

CARDUCHI CONSULTING

TOPKHANA BLOCK

A comprehensive, field-researched geopolitical and energy intelligence due diligence risk assessment of the Topkhana block for prospective operators and investors. Sourced from "Project Çîya - Topkhana Block".

GEOGRAPHIC & POLITICAL CONTEXT

1. REGIONAL FRAMEWORK

Located in the AwaSpi (Khan Rostum) sub-district within the Kifri district of the Garmian Administration (Sulaymaniyah province) [Page 5].

The block extends directly into the neighboring Kurdamir block, set across a highly remote, mountainous, and sparsely populated environment [Page 5].

2. CONTESTED BOUNDARIES

Firmly controlled by KRG administrative networks, though parts of southern Kifri are claimed as "disputed territories" by Baghdad [Page 19, 23].

The region suffered severe historical underdevelopment during the Ba'athist Anfal campaigns, shaping deep local sensitivities [Page 19].

RISK SNAPSHOT MATRIX

MEDIUM

POLITICAL RISK

LOW

SOCIAL RISK

MEDIUM

ENVIRONMENTAL

LOW

SECURITY RISK

ASSET-LEVEL RISK ASSESSMENTS

Political: Medium — Subject to KDP-PUK tensions and intra-PUK factional dynamics in Garmian, yielding potential contracting delays [Page 5].

Social: Low — Highly homogenous demographic reduces cultural friction; however, high community expectations will rapidly test any operational restart [Page 5].

Security: Low — Isolated Garmian interior provides shelter from major frontlines, though dormant sleeper cells remain active in southern sectors [Page 5].

CONCESSION & DISCOVERY PROFILE

VAST GAS & CONDENSATE PLAY

The block was originally awarded to Talisman in 2011, with Repsol assuming 60% operating interest in May 2015 after acquiring Talisman [Page 15, 16].

Core appraisal wells **Topkhana-1** and **Topkhana-2** confirmed significant Oligocene reservoirs, yielding 2,146 bopd of 49° API blend and 30.6 mmcf/d of gas [Page 15].

2C resources are estimated at **55 million barrels of condensate** and **1.665 trillion cubic feet (bcf) of gas**, designed for domestic gas power linkages [Page 16].

 Oil and gas processing facility Middle East

DEMOGRAPHICS & SOCIAL FABRIC



ABSOLUTE HOMOGENEITY

The local population is entirely ethnic Kurdish and Sunni Muslim, eliminating volatile sectarian and ethnic divisions seen in other contested blocks [Page 25].



TRIBAL AUTHORITY

Social dynamics are organized around the ancient **Zangana** and **Jaff** tribes, who operate informal, highly effective conflict-resolution councils [Page 33].



FRAGILE LIVELIHOODS

Inhabitants live across ~35 small, sparsely populated villages, relying on seasonal grain farming, livestock herding, and state security salaries [Page 26, 34, 35].

STRAINED COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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"SINCE THE PEOPLE OF THE AREA ARE MOSTLY RELATED TO EACH OTHER, THEY HAVE THE PHONE NUMBERS OF EVERYONE. AT THE TIME OF ANY LOCAL ISSUES OR BLOCKADES, THEY CAN ORGANIZE IN A COUPLE OF HOURS."

— Topkhana Village Anjuman, highlighting rapid, informal community mobilization capabilities [Page 36]

POLITICAL & CONTRACTING RISKS



PUK-KDP SOVEREIGNTY ROW

Topkhana gas sits in PUK-controlled Sulaymaniyah, but licensing is directed by the KDP-led Erbil administration, causing persistent development vetoes [Page 5, 20].



CONTRACTING CAPTURE PRESSURE

Operators face severe, direct expectations to channel drilling and support contracts to PUK-affiliated groups like Nokan or Sangaw Oil [Page 23].



FACTIONAL POWER BROKERS

Local military authority is dominated by PUK commander Mahmoud Sangawi, who wields strong leverage over security and logistics approvals [Page 20, 47].



THE DYNASTY LITIGATION STALEMATE

Repsol's exit has been severely delayed by a UK Royal Courts commercial lawsuit filed by Dynasty Petroleum over blocked change-of-control approvals [Page 16-17].

COMPLEX SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

INSULATED SECURITY SHIELD

The deep interior position of AwaSpi shelters Topkhana from active frontlines, keeping operational assets insulated [Page 42].

However, southern Kifri and nearby Khanaqin districts remain vulnerable to Islamic State sleeper cell attacks, such as the November 2019 ambush in Kolajo [Page 42].

Asayish security checkpoints tightly monitor regional access roads, keeping localized criminality and civil unrest risks exceptionally low [Page 42, 43].

 Kurdistan security checkpoint military road

CONCESSION & LAWSUIT TIMELINE



OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS



PLAN FOR DEMOGRAPHIC INFLUX

AwaSpi is highly rural; some land-owners reside in town. Operational restart will trigger massive returns, requiring early stakeholder census [Page 5, 26].



LEVERAGE TRIBAL NETWORKS

Incorporate recognized Zangana and Jaff tribal leaders into proactive communication, grievance, and community consulting protocols [Page 5, 33].



IMPLEMENT FACTIONAL VETTING

Structure transparent, MNK-aligned anti-bribery policies to navigate heavy local pressure for politically associated service contractors [Page 6, 23].



ENFORCE LOCAL HIRING QUOTAS

Deploy skilled community managers to address high local unemployment, strictly avoiding the importation of non-local workers to prevent protests [Page 6, 38].

SECURE THE INTELLIGENCE LICENSE

Minimize factional PUK-KDP exposure and local contracting barriers within the Garmian Administration.



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