

Al-Hashd al-Sha'abi [Popular Mobilization Forces]

Directorate of Intelligence

Ashwa, Khoytlah, Mashirafat al-Jisr

The villages of Ashwa, Khoytlah, and Mashirafat al-Jisr have been liberated in the fifth stage of Hashd al-Sha'abi's operations to liberate the west of the city of Mosul. The liberating forces managed to enter the village of Mashirafat al-Jisr on December 11, 2016, then the villages of Ashwa and Khoytlah on December 13, 2016, after they had been used as points to position [troops] and launch terrorist operations by the terrorist group ISIS against civilians and security forces. This is why the terrorist group defended them steadily by booby-trapping roads, houses, and many cars that were pushed in the direction of Hashd al-Sha'abi forces, in addition to setting up artillery positions within houses to direct fire against the forces that are in control before they started liberating the mentioned villages.

Some houses in these villages were destroyed by the terrorist group in order to be used for military purposes, hiding, and booby-trapping some of them in order to blow them up later against forces that were coming to liberate them. The liberation process was held up for nearly two days in order to avoid destroying infrastructure and private property that were used by the group as headquarters and military barracks and to compel liberating troops to use excessive force. These forces succeeded in avoiding that option by calmly seizing land and pushing the terrorists out of the villages.

After these villages had been liberated, the terrorist organization continued to aim its artillery fire nearly every day at the villages in order to exhaust the forces and cause the highest possible amount of material and human losses.