

Iraq Situation Report: June 29, 2014

1 Forces from the IA, CTS, IA Aviation, and Popular Defense Companies continued the assault launched on Tikrit yesterday. The Popular Defense Companies are a Shi'a militia force.



2 Clashes took place between ISIS and members of other anti-government armed groups near the Hamrin ridge, northeast of Baquba.



3 ISIS gunmen kidnapped 20 IA and IP officers and detonated IEDs around seven houses in northern Sharqat. One of the houses belonged to the former IP commander of Salah ad-Din.



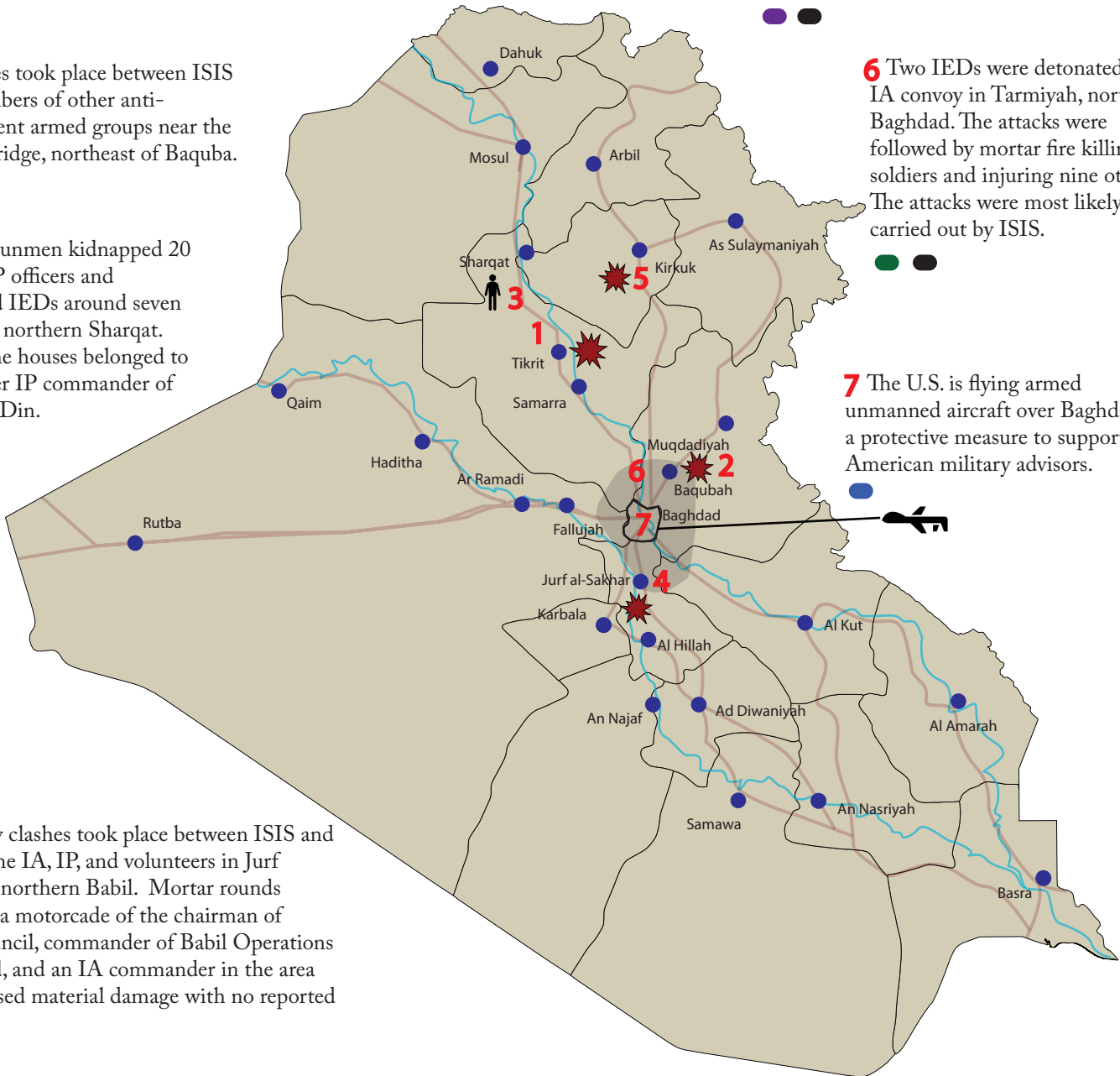
5 Heavy clashes took place between ISIS and the Peshmerga near Bashir village, south of Kirkuk. This comes with the announcement by the Peshmerga of the formation of the South of Kirkuk Operations Command in a step to counter ISIS in the area.



6 Two IEDs were detonated on an IA convoy in Tarmiyah, north of Baghdad. The attacks were followed by mortar fire killing four soldiers and injuring nine others. The attacks were most likely carried out by ISIS.



7 The U.S. is flying armed unmanned aircraft over Baghdad as a protective measure to support American military advisors.



4 Heavy clashes took place between ISIS and forces of the IA, IP, and volunteers in Jurf al-Sakhar, northern Babil. Mortar rounds landed on a motorcade of the chairman of Babil's council, commander of Babil Operations Command, and an IA commander in the area which caused material damage with no reported casualties.



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| | Kidnapping | | JRTN |
| | Armed Drones | | ISF |
| | Major Cities | | ISF and Militias |
| | Major Clash | | Peshmerga |
| | | | ISIS |
| | | | U.S. |



by Nichole Dicbarry and ISW Iraq Team

ISIS has declared a Caliphate, indicating that all Muslims should now submit to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the Caliph. Meanwhile, the ISF counter-offensive against ISIS in Tikrit continues, despite conflicting reports that either the ISF or ISIS now control the city. Retaking occupied urban terrain is a tactical mission with which the ISF have struggled historically. The integration of Shi'a militias in the Tikrit operation may enhance ISF capacity to attack by ground, but it will likely increase the perception by Iraqi Sunnis that the ISF is a sectarian force. Meanwhile, ISIS is clashing with the Peshmerga in southern Kirkuk as well as other armed Sunni groups in northern Diyala, indicating that control of the Hamrin ridge may be difficult for ISIS to maintain. The ISIS attacks north and south of Baghdad indicate that separate ISIS forces are still able to launch attacks while the ISF counter-offensive to retake Tikrit takes place.