The situation in the vicinity of Baghdad continues to intensify. ISIS has emplaced IEDs in places such as Mada’in, Yusifiyah, and Mahmudiyah in the southern belts of Baghdad. ISIS has previously conducted IED or suicide attacks in these three locations. ISIS may use these locations as possible avenues of approach if it decides to attack Baghdad from the southern belt of the city. ISIS may also be attempting to restrict the ISF’s mobility corridors in those areas. Iraqi Shi’a militia executions inside Baghdad may increase in response to the VBIED wave in Shi’a neighborhoods on 19 July. Kidnapping and reprisal killings will cause major concern for Iraqi Sunni civilians in the city. The deployment of volunteers from southern Iraq to Kirkuk province signifies the spread of their role to protect shrines in areas where ISIS is making advances. The reallocation of Iraqi Security Forces from Baghdad to Dhuuluiya signals the real challenge that ISIS poses there. ISW has assessed that ISIS may try to draw the ISF out of Baghdad in advance of more robust attacks there.