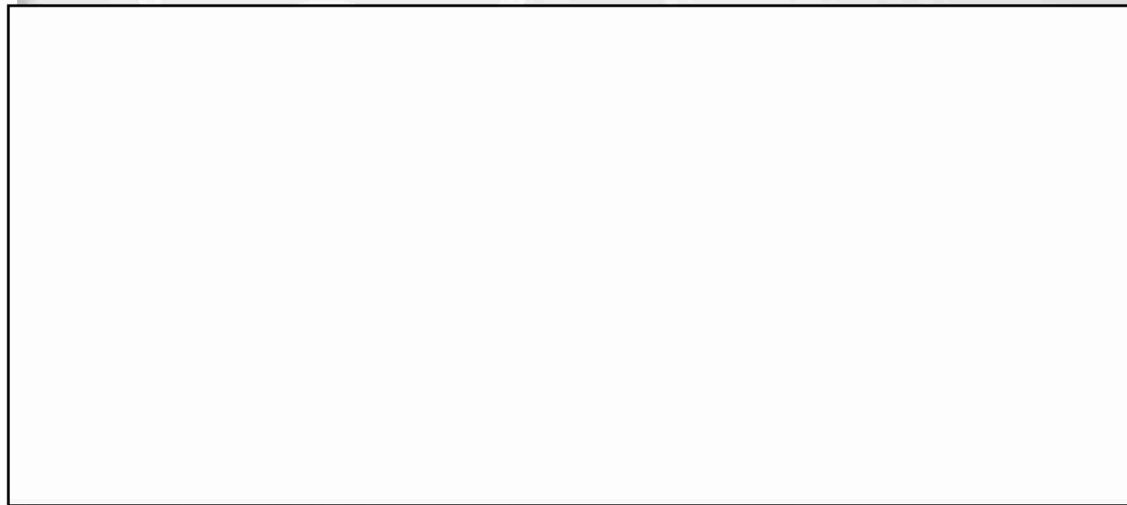


# Iraq

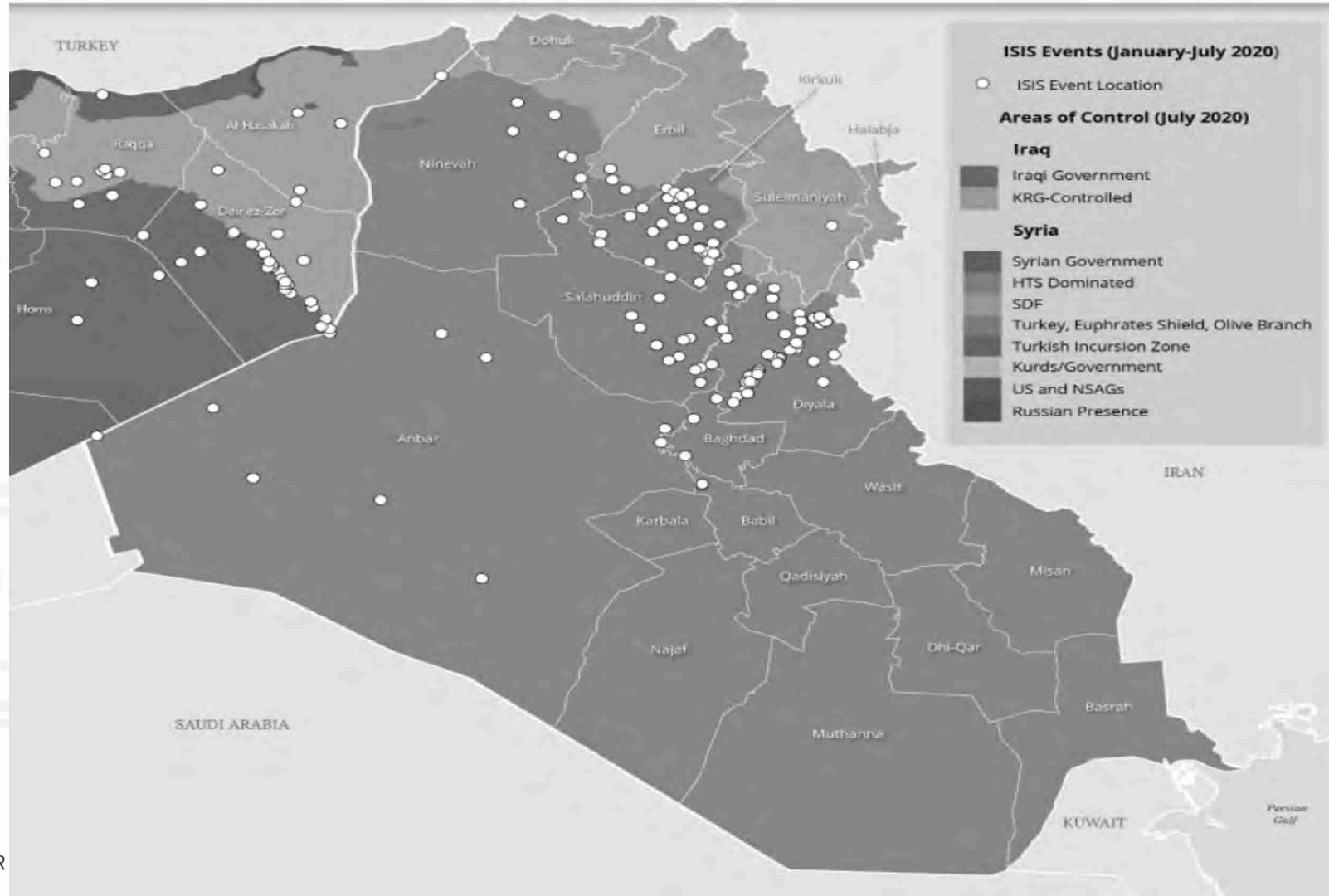
الله أكبر



# Let's Practice!



(b)(7)(E)



# Iraqi Insurgency 2003-2011

Existed on Jan 2002	New 2003	New 2004	2005	New 2006	New 2007
Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK)	Islamic Army in Iraq	Mujahideen Army (November)	None new	Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq (July)	Kata'ib Hezbollah
Kurdish Democratic Party	1920s Revolutionary Brigades			Jaysh Rijal al-Tariqa al-Naqshbandia (December)	Ansar al-Sunna Shariah (January)
Patriotic Union of Kurdistan	Mahdi Army (JAM - April)				Hamas Iraq (March)
Kurdistan Islamic Group					Al Qaeda Kurdish Battalions (March 2007)
Ansar Al-Islam					
Al-Qaeda in Iraq					
Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq					

# Overview in Iraq

- 2011: U.S. Withdrawal
- Insurgency escalates between 2011 and 2013.
- Political / militia ties increasing
- Islamic State of Iraq gains strength
- Attacks against government and civilian targets escalate

# Overview in Iraq

2013-2014: Rise of ISIS / PMF

- Battle of Fallujah (Late-2013-2014)
- Fall of Mosul to ISIS (June 2014)
- Fatwa by Ayatollah Al-Sistani 6/14/2014
- Formation of the PMF (Hashid al Sha'abi) to combat ISIS



# Major Armed Groups in Iraq

## Self-identified Sunni Armed Groups

- Al-Qaeda Iraq (AKA ISIS/ISIL/IS)
- 1920 Revolution Brigades
- Jaysh Rijal al-Tariqa al-Naqshbandia
- Ansar al Islam
- Jaysh al-Mujahideen

## Self-identified Shi'a Armed Groups

- Jaysh Al-Mahdi (AKA Saraya Salaam)
- Hizb Al-Da'wah
- Badr\_Organization/Badr Forces
- Kata'ib Hezbollah
- Asai'b Ahl Al-Haq
- Popular\_Mobilization Forces

# Overview of Iraq

- **Post-2003:** turmoil and instability in Iraq, including sectarian violence.
- **2005:** constitution recognized autonomy for the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and formal status of its Peshmerga forces.
- **2011:** US troops withdraw from Iraq.
- **October 2013:** IS attacks and Sunni insurgency. October is deadliest month since April 2008, with 900 killed. By the year-end, UN estimates the 2013 death toll of civilians as 7,157 - a dramatic increase in the previous year's figure of 3,238.
- **September 2014:** Shia politician Haider al-Abadi forms a broad-based govt including Sunni Arabs and Kurds. Kurdish leadership agrees to put independence referendum on hold.
- **2014:** Rise of ISIS further split Iraqi society. Shias called to take up arms. Tens of thousands of men, mostly Shia, joined new and old militias, many supported by Iran. More than 60 armed groups eventually merged under the umbrella of the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF).



# Overview of Iraq

- **2015-2016:** Government and IS fight for control of Tikrit & Anbar province.
- **Oct. 16, 2016—July 20, 2017:** Battle for Mosul. Human Rights Violations during the 9-month battle.
- **November 2016:** Parliament recognizes the Shia Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) militia as part of the armed forces with full legal status.
- **September 2017:** Kurds back independence in referendum staged by Kurdish regional government.
- **2015—2017:** Iraqi security forces, Kurdish Peshmerga forces and the PMF—backed by airpower provided by the U.S.-led coalition—gradually retook territory from ISIS. In **December 2017**, Prime Minister al-Abadi declared victory over IS.
- **September-December 2019:** At least 400 people die and 20,000 injured in protests against unemployment and corruption in cities including the capital Baghdad, prompting Adel Abdul Mahdi to tender his resignation.

# Recent Developments in Iraq

- **December 2019:** Popular Mobilization Commission Reinstates Additional Forces.
- **October 2020:** PMF/PMU and/or supporters burned the KDP offices in Baghdad.
- **January 21, 2021:** Two suicide bombers detonated bombs in a crowded marketplace in eastern Baghdad. Iraqi Health and Interior Ministry spokespeople noted that the attack was the deadliest in Baghdad since 2018.

# Recent Developments in Iraq

- **April 24, 2021:** The Turkish army on Saturday launched a new ground and air operation against Kurdish PKK bases in northern Iraq. Turkish army regularly conducts cross-border operations and air raids on PKK bases in northern Iraq.
- **May 2, 2021:** IS suspected in attacks on Iraqi military **killing 18 Iraqis**, the majority military personnel, were killed overnight Friday to Saturday **in separate attacks by extremists mainly in the greater Baghdad area**. IS sleeper cells holed up in mountains and deserts continue to **carry out deadly attacks across the country, often at night in remote areas and with light weapons**.