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Battle of MOSUL data and expectations

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Introduction:

In early hours of Monday October 17 ,2016, Haydar Al-Abadi, Iraqi prime minister, announced starting of the battle to control Mosul under an operation called (we are coming, Nineveh¹) from the clutches of ISIS which is dominated the city on June 10, 2014.

Strategic significance of Mosul:

Mosul is considered the center of Nineveh province, Iraqi's second largest city where residents of province are gathering with number of 1.5 million people. Tigris River crossed it and located about 350 km north of Baghdad.

Due to the strategic importance of battle of Mosul politically, military, geographically and even socially, the following parties are participating or trying to participate the battle:

Iraqi's central government, alongside Shiite popular mobilization forces, Sunni tribal mobilization, Iran by advisers and military experts, Peshmerga forces that followed the Iraqi Kurdistan, international alliance forces led by USA, Turkey alongside the National mobilization forces and Kurdistan workers' party.

Geographical significance:

Mosul is considered the link between Turkey, Syria and Iraq, including the Kurdistan region, so all parties affected by the results of the battle of Mosul, are seeking to participate to ensure their interests.

Political significance:

The importance of this battle that it came before the end of the presidential term in USA for Barack Obama , before starting the scheduled next presidential elections on November 8 ,2016 ,and thus Launching of the operation is a denial the charges of republican party's candidate that Obama's administration has allowed ISIS to carry out terror operations internationally² ,and at the same time ,liberating of Mosul from ISIS before elections will contribute in granting president Obama and thus the candidate Hillary Clinton a political accomplishment which can be invested politically in USA.

1 Statement of launching battle of Mosul, entitled " urgent, commander of the armed forces, Haydar Al-Abadi announce starting operations to liberate Mosul" Iraqi satellite channel, 16.10.2016, seen on 18.10.2016: the [link](#).

2 US senator for CNN : Obama administration deliberately turned a blind eye for risk of ISIS and practiced deception about Qaeda " CNN Arabic 19.2.2015 , the [link](#).

Also : Obama will announce new security measures to fight terrorism" DW , 5.1.2010 , the [link](#).

Iraqi's central government considers the battle as the only way to keep Iraq united³, and emanating from this motive as a cause in full rejection of Turkish military intervention in the battle, while Turkey considers its involvement in the battle as a need to save its national security from risks of ISIS and Kurdistan workers' party, and from increasing Iranian influence as part of the regional rivalry between the two countries, also Iran considers Mosul as a main link on the "new road of silk" which is linking Iran with the Mediterranean⁴ on ground and Iran is seeking to create it for decades.

PKK exists in Mosul district, in Chenkal (Sinjar) since its participation in battles of control last year, which came under the pretext of protecting the Yazidi Kurds, and the failure of Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga forces of its duty to regain control of the region.

The party has called since then to hold an inclusive national conference between the Kurdish forces and parties in order to "accomplish the historical tasks and fix all favorable conditions in favor for the major issue⁵, and these forces can take advantage in the battle to progress in the axis that they are in, as an ideal partner for the international alliance forces in fighting against terrorism of ISIS.

While **Iraqi's Kurdistan government** focusing on the importance of the battle of Mosul from being afraid of the Iraqi's central government of exploiting the restoration of the city in order to re-establish Baghdad's authority over the territory, in addition to the lack of desire that the next local government in Mosul to include Sunni Iraqis who are not friendly to Kurds such as former Ba'athists.

And thus, it can be summarized the importance of Peshmerga's engaging in the battle in seeking to find allies for the region in the city to support the policies of the Kurdistan government which have been negotiated with the central government that is generally centered about strengthening the autonomy of regions and provinces to get a greater share of the national income⁶.

The importance of **ISIS** keep controlling Mosul is because of the city is one of its most important strongholds in Iraq where Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi announced the birth of succession from pulpits of its mosques, and if ISIS lost Mosul it means that the organization lost its economic reservoir from oil production in Al-Qayara that the governmental forces

3 Al-Abadi : Iraq is now more unified than before the fall of Mosul and the Turkish presence impedes liberating it" communist party of Iraq . 18.9.2016 , the [link](#).

4 Amid Syrian chaos, Iran's game plan emerges: a path to the Mediterranean. The guardian, 8-10-2016.

5 Statement regarding the liberalization of Chenkal, issued by the Democratic Union Party , 13.11.2015 , the [link](#).

6 Renad Mansour , article entitled : Mosul after ISIS , strategy of Kurdistan , Carnegie Center , 19.5.2016 , the [link](#).

has controlled it.

Also, the fall of Mosul means the decline the power of the organization in Syria where it is also facing a contraction of its influence and control areas as a result of the Turkish operation Euphrates shield.

Social significance:

Arabs form the majority of the population in Mosul, divided between several religions such as Islam Christianity, and Assyrian, in addition to -Kurdish and Turkish nationals, and religious minorities such as, Al-Sabeiah, the Yezidis, Zoroastrianism, Al-kakaiah, Assyrian and Shabak.

The importance of Mosul battle on social terms of being restore thinking about dividing Nineveh into many provinces according to the national and religious model, so there will be special cities for Christians, Yazidis, Sunnis and Shiites independent from each other and protect themselves.

This division idea is compatible with the similar demands of national mobilization led by Athel Al-Noujaify who is the former governor of Nineveh, also creating Nineveh region⁷ is compatible with similar demands of Al-Anbar officials.

This proposal comes at a time when Iraqi central government has only the administrative system which was existed before ISIS controlling, and it is based on a single province includes all towns with various components.

Military significance:

The importance of the battle in military terms is that it leads to the isolate the power of organization in Syria, which facilitates launching a decisive battle in its second main stronghold (Raqqqa) and thus nearly completion of the organization which is the he main goal the international alliance led by USA was formed for, and also the battle will contribute in enhancing us forces in the depth of Iraq especially in Qayara military base which controlled it several months ago and located about 58 km Southern of Mosul.

On the other hand, the military success of the battle will lead to strengthen the allies' confidence of the Iraqi army which its corruption and the weakness of its military institutional structure was the major reason for ISIS controlling on Mosul and to cover 40% from the lands of Iraq.

In light of military battle's results, the future of popular mobilization and national mobilization will be determined, and also the type and time of military existence of Kurdistan

7 MP; Al-Noujaifi wants to divide Nineveh for four provinces" Al-Hadath Iraqi channel , 24.8.2016 : the [link](#).

workers' party which based in Sinjar district, and the Turkish existence in Ba'ashika camp also will be determined especially in the presence of a belief that turkey is seeking to build a wide military base for its fighters to ensure staying in Iraq for long time.

Time to talk about the battle of Mosul

In Military terms:

Talking about the battle of Mosul is before controlling the border town with Syria (Sinjar) by Peshmerga forces and PKK mid-November 2015.

Before the battle, Masoud Al-Barazani, president of the region had discussed the preparations for battle of controlling Nineveh⁸ with the president Ousama Al-Nujaifi, and after controlling of Sinjar, Barazani announced that this will affect the restoration of Mosul.⁹

Iraqi army controlling on Khaldeyah island supported by popular mobilization forces has contributed in paving the way to control Sharqat district on September 22, 2016 , which provided a fire separating line between Salah Uddin province and Nineveh , and thus the goal of Fajr Al-Sharqat battle was to cut the supply road of ISIS between Hawija and Nineveh, thus tightening the siege applied to Hawija¹⁰.

Controlling of Qayyara town ,southern of Mosul on august 25 ,2016 , and a month earlier, controlling of its military airport which is an important hub for transportation, helped to push military plans of the battle where the town and its airport has an important role in progressing towards Mosul.¹¹

Before controlling of Qayyara, the Iraqi Prime Minister announced that the security forces are able to maneuver and they are ready to start restoration of Mosul after finding secure land route from Salah Uddin province to Qayyara (60 km south of Mosul)¹²

Also, democratic Syria forces' controlling on Manbej eastern of Aleppo has a prominent role in paving the near time of the battle , the fact that controlling on Manbej leads to cut

8 Barazani and Noujaifi reviewed the cooperation between popular mobilization and Peshmerga, and preparation for Nineveh liberating battle" Iraqi encyclopedia, 11,7,2015, the [link](#)

9 Barazani announced liberalization of Sinjar from clutches of ISIS , Al-Arabi Al-Jaded, 13.11.2016 , the [link](#).

10 Iraqi army liberated Sherqat district and enhance sieging of Hwajia and Mosul , Taht Al-Mejahr foundation , 22.9.2016 , the [link](#).

11 Iraqi forces restore controlling in Qayyara south of Mosul , BBC Arabic , 25,8,2016 , the [link](#).

12 Nineveh operations commander " the battle of Mosul will start soon" Al-Jazeera net , 26,7,2016 , the [link](#).

the supply road of ISIS from Europe to its main stronghold in Raqqa ,and thus the controlling on Manbej and what follows it such as Euphrates shield forces' controlling on Jarablos and the whole boarders line between Aleppo and turkey which was controlled by the organization , was an important factor in the wide military plan to fight the organization.¹³

On the other hand , attack of new army of Syria on Bokmal border crossing between Iraq and Syria ,which was under cover of the international alliance led by USA , seems to be as an element from a wide military plan to control the main strongholds of ISIS in Syria and Iraq ¹⁴ , which this controlling led to cut the supply routes of the organization before start attacking on Mosul or Raqqa , but the controlling on the border crossing failed when the organization forced Syrian opposition forces to withdrawal to Tanaf border crossing with Iraq .

In political terms:

Talking about Mosul battle diplomatically started on February 20 , 2016 , when an official in the American military command declared that the battle is to restore Mosul from the clutches of ISIS and will begin in April or May 2016, and 12 Iraqi brigades, and about 20 thousands to 30 thousands fighters from governmental and Peshmerga¹⁵ forces will involve in it.

But this date does not match the reality of current declaration of the battle on October 17,2016.

While the Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan declared on September 26 ,2016 that the date of the battle will be on October 19,2016 , and the date was very near from the real date of the battle so, the parliament security and defense committee in Iraqi parliament summoned the Turkish ambassador Farouk Qaamakja ¹⁶.

The date of launching the battle seems the subject of international and region concern, and this is clear from the talks conducted by Iran with Iraqi's Kurdistan region where both sides discussed about the intensive preparation for the start of the battle, during a visit by

13 liberating Raqqa and Mosul may not be possible before the end of Obama's rule" Aranews , 10.6.2016 , the [link](#).

14 New army of Syria starts the battle of liberating Bokmal from ISIS" Al-Arabi Al-Jaded , 28.6.2016 . the [link](#).

15 US official: the battle to restore Mosul will be in April or May " BBC Arabic , 20,2,2016 , the [link](#).

16 parliament summoned the Turkish ambassador due to Erdogan's announcing the date of Mosul battle" Soumar news, 26.9.2016, the [link](#).

Iranian minister of national security, Mahmoud Alawi to Erbil in mid-May 2016.¹⁷

Iraqi prime minister, Haydar Al-Abadi tried to keep the date of the battle secret through all his media interviews ,saying only at the end of last July that” the Iraqi governmental forces will raise the Iraqi flag in Mosul soon “¹⁸

USA president, Barack Obama said after his meeting with Al-Abadi on September 9 ,2016 that the battle against ISIS in Mosul to restore the city will begin quickly somehow, and it will be difficult due to Mosul is a big city and ISIS has strengthened itself inside city firmly, but added “we are confident that we can make progress rapidly “ adding that he is looking forward to make progress by ending of the current year.¹⁹

17 Iran discussed the battle of Mosul with Iraqi Kurds “ Al-Jazeera net, 16.5.2016 , the [link](#).

18 liberating Raqqa and Mosul may not be possible before the end of Obama’s rule” Aranews , 10.6.2016 , the [link](#).

19 Obama : battle of Mosul will be difficult and will start soon “ Al-Jazeera net , 20,9,2016 , the [link](#).

Participating forces, or expect to participate:

Iraqi government and its supporting groups:

Iraqi's central government involved in battle of Mosul through official forces and paramilitary forces, which are as following:

Army and Iraqi Security Forces:

There are about 11 brigades of army, besides the Iraqi special forces ready to attack, each of them has 2000 soldiers.

There are also five additional units from tribal police or paramilitary forces are also ready to attack, consist of 6000 soldiers.²⁰

Popular Mobilization Forces:

It considers a part from the Iraqi military and security institutions theoretically ,under orders issued by the Iraqi prime minister, and there are many Shiite factions participating within these forces such as Saraya Al-Islam and supporters of clerical rule in Iraq which includes Bader organization and Hezbollah Al-Noujabaa movement and Asaeeb Ahel Al-Haq which is working under direct cover of Qasem Soleimani, commander of Qods crops , in addition to Hosseinieh thresholds mobilization and Abbasid thresholds mobilization ,includes factions supported indirectly by the cleric Ali Al-Sistani which are:

Ali the great brigade, Al-Abbas division imam Ali division and other factions²¹.

There are no official estimates for the number of mobilization forces expected to participate.

Sunni Tribal Mobilization:

About 5000 fighters from Sunni tribal mobilization may participate Mosul²² battle as initial numbers , the tribal mobilization formed by Sunni volunteers from the provinces controlled by ISIS to prevent intervention of Shiite mobilization in the current battles in these provinces.

Peshmerga forces:

The Kurdish Peshmerga forces also involved in the battle of Mosul, military experts are expected that 3 brigades from Peshmerga will involve in addition to artillery unit and en-

20 Michael Knights, How Will the Battle for Mosul Unfold? , The Washington institute improving the quality of us middle east policy , 4.10.2016 , the [link](#).

21 Ali Aghuan, The Popular Mobilization Forces' Unfinished Mission , The Washington institute improving the quality of us middle east policy , the [link](#).

22 commander of popular mobilization tribal in Nineveh to Basnews: " 5000 fighters are ready to participate battle of Mosul" 16.10.2016, the [link](#).

gineering teams²³.

While the general command of Kurdish forces declared that “about 4000 fighters form Peshmerga will involve in battle of Mosul²⁴”

The international alliance:

The forces of international alliance are supervising preparing ,training and providing the military consulting ,and also offers the aerial and artillery attribution for involved forces.

The estimated number of us forces involved in the battle of Mosul about 500 soldier and about 3600 soldier from international alliance forces from other nationalities²⁵, and according to the Pentagon, these forces will remain in the rear lines of the battle.

Iran:

Iran is involving the battle of Mosul through advisors and military experts provide support for Iraqi and Shiite forces, and this is according to an official statement of the supreme advisor in the revolutionary guards “ Iraj Masjidi ²⁶”.

Kurdiŝtan workers’ party:

Party participates under the cover of “ Sinjar protection units” in the battle from Sinjar district east of Mosul, and the estimated number of the Syrian branch involved is about 450 fighters²⁷.

Turkish Forces:

Turkish forces are in Ba’asheqa camp, and it seems to participate at the moment through coordinated air missions with the international alliance led by USA²⁸ , and this comes in light of the lack of Ankara’s decision about military involving in the battle.

National Mobilization Forces:

A sunni military entity led by Athel Al-Noujaifi, consists of Arabs, Turkmen and Kurds,

23 FayeZ Al-Dwairi “ battle of Mosul , participation parties and expected results” Al-Jazeera net , 14.10. 2016 , the [link](#).

24 Kurdish Forces making progress east of Mosul in the context of liberation the city “ DW , 17.10.2016 . the [link](#).

25 through infographic:

who are participate in the battle of Mosul ? what are the numbers of forces on the ground? cnn Arabic , 18.10.2016 , the [link](#).

26 Iran officially announced its participation in the battle of Mosul , Erem news , 8.7.2016 , the [link](#).

27 Kurdish Forces making progress east of Mosul in the context of liberation the city “ DW , 17.10.2016 . the [link](#).

28 Yildirim : our air forces involved along with the international alliance in Mosul operation “ Turk press , 18,10 . 2016 , the [link](#).

includes about 6000 fighters ²⁹ and there are not sure for their participation at a time when Iraqi central government refuses to involve the battle, while Ankara insists on its involving.

29 6000 gunmen from the national mobilization received their salaries from turkey, Rudaw , 2.1.2016 , the [link](#).

Military reality of the battle of Mosul:

The battle began with an intensive artillery shelling of Iraqi forces, Peshmerga and federal police with participation of French artillery from Makhmour , and American artillery from Qayyara , the focusing in the first stages will be on Nineveh plain, Talkef and Ba'asheqa.

It seems that there are military attempts from Baghdad to isolate Zalcan camp in which the Turkish forces are in ,by progressing of Iraqi forces from Ba'asheqa ,in order to disable Turkish forces to participate in operations ,but Ankara has an alternative means such as using alternative plan by providing the national mobilization of Nineveh by weapons and covering some its operation through air force.³⁰

The military operation to control Mosul are divided into three phases as following:

1-Isolate the city:

It began by controlling Qaryya air base which lies 60 km south of Mosul and renew it to enable landing of cargo planes which enable transferring of ammunition, fuel and supplies by air directly to the front lines instead of transferring it by trucks from Iraqi military stores near Baghdad which lies 298 km to the south.

Also, American and French long-range artillery systems have put besides the mobile howitzers guns which are able to reach half the distance to Mosul with rocket launchers capable to hit the city itself in less than 20 seconds accurately.

2-pressure from the desert:

This phase includes a multi progress toward Mosul district, on the following axes³¹:

The north- east axis: which Peshmerga and national mobilization forces participated

The west axis: which involved by Peshmerga, Sinjar protecting forces Nawader Al-Shamar forces that follows the sunni mobilization with 500 fighters and Turkmen brigade

South axis:

Units from Iraqi Army, Nineveh police with 6000 policemen, Sunni tribal mobilization where this axis includes tribal of Al-Laheeb, Al-Jobur, Al-Saba'awyeen and each of these factions has 300 fighters³².

It is supposed that the popular mobilization has two main tasks, the first is logistics to secure supplies routes from north of Salhhu uddin to Qayyara base, and the second is related

30 plan of Mosul liberation, the most prominent sites of confrontation , army and mobilization sites , Al-Hurrah channel , 17.10.2016 , the [link](#).

31 Iraqi army published information about battle of Mosul . Aranews , 5.4.2016 , the [link](#).

32 MP : four faction from the tribal mobilization will involve Nineveh liberation , Soumarya news , 16.10.2016 , the [link](#).

to participation with the federal police in encircling and isolating areas of al-Shoura and Hamam Al-Alil, and also securing the road of Qayyara - Hamam Al-Alil³³.

It is likely that military forces will involve towards the west of Mosul and the desert along the roads and paths of pipelines to close the city from that direction and prevent ISIS from bringing support or escape to Syria, also a group of forces maybe go towards Mosul on the eastern bank o Tigris River in order to reach the eastern side of the city³⁴.

3-collapse of the defensive enclaves:

This phase aims to follow the remnants of ISIS inside Mosul, in the belief that its fighters will abandon the urban areas and will fortify within city's neighborhoods, and here the battle will turn into a similar scenario of battle of Fallujah.

The potential risks of the battle:

Ankara rejected intervention of popular mobilization forces in ongoing battle of Mosul, Turkish foreign minister, said " it should not leave sunni people of Mosul between two options (ISIS or Shiite militias) and that the involvement of the popular mobilization in the battle and then stay in the city will not help in bringing peace and stability to the region"³⁵.

Saudi Arabia, in the words of its foreign minister Adel Al-Jubeir has warned on the issue of the participation of popular mobilization in battle of Mosul ,and that this will cause a "sectarian disaster" , as well as the attitude of gulf cooperation council was supporting the Turkish and Saudi attitudes through emphasizing the seriousness of popular mobilization participation in the battle against Isis in Mosul³⁶.

It can believe that fears of Ankara and states of Gulf cooperation council from involvement of popular mobilization in battle of Mosul come from the possibility of turning the complex structure of the military battle to religious and sectarian battle, especially since the mobilization forces seek to control Tal Afar district, which includes nearly half a million Shiites from Shabak which most of them displaced to Karbala and Najaf Shiite provinces, while Sunnis represented by the sunni national mobilization rejected participation of Shiite mobilization to prevent it from committing Reprisals operations as did in Diyala and other places³⁷.

33 know the participated forces in battle of Mosul , by photos , Al-Hurrah channel , 17.10.2016 , the [link](#).

34 Ali Aghuan , The Popular Mobilization Forces' Unfinished Mission The Washington institute improving the quality of us middle east policy, the [link](#).

35 Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu: "sunni people of Mosul between two options (ISIS or Shiite militias) " Anadoul agency, 7.10.2016, the [link](#).

36 Turkey and Arab Gulf: no for popular mobilization instead of ISIS in Mosul " Arab London newspaper, 14,10,2016, the [link](#).

37 Interview with the grand mufti of Iraq , entitled : Rifai : the mobilization committing massacres in

After the military operation, there are repercussions such as possibility of fighting for national reasons, where the Peshmerga of Kurdistan region is seeking to control Sinjar district and Nineveh plain which followed the Christian Arabs and annex it to the region, so Iraqi political groups reject this and worried about it³⁸.

Nineveh during the past two years has suffered from the demographic change caused by ISIS where the majority of Christians population which are about 150 thousand emigrated toward Erbil, capital of Kurdistan, as well as the emigration to Turkey and Europe.

This was followed by accusations for Peshmerga forces to create demographic change in Sinjar when controlled it³⁹.

Turkman of Tal Afar is also one of the battle of Mosul repercussions, where turkey is trying to keep them as a national distinct group after \ paralyzing as a result of internal division, and this was the first reason for ISIS controlling on the areas with Turkman majority in June 2014.

Where Turkmen could not overcome their divisions and unite against ISIS, so the Shi-ite Turkmen has resorted to areas controlled by Kurdish Peshmerga forces, while sunni Turkmen has resorted to Mosul controlled by ISIS, and part of them stand by the central government in Iraq, so turkey refuses to talk about the Turkmen both Shiite and sunni as this may weaken and disperse the group as a nationality⁴⁰.

In the case of turkey has been able to achieve this, this will restore the Kurdish-Turkmen conflict over the oil rich Kirkuk province, where Turkmen were demanding a special status for the city to save its Multiple ethnicities⁴¹, since writing the Iraqi's permanent constitution in 2005.

The repercussions of the military operation also include massive waves of displacement of the population, where the official numbers estimated that 1.5 million civilians will displace due to the battle⁴², and this will cause problems in providing the initial needs of people, and the direction of people will be towards the Iraqi government control areas,

Diyala" sky news Arabic.

38 This is what political groups said about annexation of areas in Nineveh plain to Kurdistan " Sommer news, 19.11.2015 the [link](#).

39 Through displacement, Peshmerga accused of causing demographic change in Sinjar, gulf online, 21,1,2016, the [link](#).

40 what does Turkmen of Tal Afar in Iraq want from turkey? Turkey post, 5.10.2016, the [link](#).

41 Turkmen -Kurdish struggle over Kirkuk, survival for the strongest policy, Turkmen news agency, the [link](#).

42 The ministry of health expects the displacement of 1.5 million person from Mosul with start the battle " Rudaw, 1.8.2016. the [link](#).

Iraqi Kurdistan and Turkey besides to the ISIS control areas in Syria⁴³ and then to areas of opposition⁴⁴.

Also, growing fears generated among many international circles from the possibility of using chemical weapons in fighting, especially because ISIS has already used this kind of weapons⁴⁵.

On the other hand, the European Union fear the risks entailed by possibility of flowing gunmen who follow ISIS if it expelled from the main stronghold in Mosul, and security affairs commissioner of European Union, Julian King told (Die Welt) the German newspaper that even just a few gunmen could be a serious threat and we must be ready for it⁴⁶.

International reactions about battle of Mosul:

Iraqi-Turkish controversy:

A few days before starting of Mosul battle, the controversy between Ankara and Baghdad exceeded the limits of diplomatic statements, where the Turkish president addressed the Iraqi prime minister saying:

He is offending me, and tell him you are not like me, he added “ your shouting in Iraq is not important for us, we will do what we want, and you have to know that and to commit yourself first⁴⁷”

And Al-Abadi responded to these statements saying: we are certainly not like you, we will liberate our land by men power, not by skype⁴⁸.

Turkish forces stationed in Ba’asheqa camp did not participate in the military operations, due to the severe contrast in the attitude with the Iraqi government , the Turkish president Erdogan, after Baghdad battle, said: you cannot find a friend like Turkey ,and you will lose this friend if you hurt him , so I said days ago that we will be in the field and at the negotiation table (regarding Mosul), adding “ they want us to stay silent, we have boarders about

43 battle of Mosul, 900 civilians escaped before start of fighting, BBC Arabic, 19.10.2016, the [link](#).

44 within operation to restore Mosul, international organizations afraid of humanitarian disasters due to civilians’ displacement, nu news center, 18.10.2016, the [link](#).

45 Iraq ; fears of humanitarian crisis or using chemical weapons in battle of Mosul , France 24 , 19.10.2016 , the [link](#).

46 operation of Mosul , Europe expects flowing of gunmen , BBC Arabic , 18.10.2016 , the [link](#).

47 Haydar Al-Abadi responds to president Erdogan by twitter and media workers ridicule , Turk press ,14.10.2016 , the [link](#).

48 Tweet on Twitter account profile of Iraqi prime minister ,Haydar Al-Abadi in response to the Turkish president’s statement against him : the [link](#).

911 km long with Syria and 350 km with Iraq ,while the countries that do not have any boarders with them to do what they want , this is not possible , our attitude is not threaten of war or not violation of Iraq's sovereignty and does not carry any bad intention , we want to be where we must fight for our independence and future , and this place is Mosul currently therefore we will be there"⁴⁹.

French stance:

After starting the military operation, France rushed to invite more than 20 countries and organization for a meeting in France to discuss the battle of Mosul, where the participants discuss the following priorities:

1-protecting civilians in areas controlled by ISIS in Mosul and surroundings villages and people at risks in areas of battles.

2-providing necessary assistance to people in Nineveh plain in the context of fighting in Mosul.

3-drafting a plan of stability by Iraqi authorities in Mosul and its region ,and in the liberated areas from ISIS generally⁵⁰.

British stance:

The united kingdom emphasized in the words of minister of middle east affairs Tobias El-wood that launching the Iraqi operation to restore Mosul is considered an another step toward getting ISIS out of Iraq .after two years of brutal rule ,people of Mosul can start achieving their dream in building better future and stressing that "this will be the biggest battle ever faced by Iraqi forces which are able to face this challenge , and the united kingdom as a member in the international alliance is committed to continue providing support to the effort of Iraqi government in military and humanitarian fields to reach stability⁵¹.

German stance:

German foreign minister , Steinmeier described the attack on Mosul which is controlled by ISIS as "complex challenge" expected fierce battles in the coming weeks and may continue for longer period " describing the success in controlling the city that " it will be a turning

49 Erdogan: we will not wait until terrorist organization risks arrive our country " Anadoul agency, 19.10.2016 , the [link](#).

50 French call for an international meeting about battle of Mosul, entitled: the statement of Mr. Jean mark Ayrault - Iraq - declaration of the ministerial meeting to create stability in Mosul (Paris 20.10.2016) French foreign ministry website, 17.10.2016, the [link](#).

51 Minister of Middle East affairs statement on the battle of Mosul , the British foreign office website , 17.10.2016 , the [link](#).

point in the battle against ISIS in Iraq” and the operation to control Mosul will ensure “ new opportunities certainly to reach stability in Iraqi society”⁵².

USA stance:

Deputy spokesman of USA foreign affairs ministry , Mark Toner , emphasized what us president Barack Obama said that “ the operation to control Mosul will not be easy “ adding that his country is trust Iraqi’s forces supported by the international alliance led by Washington to control the city from clutches of ISIS” and USA will continue provide training , consulting and supporting for Iraqi forces to complete the “ critical mission” and this support includes humanitarian efforts of Iraqi forces also⁵³.

Russian stance:

After starting battle of Mosul, the Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman, Maria Zakharova declared that “ The Iraqi city of Mosul will live a large-scale humanitarian disaster “ adding that “ the question must be asked as follows: was it the a media campaign against Russia which developed effectively within the last weeks, was it a prelude to what will be done in Mosul⁵⁴?

The Russian chief of staff general Valery Gerasimov, commenting on the battle of Mosul said that” we are focusing our attention on attempts could be happen by gunmen out of Mosul or to leave the city to Syria by facilitating from international alliance forces.⁵⁵”

Saudi stance:

Before the battle starting, Saudi foreign minister ,Adel Al-Jubeir accused the popular mobilization forces in Iraq as “ sectarian institution” belongs to Iran ,warning that battle of Mosul will cause disasters , calling the Iraqi forces to use “non-sectarian members “ to counter terror organization⁵⁶ “ but Iraqi prime minister , Hayder Al-Abadi declared after the battle start that” the most suitable areas for the organization in the future are Saudi and Arabic gulf⁵⁷” .

52 comment of German foreign ministry about battle of Mosul : start liberating Mosul , German media center , 17.10.2016 , the [link](#).

53 excerpt from the daily press of the deputy spokesman of the conference , mark toner, declaration of Iraqi prime minister to start battle of Mosul , us state department website on twitter , the [link](#).

54 Russian foreign ministry , Mosul will live a humanitarian disaster , Spotinic Arabic , 18.10.2016 , the [link](#).

55 Russian chief of staff reveals what does it matter in liberation of Mosul? Spotinic Arabic , 19.10.2016, the [link](#).

56 Al-Jubeir: popular mobilization is a terrorist , Shiite are not the property of Iran , Riyadh newspaper , 14.10.2016 , the [link](#).

57 Al-Abadi : Saudi and Arab Gulf would be an appropriate place for ISIS after Mosul ,Al-Hurrah channel , 17.10.2016 , the [link](#).

Iranian stance:

After the battle start, Iran emphasized that it will not intervene directly, in the words of head of strategic research center , the advisor Ali Akbar Velayati , speaking about its role saying: (Iran has provided and always provides advisory assistance at the request of the Iraqi government , and if there was a need for the advice , our country does not refrain from providing advice to the Iraqi government”.

And about attempts of the regional countries in the battle , including turkey , Velayati pointed to this saying:

Some countries of region or out of region are seeking to intervene in the operation of Mosul when they trust the Iraqi forces and their ability to expel the terrorist from Mosul , but this countries are intervening in Iraq just to demand their shares in the future”.⁵⁸

58 Velayati: Iran has no direct involvement in the liberation of Mosul operations.” Fares News Agency, 10.19.2016, the [link](#).



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