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**IRAQI FORCES KILL ISLAMIC STATE'S EXPLOSIVES OFFICIAL NEAR MOSUL'S OLD CITY**

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Iraqi News (22 June 2017)

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Mosul (IraqiNews.com) Iraqi government forces killed on Thursday an Islamic State explosives official while moving inside a district adjacent to Mosuls Old City, the groups last bastion.

Shafaq News quoted security sources saying that troops killed Abu Furqan al-Maswseli along with 15 others at a house in al-Shifa district.

The Iraqi command said earlier this week its forces had consummated the recapture of al-Shifa, a home to major health and medical facilities, thus putting the medieval Old City under full siege.

Also on Thursday, Federal Police chief Shaker Jawdat said his forces killed 43 Islamic State members in Ras al-Jada and Bab al-Beed in the old city, and destroyed five booby-trapped vehicles.

Iraqi troops have advanced on Wednesday closer to the Grand Nuri al-Kabir Mosque, where Islamic States supreme leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared the establishment of the groups rule in 2014. IS members blew up the mosques ancient minaret on Wednesday as troops advanced, a move which the Iraqi command said signalled an imminent defeat to the extremist group.

A few hundred militants are thought to remain inside the Old City, but are holding at least 100.000 civilians who are shot dead or caught and executed while trying to flee the neighborhood.

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/iraqi-forces-kill-islamic-states-explosives-official-near-mosuls-old-city/>

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