

Protests in Iraq

January 25, 2013: "Friday of No Return"

Overview: In what was dubbed the "Friday of No Return," anti-government protests spread throughout the provinces of Anbar, Salah ad-Din, Diyala, and Ninewa. In eastern Fallujah, soldiers opened fire after demonstrators attempted to join the nearby anti-government protest. At least six demonstrators were killed and dozens more wounded. Hours later, gunmen with suspected links to the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) attacked military posts in eastern and southern Fallujah.

Six anti-government protesters were killed and dozens more wounded after Iraqi soldiers opened fire on a crowd at a security checkpoint near Fallujah. Hours later, a military post in al-Shuhada neighbor in south Fallujah was attacked by ISI, leaving three soldiers dead. Clashes also took place in al-Askari neighborhood in east Fallujah.

Anti-government protesters demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. Security forces fired in the air to disperse the protesters in Ahrar Square.

Security was heightened in areas in and around Baghdad including Yarmouk, Adhamiyah, Abu Ghraib in response to anti-government protests.

In response to the Fallujah clashes, a curfew was established. Maliki also ordered Iraqi federal police to replace the Iraqi army force in Fallujah.

