Iraqi Prime Minister and Cabinet members have been evacuated from their offices in recent months due to threats from Iranian-backed militia groups. The Basra Gas Company, which is majority-owned by the Iraqi government, has also been targeted by attacks and has had to reduce its output.

Iranian proxy militias have been active in Iraq, particularly in the south, where they have been involved in oil theft and attacks on oil infrastructure. The government has been working to neutralize these threats, including through arrests and the deployment of additional security forces.

Kadhimi's government is seeking to improve relations with all of its neighbors, including through talks with the United States and Iran. The government has also been working to address the country's economic crisis, which has been exacerbated by the pandemic and the US-Iran crisis.

Key Takeaway: Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi is seeking to develop closer energy relationships with Iraq's Gulf neighbors, particularly Saudi Arabia, to demonstrate that the United States is making progress in diversifying Iranian energy reliance and renewing relations with all of its neighbors.

To learn more about the issues discussed in this Iraq Situation Report and other international issues, see ISW's new podcast, "Overwatch," available on Spotify, Stitcher, TuneIn, and all your favorite podcast apps.