



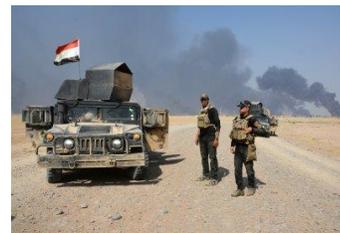
NJOHSP *at a glance*

YOUR WEEK IN REVIEW | August 29, 2016

What If Mosul Falls? ISIS Terrorist Attacks Against the West Not Likely to End

The Iraqi campaign to retake Mosul, the stronghold of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in northern Iraq, is a necessary component of the effort to defeat ISIS; but even if ISIS forces are driven out of Mosul, they are likely to revert to insurgency, guerrilla warfare, and terrorism. If the group suffers a major defeat at Mosul, it will likely lash out with terrorist attacks against the West. The group's external operations program is based in the Raqqa area, in northern Syria, and an ISIS defeat at Mosul would not necessarily lead to an immediate degrading of its capability to attack in the West. Even if defeated at Mosul, ISIS will still have a capability to conduct attacks in the West and to inspire attacks by homegrown extremists in Western countries.

Although ISIS forces have been weakened during the past year, the Iraqi campaign against Mosul will be long and difficult. (Photo shows Iraqi forces gathering near the staging area at al-Qayyarah.) Mosul is the largest city in northern Iraq, and ISIS has had more than two years to entrench its forces and to build defenses. ISIS will tenaciously defend its major stronghold in Iraq, and as has been seen at other locations such as Ramadi, Tikrit, and Fallujah, the defense will make extensive use of booby traps, roadside bombs, and suicide car-bombings. ISIS is also likely to use the civilian population of Mosul as human shields.



Syria: ISIS Loses Its Last Crossing Point on the Turkish Border

On August 24, opposition units with the Free Syrian Army, supported by Turkish troops, tanks, and airstrikes, drove ISIS fighters out of Jarabulus, on the Syrian/Turkish border about 60 miles northeast of Aleppo. Jarabulus was the last border crossing on the Turkish border that was controlled by ISIS, and its loss will impede the flow of foreign fighters and supplies into ISIS-controlled territory.

The incursion into Syrian territory marks a major escalation of Turkey's involvement in the civil war in Syria. Turkish officials have stated that the goal of the military operation is not only to push ISIS forces away from the border, but also to prevent Kurdish forces from extending their area of influence farther to the west in Syria. Further complicating the already complex war in Syria, Turkish airstrikes and artillery have not only attacked ISIS positions, but also Kurdish forces belonging to the US-supported Syrian Democratic Forces.

Indonesia: ISIS Supporter Fails to Detonate Bomb During a Crowded Church Service

A man armed with a bomb and an ax attempted to detonate his explosive device during a crowded Sunday Mass at a Catholic church on August 28 in Medan, on northern Sumatra Island in Indonesia, but the device burst into flames instead of exploding and wounded only the attacker (photo shows suspect in custody). As he continued running toward the altar, he took an ax from his backpack and swung it at the priest, slightly wounding the priest's hand. Members of the congregation then subdued the attacker and held him until police arrived.



Police said the attacker, an 18-year-old from Medan, had items with ISIS insignia in his possession. Under interrogation, the attacker said that he was not working alone, according to a police spokesman, who provided no additional details. An investigation into his connections with other ISIS operatives is under way. Although Indonesia is the world's largest Muslim-majority nation, about 10 percent of the population is Christian. This is the third ISIS-connected attack in the country this year, following a coordinated suicide bombing and shooting attack at a shopping mall in Jakarta in January and a suicide bombing at a police station in Solo in July.

Contact Information

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