

## Mosul Al Qadima and Al Akidat, 03 August

### *Mosul Al Qadima*

The neighbourhood remains an highly insecure area. Clashes are ongoing as ISIS fighters continue to be found in tunnels and along the eastern edge. It is still being cleared for IED and UXO contamination. Clearance often involves controlled detonations of explosives, this is potentially causing serious damage to civilian properties, as seen in other neighbourhoods.



*Civilians walking north through Mosul Al Qadima*

Access into Mosul Al Qadima was gained via the road through Al Orouba. Federal Police at the entrance to Mosul Al Qadima claimed that there are no civilians inside the city, and none coming or going via the road. Rise took the main road towards Al Nuri Mosque and saw one civilian on the street. CTS rapidly blocked any interview, claiming that the man was a thief who was there to loot. The man was allowed to carry on walking down the street.

Rise then drove down the main route heading south and were again told by ISF that there are no civilians in the neighbourhood. Several hundred meters down the road we saw several families standing in the streets. They claimed that they had been let in by Federal Police to the south. They were returning briefly to check on their property and collect any important possessions. They are renting accommodation in other Mosul neighbourhoods and said they cannot afford to buy new items to furnish their homes and therefore came back to retrieve essential household items to bring to their rented accommodation whilst they are displaced from Mosul Al Qadima. It appears that these civilians are predominantly entering through the south west and south central edges of Mosul Al Qadima and are primarily just returning to properties in this corner, though this could not be verified. It is unclear if ISF troops spoken to did not know of the civilian presence or were avoiding acknowledging it.

The civilians were not being escorted by Federal Police through the neighbourhood, though one family was seen being given a lift by them with household items back out of Mosul Al Qadima. Families all claimed that they had been warned by Federal Police of the

dangers of IEDs and UXO in the neighbourhood and some did not know if their home was clear or not. Some had heard stories of other civilians returning home and being killed by IEDs.

Other sources are citing this as a common concern for civilians reentering Mosul Al Qadima, as well as the neighbourhood of Al Zinjili where civilians are returning but where it also remains highly contaminated. An assessment could not be made in Al Zinjili on 03 August due to increased security measures after remnant IS fighters attacked security forces in the area. Rise previously reported on 10 July that families are returning to Al Zinjili despite contamination risks. A Coalition spokesperson on 04 August publicly acknowledged risks returning families face, saying that common household items, including light switches, have been rigged with explosives.

Potentially similar contamination risks may affect returnees to Tel Afar after the cessation of military operations there. Rise encourages relevant actors to liaise with their government and security counterparts to ensure safe returns, including when residents seek to return briefly to collect essential items.

#### *Al Akidat*

A brief assessment was made in Al Akidat. The situation is largely the same as Rise reported on 17 July. More families have returned to the northern edges of the neighbourhood. One resident said that he is in touch with displaced neighbourhood residents to encourage their return to facilitate the reconstruction of the community. A NGO is providing food and weekly water trucking but residents complained that water tanks on top of their buildings are also in need of repair after sustaining damage during shelling. One resident complained that food and water are not being fairly distributed and those with personal connections to the distributors were receiving more. Several residents complained of frequent looting of homes at night by unknown perpetrators pushing carts. They said they didn't intervene to stop the looting due to fear of physical attack. Some shops have also begun to reopen in the northern half of the neighbourhood.