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## TAL AFAR ATTACK TARGETED NATIONAL UNITY: IRAQ TURKMEN

- 26.12.2018

Anadolu Agency (26 December 2018)

A car bombing in Iraqs majority-Turkmen Tal Afar district was aimed at undermining the countrys tribal and social cohesion, the Iraqi Turkmen Front (ITF) warned Tuesday.

According to Iraqi officials, the bombing -- which occurred Tuesday morning -- left at least two people dead and a dozen more injured.

In a statement, ITF leader Arshad al-Salihi warned that terrorists still seek to strike at the national unity that Iraqs security forces have sought to safeguard.

Todays bombing in Tal Afar, he added, was aimed at undermining the countrys tribal and social cohesion.

Al-Salihi also stressed the importance of supporting Iraqs intelligence and security apparatus with a view to uncovering the circumstances of this deadly incident.

Located in Iraqs northern Nineveh province, majority-Turkmen Tal Afar sits roughly 60 kilometers west of provincial capital Mosul.

As of Tuesday afternoon, no group had claimed responsibility for the deadly car bombing, although the Iraqi authorities typically blame such attacks on the Daesh terrorist group.

Last December, officials in Baghdad declared that Daesh's military presence in Iraq had been all but destroyed following a three-year conflict that ended with the fall of Daesh-held Mosul.

The Iraqi army, however, continues to wage frequent operations against Daesh "sleeper cells", which allegedly remain active in certain parts of the country.

https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/tal-afar-attack-targeted-national-unity-iraq-turkmen/1348589

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