



Iraq - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 25 and 26 July 2012

Information on conflict in Iraq between May 2012 and July 2012

A *United Nations Security Council* report issued in July 2012 notes:

“During the reporting period, there were several high-casualty attacks across the country. On 19 April, a wave of bombings and attacks in six governorates killed at least 50 people and injured some 250. On 31 May, in various attacks in Baghdad, 33 civilians were killed and 14 injured. On 4 June, a suicide attack on a Shiite religious office in Baghdad for which the Islamic State of Iraq claimed responsibility left 20 people dead and 110 injured. On 13 June, up to 27 car bombs were detonated across Iraq. In Baghdad, 10 attacks killed 33 Shiite pilgrims and security personnel and injured another 61. In Hilla, 22 people, mainly civilians, were killed when a bomb was detonated outside a restaurant usually frequented by police personnel. On 16 June, 42 Shiite pilgrims and security personnel were killed and 135 injured in Baghdad” (United Nations Security Council (11 July 2012) *Third report of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 2001 (2011)*, pp.6-7).

This document also states:

“During the reporting period, the overall security situation in Iraq remained unpredictable, with a significant number of deadly attacks, especially during religious celebrations” (ibid, p.12).

The *New York Times* in May 2012 points out that:

“Bomb blasts aimed largely at security forces in western and central Iraq killed six people and wounded several more on Sunday, a relatively violent day after a few weeks of calm across the country” (New York Times (13 May 2012) *Period of Relative Calm in Iraq Is Brought to End by Fatal Bomb Blasts*).

This report also states:

“So far this month, 60 people have died in attacks, according to United Nations statistics, and 320 were killed in April” (ibid).

A report published in May 2012 by *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* notes:

“Police and health officials in Iraq say bomb blasts at a pet market in Baghdad have killed at least five people...Violence has diminished in Iraq since its heights in 2006 and 2007, but there are still frequent attacks targeting security forces and civilians in apparent attempts to undermine the government or settle scores in sectarian rivalries” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (18 May 2012) *Bombs At Baghdad Pet Market Kill 5*).

A report published by *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* in May 2012 notes:

“Police and medics say up to 12 people have been killed and around 30 others injured in a series of bombings in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad. The May 31 blasts are reported to have struck a restaurant, a police patrol, and other locations” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (31 May 2012) *Baghdad Bomb Attacks Kill, Injure Dozens*).

In June 2012 *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* states:

“At least 20 people are reported to have been killed in a car bomb explosion in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad. The blast occurred outside a government-supported office that deals with Shi'ite issues in central Baghdad. Officials say the bomb killed at least 60 others are injured. The toll could not be independently confirmed. Police said the blast targeted the Shi'ite Endowment office, a government-run body that tends to Shi'ite religious sites. There was no claim of responsibility for the attack, but reports suggested that Sunni militants were suspected” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (4 June 2012) *Car Bomb In Baghdad Kills At Least 20*).

A publication by *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* in June 2012 points out that:

“Sectarian tensions have been high in Iraq since the withdrawal of U.S. forces in December, with attacks by al-Qaeda-linked Sunni Islamists still reported against Shi'ite targets” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (11 June 2012) *Iraq: Deaths reported in Baghdad mortar attack near Shi'ite shrine*).

A report issued in June 2012 by *Amnesty International* states:

“A wave of bombings and other attacks in several Iraqi provinces including a number of locations in Baghdad that reportedly killed at least 55 people and wounded dozens during a major Shi'a religious festival has been condemned by Amnesty International” (Amnesty International (13 June 2012) *Iraq: Amnesty International condemns killings of civilians during Shi'a festival*).

In June 2012 *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* states:

“Reports from northern Iraq say a roadside bomb has killed one security contractor and wounded at least two others...At least four other people have died in blasts across the country. The violence comes a day after more than 30 people were killed in two car bombs targeting Shi'ite pilgrims in the capital, Baghdad. More than 70 people were also killed in a wave of attacks across Iraq on June 13” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (17 June 2012) *Five reported killed in Iraq bombings*).

In June 2012 a publication released by *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* points out:

“Iraqi officials say two bomb blasts have killed at least 10 people in cities more than 100 kilometers apart from each other” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (25 June 2012) *At Least 10 People Killed In Iraq Bombings*).

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in June 2012 states:

“Officials say a series of attacks in Baghdad and to the north of the Iraqi capital has killed at least 12 people and wounded some 50 others. Officials said a car bomb in a popular Baghdad market on June 28 killed eight people and wounded 30, while twin car bombs killed two people and wounded 15 in Taji, 25 kilometers to the north...The deaths brought to around 200 the number of people killed in Iraq since June 13” (*Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* (28 June 2012) *Bombs kill 12 in Iraq, wound around 50*).

A publication issued in July 2012 by *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* notes:

“A series of bombings across Iraq has killed at least 33 people and wounded nearly 100 others. In the deadliest July 3 blast, officials said at least 25 people were killed and some 50 others injured in a vehicle bomb explosion that hit a busy market in the southern Iraqi city of Diwaniya” (*Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* (3 July 2012) *Bombings Kill 33, Injure 100 Others Across Iraq*).

This document also states:

“Iraq's Sunni Al-Qaeda wing has claimed responsibility for some recent bombings targeting Shi'ites” (*ibid*).

In July 2012 *Amnesty International* notes:

“A wave of bomb attacks and shootings on Monday in Baghdad and other cities across Iraq have reportedly killed at least 100 people, and left many more wounded” (*Amnesty International* (23 July 2012) *Iraq: Amnesty International condemns killings of civilians and calls for investigation*).

The *New York Times* in a report issued in July 2012 notes:

“Al Qaeda in Iraq carried out one of the most coordinated and baldly sectarian series of attacks in years on Monday, aiming for Shiite targets with car bombs, checkpoint ambushes, and assaults on a military base and police officers in their homes in an offensive that its leadership appeared to equate with the Sunni-led uprising in neighboring Syria” (*New York Times* (23 July 2012) *Iraq Insurgents Kill at Least 100 After Declaring New Offensive*).

This document also points out:

“The offensive, coming in the early days of Ramadan, the monthlong religious rite of fasting by day and feasting by night, was without precedent over the past few years, at least in the sheer number of attacks, spread over so many locations in a third of Iraq's 18 provinces, from north to south. It raised new concerns about the government's ability to contain the violence, six months after the last American troops left the country following more than eight years of occupation and civil war that upended Saddam Hussein's Sunni-led minority power base and empowered Iraq's long-repressed Shiite majority” (*ibid*).

Cable News Network/CNN in July 2012 states:

“The number of dead in a wave of attacks across Iraq on Monday has risen to 103, authorities said Tuesday, making it the deadliest day in the country this year, according to a CNN count. The attacks wounded 267 people, they said” (Cable News Network/CNN (25 July 2012) *Iraq suffers deadliest day of 2012 as 103 are killed*).

This report also notes:

“Monday's violence evoked the bloodiest days of the war, when random and targeted attacks routinely killed scores of people per day. Attacks have declined sharply since their peak in 2006, but insurgents have continued to target civilians and security forces since the United States withdrew its forces in December. Before Monday's attacks, the deadliest day this year had been June 13, when a number of coordinated attacks nationwide killed 93 people” (ibid).

In July 2012 *Reuters* states that:

“...deadly attacks like those on Monday have highlighted the deficiencies of the Iraqi security forces in stopping insurgents” (Reuters (25 July 2012) *Al Qaeda claims responsibility for attacks in Iraq*).

In July 2012 *Agence France Presse* states:

“The latest violence comes after the country suffered a spike in unrest in June when at least 282 people were killed, according to an AFP tally based on figures supplied by officials and medics. Although those figures are markedly lower than during the peak of Iraq's communal bloodshed from 2006 to 2008, attacks remain common” (Agence France Presse (24 July 2012) *111 killed in Iraq's deadliest day in two years*).

A document produced by *BBC News* in July 2012 points out that:

“Every month this year, there have been major co-ordinated attacks in Iraq, using car bombs, mortars and gunfire. Reports on the violence are routinely accompanied by the proviso that it is nowhere near as bad as it once was. But the rate has accelerated worryingly in June and July - with such attacks now being seen every few days. The targets have mostly been the Shia community, the security forces and government officials. The violence is normally blamed on Sunni insurgents” (BBC News (23 July 2012) *Iraq attacks 'aimed at exploiting fragility'*).

The *Economist Intelligence Unit* in July 2012 notes:

“According to Iraq Body Count, the number of civilian deaths averaged just over 300 per month in the first half of 2012, slightly less than in 2010-11, but far lower than in 2006-07 when the average monthly death toll was more than 2,000. Nevertheless, these figures are indicative of the ongoing insecurity in Iraq” (Economist Intelligence Unit (24 July 2012) *Iraq suffers deadliest day since withdrawal of US troops*).

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to

the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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