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Insider's View Bulletin: Inside Mosul update: Weekly analysis of violence Oct. 15 – Oct. 21

Oct. 25, 2016

Key points:

- IS perpetrated executions in Mosul hold steady
- Executions spike south of the city, as IS withdraws towards Mosul
- Frequency and lethality of attacks on IS by local insurgents continues to rise

Potential IOC impact: IOCs should note that the huge uptick in IS executions of civilians during the group's retreat from villages north of Qayara will likely encourage more civilians to flee IS-held territory, including from Mosul city. Humanitarian actors in the area do not have the resources to manage massive outflows of civilians from Mosul, and will be quickly overwhelmed if such an exodus takes place.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: This BULLETIN analyzes weekly trends in violence inside Mosul city. This includes violence perpetrated by IS – primarily executions of civilians, and less frequently, its own fighters – and violence perpetrated against IS by indigenous insurgents. A previous weekly analysis, a BULLETIN titled, "*Inside Mosul update: Weekly analysis of violence Oct. 8 – Oct. 14,*" was published on Oct. 19.

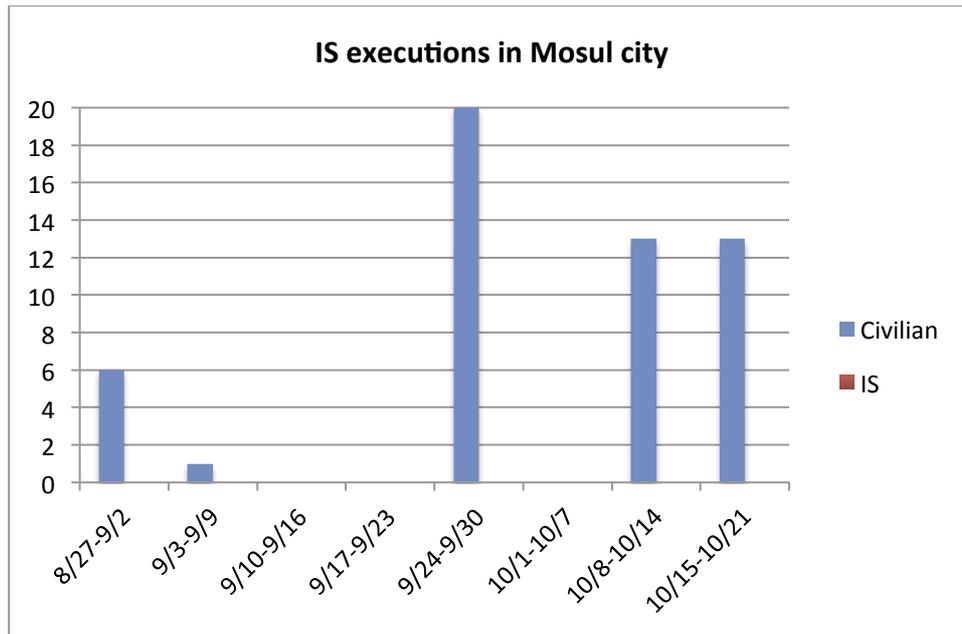
Data is collected by in house staff through interviews with a range of sources, including: IS militants, anti-IS insurgents, Iraqi security forces, KRG security forces, and a range of local residents.

Our data collection methodology does not allow us to comprehensively capture all violence in Mosul. However, our methodology is static over time, and we believe the trends we are capturing in our weekly analysis are broadly accurate, and therefore provide meaningful insight into fluctuating levels of violence inside Mosul.

For analysis of longer-term monthly trends in violence in Mosul, see BULLETINS, "*Data analysis of violence in and around Mosul,*" from Oct. 13 and Sept. 9.

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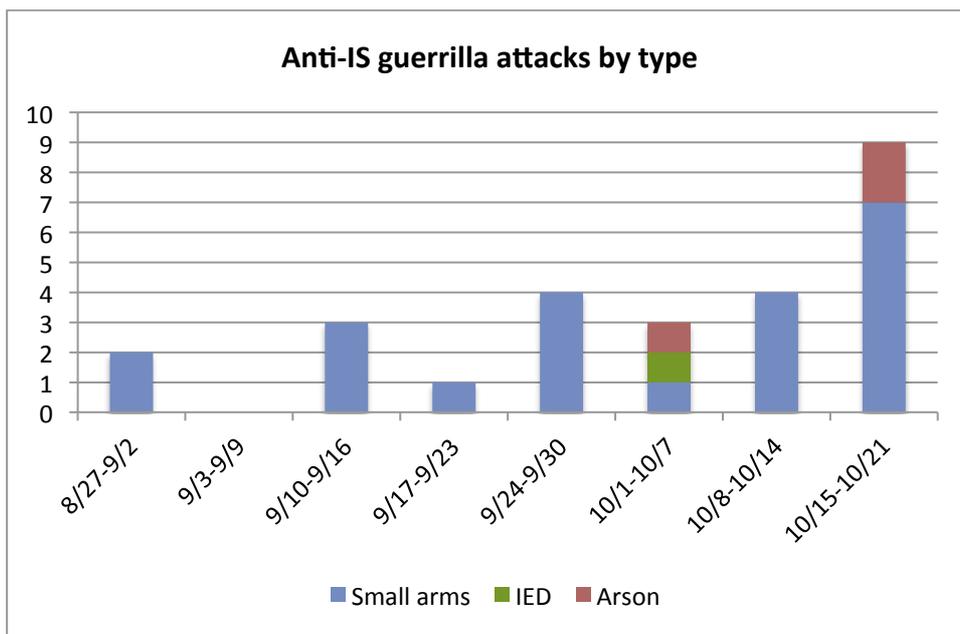
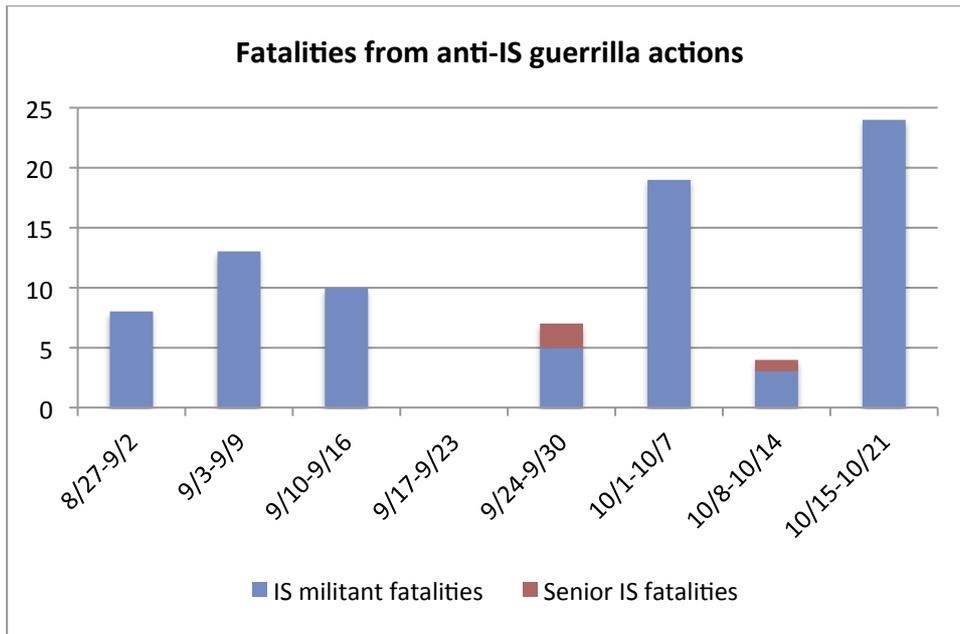
IS perpetrated violence: This chart presents a week-by-week account of IS perpetrated executions inside Mosul over the past eight weeks. It tracks both executions of civilians (a designation that includes suspected anti-IS insurgents) and of IS militants.



Analysis: As the Mosul offensive began along fronts east, north, and south of the city, IS executions in Mosul held steady, with 13 civilians reportedly killed in Mosul. As was the case last week, no executions of IS militants were noted, though such executions were a regular occurrence during the first half of 2016. However, the most significant developments of the week were the multiple reports of mass executions of civilians in villages north of Qayara and south of Mosul. As IS militants were pushed northward by security forces, they reportedly killed over 350 civilians in the area, including mass executions in al-Houd (62 killed), Shura (60 killed), and Tlul al-Nasir (as many as 160 killed).

Though these executions are outside the scope of this BULLETIN, they provide additional support for the theory that IS intensifies its execution of civilians in territories it fears will soon slip from its control. Though in the past, executions of civilians have focused on individuals accused of collaborating with security forces or taking action against IS, no particular reasons were cited for these executions. Instead, the executions can be seen as a final act of terror towards the local population, likely aimed at sending the message to civilians in Mosul not to rebel, or attempt to flee.

Violence perpetrated against IS: The following two charts track violence perpetrated against IS inside Mosul city. Locals overwhelmingly attribute the violence to Kataeb al-Mosul (KM). KM is an umbrella group consisting of at least three distinct guerilla units, according to KM militants. Former Ninewa governor Athil al-Nujaifi claims to hold command and control over the group, though the extent to which this is true is not clear. Other insurgent groups with no ties to KM or Nujaifi may well be operating in the sphere. The below charts therefore cover all anti-IS insurgent violence, and do not attempt to disaggregate attacks by actor.



Analysis: Both the frequency and lethality of anti-IS actions inside Mosul increased sharply this week, with at least eight reported incidents resulting in around 24 militant deaths, up from an average of four incidents and 12 fatalities over the first two weeks of Oct. The nature of anti-IS engagement also changed significantly, with seven of this week's incidents involving direct clashes between anti-IS elements and IS militants, rather than the ambush-style attacks seen in the past.

The guerrillas made wider use of arson in these attacks as well, setting IS vehicles and buildings on fire on at least two occasions. Members of anti-IS group Kataeb al-Mosul have also reportedly been coordinating uprisings of local residents in several neighborhoods, including Hey Summar, Intisar, and Muhandisin on Mosul's "left" (east) bank and Mosul al-Jadidah in the western half of the city (the right bank). Additionally, anti-IS guerrillas seized control of an IS weapons depot this week,

further expanding their capacity. Given this, indigenous anti-IS attacks are likely to continue and intensify in the coming days and weeks.

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