the situation was now "under control."

4 SVEST detonates at checkpoint near Shi'a shrine in eastern Diyala Province. The Diyala Police reported that an attacker detonated a Suicide Vest (SVEST) at a security checkpoint near a Shi'a shrine in Mandali, near the Iraqi-Iranian border in Diyala Province, on September 2. The blast killed a policeman and a child. ISIS has not yet claimed the attack.

5 ISIS detonates SVBIED in central Baghdad, site of massive July 3 attack. Baghdad Operations Commander reported that ISIS detonated a Suicide-VBIED (SVBIED) in Karrada in central Baghdad on September 6, killing upwards of nine people and injuring twenty others. Karrada previously witnessed Iraq's worst suicide attack since 2003 on July 3, which killed upwards of 290 people. ISIS claimed the attack, boasting that they had managed to bypass several checkpoints to reach the highly-secured Karrada district.

6 ISIS detonates SVEST in southwestern Baghdad. The Ministry of Interior reported that an ISIS attacker detonated an SVEST in al-Alam neighborhood in southwestern Baghdad on August 30, killing three people and injuring 11 others. ISIS claimed the attack.

7 Sadr calls for labor and hunger strikes to pressure reforms. Sadrist Trend leader Muqtada al-Sadr called on September 2 for a nationwide labor strike on September 4 and 5 followed by a hunger strike on September 9 and 10 in order to pressure the government to implement reforms. Demonstrations occurred on September 4 and 5 in Baghdad and the southern provinces, as Sadrist and several non-Sadrist employees carried out labor strikes outside primarily government offices.



- Major Cities
- Coalition
- ISIS
- Major Clash
- ISF
- SVEST
- Airstrikes
- Iraqi Shi'a Militias
- Demonstration
- VBIED
- SVBIED

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Iraqi Kurdish parties fractured over the impending no-confidence vote against Kurdish Finance Minister Hoshyar Zebari. The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and Gorran, two Kurdish opposition parties in the Kurdistan Alliance, indicated on August 30 and September 1 that they would dismiss Zebari in order to undermine the influence of his party, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP). However, several PUK leaders have recognized both that Zebari's dismissal could empower former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to reclaim the premiership, possibly to the detriment of Kurdish political interests, and that the Kurds will lose their influence in the Iraqi Government if the Kurdistan Alliance fails to maintain a unified position. PUK Deputy Secretary Generals Kusrat Rasul and Barham Salih tried to consolidate PUK support for Zebari by creating a "decision center" on September 2, but anti-KDP members, including politburo leaders Mulla Bakhtiar and Hero Ibrahim, wife of PUK founder Jalal Talabani, resisted the attempt. President Fuad Masoum, a senior PUK member, and an Iranian delegation visited PUK and Gorran leaders in Suleimaniyah on September 4-6 in order to ensure Zebari's survival and resolve the PUK's internal issues. Continued Kurdish participation in Baghdad is necessary for stability in Iraq and the continuation of a single Iraqi state, key Iranian interests. The attempts were reportedly unsuccessful. However, the Council of Representatives (CoR) failed to reach quorum on September 6, precluding a no-confidence vote against Zebari. The CoR will reconvene September 8, however the upcoming Eid al-Ahda holiday recess, starting on September 9, will likely also result in a lack of quorum, moving any no-confidence vote until after the holiday, around September 27. The holiday could give the KDP time to secure support for Zebari from other blocs and give PUK time to improve party discipline to support Zebari.

Meanwhile, the National Alliance, the pan-Shi'a bloc in the CoR, selected Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq (ISCI) leader Ammar al-Hakim as its new chairman on September 5. The selection is likely an effort to revive the ineffectual Shi'a alliance, which fractured largely over the political maneuverings of the Reform Front, Maliki's shadow party in the CoR, and PM Abadi's attempts to reshuffle the Cabinet. Hakim succeeds Ibrahim al-Jaafari, who held the position for six years as the National Alliance remained deadlocked between electing Hakim or Ali al-Adeeb, a Maliki-backed candidate, as Jaafari's successor. Hakim's selection therefore indicates that Maliki was heavily pressured or incentivized to drop his case. Both Hakim and Maliki met with Iranian Ambassador to Iraq Hassan Danaifar on September 3 and 4, respectively, who likely passed on Iran's insistence that the Shi'a parties reunite and that Maliki stand down on his refusal to support Hakim for the position. A fractured Iraqi Shi'a alliance could promote increased instability, limiting Iran's influence in Iraq. Political parties, including both Kurdish and Sunni parties, have praised Hakim's selection, as he is regarded as a mediator figure. A unified National Alliance could provide a stabilizing effect for the Iraqi political system which has rapidly deteriorated since April. However, it remains to be seen how Maliki and the Reform Front will respond to the National Alliance's revitalization and whether or not the National Alliance will be able to unite Shi'a political parties in the CoR. Hakim may use the Eid al-Ahda recess to realign the Shi'a parties and to mediate ongoing crises amongst the Kurdish and Sunni parties in order to stabilize the government.