

# Iraq Situation Report: July 1, 2014

**1** IA aviation strikes in different parts of Mosul city likely targeted ISIS. In addition, unidentified gunmen ambushed and killed three ISIS gunmen in the city, including one with Afghan nationality.

**2** JRTN launched mortars at ISIS in the Hamrin Ridge area in Diyala Province during clashes. No casualties were reported.

**3** Anti-government gunmen from ISIS, JRTN, the Islamic Army, the Jihad Battalions, and Rashidin Army are reportedly negotiating with representatives from the Haditha-based Jaghaifa and Albu Salman tribes for peaceful access to Haditha. The safe departure of the Haditha-based ISF members is part of the negotiations.

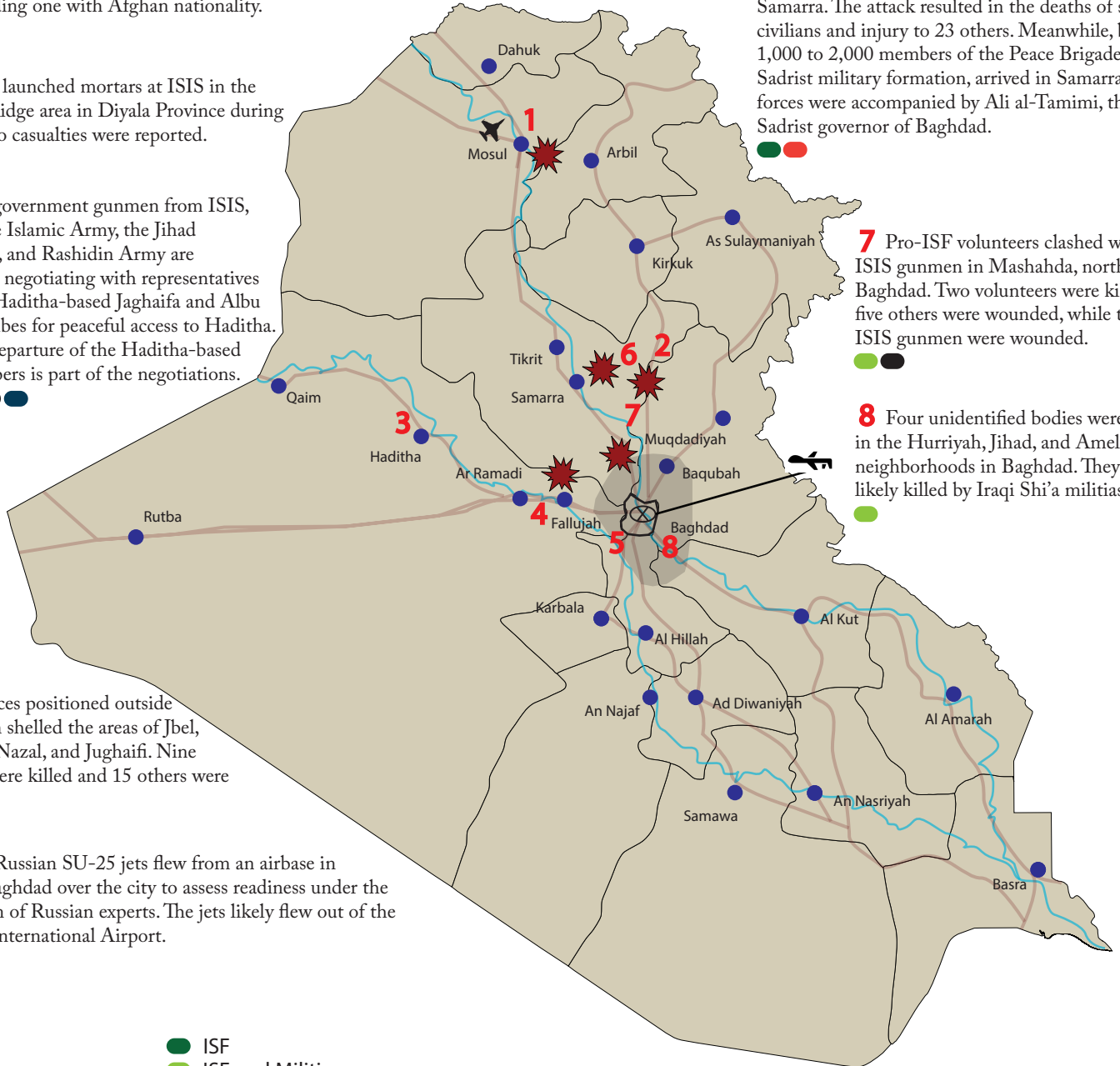
**4** IA forces positioned outside of Fallujah shelled the areas of Jbel, Shuhada, Nazal, and Jughaifi. Nine civilians were killed and 15 others were wounded.

**5** Three Russian SU-25 jets flew from an airbase in western Baghdad over the city to assess readiness under the supervision of Russian experts. The jets likely flew out of the Baghdad International Airport.

**6** On June 30, unidentified gunmen launched six mortar rounds targeting the Askari shrine in Samarra. The attack resulted in the deaths of six civilians and injury to 23 others. Meanwhile, between 1,000 to 2,000 members of the Peace Brigades, a Sadrist military formation, arrived in Samarra. The forces were accompanied by Ali al-Tamimi, the Sadrist governor of Baghdad.

**7** Pro-ISF volunteers clashed with ISIS gunmen in Mashahda, north of Baghdad. Two volunteers were killed and five others were wounded, while three ISIS gunmen were wounded.

**8** Four unidentified bodies were found in the Hurriyah, Jihad, and Amel neighborhoods in Baghdad. They were likely killed by Iraqi Shi'a militias.



- ISF
- ISF and Militias
- ISIS
- ISIS and anti-ISF gunmen
- Unknown gunmen
- Anti-ISIS Tribal Forces
- JRTN
- Major Cities
- ★ Major Clash
- ✈ Airstrikes
- X Execution



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

ISIS targeted the Samarra Askari Shrine with mortar fire, likely in an effort to divert ISF resources from the counter-offensive in Tikrit, or from Baghdad's defenses. The mobilization of the Sadrist Peace Brigades to Samarra and the increase in murders in Baghdad are indications of escalated Shi'a militia activity. These types of attacks will increase further if the Samarra shrine or other Shi'a holy sites are damaged, triggering a full-fledged civil war. Meanwhile, tribes in Haditha may be negotiating the peaceful control of the city by ISIS and other armed groups. Upon establishing control of Haditha, ISIS will likely attempt to seize control of Ramadi and declare total control over Anbar province. The clash between ISIS gunmen and pro-ISIS volunteers north of Baghdad may indicate that ISIS is testing the volunteer force defending the city. Russian-made jets and US aircraft over Baghdad may face a surface-to-air threat by ISIS or other armed groups.