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Armed non-state actors in conflict: strategic decision-making in the 2014 IS-KRI conflict

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Citation

Berge, W. van den. (2024, November 22). *Armed non-state actors in conflict: strategic decision-making in the 2014 IS-KRI conflict*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/4150279>

Version: Publisher's Version

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Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Acknowledgments

This thesis would not have been possible without my two promotors, professors Edwin Bakker and Beatrice de Graaf. Dear Edwin and Beatrice, your ongoing support and enthusiasm, combined with your knowledge and sharp observations, were inspiring and instructive. I will definitely miss our frequent PhD-sessions.

Additionally, I would like to thank professors Erwin Muller, Frans Osinga, Beatrice Heuser, and Martijn Kitzen, and assistant professor Anneleen van der Meer, as members of the doctorate committee, for their effort and valuable input for this thesis.

As important to this thesis were my Arab and Kurdish friends, always willing to help out, and explain why I was wrong or should consider things differently. In particular, I would like to thank Dr. Jaafar Khidir for introducing me to academics and politicians in the KRI and teaching me Kurdish politics. Also, my friends Faisal, Rody, and Younis established and interpreted very insightful conversations.

My colleagues at the Centre for Terrorism and Counter-terrorism (CTC) /Institute of Security and Global Affairs (ISGA), the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism – The Hague, and the Netherlands Defense Academy (NLDA) all to some extent contributed to this thesis through their critical comments on earlier ideas and drafts. Special thanks go out to my former roommates Bart Schuurman and Sergei Boeke at the CTC/ISGA, and Rob Sinterniklaas at the NLDA, for holding out with me.

Later in the process, Bonnie Golbeck and Jeremy Watts accepted the challenge to translate my Dutch-English-written draft into an understandable and grammatically correct English text, mixed with a touch of Canadian. Also, many thanks go out to Anna Posthumus Meyjes for designing an awesome cover, which reflects my ideas brilliantly. Furthermore, a special thanks to my paranymphs Ramon Wolf and George Vermij.

I would also like to thank my colleagues at the Ministry of Defense for allowing me and encouraging me to finish my study after my return.

Finally, I would like to thank my partner, Kristel, for allowing me to go to Iraq for field research, enduring weekends with me hidden behind my laptop, and providing me with numerous necessary cups of coffee.

Curriculum Vitae

Wietse van den Berge (Goes, 1978) completed high school in Goes, the Netherlands, in 1997. He studied political science at Leiden University. After graduating in 2002, he joined the Royal Netherlands Air Force and attended the Royal Netherlands Military Academy. An internship at the academy's military science faculty followed the completion of his officer training, researching military history and military operations. Wietse held several ranks within the Air Force and in 2011-2012 he served as a military observer for the United Nations in the Middle East. He was triggered by personally witnessing the Arab uprisings in that region to return to his academic career.

Since joining Leiden University's Institute of Security and Global Affairs (ISGA, then Centre for Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism, CTC) in 2013, Wietse's focus centered on political violence in contemporary Middle Eastern conflicts, from 2014 onwards on IS and the KRI. His research continued when he joined the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2017-2018 to monitor and evaluate projects in Iraq and, later, when he worked as a risk management consultant in 2019. Later that year, Wietse returned to the military, where he has worked since, eventually as a senior project manager liaising between the ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs.

From 2014 to 2022, Wietse was an associate fellow at the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism – The Hague (ICCT – The Hague), where he was involved in projects concerning foreign terrorist fighters. In 2017-2018, he was a research fellow at the Netherlands Defense Academy (NLDA), lecturing on armed non-state actors in the Middle East.

