

Hawija

Shadow of Violence, Peace Horizons!



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Preface

Hawija is the great entrance of Arab to Kirkuk Governorate, a place where always was a bridge between Kirkuk, Baghdad, Salahaddin and other regions. It has become a site to confront the new regime in Iraq since 2003 whether it has been used by the armed groups or it became a discontent stage for the public at a time against the Iraqi Authorities after 2003 to a level that the people and the political movement of the region, in an era, were asking to transfer the Hawija district to an independent governorate but it was rejected by the authorities of Baghdad!

The shadow of the armed groups has always been in the region since 2003 but with different names. Despite the fertility of its lands and as an important agricultural center at the level of Kirkuk and Iraq, profound conflicts are seen in the abdomen of the region. It's said that Hawija has always been a shadow of conflict in Kirkuk and Iraq as well and with the stability of this region, it can be part of the twilight of stability and peace for Kirkuk and Iraq.

The available report is an effort of Alternative Network for Development and Democracy to highlight on Hawija district and understand the town's history, political situation, security and armed groups, economy, and the district components as well as it's an effort to shed light on the life in Hawija at the control of ISIS, the consequences of the displacement of the people and their shelling as well as becoming victims at the time of war, detaining and the mass graves of ISIS age. In addition to, shedding light on the civil society, peace and coexisting initiatives to understand the problems and conflicts and think about the solutions.

The report is prepared at a time that the situation of this region, Iraq and the entire world passing through a very sensitive stage that the transportation and rallies are limited due to corona pandemic. The preparation of this report was not easy and free from challenges due to the same reason above. The (Qualitative Approach) has been adopted in this report which is the use of semi-open interview with the interviewees. The total interviews are (35) with different components of the area including (30 Arabs and 5 Kurds) which some of them are interviews with the officials of Kirkuk and the town from political, security and administrative departments. Besides, interviews have been arranged with the representatives of the civil society, representatives of the district citizens, victims of bombardments, displaces and including the officials of Kirkuk and Peshmarga who were



there before. The 37% of the interviews are with the officials and 63% of them are with the public and representatives of civil society. The interviews were through direct meetings but sometimes to stress on the topics especially with the officials of the area, there were phone calls as well. However, the gender issue is considered in the interviews but only three women are interviewed because of the security and tribal nature of the region. The interviewing was in the locations specified by the interviewees themselves. Generally, every interview took 40 minutes. Besides these interviews for the report, a number of official documents, press releases, videos of the incidents, parties' statements and official page of the Coalition Forces have been relied on.

The barriers of the work were not easy. One of the problems was, in addition to ensuring the participants about the confidentiality of their names and personal information, but due to instability in the region, those who have been interviewed, they generally talk about the general condition and they don't respond to the personal questions in detail because of threat to their life as there several armed forces in the area. Due to the health procedures and corona pandemic we were unable to have focus group or open dialogue with many people at one place. Also we were unable to talk with women as it was necessary due to the security and transportation condition as well as the tribal nature of the region. Finally, because of not providing the accurate and precise data about the victims of the bombings, just the overall condition around this issue has been recorded.

In the end of the report, a set of conclusions and suggestions are presented to improve coexisting in the area and solving the problems, especially to promote backing the community initiatives so as not just to have stability and peace in the region but transforming the region from shadow of violence and instability to the twilight of peace, reconciliation and tranquility to Kirkuk and all Iraq.

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First part

A Background about Hawija

Security Situation of the Area

Political Situation of Hawija District

Economy Condition

First part

A Background about Hawija

Hawija is a districts Kirkuk province, 55 km south west of Kirkuk and 250 km north of Baghdad the Capital of Iraq. The district connects Baghdad with Nineveh Province. It's administratively on the Kirkuk Province. As per the Republic Order No. 387 of 1961 made district which at that time the town had a population of about 18 thousand and 600 inhabitants.

The population of the district is Sunni Arabs with a minority of Kurds. The area of the district is 1903 km² and the town has a population of about 520 thousand inhabitants according to the Iraqi Ministry of Planning for 2014 but the district population now is more than this figure. The district has three sub-districts. Al-Zab sub-district has a population of about 24 thousand and 450 inhabitants where the majority are Sunni Arabs and from Saba'awin and Jiburi Tribes. It has 14 villages and they are (Shmig, Sabbaghia, Sharia, Nimesa, Halwat, ranji, Adbis, Rawiyeen, Isbeh, A'atira, Sadr, Zraria and A'agla Al-Mheri).

Abbasi sub-district which has a population of about 30 thousand and 188 inhabitants who are Sunni Arabs and the majority are from Obaid, Jibur and a minority from Saba'aween tribes. According to the oldest people of the town, the name of Abbasi derived from the Abbasid era that they stayed in the town and there are still their remnants. The sub-district has 32 villages.

Riyadh sub-district has a population of about 32 thousand 47 inhabitants who are Sunni Arabs from Jibur, Obeid and a minority from Hadidis tribes. It has 29 villages.

The number of population of Hawija makes a problem due to the lack of official census since 2003. Kurds in Kirkuk have doubt of these figures. They believe that they have been increased to increase the number of Arab inhabitants in Kirkuk and Arabs likewise believe that Kurd inhabitants in some districts and sub-districts of Kirkuk are increased! The area of the three sub-districts is estimated by 1044 km² by the Iraqi Ministry of Planning.



Obeid, Jibur, Al-Buhamdan, Al-Bumafraj, Sada, Na'aem, Jawwala, Boryash, Hadidi and Saba'awi are the main tribes and clans who form the population of the district. Because Jibur and Obeid are the biggest tribes of the district, the chief clans have divided it onto emirates. From the center of Kirkuk till Hawija the center district is called Obeid Tribe Emirate and from the Hawija the center till Salahaddin Province is known as Jibur Emirate.

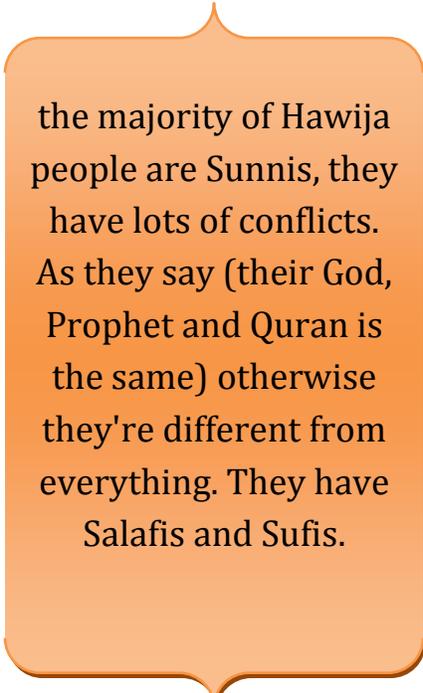
There are conflicts between both emirates on the process of elections and the security and administrative positions but jibur tribe is always ahead of Obeid tribe to make his candidate succeed and controlling the majority of the security and administrative position of Hawija district.

Hawija is an important agricultural area and is the second biggest district in Iraq in the production of vegetable, fruit, wheat, barley and corn. Prior to be controlled by ISIS, annually, it was the first or the second area for the production of cotton. The living of the majority of Hawija inhabitants is on agriculture. The Little Zab River passes through the district which is made the land feasible for agriculture. The livestock also makes an important part of the living of the district inhabitants.

After the fall of Ba'ath Regime from the rule of Iraq in 2003 which was led by Saddam Husain the former Iraqi President, part of the west and south of Kirkuk including Hawija district became a heaven for the various armed groups such as Naqishbandi and Al-Qaida sleeping cells. They were targeting the Iraqi Security Forces and civilians utilizing explosions and diverse attacks.

The parties and tribes of Hawija were asking to transform the district by governorate at the beginning of 2003 but this request was rejected by the provincial council of Kirkuk.

The relationship between Kurd and Arab is deteriorated after 2003 because the Hawija district Kurds who are now living in the Kirkuk center, have been forcefully displaced by Ba'ath loyal Arabs.



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Because the majority of Hawija people are Sunnis, they have lots of conflicts. As they say (their God, Prophet and Quran is the same) otherwise they're different from everything. They have Salafis and Sufis; the Salafis don't believe of dervish, hospice, praying and the birthday of Muhammad the Islam Prophet and exactly opposite to Sufis as every Thursday they perform solemn ceremony in the divans of the chief clans or in the Sufis' mosques. Besides, they're different in religious narration and they always have different opinions. Similar to any other places of Iraq, Salafis don't pray in the Sufis Mosques if not obliged.

Security Situation of the Area

After the fall of Saddam Husain Authority in 2003, Hawija district was the heaven for the movement of those insurgents who were against American Army and the security forces and governmental institutions of Iraq were operating, therefore; the town hasn't seen a month of serenity and a stable security condition.

On the political map located in the triangle which was called "Death Triangle" and it was meant by the Sunni areas of Iraq. The district was always under the threat of the extreme groups. In the past and in 2016, in an unpublished interview of the ISIS Rapporteur at Hawija district said that, "Any jihadist group was born has no plan at all to Hawija because this district is available for the jihadist groups".

Hawija district was controlled by the Iraqi army and district and sub-district police of Kirkuk from 2003 till 2008 but due to the increase of the number of the extreme groups and domination of Ba'ath members and supporters, the American Forces decided to form Sahwa Force for the Sunnis of Iraq including Hawija district people. Sahwa was a military force. The Americans Forces formed Sahwa Force from the tribes and clans of Arabs in 2008 to confront the armed groups specifically the remnants of Ba'ath and Al-Qaida. Later they were paid by the Ministry of Defense. The people of Hawija, shoulder to shoulder with the Sunni inhabited governorates, demonstrated against the Iraqi government headed by Nuri Al-Maliki the former Prime Minister of Iraq as a result of demonstrations of 2012 of Iraq that lasted for a year and half. The main request of Sunni demonstrators was the release of their detainees with the Iraqi Government and Kurdistan Region as well as reducing unemployment in the district. In the early morning, on April 23, 2013 an Iraqi military unit began an inspection and search campaign to arrest those who were members with the extreme groups and as activists of demonstrations mingled themselves with the demonstrators. This followed by discontent of district people and they didn't allow the



military forces to approach the square of the demonstrators and followed by a bloody incident. The clash between the army and the demonstrators began and in according to the statistics of the District and Sub-district Police of Kirkuk, 57 were killed and 113 other wounded and this incident was a reason to dissolve Sahwa Force of Hawija district.

Despite the formation of a committee headed by the Prime Minister to find out the truth about the event, the following up result of this committee has not seen so far. People of Hawija claim that a Shia military force came from Diyala and killed Hawija protestors while Kirkuk Police states that the force was affiliated with the Iraqi Army's 12th Division that they were dominant in the area from 2011 – 2014. At that time, the Iraqi Ministry of Interior announced that a special force from the Ministry of Interior has participated in this operation to arrest the Ba'ath Party and Al-Qaida members but this statement was removed later on the website of the Ministry of Interior. During the operation and the campaign, heavy weapons, helicopters and tear bombs were used by security forces, according to witnesses. Internationally, a number of NGOs recognized this calamity as the genocide of Hawija.

An intelligence officer of the 12th Division of the Iraqi Army says that on April 19, 2013, eleven gunmen attacked a military base of Iraqi Army and three elements of security agencies were killed later those gunmen were identified within the protestors and they hide their weapons there. According to the Iraqi Government decision, the demonstration area was besieged and prevented to supplies except water and demonstrators reacted against that and shot the security forces. Hence, we made sure that there were gunmen among the demonstrators and the demonstrations were ended with the security pressure. There were 19 wanted men by the security forces among the killed ones in addition to 75 wanted persons were arrested as well as the control of 35 pieces of weapon and 11 IEDs".

The security of Hawija district was controlled by 12th Division of the Iraqi Army and the Police of District and Sub-district of Kirkuk until June 2014 and with the emergence of ISIS but because the district and the three sub-districts were controlled by ISIS insurgents, they were ruled by them for three years while the areas were recaptured by Peshmarga and Coalition Forces, their security was controlled by Peshmarga and Police of District and Sub-district of Kirkuk. Following the recapturing of the district on October 5, 2017, Hawija district and the neighbors are protected by Federal Police, Local Police and Hawija Mobilization Force.



Both the federal and local police are affiliated with the Ministry of the Interior and the Hawija Mobilization Forces are affiliated with the Iraqi Popular Mobilization Forces.

Hawija Mobilization consists from the district armed volunteer forces who took part in the recapturing of Hawija district and now they are gathered under the control of Brigade 56 of Popular Mobilization Board.

The Brigade 56 is divided over seven regiments that all the commanders and soldiers are Sunnis and they are distributed over the tribes and clans; the 1st and 3rd regiments are commanded by Obeid tribe volunteer members, 2nd regiment is commanded by Al-buhamdan tribe, 4th and 5th regiments by Jibur tribe in addition to the 6th and 7th regiments are a mixture of Obeid, Jibur, Al-buhamdan, Al-bumafraj, Na'em and Hadidi tribes. The Brigade 56 consists of 1,234 soldiers.

Although Peshmarga participated in the control of Hawija district areas, due to the tensions between the Iraqi Government and KRG over the issue of Kurdistan Region referendum and the Iraqi Government regained control of Hawija district on October 5, 2017, Peshmarga withdrew in the surroundings of Hawija on October 16, 2017. Peshmarga isn't there now. The issue of regain control of Hawija and its liberation under the control of ISIS was politicized because the Iraqi government wanted to delay the liberation of Hawija to prevent holding the referendum of Kurdistan. The Iraqi government exactly did that. When referendum of Kurdistan was held on September 25, 2017, the Iraqi forces liberated Hawija on October 5, 2017 on the one hand and on October 16, 2017 regained the control of Kirkuk and dismissed the Kurdish forces.

Hawija district has become a point of accumulation for the extreme groups after 2003 and the main reason is the distress and dissatisfaction of the people against the new authority of Iraq that was not able to become the government of all components of Iraq. Whereas, some say that because the people of these areas were loyal to Ba'ath regime and the most beneficiaries from Ba'ath era, with the fall of Ba'ath, their interests were hit also. In addition to that, because of the geographical location where it's a bridge between the provinces of Baghdad, Nineveh, Salahaddin and Kirkuk, the district becomes a center for Sunni Arabs as well as due to the tribal combination of the district and the spread of weapon in the area. The increase of unemployment rate, bad treatment of the security forces with people, lack of a powerful political reference in the area especially for Sunni Arabs to pave the way for the political participation of Sunni Arabs in the political process and the authority in Iraq.



Al-Qaida, Naqishbandi, Ansar Sunna, Jaishul Islam and ISIS groups, all were present in Hawija during the last 17 years. The situation of Hawija district is still unstable. As the people of the district say that the area is under control of the Iraqi Government Security Agencies during the day and it's controlled by ISIS armed groups at night. 14 thousand unexploded missiles have been lifted so far.

The security situation of the district is complicated currently. There is availability of armed groups in the area. There is also a huge force of the government and the Iraqi Authority in the area. There are lots of their detainees with the Iraqi authorities and with Peshmarga forces. Despite the returning of the district people, they're still afraid about the future of their area and they don't know how will be settled. Even those forces, who are people from the same area and they have become armed to protect their district from the emergence of ISIS again, are afraid of another war to break out with their people of the same area who have joined extreme armed forces because ultimately, they belong to the same area, they now each other and they have tribal relations among their families!

Political Situation of Hawija District

There isn't a specific and powerful party in Hawija district. During elections, the tribes and clans divide themselves over the big coalitions of Sunni powers, although following the recapturing of Hawija in October 2017, Badr Organization which led by Hadi A'amri opened their branch in Hawija for the first time and it's decided to participate in the upcoming elections.

The political actors and tribes of Hawija district work within two political councils which their headquarters are in Kirkuk and they're Arab Political Council and United Arab Front. These two councils are consisted of the Chief Clans of Arab in Kirkuk who majority of them are people from Hawija. They make effort to transform Hawija district to governorate, freeing their detainees and solving their social problems. During elections, if the Political Council of Arab signed agreement with any political power, the opportunity of succeeding their candidates is very strong.

The Political Council of Arab has founded in 2011 and consists of 112 characters and tribes. In 2013, they asked to transform their district to governorate but their request was



rejected by the Provincial Council of Kirkuk as Hawija district is the agricultural resources source of Kirkuk and must not be separated from Kirkuk. Some of the Arabs of Kirkuk think that if Hawija changed by governorate, it will cause imbalance and will be in the favor of Kurd in Kirkuk and Kurd will be the absolute majority and they will control over Kirkuk and its oil.

Due to the conflict among the characters in the Political Council of Arab, 51 characters that are considered moderates of the council separated from the Political Council of Arab on January 5, 2019 and founded the United Arab Front that are characters from Obeid, Shammar and Hadidi tribes who are close to Kurds but the demands of this council is the same demands of the Political Council of Arab.

Jibur tribe, primarily, is a powerful tribe in Hawija district and followed by Obeid tribe. The Mayor, Chief of the District Council, Police Director Commander of Hawija Popular Mobilization and the Director of Municipality are from Jiburi tribe and Water, Agriculture and Al-Zab Sub-district Director are positions managed by Obeid tribe.

In 2013, the District Council of Hawija was elected and the result was as following: the District Council of Hawija which had 23 members, only one member of the council was Kurd and all the rest were Sunni Arabs and divided over the tribes of the district including 11 members from Jibur tribe, 5 members from Obeid tribe, 3 from Saba'awi tribe, 2 from Shammar tribe and Hadidis had only one member.

The conflict between Hawija district tribes, most of the time, is seen through the military power show.

As per the agreement of the members of the council that any member of the council if took another position, died for whatever reason or resigned, this position will not be refilled; therefore, at the end of the life of the council only 15 members remained while the other 8 members of the council were killed by armed groups.

Later, on October 28, 2019 the Iraqi Council of Representatives (ICR) dissolved the provincial councils of Iraq including Hawija District Council.



The conflict between Hawija district tribes, most of the time, is seen through the military power show. In the last armed show of Jiburi and Obeid tribes against ISIS was in May 13, 2020 when Jiburi tribe gathered about one thousand armed volunteers in a yard of Hawija district as a support to security forces to fight ISIS. One day later, Obeid tribe gathered about 500 armed volunteers with light and medium weapons opposite to the premises of federal police of the district and they announced that if ISIS attacked Hawija again, they're ready to fight ISIS voluntarily.

Economy Condition

Hawija is an important agricultural area and it's the second biggest districts in Iraq for the production of wheat, barley, corn, vegetable and fruit as well as the district was annually the first or the second region of Iraq in producing agricultural product before it was controlled by ISIS.

The majority of Hawija inhabitants live on agriculture. The Little Zab River passes through the district which makes the land feasible for agriculture and livestock is also an important element of the living of the district people.

The agricultural area of Hawija is 745 thousand and 856 acres that 76.7% of Hawija district is agricultural area but the farmers of the district utilize only 358 thousand acres those were out of Kirkuk agricultural plan for the three years during the ISIS occupation of the district as well as 4 thousand and 500 hundred farmers work on those lands in accordance to the statistics of Kirkuk Agriculture Department. The district has two silos; silo of Hawija district and silo of Riyadh sub-district.

Hawija district is divided over 72 agricultural areas; Fakhira and Imam Ismail, A'atira, Buetr, Jarshlu, Ashri'a, Daghila Said Khalaf, Gharib, Zrariyah, Kawaz Arab, Shajara, Hanjirok, Khatuniyah, Hawaii, Qariat Mai, Dub wa Saba Tlul, Tal al-Dhahab, Shmeg, Qusur Al-Marzuq, Brej, Sabaghia, Hawija Sufla, Shah al-Kildi, Al-Shak, Gagwa wa Abu Harfasha, Tal Al-Ahnaf, Asbeh, A'arich, Tlul Dhiyab, Al-Sadr, Adhraba, Wa'arat Al-Sahl, Al-Kharz, Ribecha, Talu A'abid, Wardok, Kabiba, Tal Al-Nawar, Tal -Al-Ajuad, Bagma wa Mahoz, Tal Al-Aghar, Amul A'isdham, A'arisha w Rwmmana, Dhweb, Kindi, Bakra, Sadrul Nahr, Maftul, Daghila, Tal Ali, Talul Ausud, Hajil, Hawijal Auila, Ranji, Hamchat, Mullah Abdullah, Halwaw Sagi, GHadirul Ghazal, Sharqi Nahrul A'abbasi, Mijebra, Hijil Wakhesfi, Shamali Binal Hafrain, Sewa,



Sabilan, Jinubi Baina Hufra, Ajdida, Shalighil Eid, Rijlal Haj, Hilwa Sufla, Abu Gassa, Talul Jawwal, Hilwa A'ulia, Abu Fashka, Dibis and Gara'a".

Before the liberation of Iraq in 2003, specifically during 1989 - 2001, 23% of the agricultural lands of Hawija district were taken from their original owners who were Kurds and were given to those Arab citizens had been brought from other places. According to the statistics of Board of Property Problem Settlement, more than one million and 200 thousand acres of agricultural lands out of 2 million 514 thousand and 52 acres of agricultural lands of Kirkuk Province have problem because of the policy of different regimes of Iraq that those lands were taken from their owners and were given to others.

The most important issue is the ownership of the lands and providing and not providing of water to the project of Kirkuk and Hawija from Dukan Dam which is basically is built for power production and not for the agricultural purpose.

The agricultural lands of Kurds of Hawija district are used by Sunni Arabs due to the displacement of Kurds since 2005.

In 2002 and before the fall of Iraqi regime, Hawija district was called the white district by the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture because the district was able to use 120 thousand acres to grow cotton but currently, the area is used for growing this product does not exceed 35 thousand acres because the ministry receives the product with a less price from the expenses of product as well as its price is dropped down in the local market which discourages the farmers in addition the collection of the product needs advanced equipment.

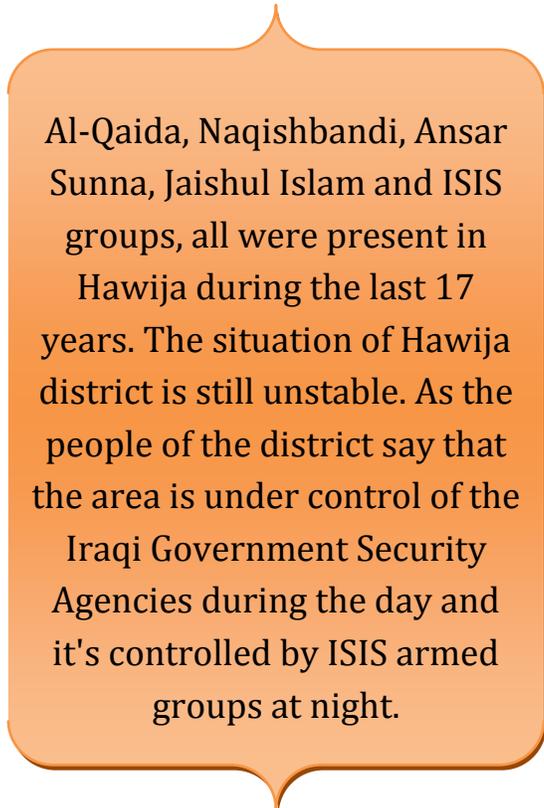
Hawija district is wealthy in oil wells and the Kirkuk oil pipeline passes through the district to Mosul and then to Cihan Port in Turkey.

Oil theft began in Hawija district in 2005 pervasively. The oil was taking to the borders of Turkey and Syria in collaboration with the security agency officers and backed by chief clans of the district and once the request of the chief clans rejected by the Iraqi government, they were directly detonating the oil pipes. In April 2014, when the oil pipe was blown, the Iraqi government didn't repair the oil pipe and still remained damaged which forced the Iraqi government to export oil of Kirkuk through Kurdistan Region to Cihan Port in Turkey.



The last attempt of oil theft in Hawija district was in April 2020 when an armed group tried to steal oil in the well No.17 of the district but their plan was demolished by Kirkuk Oil Police. Consequently, on April 14, 2020 when the Kirkuk Oil Police were coming back from Hawija to Kirkuk, a number of armed men shot Brigadier Muhammad Tahir the Commander of Kirkuk Oil Police, following a half hour resistance, two guards of the named wounded severely.

Currently, the farmers don't depend on agriculture as they did in the past due to the security instability, joining the army and having a huge number of planted mines by ISIS in the district which leads to have a large number of jobless people in the area. Specifically, there is unemployment phenomenon among those women who have become the bread winner of the families because either they have lost their men in the war or they're detained.



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Second Part

Life under the Authority of ISIS

Shelling of Hawija Citizens

Destruction of Arab-inhabited Villages during ISIS War

Doubts about a US - Kurdish Operation in Hawija

Detainees of Hawija District by the Security Agencies

Mass Graves

Displacement Condition

Families and Relatives of ISIS Insurgents

Second Part

Life under the Authority of ISIS

In June 2014, ISIS conquered Hawija district after occupying Nineveh province. ISIS controlled the district and continued until October 6, 2017. Those who were under the control of ISIS say that their life was full of anguish and despite of the strict laws of ISIS, they were afraid every day that the fighting and bombardment reaching their house and killing themselves and their families.

The ISIS armed men were issuing instructions and regulations including several rigid penalties, torture and financial fine imposed on the people of the district through the "Emirate Divan" and the Amir of the district.

The citizens who live in Hawija district say that the use of smart mobile and internet was forbidden, what they were find it right was just listening to the radio of the Islam State in Iraq and Sham, beard lengthening and Friday prayer had been obligated as duties otherwise you would be financially fined and your name will be called as a criminal during Friday prayer. If you didn't pay the fine, they would take you to laboring for the construction of tunnels, trenches and checkpoints. The punishment for smoking was 150 lashes.

For the children, wearing short clothes and hair cut western style were forbidden. After the Asr prayer, children were taught Islam lessons in the mosques every day per hour and for those who were 14 -16 years old were trained military drills.

After Mosul, Hawija was the center of ISIS policies foundation in Iraq. Despite the difficult life that ISIS imposed on people of Hawija, at the time ISIS made the district a big prison and even a hell for opponents.



The condition of women was not better than men and children. If she went out without covering her face, she would have 100 lashes imposed on her and the penalty for sitting in front of the house was 50 lashes. To go to the market, the husband had to submit the request to the Emirates Divan to get permission and they had to take the permit with them so as if they were asked, to show them the permit.

In the era of ISIS, anyone who had livestock, they were coming and taking the livestock for them and they were asking for the half of the agricultural lands. One of the witnesses said that after his brother was not ready to work in his agricultural lands because he didn't make profit, they killed him and said that he is against our authority. However, there was expensiveness that a 10 kg bag of rice was IQD 40,000, one can of tomato paste was IQD 5,000 and one 1 liter bottle of oil was IQD 4,000.

ISIS was looking to lots of the tradition of the area as (heresy) including the break of the tomb stones as the people of the district are very keen of writing on them religious poems and verses of Quran.

Once you were not satisfied to live under the control of ISIS, you had three ways and they were:

First way: with ISIS agreement through submitting a request provided that the person must be over 45 years old, didn't work before with the security agencies and with the government and either sick or has a very urgent need.

Second way: illegal way between Hawija district and Hamrin heights. The person taking this way, must choose a path which is full of hazards and terrain that majority of people calling this way "Death Path" because ISIS placed several ambushes and on the way and the terrains and whoever arrested, would be shot immediately.

Third way: it was also an illegal way through Riyadh sub-district (45 km to the south west of Kirkuk) to Daquq. The escapees took this way from (Shubaija) village of Riyadh sub-district to (Murra) village of Daquq district. The risk of this path was the escapees had to go through the battle line between Peshmarga and ISIS. Later the people of the district had to raise the white flag to get to the security forces and Peshmarga and later they were settled in the camps after investigating with them.

After Mosul, Hawija was the center of ISIS policies foundation in Iraq. Despite the difficult life that ISIS imposed on people of Hawija, at the time ISIS made the district a big prison and even a hell for opponents. In the beginning of February 2017 and in the center of Hawija, ISIS was parading 17 Peshmarga in an iron cage on the car and then burnt them. This action was not just hurting and burning the liver and the heart of the parents of those Peshmarga but deepened the tensions between Kurd and Arab in Hawija and Kirkuk. In relation to this act, an inhabitant of Hawija saying that, "In deed, we were very sad in heart but unable to stop this disaster because ISIS was against all their opponents whether Kurd or Arab. ISIS annihilated many of Kurds, Arabs and other components.

Shelling of Hawija Citizens

After ISIS controlled a large area of Iraq and Syria especially after conquering Nineveh province and many areas of Kirkuk, Salahaddin, Anbar and Diyala, the international coalition was formed against ISIS in Iraq and Syria in September 2014 and 81 countries officially joined the coalition. As they announced, the coalition had several tasks such as fighting ISIS and destroy them, prevent joining and funding ISIS as well as assisting the Iraqi forces to confront ISIS and bring about stability in the new liberated areas.

Following the formation of international coalition, ISIS insurgents changed their strategy of resistance and took their bases and headquarters inside the neighborhoods and houses to protect themselves from the air strikes of coalition forces. This is an old and inhumane strategy that doesn't have adherence to any laws of war and human rights codes.

However, international and Iraqi aircrafts when attacked ISIS, according to the statement of the coalition, published on March 25, 2020 that in the period between August 2014 till end of February 2020, the coalition forces carried out 34,791 in Iraq and Syria. In those air strikes, at least and unintentionally, 1377 civilians became victims and killed. The activists and the observers believe that the number of the civilian victims is more than what they

in the period between August 2014 till end of February 2020, the coalition forces carried out 34,791 in Iraq and Syria. In those air strikes, at least and unintentionally, 1377 civilians became victims and killed. The activists and the observers believe that the number of the civilian victims is more than what they have announced!



have announced! In accordance to the information of Alternative Network Teams, just in Iraq, about one thousand complaints are submitted to the courts in the provinces of Nineveh, Anbar, Kirkuk and Salahaddin as they ask for their rights that due to the airstrikes they have physical damages and loss of lives. What's found on the ground and besides the statistics of victims announced by the coalition forces, its estimated and expected that there are more than 10 thousand wounds in these airstrikes in addition to the damages to the infrastructure of the areas bombarded such as houses, hospitals, shops, schools and damage of agricultural lands ...etc.

A military expert told us that the main problem in the ISIS war especially in the early years 2014 and 2015 was the lack of sufficient information about most of the areas under the control of ISIS. Thus, the bombardments were not free from damages, but there were humane victims in some areas. Besides, the damages have occurred by the Iraqi aircrafts in these areas, especially because of technical, type and model of the aircrafts, experience of the crew and relying on intelligence as well as compliance with the international treaties was lower by the Iraqi aircrafts, therefore; more victims are expected. The lack of ambulance to take the wounds to the hospital and the lack of health services in the hospitals led to more victims as a result of the bombardments.

The shelling of the Iraqi and coalition aircrafts is another effect of the war against ISIS which still has remained on the life of the people of Hawija district and Zab sub-district.

On July 30, 2014 the Iraqi warplanes bombed Adria village in Hawija district where one person was killed and seven others were wounded that five of the wounds were women and children.

On August 2014 as a result of bombing Isat, Qadsiyaha and A'aiani neighborhoods, where they are in the center of Hawija district, by the Iraqi warplanes, 25 citizens of Hawija died and 32 others wounded that there were 13 children, 7 women and 5 men among the dead as well as 5 houses destroyed.

In accordance to Khalid Mafraji, the MP of Kirkuk Arab in the IRC, on September 6, 2014 the Iraqi aircrafts bombarded the front yard of Hawija hospital which 3 died and 5 injured and a large number of the doctors and staff leave the hospital. Later the aircrafts returned and bombarded the children department of the hospital which 8 children died and 2 women, 9 men and a staff of the hospital died as well as 16 others wounded who all of them were women and children.

On June 3, 2015 the Dutch aircrafts as a member of the Coalition Forces against ISIS bombarded A'awan neighborhood in the center of Hawija district where it was used as the magazine for the weapons and explosives of ISIS, 74 civilians died and 114 others wounded. There were 22 children, 27 women and 25 men among the dead people and 34 houses fully destroyed. Pursuance to the follow up execution by the Iraqi Intelligence Agency in Kirkuk, disclose that 2 F16 aircrafts and 3 missiles were used in the attack of A'awan neighborhood in the center of Hawija district. The other neighborhoods like Yarmuk have also affected and damaged. Some of the witnesses stated that, "We don't know what kind of bombs is used and we don't know what type of weapon and explosives were available in the magazine of ISIS, but what happened was a disaster. There are people who dies, wounded and others are traumatized and suffering from psychological and mental illness. The houses were destroyed to ash. At the time, we didn't know they were Dutch aircrafts. Later, in the press outlets and Dutch Government officially acknowledged that they committed such a disaster, the witnesses say that we hate Holland same like America, they ruined our life! They ask the Dutch Government to indemnify them. They ask for moral compensation, that to apologize as well as financially compensate the families and relatives of the dead and wounded people or those who have lost their homes and properties as a result of this war. For this purpose, they ask the Iraqi Government and human rights organizations to help them. They say that, we didn't know what to do at the beginning but some of us have now registered the lawsuit in court. An organization came and gathered us, took our statements and testimonies that through Dutch lawyers will request our rights. They have legitimate right to be indemnified. Hence, they recover their rights on the one hand and preventing them to join the extreme groups for retaliation as well as enduring the stability for the area on the other hand. The victims of the international coalition bombardments are paid more attention than the victims died as a result of Iraqi bombardments. It's said that, this could be an attempt of some Iraqi actors to be blended with political issues especially what's related to the drive out of the coalition forces and America in Iraq. Thus, some believe that bringing forth the issue of the bombardments'

the witnesses say that we hate Holland same like America, they ruined our life! They ask the Dutch Government to indemnify them. They ask for moral compensation, that to apologize as well as financially compensate



victims is used by some Iraqi armed groups and some of the political movements close to Iran. If this is true, it will have negative impact on the rights of the victims on the one hand and the case will take longer time and will not end easily on the other hand.

Holland is one of the 81 countries that take part in the international coalition. As it comes in the webpage of the coalition, Holland is a member of the coalition since September 24, 2014 with 4 F16 aircrafts, training the Iraqi and Kurd forces to fight ISIS and has granted 458 million euro. Besides, Holland has backed the international team of ISIS accountability and pays attention to the human rights and coexistence case.

Following the shelling of the Dutch aircrafts, the Iraqi aircrafts, on June 11, 2015 bombarded the popular market of Hawija, Al-Tahadi Bridge, Al-Hasaia and Danadish neighborhoods in Hawija district that resulted in killing 47 persons and 59 others wounded including 13 children and 9 women among the dead.

In addition to that, on July 23, 2016 in Al-Zab sub-district, the Iraqi aircrafts bombed a house of 7 persons believed that it was the home of an (Emir) of ISIS but as one of the relatives of the victims said that the Iraqi government still has not recognized this incident and we avoid talking about this issue so as not to call us ISIS and not to be arrested.

The witnesses say that, when the aircrafts bombarded a place, the civilians were killed and Jasim Shukri who was from Algeria and he was an ISIS Emir in Hawija district visiting the home of the dead and wounded people calling them to fight against the government and he was reading enthusiastic speeches for the wounded and handicapped victims. Jasim Shukri was saying that the goal of the Iraqi government and atheist countries is not to eradicate us but the Shiite State attempts to reduce your number in the district that's why they fight you, you must in return fight them. This pushed a number of the families who lost their sons and loved ones to join ISIS insurgents to revenge.

In relation to the indemnification of the civilian victims of the bombardments conducted by Iraqi aircrafts, the majority of the people who have talked within the scope of this report believed that there is a special law which is amended in 2020 even includes the victims classified according to the second amendment of law (indemnifying the affected people from the military operations, military faults and terror actions). Unfortunately, this law is less used to include the victims of the bombardments or there was reluctant according to some articles such as the Article 9 of the same law.

Destruction of Arab-inhabited Villages during ISIS War

The destruction of 23 Sunni Arab villages of Hawija district and the surrounding of Hawija is another case which always has been an issue by the Ministry of Peshmarga of KRG and the administration of the district because most of the time when Peshmarga is accused of destruction of the houses of Hawija district citizens, the officials of KRG respond to this claim.

Those 23 destroyed villages which the most prominent ones are Gubiba Sufla, Gubiba A'aulia, Idris Khaza'al, Idris Khabbaz, Hidiniyai Kon, Hindiylai New, Mryam Bag, Smailawa, Mansuriyah, Nahrawan, Talul Ward, Maktab Khalid and Said Khalafa supposed that they had been destroyed by Peshmarga using bulldozer without clashes occurred inside.

The commander of south axis of Peshmarga Force of that time stated that even one house has not been demolished utilizing bulldozer but all of them destroyed due to fighting between Peshmarga and ISIS, an ISIS insurgent enters a house and resisting there, we were obliged to demolish the house besides that several Peshmarga were martyred when entering a house of a village.

The biggest villages among the destroyed ones are Gubiba and Idris Khaza'al. Gubiba village consisted of 200 houses before the ISIS war and all inhabitants of the village were Fidayi Saddam during Ba'ath Party Regime. This village was known by the security agencies as a place for arresting Al-Qaida armed men during 2008 -2014. After the emergence of ISIS, 53 of the families of the village displaced and the rest remained inside the village. The village was bombarded by the coalition aircrafts for having a large number of ISIS insurgents and this is why there are only 11 houses there now, returned and reconstructed the village while all the rest are destroyed completely.

Idris Khaza'al also consisted of 84 houses before the ISIS war and is one of the villages where most of its houses were demolished and now there are only 14 houses and 70 others are destroyed. The inhabitants of the village live in Kirkuk camps and they're saying that they will not return to their place of residence unless they're compensated by the government.

Opposite to the statements of Peshmarga commanders, the Mayor of Hawija says that in accordance to the statements of several witnesses of our district villages, Peshmarga blew

up their homes or demolished them using bulldozer to eliminate the identity of Kirkuk Arab and not to return to our place of residence; therefore, a large number of the people of those villages are displaced in the camps and unable to return to their place of residence.

The dossier of the villages destructed during ISIS war exists in other areas of Daquq district and Nineveh province besides Hawija. One of the actors accused of this dossier is Peshmarga. These actions are mentioned in several international reports. On their side, Peshmarga force and even KRG have responded to them and they have acquitted themselves.

The destruction of 23 Sunni Arab villages of Hawija district and the surrounding of Hawija is another case which always has been an issue by the Ministry of Peshmarga of KRG and the administration of the district

Doubts about a US - Kurdish Operation in Hawija

Conducting of a Kurd-America joint operation on a prison of ISIS in Hawija and freeing tens of hostages was controversial.

This operation was executed on October 24, 2015 by the American forces and Anti-Terror forces of KRG Security Council. Some of Kurd officials claim that the objective of the operation was to rescue Peshmarga prisoners under control of ISIS but there wasn't even one Peshmarga or Kurd among the 69 survivors whereas there were 20 members of Iraqi Security Agencies among the survivors without announcing their names and positions.

As per the proceedings, there were several persons who were important sources of Iraqi Intelligence Agency that if they confessed, majority of the secret eyes inside ISIS would have been disclosed. This operation had nothing to do with the rescuing of Peshmarga prisoners or the imprisoned people inside the jails.

This operation subjected the live of Peshmarga prisoners into danger as they were imprisoned in Hawija district and later the operation ended with the slaughtering of three Peshmarga.



On December 31, 2015, in a thorny battle between ISIS and Peshmarga, 18 Peshmarga were taken captive by ISIS. The video shot of the imprisoned Peshmarga was published two times after their captivation. In the first video, they were placed in a number of cages and parading them inside the market of Hawija and later another video shot was published where showed the slaughtering of three imprisoned Peshmarga which was as a result of the operation.

As per the announcement of Pentagon Media Secretary about this operation, the operation was executed on the request of KRG. The American Special Operations Forces backed an operation of KRG Security Council to rescue the hostages in a prison of ISIS 5 km away from the center of the district as there was information that ISIS will kill them all because they assist the Iraqi Security Agency.

This joint operation between Kurds and coalition forces was questioned by people of the area that what was happened and what was the objective on the one hand and on the other hand, there were strong criticisms against Kurdish Forces because of the operation; if you have such great military and intelligence abilities, why weren't you able to rescue Peshmarga prisoners under the control of ISIS in Hawija?!

Detainees of Hawija District by the Security Agencies

The issue of Hawija district detainees since 2008 and so far has brought to forth by the chief clans and Arab Political Council in Hawija district and accusing KRG security agencies for arresting their relatives because of joining the armed groups such as Ansarul Sunna, Qaida, Naqishbandi and ISIS.

In the earl of 2018, the Iraqi Ministers Council sent a form to Kirkuk Administration for the citizens of Kirkuk who have doubt that their relatives are detained by the security agencies. Within only one month, one thousand and five persons filled the form and later handed over to Rakan Sa'aed the acting Governor of Kirkuk.

At that time, in a press conference Rakan Sa'aed said that, " Those who have filled the form their relatives are arrested by both PUK and KDP security agencies, the central government and KRG have to provide explanation to the prisoners or their families so as to know the reason of their arrest and to be released through the dialogue".



He continued and said that, "Despite the complaints, I criticize my people (he meant by Hawija district) due to their support of ISIS insurgents, more than 7 thousand people killed". Rakan Sa'aed is from Hawija district and following the incidents of October 16, 2017 was appointed as acting governor of Kirkuk.

In January and later in September 2019, Sulaimaniyah Security Agencies sent 92 prisoners back to Kirkuk with two phases; the handing over of the first phase was secret and as per the agreement between PUK officials and Rakan Sa'aed the acting Governor of Kirkuk, and the second phase was as per the agreement between the Anti-terror Agency of PUK and the Operations Commander of Kirkuk.

Following the visit of the Iraqi Republic President to hand over their detainees, the handing over of the detainees to Kirkuk security forces started with two phases but the process stopped, Rakan Sa'aed, the acting Governor of Kirkuk said.

In return, both security agencies of PUK and KDP stress that all of those have been arrested are detained according to the Article 4 of terror and as per the judge decision and no one was arrested without a crime. It's said that the detainees of PUK are imprisoned in Suse, an area between Tasluja and Dukan. In May 2020, the issue of Hawija detainees brought to forth by PUK and their families and Kirkuk Arab forces make effort to return to bring them back to Kirkuk. In return, because PUK, as per the results of the last elections of the Iraqi parliament, is the biggest party in the city and wants to have more role in the administration of Kirkuk.

Mass Grave

A number of mass graves were found after regaining the control of Hawija via those witnesses who were seeing ISIS insurgents burring people alive or burring their dead in mass graves.

In the military base of Bagara (the former military base of Ba'athe regime) 10 km away from Hawija district and one of the villages where ISIS executed a massacre and there is a mass grave there. There are the bodies of more than one thousand victims killed by ISIS which it has not unearthed yet, a witness said. A former member of Hawija District Council said that some of the families of the ISIS war victims believe that their son or husband is



alive and is imprisoned by ISIS in Syria. Therefore, the administration of the district is careless to unearth the mass graves for fear of victims' families' revenge.

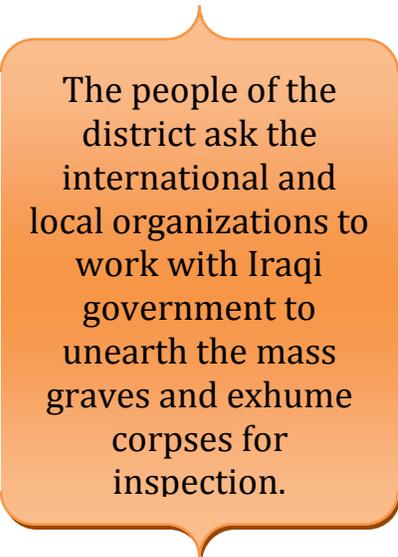
A witness who was shepherd during ISIS control on the area said that ISIS had dug lots of pits and trenches in their area and they were daily bringing people with red clothes to Bagara, killed them and throwing their bodies. Some days, ISIS was bringing 30 persons and shooting or hanging them in front of people and they were throwing their bodies into pits and covering them but most of the time the head of the victims was covered that was not clear who they are.

This witness saying that we were not releasing our dogs because they directly were going to the mass graves and ISIS was insulting us and they were saying that we spy on their operation locations.

This witness also said that ISIS was burring alive the employees of security agencies and those who were fleeing under their control in Bagara mass grave.

The people of the district ask the international and local organizations to work with Iraqi government to unearth the mass graves and exhume corpses for inspection.

The biggest mass grave is in Bagara and we're sure if the international organizations want there are several others of mass graves in Riyadh sub-district and the villages between Mosul and Hawija, according to the member of Hawija District Council.



The people of the district ask the international and local organizations to work with Iraqi government to unearth the mass graves and exhume corpses for inspection.

All mass graves haven't been discovered yet, according to the officials of the district. Those mass graves locate in different places in the district and there are also in the sub-districts and the villages. For instance, in Ghabatul Ba'air in A'abbasi sub-district near to (AbulJes) village and tens of other mass graves. In accordance to some of the photos published by federal police of some of the mass graves of Hawija, there are remains of women and children and there are ropes and wires which indicate they were tied before burring them alive.

Displacement Condition

In the last 15 years, Hawija population has been displaced for three times; in 2005 due to the threats of Naqishbandi Group against Kurds population of Hawija which a large number of Kurds displaced, they still live in Kirkuk and haven't returned yet to their places of origin. A Kurd member of Hawija District Council explains that the percentage of Kurd in the district doesn't exceed 2% while before 2003 the percentage of Kurd was 22% in Hawija district.

The Kurds of Hawija district state that lots of people who are still loyal to Ba'ath Party and gathered under the umbrella of Naqishbandi Group prevent Kurdish families to return to the district as well the security and administrative officials of the district are silent for not returning of Kurds to Hawija district.

After ISIS insurgents occupied Hawija district and the sub-districts of Hawija, 102 thousand and 708 citizens of Hawija district who all were Sunni Arabs displaced to Kirkuk Province, according to Kirkuk Immigration and Displacement Director. Some of them distributed on the camps and some others stayed in the center of Kirkuk on their request. There are 63 thousand Hawija district citizens who still live in the camp of Laylan and inside Kirkuk the city and they don't return to their places of origin.

We talked to a number of displaced in Kirkuk camps and they linked the reason for their not returning home to the bad condition of security and not compensated by the Iraqi government as their houses are destructed because of ISIS war.

Meanwhile, after recapturing Hawija district by the Iraqi forces, again 235 returnee families of the district forced to be displaced and going back to the camps doubting they were families and relatives of ISIS and they must be kept under the control of security forces inside the camps.

One of the returnee families to the camps said that we are not families and relatives of ISIS but our houses were demolished by the officials of Popular Mobilization forces when regaining control of Hawija district in 2017 and once we expressed our discontent against their action, we were beaten and threatened by PMF brigades.

The villages claimed they have been demolished by PMFs and their people have been forced to migrate again are; Safra 21 houses, Azarban 7 houses, A'alwiyah Jadid, Garha



Ghazan 6 houses, Kharifi 11 houses, Kaisuma 5 houses, Kifah 4 houses, Maftul 9 houses, Marata 3 houses, Marabtau Said Hamid 8 houses are demolished. We also mentioned these villages that they had been destructed by Peshmarga forces and their people went to Hawija but later majority of them displaced. Those who live in the camps have very tough live in the winter and in the summer. They have bad life in all aspects. Those who even live inside the city, they have a bad economy condition and they're always under the continuous surveillance of the Iraqi Forces.

The people of the district say that unless the security of the district is controlled by the Iraqi security forces (except PMF) and not compensating our damages, we can't go back to our place of residence. The living of a Hawija displaced citizen could be tougher than another one because of their displacement like any other displaced person and on the other hand because of the doubts and accusing them being families and relatives of ISIS. One of them said that, "The problem is we're all mixed as Hawija displacement people because some of the people of our district joined ISIS and destroyed our life even for people like us, we were either against or not with ISIS". Consequently, most of those whom we talked to, they ask to settle this issue as soon as possible. It's impossible the innocent and accused to be treated the same and it's impossible to go on in such a way. Let prosecute those who are accused and those who are affected and innocent must be respected. The living and security must be provided. It's impossible, after 17 years, Hawija remain instable and inside the crime cage against Shiite Arab on the one hand and against Kurd and other components on the other hand.

Families and Relatives of ISIS Insurgents

Hawija district was one of the districts that become a heaven for the armed groups after 2003 and liberation of the district by American forces because the district is on the main highway of Tikrit and Beji to Mosul and connecting them with Syria and Turkey. As a result of ISIS frailty, majority of the Iraqi areas are about to normalize but the concerns of the security agencies of Kirkuk increasing because they know the activities of the sleeping cells of ISIS is increasing in this district.

The groups including Qaida, Naqishbandi, Ansarul Sunna, Jaishul Islam and ISIS were all present in Hawija district in the 17 years. Qaida Organization benefited a lot in this area



during 2004 – 2014 and soon it was able to have a foothold there. The extreme militants developed rapidly and became a huge problem for the American Army and the Iraqi Government but Qaida was always in conflict over the authority with Ansarul Sunna and Naqishbandi Organizations (as it's said that most of them are former members of Ba'ath Party).

The insurgents of Ansarul Sunna and Naqishbandis were against coalition forces. Therefore; they were implementing violent activities against those who were loyal to the government of Iraq and coalition forces opposite to Qaida insurgents, who had members from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Syria, were carrying out violent actions against all security and governmental staff which most of the time the relatives of Ansarul Sunna and Naqishbandi insurgents were targeted who were from Hawija district and this was deepening the conflict between them.

In 2008, when both groups, Ansarul Sunna and Naqishbandi, killed 4 senior officials of Al-Qaida, Salih Al-Salawi, Shahadha Al-Jalawi, Abu-Ayman Al-Shami and Abu-Adnan Al-Tala'afari, Al-Qaida killed 15 elements from Ansarul Sunna and Naqishbandi as revenge and the most famous person among them was Abdul-A'aziz Al-A'abz who was leading the Naqishbandi group.

Naqishbandi group, as the people of the area said, is a Sufism group and led by Izat Ibrahim Al-duri, Deputy of Saddam Hussain when Ba'ath ruled, and majority of the group members are from Hawija, Tikrit and Diyala. They believe in the return of Ba'ath Party to power through carrying out armed activities for this purpose.

Jaishul Islam was carrying out violent activities independently. The group is formed from those extremists who had Salafism ideology and they emerged in Syria after the liberation of Iraq in 2003 as well as the group was carrying out violent activities against the staff of security agencies through explosions and shooting them using silenced pistol and plastic bombs from 2004 until the emergence of ISIS.

All the different groups became members in ISIS after the control of Hawija by ISIS insurgents but the leaders of Naqishbandi group didn't accept to be controlled by ISIS and ruling them. Thus, there were clashes between them in the area but later their problems were solved by some characters of the area.



Naqishbandis were not accepting the foreign ISIS insurgents to rule Hawija district which was a conflict between them. Those foreign ISIS insurgents were calling people of Hawija and the members of the various groups have to repent at their hands and this was rejected by the people and they were saying that, "We're not unbelievers so as to repent at the hand of Afghans and Pakistanis".

Hawija was the last place liberated under the control of ISIS but so far the security agencies arrest or kill the members and key individuals of ISIS in this district which the latest operation was killing of 12 ISIS insurgents on April 19, 2020 and according to a former member of Hawija District Council, those ISIS insurgents who were killed, they were people from Hawija, Zab and Abbasi.

There are families of ISIS in Hawija district after their returning to their places of origin. They're permitted to return to their places after they guarantee their quittance from the security and intelligence agencies, Hawija District Administration, the Mukhtar (the elected) of the neighborhood where they live and then Brigade 56 of Popular Mobilization of Hawija within PMFs Board, then they will be permitted to return to their places of origin and the quittance has been completed so far for 373 families of Hawija district from 2017 – 2019. The quittance form of those families, who found their people with ISIS had a position or committed big crimes such as slaughtering, mass graves or blew up houses of people, will not be completed and granted. Some of the witnesses said that there is corruption because some of the relatives of those ISIS members bribe relative officials to recover their quittance.

In addition to that, there are a lot of ISIS family remnants who are from Hawija, Salahaddin and Diyala Provinces are placed in the camps of Laylan 1, Laylan 2, Khala Baziyani and Yarinja to the east of Kirkuk. They are one thousand and 124 families and they don't go back to their places of origin because they're afraid to be harassed by PMFs. So far, 17 families of ISIS have been tortured after their returning to Hawija district, A'abbasia and Zab sub-districts for raiding their homes. Some others remained in the camps because their houses are destructed as a result of ISIS war and some others cannot return because their relatives in ISIS practiced violence against people of the area, because people of the region know each other and they have social relations.

However, the commander of North Axis of PMFs says that, "Whenever we raided a house, we relied on the information of the intelligence, we raid the remnants of ISIS families who still their husbands or sons have relations with ISIS and they're not killed as well as we



request them to surrender themselves to the security agencies. Sometimes, the employees of the security agencies have been shot inside the houses or there was an IED for the security forces near the house of the ISIS family remnant; therefore, we preserve our right to suspect and ask the ISIS families to provide information about their husbands and sons where they are.

It's said that the members of Jibur tribe approached ISIS when they ruled Haqija; therefore, this tribe is accused for backing the armed groups.



Part Three

Civil Society Condition

Coexisting Initiatives

Part Three

Civil Society Condition

Since 2003, several organizations have been founded when the establishment wave of NGO started in Iraq. This was opposite to other areas of Iraq that majority of the organizations founded inside the city centers. In Hawija, there are several organizations working on human rights and peace building that some of their activists have become prominent ones not just on the level of Hawija and Kirkuk but on the level of Iraq. Some of those organizations had to move their place of activity to the center of Kirkuk because of the violent action in the area. Currently, as one of Hawija activists stated that all the 16 CSOs of Hawija district of the Kirkuk governorate have gathered under one name (Hawija Civil Society Organizations Network). Although it was intended all organizations work together, they have done two joint projects after the liberation of Hawija and they were the cleaning of Hawija district and distribute food on low income families, otherwise they work alone but all the organizations are under this network in Hawija district.

The organizations are (Inqadh, Qusarul Qama, Hawija Institute for Human Rights, A'ajman, Al-muhandis, Al-Jabal, Madhallah, Ahia, Rozh, Small Community Organization, Psychological Guidance, Iraqi Amal, Al-ghad and Tiiba) in addition to several other international organizations and agencies present if the district intermittently such as OXFAM, IOM and....etc.

In the era of ISIS, no organizations were present in Hawija because ISIS was not permitting the working of civil organization and the organizations were unable to work there. Therefore; the CSOs were working in Kirkuk about displacement. After the liberation of the district, majority of the organizations have returned and they're working.

Hawija district has a society called Hawija Youth Society which consists of university and institution students. They do volunteering work and their last activity was the cleaning of Hawija district water in coordination with Hawija District Directorate of Water. The women of the district are in a bad condition that they're entirely imprisoned and not free even their activists when they take part in the activities, they're prevented to publish their names or photos. Besides, women have been made into second-class citizens by men of the



district. Despite the bad condition women have in the district, they don't have any organization specific to women issues. On the other side, there are labor syndicates in the area and they have intermittent activities. Hawija district has only one press outlet which is New Radio of Hawija.

In general, the focus on the civil efforts in Hawija district is:

First: Although, the history of Hawija organizations' foundation is not new, one of the problems of those organizations is instability of their area, lack of cadres in organizational field and what's available is male and has worked for long years.

Second: The impact of their projects is not known exactly due to the instability in the area and lack of close monitoring by the international partners although they are well funded.

Third: Majority of the organizations of the area are those who have activities in the other areas as well. Most of them went there from Kirkuk and execute their projects that even majority of their cadres are not from the area so as to be an opportunity to create civil society cadres in the area.

Fourth: There are less volunteering and civil initiatives if compared to Nineveh and Salahaddin Provinces.

The revival of civil society in Hawija needs capacity building and supporting them according to a clear strategy considering organizations' work in the area provided that to focus on the new cadres of the area from both genders. Therefore; the UN Agency and international organizations must pay attention to this issue.

Coexistence Initiatives

After 2005, The Kurds of Hawija district displaced to Kirkuk and they haven't returned so far to the district because of the many threats from Naqishbandi Group insurgents. Despite the relationship between the chief clans of Jibur and Obeid with Hawija Kurds well-known characters, it hasn't been possible to share these relations with the grass root and Kurds of Hawija always find themselves (oppressed) and even Hawija tribes and clans haven't tried to normalize this relationship.



In addition to that, there is an intense conflict within the Sunni Arab tribes in Hawija district especially between Obeid and Jibur tribes as Obeid tribe believes that they own Hawija district and that's why when the name of Hawija is called, it's called Hawija of Obeid but majority of the positions are controlled by Jiburi tribe. The initiative of both Sheikh Anwar Al-A'asi, Chief of Obeid tribe and Shikh Kamil Jiburi has remained weak and they still attack each other in the gatherings and meetings.

During 2008 – 2011 the Iraqi Non-violent Group which was supervised by Massallah Organization for the Development of Human Capacity, they concentrated on Hawija district. They announced several initiatives for peace and coexistence but they were intended for awareness not reconciliation initiative. On December 15, 2017 Sanad Organization held a peace conference for 50 figures of the south west areas of Kirkuk including Hawija. As per the conference announcement, the participants of the conference agreed upon the key principles of peace in the area that involved many of the official, social and tribal figures of the area. Kamil Jiburi, Chief of Jiburi Tribe and Chairman of Hawija Tribes Council participated in the conference and he clearly stated that the reason this conference is held there is anxiety and fear among the people of the area after ISIS. With the coming of ISIS, some people of the district from all tribes and clans promised them and "violence and killing" executed against people. Kamil Jiburi says that, " This ideology still remains in the mind of some of Hawija tribes and need to work more for developing more understanding to create the spirit of brotherhood, coexistence and peace among the tribes.

This initiative impact was also ended with the end of Sanad Organization project because it was not followed up and not evaluated. This is another reason for the failure of peace initiatives in Iraq which is not continued and it's for a limited time. In fact, peace building process needs more time, effort, capacity and experience especially for an area like Hawija.

Non-sustainability and lack of continuous peace project in the area made the people of the area to always depend on the chief tribes when they have problem during elections or giving them a security position or administrative or any other problems, the chief clans directly intervene and normalize the situation.

Prior the recapturing of Hawija district, there was fear of retaliation by tribes against one another because they were accusing one another for supporting ISIS insurgents especially Obeid tribe was accusing Jiburi and Saba'awi tribes for supporting ISIS insurgents though this was refuted by their chief clans and they were always saying that, " A person can't be taken as a standard for a tribe".



Most of the people we have interviewed them in this report, believe that the peace process and its initiatives in Hawija must work in parallel on different issues, such as:

1. Working on the orientation of those who lost authority in 2003 in Hawija and those who are in power now.
2. Working to build joint capacity and finding common points among different tribes of the area.
3. Working to build the relationship between Arab and Kurd tribes of the area.
4. Paying attention to the reconstruction and revival of the area as well as creating job opportunity for the people of the area.
5. Working to develop civil society and encourage women and youth of the area.
6. Working to mitigate the impact of extreme violence speech in the area.
7. Working to establish the local peace committees and backing their coexistence, social and cultural activities in the area.



Part Four

Conclusions

Recommendations

Part Four

First: Conclusions

1. The area is important geographically especially it's located in the circle of (Nineveh, Kirkuk, Salahaddin and Baghdad). It has importance for the national conflict between (Kurd and Arab) in Kirkuk. It has importance for the sectarian conflict between (Shiite and Sunni) on the level of Iraq. In general, these issues made the area a center of conflicts since 2003 and so far.
2. There is conflict among the Arab tribes themselves due to the tribal combination of the area that has affected the distribution of power in the area among the tribes without having a formal written agreement among them.
3. There is an intense conflict among the diverse groups of the area such as between those who consider themselves Salafis or Sufis, between armed men of Hawija Popular Forces and extreme armed groups or even between those who support the extreme armed groups over the power of foreign insurgents in the area.
4. There are lots of victims in the area whether those who are victims of ISIS and extreme armed groups or those have been affected as a result of the military operations especially by PMFs, Iraqi forces and Peshmarga forces or those who have been affected by International Coalition Forces especially by Dutch Forces.
5. There are a lot of displaced people of the area. Some of them are after 2003 specifically the Kurds, those who displaced because of violence and the threats of the extreme groups before ISIS especially the activists of the area. The big wave of the displaced was during ISIS and later who they're now in a very bad condition. This dossier must be solved and the people must be returned willingly and providing them with the returning path and their needs as well.
6. The district suffering from different economic crises, although it's a fertile agricultural area. The level of development is bad, basic services are low and the rate of unemployment is high.
7. The phenomenon of armaments and arming of clans is available in the area which it has impact on the level of violence and dangerousness of conducting violence in the future continues.

8. The initiative of peace and reconciliation in the area is weak and temporary. The groups of peace and coexistence are not present and even cooperation on the civil and volunteering level is rare and very preliminary. The presence of women and youth is very weak in the initiatives.
9. There are many mass graves that the Iraqi government and international relative actors must pay attention to this issue in a competent manner which it has importance for the process of transitional justice.
10. There is lack of local peace center in the area.

Second: Recommendations

The recommendations we propose here are different in content and relative actors to solve the problems but we're demonstrating them in general:

1. Implementation of transitional justice phase normally, all the phases must be implemented and including all the parties.
2. Solving the issue of displaced people of the area and indemnifying them, including displaced Kurds and Arabs in all stages even ISIS.
3. Solving the issue of Sunni Arabs participation in the central government and the administration of Kirkuk that to end up the feeling of being tyrannized after 2003.
4. Paying attention to the reconstruction of the area, developing and creating job opportunities as well as providing basic services in the area instead of arming the people of the area improperly and with carelessness.
5. Relying on a local joint force from the people of the area, including all the components, to protect the security of the area. Connecting the security provision and the stability with the people engagement in the process of providing people social and economic needs to prevent the reemergence of any extreme groups and organization in the area.
6. Compensation of civilian victims who died during war and their properties are damaged or their health is affected by either the Iraqi forces or international coalition forces especially by Dutch Forces.

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7. Find a legal and suitable mechanism as per the local and international laws for the protection of human rights for those who are called families and relatives of ISIS and solving this dossier as well as not mixing the innocents with the accused.
 8. Making effort to recover trust among people of the area, enhance dialogue and cooperation among different components of the area.
 9. Backing CSOs and their projects, paying attention to the role of youth and women, build their capacity and support their initiatives.
 10. Establishment of local peace committees in the area including all various components and build their capacity to be able to gather the cultural, artistic, civilian, religious, social and individual efforts for peace and stability in the area, to be trusted by people as well as working for coexistence and peace building in the area.



Alternative Network for Development and Democracy, is a network that founded and consists of a number of CSOs with the code No.5099 at the end of 2019, it's registered with the Department of NGOs of Kurdistan Region. It gives importance to the issues of development and democracy.

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