

**1 Aug. 12 - 15: Likely Iranian Proxy Militias Target Three Iraqi Contractor Convoys Supporting the US-led Coalition with IEDs in Dhi Qar Province.** Iraq's Security Media Cell (SMC), an official government reporting body, confirmed that an explosive device targeted Iraqi-operated convoys contracted by the US-led Coalition in Iraq's southern Dhi Qar Province once on August 12 and twice on August 15. The SMC stated that two of the attacks took place in the al-Batha area near Highway 8, a major Iraqi highway, in Dhi Qar. The remaining attack took place in the Um Anij area 87 km southeast of Nasiriyah. None of the attacks resulted in any casualties. Shi'a extremist Telegram channels attributed two of the attacks to Saraya Thawra al-Ashreen al-Thaniya and Usbat al-Thairen (UaT), Iranian proxy shadow militias that announced their existence only after the January 3 US killing of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps - Quds Force (IRGC-QF) Commander Qassem Soleimani. These groups are likely targeting Iraqi civilians assisting US forces to dissuade Iraqis from working with foreign forces and weaken the US and Coalition logistical support base in Iraq.

**2 Aug. 13: Likely Iranian Proxies Fire Three Rockets at Balad Air Base in Salah al-Din Province.** The SMC reported that three Katyusha rockets landed in Balad Air Base, approximately 80 km north of Baghdad. No casualties were reported. Reuters indicated that Balad Air Base still houses US forces.

**3 Aug. 13: Iranian Proxy Militias Escalate Rhetorical Threats against US Forces ahead of US-Iraq Strategic Dialogue.** Several of Iran's Iraqi proxy militias escalated their rhetorical threats against US forces in Iraq should US forces not be removed. US-designated terrorist organization Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq (AAH) threatened on August 11 to "expand" its operations targeting US forces in Iraq. Iran-backed Conquest Alliance MPs threatened on August 13 that any agreement that does not expel US forces "may cause great security and political problems in Iraq." Iranian proxy shadow militia Ashab al-Kahf also threatened US forces at Camp Taji on August 13, while warning Iraqis to "keep a safe distance from the American enemy and its servants."

**4 Aug. 14: Likely Iranian Proxy Militias Conduct Two Rocket Attacks on US Area of Baghdad International Airport.** Likely Iranian proxy militias fired Katyusha rockets toward Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) on two occasions, causing no serious damage. The SMC confirmed an attack on August 14 and said that the rockets were launched from Radwaniyah area, approximately 8 km south of BIAP. UaT posted a photo of the group's logo on Shi'a extremist Telegram channels, suggesting that it would be conducting a rocket attack shortly before this strike on BIAP. UaT posted images of its logo with Quranic verses ahead of the attack, imagery that the group often posts prior to conducting rocket attacks. The SMC reported an additional unclaimed rocket attack on BIAP on August 18 that was launched from the village of al-Fayyad, southeast of the airport.

**5 Aug. 14: Likely Iranian Proxy Targets Iraqi-Operated Convoy Supporting Coalition Forces with IED near Diwaniyah, Qadisiyah Province.** The SMC reported that an IED struck an Iraqi contractor convoy supporting the US-led Coalition near the Diwaniyah Bridge in Qadisiyah Province. The attack caused no casualties. Iran's proxies have escalated their attacks on Iraqi-operated convoys supporting US and Coalition forces in Iraq. Likely Iranian proxies conducted 13 attacks between August 4 and August 18.

**6 Aug. 14: Assassinations of Basrawi Civil Activists by Likely Iranian Proxies Prompt Protests.** Likely Iranian proxy militants assassinated a prominent civil activist and protester on al-Bahou street in central Basra City on August 14. Protests broke out in response and subsequently expanded between August 14 and 17 as Iraqi Security Forces used live ammunition and rubber bullets to push protesters away from key government facilities. Unidentified Basra riot police, possibly elements of the Iranian-compromised Iraqi Law Enforcement Forces (LEF), "severely beat" two reporters with the US-funded news outlet al-Hurra for filming the protests, according to an al-Hurra correspondent. Likely Iranian proxies attempted four additional assassinations of civil activists on August 17, wounding two. Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi subsequently fired the Basra Police Chief, a security official compromised by the Iranian proxy Badr Organization with a history of abuses in various command positions. Prime Minister Kadhimi will almost certainly face increased demands from protesters to hold those responsible for the violence accountable. The firing of Basra's police chief is unlikely to satisfy protesters.

**7 Aug. 14: Moqtada al-Sadr and Hassan Nasrallah Scheduled to Meet in Beirut, Lebanon.** A news anchor for the US-funded al-Hurra news outlet circulated "leaks" from unknown sources that Iraqi nationalist Shi'a cleric Moqtada al-Sadr will meet with Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of US-designated Lebanese terrorist organization Hezbollah, in Beirut in the coming days. Nasrallah has previously met and consulted Sadr on several occasions. Nasrallah has likely taken on some of the responsibilities that belonged to Abu Mehdi al-Muhandis and Soleimani, including serving as a coordinator between Iran's Iraqi proxies and Sadrists in Iraq.

**8 Aug. 15: Likely Iranian Proxies Fire Two Rockets at Camp Taji.** US-led Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) Spokesperson Colonel Myles B. Caggins III reported that two Katyusha rockets landed near Camp Taji, 27 km north of Baghdad. Caggins added that no Coalition troops were near the impact sites. Iraq's SMC announced that the rockets were launched from the al-Rashdiya area, approximately 15 km east of Camp Taji.

**9 Aug. 15: Likely Iranian Proxy Claims IED Attack on Iraqi-Operated Convoy Supporting Coalition Forces in Anbar Province.** Ashab al-Kahf (AK), an Iranian proxy shadow militia, claimed responsibility for a purported IED attack targeting an Iraqi-operated supply convoy supporting US forces in Anbar Province. Neither the Iraqi government nor the US-led Coalition confirmed the attack. AK circulated a video of the alleged attack that featured a speech by Lebanese Hezbollah Leader Hassan Nasrallah in the background, possibly indicating ties between the Shi'a extremist organizations.

**10 Aug. 16: Likely Iranian Proxies Conduct Rocket Attack on US Embassy.** The SMC reported that a Katyusha rocket fell in Baghdad's Green Zone on August 16. Security forces confiscated an additional rocket at the launch site on al-Thalal Street, approximately 5 km northeast of the US Embassy. The attack did not result in any casualties. Iranian proxies likely conducted the attack to coincide with the leadup to Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi's visit to Washington, DC, for the second round of the US-Iraq Strategic Dialogue on August 18.

**11 Aug. 16: Kadhimi Meets with Leaders of Parliament's Iranian-backed, Moderate, and Sunni Blocs ahead of US-Iraq Strategic Dialogue.** Prime Minister Kadhimi reportedly met with leaders from the Iran-backed Conquest Alliance political bloc, Ammar al-Hakim's Iraqis Alliance, former Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's Victory Alliance, and Osama al-Nujaifi's Sunni al-Hadba bloc ahead of Kadhimi's visit to Washington, DC, for the US-Iraq Strategic Dialogue, which began on August 18. A Conquest Alliance member of parliament (MP) said that Conquest Alliance "stressed the need" to implement US troop withdrawals. Kadhimi told the Associated Press ahead of his visit to Washington that he expects continued US involvement in Iraq but said that US assistance "will reflect the changing nature of terrorism's threat."

**12 Aug. 16: IRGC Quds Force Commander Meets with Kadhimi ahead of US-Iraq Strategic Dialogue.** Iran's IRGC-QF Commander Esmail Ghaani traveled to Baghdad to meet with Prime Minister Kadhimi and the leaders of unspecified Iran-backed militias. An anonymous Iraqi official speaking to the London-based news outlet al-Araby al-Jadeed said the meetings' purpose was to resolve tensions between Kadhimi and Iran-linked militias ahead of this week's resumption of the US-Iraq Strategic Dialogue in Washington, DC. At least four rocket and IED attacks within 48 hours of the meeting targeted US personnel and Iraqi contractors assisting the US and the International Coalition. Iran's proxies likely conducted these attacks to pressure Kadhimi to comply with their demands for US force reductions. Ghaani likely met with Kadhimi to articulate Iran's stance on the



- 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

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**Key Takeaway:** Iran and its proxy network in Iraq escalated a kinetic campaign to build political pressure and attempt to force Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi to limit his support for the US force presence ahead of the next stage of the US-Iraq Strategic Dialogue. Likely Iranian proxy militants conducted five rocket attacks and five confirmed IED attacks on US facilities and supporting personnel in Iraq between August 12 and August 18. This pressure campaign culminated in an August 16 meeting in Baghdad between Kadhimi and Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps - Quds Force Commander Esmail Ghaani to discuss the Strategic Dialogue. Ghaani likely met with Kadhimi to punctuate attacks by Iran's proxies and reiterate Iran's demands for the expulsion of US troops. Kadhimi is unlikely to encourage the rapid withdrawal of US training and support; Iran's proxies will likely retaliate for Kadhimi's failure to quickly comply with the regime's demands by applying continued political pressure from Iran-aligned Iraqi political factions.

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