

Iraq Situation Report: June 22-23, 2014

1 On June 22, Tal Afar fell to ISIS and the area's ISF commander General Khalid al-Khazraji (also known as Abu al-Walid) fled northwest to Sinjar. ISIS published pictures depicting vehicles and dead soldiers abandoned by the Iraqi Army (IA). The images also depict the bodies of Sunni prisoners allegedly killed by the IA. PM Maliki's military spokesman confirmed the fall, describing it as a "tactical withdrawal." On June 23, IA Aviation launched strikes on the district.

2 On June 22, three Syrian combat jets reportedly entered Iraqi airspace in western Anbar and destroyed wheat and barley warehouses in Qaim with rocket and cannon fire. There were no reported casualties.

3 Rutba and Qaim fell to ISIS on June 22. Iraqi Police (IP) commanders and IA officers reportedly met with ISIS leaders and agreed to surrender and hand over their weapons. ISF forces then donned civilian attire and returned home.

7 On June 23, ISIS gunmen reportedly attacked an IA convoy on the Kaysh highway, northeast of Al Hillah. The convoy was transporting 80 prisoners from Al Hillah's Scorpion Prison to a prison in An Nasiriyah. Approximately 70 prisoners were reportedly killed. The circumstances of the prisoners' deaths are unclear, but they were most likely executed by the IA to prevent their escape.

4 On June 23, ISIS reportedly kidnapped 67 families from Alam who were travelling to Hawija and Iraqi Kurdistan, intending to pressure Alam's tribes to surrender. Alam, just east of ISIS-controlled Tikrit, represents an anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni tribal effort. On June 22, ISIS clashed with Alam's tribes. During the clash, ISIS killed a local official; the daughter of a former local leader of the Al-Juburi tribe who was killed by AQI in 2006.

5 A Suicide Vehicle-Borne IED reportedly detonated at a Peshmerga security checkpoint on June 23. The blast destroyed a bridge, which connected Jalula district in Diyala and Kalar district in As Sulaymaniyah, killed three Peshmerga soldiers, and injured three others.

6 On June 23, The IA detonated explosives on the Fhimi Bridge, which connected Haditha and Ana. IA and IP reinforcements reportedly arrived in Haditha after they clashed with ISIS around the district.



- Major Cities
- ★ Major Clash
- 👤 Kidnapping
- ⊗ Execution
- 🚗 SVBIED
- ✈️ Airstrikes
- 🚛 ISF Reinforcements
- ISF
- ISIS
- Peshmerga
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- Syrian Government Forces



by Heather L. Pickerell, Ahmed Ali, and ISW Iraq Team

ISIS has not culminated. ISIS has shifted its efforts toward western Iraq, and the fall of border crossings in Anbar to ISIS is a sign of the further collapse of the Iraqi state. The regional aspect of the current crisis in Iraq has been accentuated by the ISIS's seizure of Rutba, which has triggered concerns for the Jordanian government. The fall of Tal Afar is a setback for the ISF, who, along with volunteers, had held a line against ISIS in the city. Moving forward, it will be important to watch whether ISIS will choose to confront the Peshmerga stationed in Sinjar, Ninewa.