

Update on Tel Afar Displacement, Badoush Town and Hay Dijla Village, 14 August

Over the past week, the number of IDPs fleeing from IS controlled villages surrounding Tel Afar to the frontline in Bwer (also named Al Zanazil) has rapidly increased. The influx of IDPs is occurring ahead of the looming offensive on Tel Afar, which is the next stage of operations to retake Ninewah from IS. On 14 August Rise observed multiple truckloads of IDPs arriving at the mustering point located a few kilometres from the frontline. Other groups of IDPs were being transferred to the screening site in Badoush. Military and humanitarian actors estimated that approximately 2,000 IDPs arrived from Tel Afar's outskirts on 13 August. In comparison, on 31 July Rise reported that approximately only 30 - 100 IDPs arrived daily at the frontline near Bwer. IS occupied Tel Afar and a few outlying villages are surrounded by the Peshmerga, ISF and PMF forces. The Peshmerga are defending the northern border whilst ISF and PMF forces are surrounding Tel Afar from the other sides. Estimates of the population inside Tel Afar district vary from 20,000 - 40,000. This is reduced from a population of 200,000 - 500,000 in the district before ISIS took control. The ratio of people in the city compared to the countryside is not currently known. The population of Tel Afar city was historically almost entirely Turkmen, approximately 65 percent of which were Sunni and the others Shia. The population of Tel Afar's surrounding villages, where many of the IDPs are fleeing from, were a mix of Turkmen, Arab, and Kurdish.

The Badoush transit and screening site and checkpoint, located along the Syria road to the west of Mosul, is now manned by Federal Police fifth Division

Bwer (Al Zanazil) Mustering Point

The Bwer mustering point has been moved from its previous location at the petrol station one kilometre west. The current mustering point sits approximately three kilometres behind the frontline. Iraqi Army 15th Division have now been replaced by Iraqi Army 16th Division in the area. The mustering point appears to be run by 16th Division's military intelligence. **The mustering point is now based in an empty house and the walled space around it. Women and children are kept inside the house whilst the men are kept against a wall outside, with limited shade.** The house will likely be unsuitable for an increasing volume of IDPs. An NGO is expected to provide shelter kits within a few days. The site itself has not received any indirect fire since its establishment. However, it is within two kilometres of a military site that has received IDF in recent days.

IDP Arrivals

According to the ISF, NGO workers, and IDPs; all IDPs are coming from villages on the outskirts of Tel Afar city and not from the city itself. This may be because the front line is still far from Tel Afar city and IS are actively blocking escape attempts. There is also a common perception amongst ISF and IDPs that most of the people left in the city are IS families. If this is the case, such civilians in the city may therefore be unwilling to flee.

Most IDPs at the site are women and children but men and older persons were also observed. IDPs are fleeing overnight and arrive at the frontline in the morning. Some individuals are reportedly being paid to help guide people safely out of Tel Afar, these individuals are not IS. Reportedly IDPs that arrive during the night are no longer made to wait until morning before crossing the berm, they are now being taken to several empty houses or tents near the point they arrive at. They are kept in these shelters overnight before being taken on to the mustering point. Some IDPs are still walking for up to 24 hours as they first flee north towards the Peshmerga line but are then having to walk southeast until they reach the ISF as the Peshmerga are not accepting IDPs.

Two IDPs who fled from Tel Afar surrounding villages in the past few weeks told Rise that the journey under the hot sun is long and arduous making it too difficult for many older and disabled persons. One person said he passed four bodies on the displacement route. A medical worker said he treated a woman the day before who claimed to pass nine bodies on the displacement route.

IS is blocking civilians from fleeing. One IDP said that his family unsuccessfully tried to flee four to five times but were forced back by IS fire. Conditions in his village, Abu Miriam, are harsh and water is scarce. Water lines are open only from approximately midnight until 6am every day.



There is currently limited shaded space for the men at the site.

IDP Screening

Men and women are separated at the Bwer mustering point for cultural and security reasons. Although not confirmed by the ISF, some IDPs, mostly men, appear to undergo screening at the mustering point based on information collected from other IDPs and key informants in Tel Afar district to identify potential IS suspects.

The ISF said that IDPs stay approximately one hour at the mustering point before they are moved to Badoush.

Medical Concerns

One NGO stationed near the mustering point is helping to evacuate injured IDPs to Badoush screening site. Another NGO is planning to open a medical clinic there in the coming days while another's ambulance was also seen driving towards the mustering point.

A medical NGO is now offering basic medical assistance to IDPs at the mustering point. The clinic has three doctors and one pharmacy. NGO workers said they are treating cases of hypertension, dehydration, extreme exhaustion, and individuals with light wounds. They

have yet to see skin disease cases but expect to receive such cases in the coming weeks. Other reports suggested that some IDPs were arriving with gunshot injuries.

Humanitarian Needs

An NGO operating at the Bwer mustering point was seen distributing water and food items. Reportedly this is done every day from 9am until 5pm. One ISF officer said that the ISF are providing water and food to IDPs from their own rations and so are in need of additional NGO support. More food and water is required.

Badoush Town

Security

The entrance to the village is currently guarded by the Emergency Response Division (ERD). Inside the village, there is a heavy military presence including Iraqi Army 16th Division, the Counter Terrorism Service and the ERD. According to returnees at a local shop, the heavy military presence has encouraged recent returns to Badoush.

Rise interviewed a senior member of the local 'Badoush Commandos Regiment' Hashd. He said the group was formed six months ago but it was only granted official approval from the central government about two to three months ago. The member said that they have approximately 800 people in the force but that they have yet to receive salaries. Registration with the PMF was assisted by Iraqi MP Mohammed Nouri, who was born in the area.

Returns

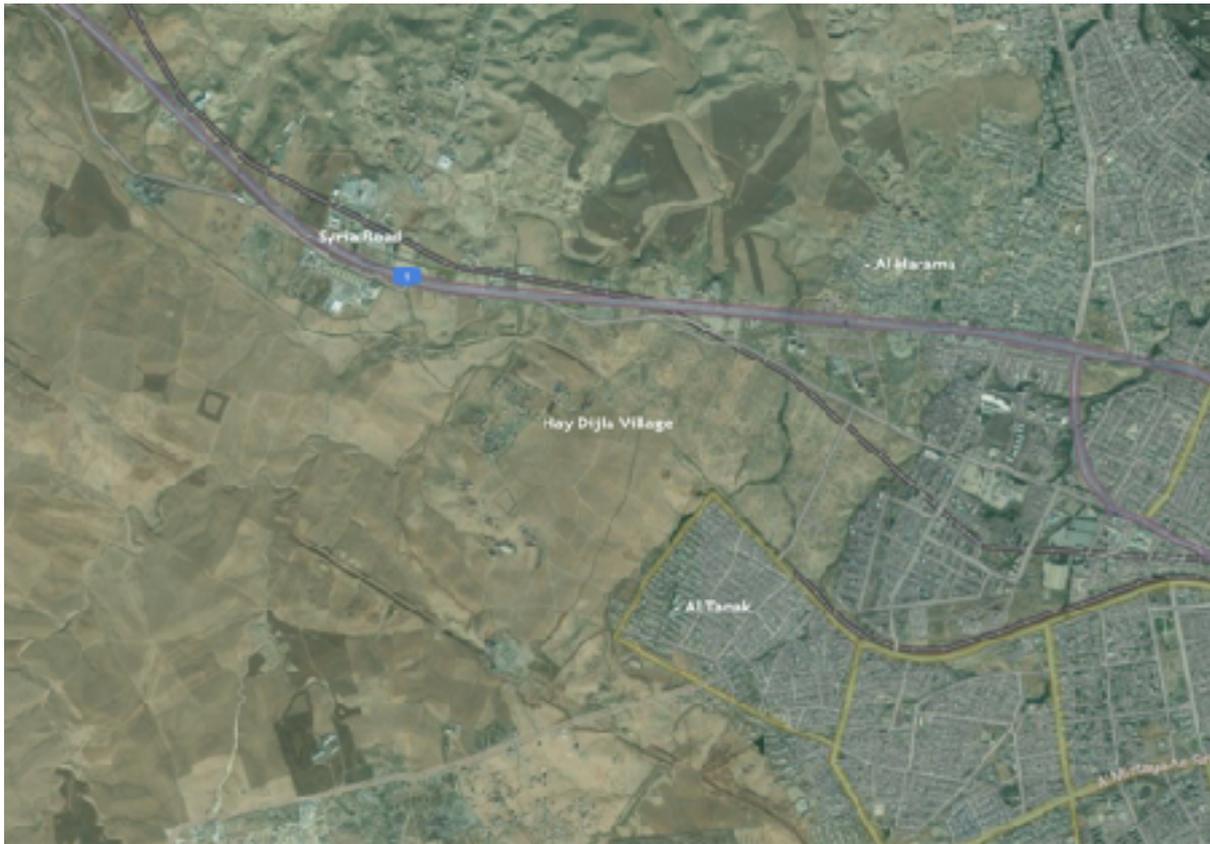
The Hashd member claimed that approximately 40 percent of the village's 5,000 families have returned. The Public Distribution System office is up and running again. Individuals are required to show permanent residence cards to be allowed back in the village. Those without cards must provide four sponsors to secure their return to the village. One resident said that those who were displaced to Badoush that were not registered for residence there after 2003 are no longer permitted to return to Badoush except in very exceptional circumstances although this process remains unclear.

According to residents, the water project is functioning. The village is partially powered by the national grid, with some areas only receiving four hours of electricity a day. Residents said that they are not currently paying for the national grid because they have no funds to do so. There is no generator in the village. There is only one government clinic in the village but it lacks sufficient medication.

Residents complained that they lacked livelihoods and had few work opportunities. Military forces are supporting civilians with water and food however their capacity is limited. It was estimated that there are 125 - 150 female headed houses in Badoush. Residents said that ten percent of houses were destroyed during clashes. Military forces are currently staying in civilians' homes, forcing some civilians to stay with family or friends in the meantime. Military forces have started to scale down their presence recently however and more are expected to leave in the coming days.

Humanitarian Assistance

One resident complained that several NGOs conducted assessments in the village over the past month but that they have yet to receive assistance following these assessments.



Hay Dijla

Hay Dijla is a village on the outskirts of west Mosul, one kilometre south of Syria road at 36.354251, 43.04195. The village was liberated from IS in early May. Before displacement the village had a population of 500 individuals, currently the vast majority have returned however reportedly about five to eight families are still in camps.

Security

ERD and Iraqi Army 9th Division were the main security actors in the area following the liberation of the village. However in preparation for the Tel Afar offensive these actors were withdrawn and now Federal Police is securing the area. Federal Police are stationed along the Syria road. A group of policemen in a Humvee stay at the village overnight for the village's security. There has been recurrent screening in the village by each security actor. One resident said that before the liberation of the village a document with all the names of IS affiliates had been created and was then passed on to ISF.

Livelihoods

Before displacement the village was primarily a farming community (the other main source of income before ISIS was working for the municipal government). The government would supply them with wheat and barley seeds and in return a proportion of the harvested product was provided to the state. However, the village has not restarted farming and consequently there is a dearth of livelihoods. Recommencement of farming is delayed for two reasons. The government has not resumed distributing seeds and resident farmers remain wary of the presence of IEDs/ERW in fields which have yet to be properly cleared. One resident claimed that at least 6 IEDs had been found in a field near the village and Mosul's Al Tanak neighbourhood alone.

As well as a lack of income, only one or two residents in the village have pensions that can support them and their families. Others are obliged to rely on savings or loans from their

neighbours. Residents must now buy flour for bread whilst in the past they harvested it themselves.

Public Distribution System (PDS)

The PDS is not active in Hay Dijla. Residents said that historically a settlement must have 100 families to merit a PDS agent and that the population of the village was not large enough to reach this threshold. Instead, residents must go to Al Tanak or Al Aslah Al Zira'i neighbourhoods in west Mosul to collect the PDS. Now that the population is over 500, residents are planning to apply to the Directorate of Food to be granted their own PDS agent.

Water and Health

Hay Dijla does not have a borehole and is not near a water source, accordingly the residents rely on water trucking. The price for 10,000 litres is 30,000 IQD. The water is reportedly causing health issues amongst children. Although the village is close to Mosul city, hospitals in Mosul were not perceived as satisfactory as there is not enough staff, equipment or medicines. Therefore residents go to private Primary Health Care centres that are expensive.

Electricity

Electricity is hard to come by in the village, the main generator was reportedly requisitioned by security forces and they are not on the national grid. People are therefore mostly cooking with wood fires as gas is too expensive.

Shelter

There are approximately 95 houses in the community. During the fighting in May, seven houses and the mosque were reportedly totally destroyed while five to six houses were partially destroyed. Another five to six were badly burnt by IS. Reconstruction efforts have started, money for rebuilding has in some cases been obtained by borrowing money from neighbours. For those whose houses are destroyed, some are still staying in camps, while others are either in tents or with relatives in the area. There are five IDP families in the village from Mosul and Bwer.

Distrust between Hay Dijla and ISF

Residents in Hay Dijla reported ongoing distrust of the residents by the ISF. They claimed that the ISF saw them as IS affiliates because 12 - 13 IS members originally came from the village. Residents noted that this distrust is not unique and that it is common in surrounding villages as well.

Residents complained about frequent looting as a one person claimed that a private generator, a few cars and all their private weapons have been requisitioned. Each rotating military force present in the village have searched and confiscated any private weapons. Residents claimed that the ISF's refusal to provide water, the confiscation of weapons and looting are indicative of the level of distrust. The village's Sheikh is not interested in starting a local militia unless the government can provide the funding and weapons.

Residents have not started searching for work with either the ISF or PMF. This is because the military forces change frequently and residents are uncertain about who to join. There also seemed to be a certain level of anxiety towards security forces.

Humanitarian Assistance

The village has not yet received any aid from any actors and reportedly no NGO has responded in the area. As was seen in Badoush and from Rise's assessment of the nearby village of Khirba on 21 July, many of Mosul's outlying villages appear to be in dire need of NGO assistance. There is a danger that given the proximity of these villages to Mosul city and the aid that is perceived to be being sent there, social grievances could be fostered as

populations feel that they have been forgotten or left out. This is especially relevant as many of these outlying villages are poorer and more tribally affiliated than Maslawis, and there is already a social differentiation between the groups.