



Iraq - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Tuesday 15 November 2016

Information on Diyala including ethnic conflict and ISIS presence

A document published in November 2016 by the *UNHCR* points out that:

“Since 2015, and with support from a broad international coalition, the ISF and associated forces have made significant gains in retaking territory from ISIS in Al-Anbar, Babel, Diyala, Erbil, Ninewa, and Salah Al-Din Governorates...” (UNHCR (14 November 2016) *UNHCR Position on Returns to Iraq*, pp.1-2).

This report also states:

“Incidents of harassment, threats, kidnappings, arbitrary arrests, evictions and killings of Sunni Arab IDPs at the hands of both state and non-state actors have been reported from Al-Anbar, Baghdad, Babel, Diyala, Kirkuk and elsewhere...” (ibid, p.13).

It is also noted in this report that:

“Based on statistics provided by the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), Baghdad Governorate was consistently the worst affected governorate in terms of casualty figures every month in 2014, 2015 and 2016...Baghdad is followed, although not always in the same order, by Al-Anbar, Diyala, Ninewa, Kirkuk, Salah Al-Din and Babel Governorates...” (ibid, p.17).

A report published by the *United Nations News Service* notes that:

“The number of civilians killed in Iraq last month has nearly doubled since September according to recently released figures by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)...Baghdad suffered the worst casualties, with 268 killed and 807 injured. In Ninewa, 566 civilians were killed and 59 injured, 58 killed and 112 injured in Kirkuk, 16 killed and two injured in Salahadin, and four killed and two injured in Diyala” (United Nations News Service (10 November 2016) *Civilian death toll in Iraq nearly doubles from September to October – UN*).

A document produced in October 2016 by *Amnesty International* states that:

“Widespread enforced disappearances and abductions targeting Sunni men and boys are continuing with impunity in Diyala governorate, amid long-standing sectarian tensions, bans on returns for some Sunni IDPs and the tight control exercised by state-backed militias, particularly Munathammat Badr and Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq” (Amnesty International (18 October 2016) *'Punished for Daesh's Crimes' – Displaced Iraqis Abused by Militias and Government Forces*, p.28).

In October 2016 the *Combating Terrorism Center* notes in a report that:

“Around a 60-percent majority of Diyala residents are Sunni Arabs and Sunni Turkmen, with the remainder split between Shi'a Arabs and Shi'a Turkmen (25

percent) and Kurds (15 percent)...” (Combating Terrorism Center(October 2016) *Losing Mosul, Regenerating in Diyala: How the Islamic State Could Exploit Iraq’s Sectarian Tinderbox*, p, 2).

This document also notes that:

“The Badr-led security effort in Diyala has struggled to come to grips with the Islamic State rural bastions” (ibid, p.5)

This report also states:

“Dyala has always been a fallback, a place to hide and recover, which suits exactly the Islamic State’s current needs” (ibid, p.5).

References

Amnesty International (18 October 2016) *' Punished for Daesh's Crimes' – Displaced Iraqis Abused by Militias and Government Forces*

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/5806051a4.html>

Attachment not included due to IT limitations

Accessed Tuesday 15 November 2016

Combating Terrorism Center (October 2016) *Losing Mosul, Regenerating in Diyala: How the Islamic State Could Exploit Iraq’s Sectarian Tinderbox*

<http://www.css.ethz.ch/content/specialinterest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/en/services/digital-library/publications/publication.html/0a1ed195-3965-4cda-af54-093db13c4a80>

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UNHCR (14 November 2016) *UNHCR Position on Returns to Iraq*

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<http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?page=printdoc&docid=5825f99240d>

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Sources Consulted

Amnesty International

BBC News

Electronic Immigration Network

European Country of Origin Information Network

Freedom House
Google
Human Rights Watch
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
International Crisis Group
IRIN News
Lexis Nexis
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Online Newspapers
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