



encountered no sign of civilian stayees or returnees during the assessment, but it is a large and extremely dense neighbourhood.

As seen in other neighbourhoods, some civilians are continuing to be let in sporadically to check their homes and collect important belongings. One man was seen stacking cinder blocks in front of his house to discourage looting until he can return home permanently. It was claimed by ISF that these civilians are escorted through the neighbourhood. However, on the day of the assessment 2 people had been killed by an IED when they reentered their home. This led to a block on any other civilian access for the rest of the day. It's not clear how common such deaths are, but Rise reported on a similar event after the 17 July assessment.



*Buildings along the main road running horizontally through Mosul Al Qadima*



### *Orouba*

The neighbourhood of Orouba lies directly west of Mosul Al Qadima. It was estimated by several locals that approximately 200 families, 50% of Orouba's population prior to the battle, had now returned to the neighbourhood. Many homes house up to 5 families. Housing cooperatives like this are common in Mosul. It was estimated that there may be 2 female headed families within the neighbourhood and a few IDP families from Mosul Al Qadima.

Several shops were open across the neighbourhood, although approximately 30 - 50% of the customers for these stores are military. Lack of livelihoods or savings to buy from the shops was cited as a key issue for residents. Several residents complained about looting by Federal Police when they were responsible for the neighbourhood.

There has been limited NGO food and water support for the neighbourhood. Locals complained that aid that was meant to be for their neighbourhood was regularly getting taken by people arriving from other neighbourhoods. This concerned distributions that happened at the nearby Yarmuk Circle, and it was not clear if these distributions were officially meant to be only for Orouba residents, or if this is just the locals' perception. One PDS distribution has occurred over a month ago when there were just 26 families in the neighbourhood. There has also been some private water trucking. Residents are relying on private generators for electricity, paying 6000 dinars for 1 amp of electricity for 6 hours.

ISF forces have begun a new process of house to house screening in west Mosul. Whilst limited screening has already been conducted in some neighbourhoods, this appears to be part of a formalised process to screen the whole city. As seen in east Mosul, this process involves sealing a neighbourhood for a few hours while forces search houses and screen residents inside. Orouba was reportedly screened 3 days prior to the assessment. Locals' IDs were checked during the screening. Locals were then given a form to fill in for their Mukhtar within several days. This form required families to provide a list of members and copies of several forms of ID for each individual, including residents card and a PDS card. The Mukhtar was then responsible for providing these details on to the ISF. When locals do not have copies of their ID, the Mukhtar and other locals are responsible for vouching for the individual.

#### *The Industrial District of Wadi Egab*

Historically, in Wadi Egab there have been hundreds of shops and factories including mechanics, ice factories, blacksmiths and carpenters, amongst others. These places are beginning to reopen, it was estimated that perhaps two dozen are now functioning again. Workers in the neighbourhood do not live there and people interviewed were residents of a variety of west Mosul neighbourhoods. They relied on their own transport as well as taxis to get to work. Previously, many staff would also travel to work from east Mosul.

The neighbourhood has suffered severe damage. Its infrastructure was used extensively by ISIS for weapons manufacturing. Accordingly many buildings were destroyed by airstrikes. Local workers claimed that many civilians had been killed by such airstrikes. There are also reportedly a number of former weapons factories that are still contaminated with IEDs and UXO. Locals also complained that the ISF EOD teams were not defusing explosives but were simply detonating them and damaging structures in the process. They also claimed that there had been some looting by soldiers, but they put this down to bad individuals and not wholly representative of the ISF. Similarly to as was noted in the Rise 17 July update, Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq graffiti was seen in the neighbourhood.

Haras Nineveh and Iraqi Army 9th Division are responsible for the area's security. Many of the Haras Nineveh troops are not locals but are from villages west of Mosul. Locals raised no concerns with either of these forces. However, Haras Nineveh troops at a checkpoint warned Rise not to trust the locals and suggested that they were wary of local ISIS support. Factory workers claimed to be coordinating with the security forces to inform of

any ISIS members in the area. They stated that 4 days previously they had seen half a dozen ISIS members in the nearby neighbourhood of Al Haramat. These ISIS members were identified due to their disheveled appearance and that they were not known to any of the locals. Locals notified Haras Nineveh who arrested them and then later they reportedly confessed to being ISIS members. Details on the judicial process that was followed during these arrests were not provided.

On the day of assessment, far fewer Haras Nineveh troops were seen stationed across the northern parts of east Mosul than usual. Reportedly there had been a personal dispute between Haras Nineveh troops and members of a local tribal Hashd the previous day. The details of this are not known, as is whether it is related to the reduction in troops.



*A street in central Wadi Egab*

The armed forces in Mosul are a key source of income for businesses. Staff at an ice factory estimated that up to 30% of its sales were to the various armed forces. The factory sell a 1 meter block of ice for two thousand Dinar. Most civilian customers buy the ice to sell on across Mosul for three or four thousand Dinar but the price can fluctuate up to eight thousand. The water is trucked from Badush and Hulaylah water projects.

A group of workers reconstructing a cafe inside the neighbourhood estimated that up to 25% of shops and factories are now being rehabilitated by their owners. This was hard to verify as the assessment took place on Friday morning and accordingly the neighbourhood was especially quiet. The manager of the cafe was also repairing his car workshop and was concerned that there were not enough possible customers for the amount of businesses reopening, given the widespread lack of income and savings. Aside from the lack of money for customers to use such businesses, two other main reasons were cited as inhibiting the regeneration of the neighbourhood's businesses. Firstly, the lack of a bridge for civilian vehicles over the Tigris is severely inhibiting access from the east for materials, staff and customers. Nasr bridge currently only allows civilian traffic on foot, vehicles must go via the Nimrod bridge to the south. The second reason is the ISF's implementation of a ban on

anyone staying inside the neighbourhood after 6pm. Historically, the businesses would hire night guards to protect their shops overnight. Currently the ISF are not allowing this which is putting many owners off reopening their businesses until night guards are allowed. However, the ice factory on the edge of the neighbourhood was reportedly allowed to have staff stay overnight to ensure the generators kept functioning.

### *Hulaylah and Khirba*

An assessment was also conducted a few kilometres to the north west of Mosul in the villages of Hulaylah (36.382756, 43.037895) and Khirba (36.38826, 43.049344). Hulaylah is reportedly still empty of returnees, and no civilians were seen in the village. The village is being used by the Iraqi army who are blocking people from returning. Many of the residents are reportedly in nearby villages to the south such as Damarchi, though this could not be verified.

Khirba is a village of 35 houses, of which 28 are inhabited. One of the houses was destroyed by an airstrike and two others were damaged by ISIS. The village's families are very large and the population was estimated to be up to 500 people. Those that have not returned have found other work or places to live and are not expected to return. The village has no electricity or piped water. A nearby water project that services only the village was identified during the assessment (36.394768, 43.039149). The local responsible for its management had said he had heard from the Mosul Water Directorate that an NGO was going come to repair it this week, but he had not heard confirmation of when this was happening. Currently locals are using donkeys to carry water back from the Tigris. This water is occasionally making people ill.

Residents complained that they had received no NGO assistance, despite their village being a key route of displacement and NGO aid during the ISF offensive into Mosul through the area in May. Historically, residents had access to a doctor in Hulaylah, but are now travelling into west Mosul for health care. Residents have access to a few private vehicles for transport They are relying on their livestock for their livelihoods but claimed that this would not be enough to support them long term.

The area is reported to be cleared of IEDs, though there had been very few to clear as the village had not been defended by ISIS during the battle. The Iraqi army have imposed a curfew on the village between 18:00 and 08:00, there is also a checkpoint on the way to the village through Hulaylah. It is uncertain currently how widespread such curfews are across west Mosul.



*Locals also complained about damage to the road into the village. The arches used to cross a wadi during winter floods have been damaged.*