



01 July 2004

### Flashpoints

Baghdad, Fallujah, Ramadi, Basrah, Kirkuk, Mosul, Hillah, Mahmudiyah, Samawah, Najaf, Karbala.

**The following highways and routes should be considered extremely hostile:**

Much of Baghdad is currently locked down and as such some routes may be obstructed. Travel on Iraq's roads should be avoided in the coming days amid fears of large scale attacks planned for what was scheduled to be the handover of power.

- The roads from Baghdad to Fallujah remain extremely dangerous. A number of checkpoints have also been erected on the routes and are being manned by both Coalition Forces (CF) and the Iraqi police.
- The Baghdad to Amman Highway remains particularly dangerous and should be avoided if at all possible.
- The route to Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) is extremely dangerous. Restrictions have been applied to this route
- Routes in the vicinity of Najaf and Karbala should be avoided as should those around al-Kut

While these routes have been highlighted, it should be noted that transit throughout Iraq is **dangerous** and no route can be guaranteed as being safe.

### Projections

The vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) attack in Samawah and the thwarted explosion in Najaf suggest that insurgents, possible Extra-territorial Elements (ETEs) are specifically carrying out attacks located in largely Shi'a populated areas. It should be remembered that Musab al-Zarqawi pledged to induce civil war by carrying out attacks against Shi'a and Kurdish targets in a memo discovered in February 2004. It is possible that further such attacks can be anticipated in other predominantly Shi'a and Kurdish areas of Iraq.

A relative lull in violence in the past 24-48 hours may indicate that a large-scale attack is imminent. Experience has shown that periods of quiet have often been followed by attacks on prestige targets and co-ordinated attacks on lower level targets. Given the fact that Saddam Hussein has made his first appearance since his arrest last year combined with the fact that 1 July was the date scheduled for the handover of power to take place, today and the coming days could witness a potential massive incident or series of incidents with high casualties.

Demonstrations and gatherings that have the potential to turn violent are also possible. Saddam Hussein is known to still have supporters within the country and of course there are many among Iraq's population that suffered directly and indirectly at his hands that may gather, for example, to demand the death penalty for their former leader, or just to make the presence of the Iraqi people felt.

Media reports on 1 July suggest that Musab al-Zarqawi and those who follow him are planning to seize female Coalition personnel, although this may extend to any foreign female personnel. Reports state that an edict has been issued in this regard. This is not the first time threats of this nature have been made. In May this year, following the broadcast images of Iraqi inmates being tortured a threat of kidnap was made against British female personnel operating in southern Iraq. It is probably felt by hostile elements that the capture and killing of foreign female nationals would have a more dramatic effect on popular opinion in that national's country of origin.

It is possible that the commemoration of the overthrowing of the monarchy in 1958 and the coming to power of the Ba'ath Party (14 and 17 July respectively) may be 'celebrated' with violence. The 14 July may also provoke an increase in activity against the British presence in the south of the country as it was the British that held mandate in Iraq in the early part of the last century and who put King Faisal I on the throne in 1921. Furthermore, an increase in the activity of the Former Regime Loyalists (FRLs) can be anticipated on 17 July.

Although speculative, it is possible that 14 July may witness a symbolic or actual attempt to overthrow the caretaker government by hostile elements in Iraqi society in commemoration of 14 July 1958 when the 'imposed monarchy' was overthrown.

### Summary

After appearing before a judge on 30 June, Saddam Hussein and 11 high-ranking members of his regime appeared before an Iraqi court on 1 July to be charged. As they are now legally protected by the Iraqi judicial system, Saddam and the other men are no longer prisoners of war. It is believed they will be charged with an array of crimes ranging from crimes against humanity to the illegal invasion of Kuwait. While legally the responsibility of the Iraqi authorities, the security surrounding the former leader will continue to be provided by US forces. The images of Saddam in court are likely to have a dramatic effect on Iraqis, whether they were pro- or anti-regime.

The reward for the capture of the most wanted man in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, has been raised to \$25 million in an attempt to encourage individuals to come forward with information that may lead to the arrest or conviction of the militant leader. The air strike of 1 July was the fourth recent assault on Fallujah where al-Zarqawi is believed to be hiding.

A 54-page booklet, written in Arabic and believed to be an al-Qaeda handbook has been uncovered. Reports suggest the booklet, entitled 'The Iraq of Jihad: hopes and dangers', was originally distributed in February 2004. The booklet focuses on the situation in Iraq and Coalition member states (detailed as legitimate targets for Jihad). The document surmises that any pressure exerted on individual Coalition member states would put a strain on the cohesion of the Coalition itself. The booklet called on the (Sunni) Iraqi resistance in all its forms to join forces and present a united front.

While, as noted above, there has been a relative lull in large-scale violence over the past 48 hours, attacks and incidents of violence have still occurred. IED attacks, for example, have persisted throughout the country. Furthermore, vehicle-borne explosive devices have again been used in the central and southern areas of Iraq. Mortars have also been in use by insurgents in the last two days.

### Areas of continued concern

- **All facilities relating to the energy industry in Iraq remain at risk of attack, including offices and vehicles. Personnel are also at risk.**
- **It is feared that Mosques are potential hot spots for demonstrations, and possibly suicide and other explosive attacks in the coming days and weeks.**
- **Hotels remain at risk of attack, particularly those providing residence to Western personnel, including those in the 'Green Zone', despite increased security .**
- **Police stations, local government and Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) facilities continue to be the target of demonstrations and suicide attacks.**

### The following other buildings and facilities are consistently at risk:

- **Any building, element of infrastructure or machinery involved with the reconstruction effort (particularly the energy industry)**
- **Coalition facilities of all nationalities (inhabited by contractors, NGO workers, diplomatic and military personnel)**
- **Civic buildings, particularly police stations, diplomatic offices and those of NGOs and media organizations**
- **Any convoy/vehicle carrying personnel from the media/NGOs or indeed contractors and diplomatic staff is at risk of attack at all times.**











This email is intended for the sole use of the subscriber, who has agreed to abide by the terms and conditions of subscription, as specified [here](#).

This is an abridged version of AKE's Iraq Security Briefing. The full version is sent out on Tuesdays and Thursdays and is available to subscribers. For a free 14-day trial please contact [intel@akegroup.com](mailto:intel@akegroup.com)

#### AKE Bespoke Intelligence Reports

AKE's Intelligence Department regularly provides private, focussed reports on a range of political and security issues to suit our clients' needs. If you would like to discuss your requirements or receive a quote please contact [intel@akegroup.com](mailto:intel@akegroup.com) or +44 (0)20 7816 5454.

#### AKE risk ratings

	1-9	Generally stable and secure
	10-19	Instability
	20-29	Hostile
	30-39	Highly unstable
	40-49	Widespread militancy
	50-59	Low intensity conflict
	60-69	Advanced guerrilla war/civil war
	70-79	Limited conventional war
	80-89	Regional war
	90-100	Total war (sub-nuclear)

For more in-depth analysis of the security situation in Iraq as well as other world hot spots see [Global Intake](#), AKE's online strategic information and intelligence tool.

#### AKE provides:

					
<b>Risk management services</b>	<b>Hostile regions training</b>	<b>Medical services</b>	<b>IT services</b>	<b>Legal services</b>	<b>Insurance services</b>

We also provide training and intelligence to assist with ISPS code compliance. For further details please telephone: +44 (0)20 7816 5454

If you are experiencing any problems accessing Global Intake or have any comments with the site

please email [globalintake@globalintake.com](mailto:globalintake@globalintake.com). Please note Global Intake is only available to subscribers.

This communication contains information which is confidential and may also be privileged. It is for the exclusive use of the intended recipient(s) and is not intended to be relied upon by any person without subsequent written confirmation of its contents. Furthermore, the content of this e-mail is the personal view of the sender and does not represent the advice, views or opinion of AKE Ltd. Accordingly AKE Ltd disclaim all responsibility and accept no liability (including in negligence) for the consequences of any person acting, or refraining from acting, on such information prior to the receipt by those persons of subsequent written confirmation. In particular (but not by way of limitation) AKE Ltd disclaims all responsibility and accepts no liability for any e-mails which are defamatory, offensive, racist or in any other way are in breach of any third party's rights, including breach of confidence, privacy or other rights. If you have received this e-mail message in error, please notify the security administrator immediately by e-mail to [security@akegroup.com](mailto:security@akegroup.com). Please also destroy and delete the message from your computer. Any form of reproduction, dissemination, copying, disclosure, modification, distribution and/or publication of this e-mail message is strictly prohibited. AKE Ltd (Company Number 2558662) trading address is Mortimer House, Holmer Road, Hereford, HR4 9TA, UK. Tel: +44 (0)1432 267111

Copyright © AKE Ltd 2004