Iraqi Prime Minister and Cabinet

Iraqi Ministry of Electricity (MoE) spokesperson Ahmed Musa al-Abadi reported that Kadhimi approved the MoE to enter negotiations with Turkey to import 200 megawatts (MW) of electricity to replace public sector jobs with private sector workers. This move aims to limit Iraq’s bloated public sector spending and to reduce the demands of the Iraqi people. Kadhimi appointed an advisor to discuss comprehensive reform efforts amid the protests on August 5 in Baghdad and August 10 in Kirkuk. He also appointed local police forces to arrest two groups of protesters, a move that will prove popular with the protesters.

Key Takeaway: Iraq’s proxy militia network in Iraq is accelerating its attacks on US facilities and Iraqi security forces. The Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Quds Force (IRGC-QF) Commander Qassem Soleimani was killed in an airstrike on an Iraqi contractor convoy at Jraischan crossing on August 4. An unnamed Iraqi security official told Iraqi news outlet Shafaaq that pro-Iranian militiamen in Anbar Province have been preparing rockets and are capable of launching them into Baghdad. The government of Iraq cancelled a meeting with Turkish officials on August 10 to discuss comprehensive reform efforts amid the protests.

Aug. 05: Likely Iranian Proxy Militia Targets Iraq's US Embassy Convoy

The Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) spokesperson Colonel Myles C. Baggott, III, Iraqi Ministry of Electricity, and Kuwaiti authorities announced that on August 5 in Baghdad and August 10 in Kirkuk, Iraq, a large protest event was attended by local and national demonstrators in solidarity with the United States. Kadhimi ordered the MoE to enter negotiations with Turkey to import 200 MW of electricity to replace public sector jobs with private sector workers. The protesters burned tires and threw stones at the police forces during the event.

Aug. 06: Iraq Ministry of Electricity in Negotiations to Import 200 Megawatts of Electricity from Turkey

The Iraqi Ministry of Electricity (MoE) announced that it has signed a deal with Turkey to import 200 megawatts of electricity to replace public sector jobs with private sector workers. The move aims to limit Iraq’s bloated public sector spending and to reduce the demands of the Iraqi people. Kadhimi appointed an advisor to discuss comprehensive reform efforts amid the protests on August 5 in Baghdad and August 10 in Kirkuk. He also appointed local police forces to arrest two groups of protesters, a move that will prove popular with the protesters.

Aug. 07: JSF Arrest Iraqi Proxy Militant Allegedly Carrying EED Materials to Target Contractors Supporting US and Coalition Forces

JSF arrested an individual carrying explosive materials, remote detonation devices, and small arms ammunition in his car in Dhi Qar Province. The Iraqi official told the journalist that the arrested individual is a member of the 19th Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) Brigade, which is affiliated with the Iranian proxy militia Luma Auw Ahals Ab Al-Awli. The official added that the weapons were intended to target logistics and supply convoys supporting US and Coalition forces. The protesters were attempting to clear the road from the Iraqi border areas to prevent them from accessing US facilities. The protesters set fire to the markets of the border areas in response to the US-led Coalition's continued presence in Iraq.

Aug. 08: Likely Iraqi Proxy Militia Targets Iraq's US Embassy Convoy

An unnamed Iraqi security official told Iraqi news outlet Shafaaq that pro-Iranian militiamen in Anbar Province have been preparing rockets and are capable of launching them into Baghdad. The government of Iraq cancelled a meeting with Turkish officials on August 10 to discuss comprehensive reform efforts amid the protests.

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Aug. 09: Prime Minister of Iraq’s Cabinet Meets with Protests at Baghdad Airport

Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi met with protesters at Baghdad Airport in his efforts to discuss comprehensive reform efforts amid the protests. Kadhimi ordered the MoE to enter negotiations with Turkey to import 200 MW of electricity to replace public sector jobs with private sector workers. The protesters burned tires and threw stones at the police forces during the event.

Aug. 10: Iraqi and Saudi Officials Announce Plans to Limit Visa Requirements and to Reopen Arar Border Crossing amid Improving Relations

Iraqi and Saudi officials announced plans to limit visa requirements and to reopen the border crossing between Saudi Arabia and western Anbar Province soon. Janabi added that the Iraqi government views the US Embassy as a “strategic and vital asset” and has taken steps to improve its security. The border crossing between Saudi Arabia and western Anbar Province is the only land border crossing between the two countries, providing a vital link for trade and travel. The Iraqi government has taken steps to improve the security of the border crossing, including the deployment of additional security forces and the installation of new security measures.

Aug. 10: Likely Iranian Proxy Militia Targets Iraq’s US Embassy Convoy

The Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) spokesperson Colonel Myles C. Baggott, III, Iraqi Ministry of Electricity, and Kuwaiti authorities announced that on August 5 in Baghdad and August 10 in Kirkuk, Iraq, a large protest event was attended by local and national demonstrators in solidarity with the United States. Kadhimi ordered the MoE to enter negotiations with Turkey to import 200 MW of electricity to replace public sector jobs with private sector workers. The protesters burned tires and threw stones at the police forces during the event.

Aug. 11: Iraq’s SMC Claims Two Rockets Were Intercepted as Part of Comprehensive Reform Efforts amid the Protests

Iraq’s SMC confirmed up to 30 rockets were launched at coalition targets in Baghdad on August 4, with one rocket reportedly intercepted as part of comprehensive reform efforts amid the protests. The Iraqi government has taken steps to improve the security of the Iraqi borders, including the deployment of additional security forces and the installation of new security measures.

Aug. 11: Local Police Forces Arrest Two Pakistani Drug Traffickers

Local Police Forces Arrested Two Pakistani Drug Traffickers among the Leadership of Lashkari Al-Haq in Salih Khumarat Al-Haq in Salih al-Din Province, Iraq. Khumarat Police Command officers arrested two drug traffickers in Khumarat, Salih al-Din Province. Police stated that they arrested two men who were Bangladeshis and parents of two children. They were accused of importing and transporting narcotics.

Aug. 11: Iraqi Parliamentary Legal Committee Confirms Upcoming Meetings to Begin

The Iraqi Parliamentary Legal Committee confirmed upcoming meetings to begin for drawing electoral districts. The meetings are intended to demonstrate strength and stability ahead of the next round of the US-Iraq Strategic Dialogue.

Aug. 12: Turkish Drone Attack Kills Two Iraqi Border Guard Commanders in Anbar Province

A Turkish drone attack killed two senior Iraqi officials in the Anbar Province on August 11. The drone reportedly targeted a vehicle carrying the two Iraqi border guard commanders near the border with Iran. The Iraqi government has taken steps to improve the security of the Iraqi borders, including the deployment of additional security forces and the installation of new security measures.

Aug. 12: Iraqi Joint Operations Command described the drone strike as “blatant Turkish aggression.” The government of Iraq cancelled a scheduled visit from the Turkish Defense Minister because of the strike and formally summoned the Turkish ambassador to condemn Turkish aggression in northern Iraq for the third time since mid-July.