1. **Turkish security forces launch "short-term" operation against PKK in northern Iraq.** Anonymous Turkish officials stated that Turkish Special Forces crossed the Iraq-Turkey border in pursuit of PKK fighters on September 8. The operation follows a September 6 PKK IED attack on Turkish security forces on the Iraq-Turkey border in Hakkari province that killed 14 Turkish police members. Heavy Turkish airstrikes struck PKK targets in northern Iraq on September 7 and 8.

2. **Iranian proxy militias explicitly reject National Guard Law.** A senior figure in Iranian-backed Shi'a militia Kata'ib Hezbollah (KH) held a press conference to announce that KH explicitly opposed the National Guard Law along with fellow Iranian proxy militias including Badr Organization, Aṣa'īb Aḥl al-Ḥaq, Nujaba Movement, Liwa Salah al-Din, Kata'ib Jund al-Imam, Kata'ib al-Babiliyun, Ansar Allah, and Harakat Sayed al-Shuhada.

3. **Gunmen kidnap Justice Ministry senior official.** On September 8, unidentified gunmen kidnapped the Deputy Minister of Justice and Director of General Investigations, a member of the Shi'a Fadhila Party, and four others in Bunug area in eastern Baghdad. Baghdad. The gunmen later released the other four persons. Forces under Baghdad Operations Command continue to search for the perpetrators.

4. **ISF clashes with Iranian-backed militia.** On September 3, the ISF clashed with members of Kata'ib Hezbollah (KH), an Iranian-backed Shi'a militia, near a KH HQ on Palestine Street in eastern Baghdad, killing one ISF member and injuring three others. The ISF were searching for the 18 Turkish workers abducted on September 2 when the clash took place.

5. **F-16s enter service in Iraq.** On September 6, Defense Minister Khalid al-Obeidi stated that F16 aircraft had entered service as part of Iraq's Air Force and conducted 15 air sorties, including a strike on an ISIS gathering north of Baiji on September 2 and strikes on an ISIS bridge and facilities in Hawija, southwest of Kirkuk. US DOD congratulated Iraq for its "successful use" of the aircraft.

6. **Popular demonstrations continue in southern Iraq.** On September 4, thousands of protesters demonstrated against provincial governments and corruption in Baghdad and the southern provincial capitals of Basra, Hillah, Diwaniya, Nasiriyah, Karbala, Samawa, and al-Kut. The representative of the Shi'a religious authority in Najaf called for anti-corruption reforms and questioned the ability of the Integrity Commission and the Judiciary to fight corruption.

7. **Security forces prevent Basra sit-in.** Security forces prevented protesters from staging a sit-in and harassed them in front of the Basra governorate building on September 8.

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**Iraq Situation Report: September 4 - 8, 2015**

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