

Sunni Militants Seize Town Near Baghdad as Iraqi Forces Battle for Water Dam



Baghdad, June 26 (RHC)-- Sunni militants have seized another Iraqi town just an hour from the capital Baghdad. Mansouriyat al-Jabal is home to four natural gas fields and is the latest in the north and west to fall under militant control.

In a televised speech, the powerful Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr vowed to "shake the ground" underneath advancing Sunni militants and expressed concern about foreign involvement in Iraq. ISIS forces are reportedly setting their sights on Iraq's second-largest dam, in Haditha.

The New York Times reports Iraqi forces guarding the dam have been ordered to prepare for opening the floodgates, despite the potential for widespread damage. ISIS militants already control a major dam up the Euphrates River in neighboring Syria.

Along with dangerously low water levels, that could threaten a new humanitarian crisis. On a visit to Iraq, Ertharin Cousin of the United Nations World Food Program voiced concern for the estimated half a million Iraqis displaced in recent weeks.

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