

# Iraq Situation Report: July 2, 2014

**1** ISIS gunmen kidnapped 15 members of Iraq's Shabak minority and detonated IEDs against a Shi'a religious site in the Namrud sub-district, Hamdaniyah district, located southeast of Mosul.

**2** ISIS militants kidnapped civilians from Baiji, who were later found dead. The source added that the victims were executed because of accusations that they were working with IA intelligence.

**3** The 25th brigade of the 17th division of the IA carried out an operation against ISIS in the areas of Tal Loysir and Albu Usaj, north of Mahmudiyah in the southern Baghdad area.

**4** Clashes took place in Karbala between members of the IA and followers of the controversial Iraqi Shi'a religious figure Mahmoud al-Sarkhi. The clashes reportedly resulted in the death of 14 of Sarkhi's followers and 10 ISF members. The clashes extended to areas of Qadesiyah Province as well. Sarkhi has reportedly departed to an unknown location while the Iraqi Police in Karbala, Qadesiyah, and Basra applied heightened security measures to include arresting large number of his followers.

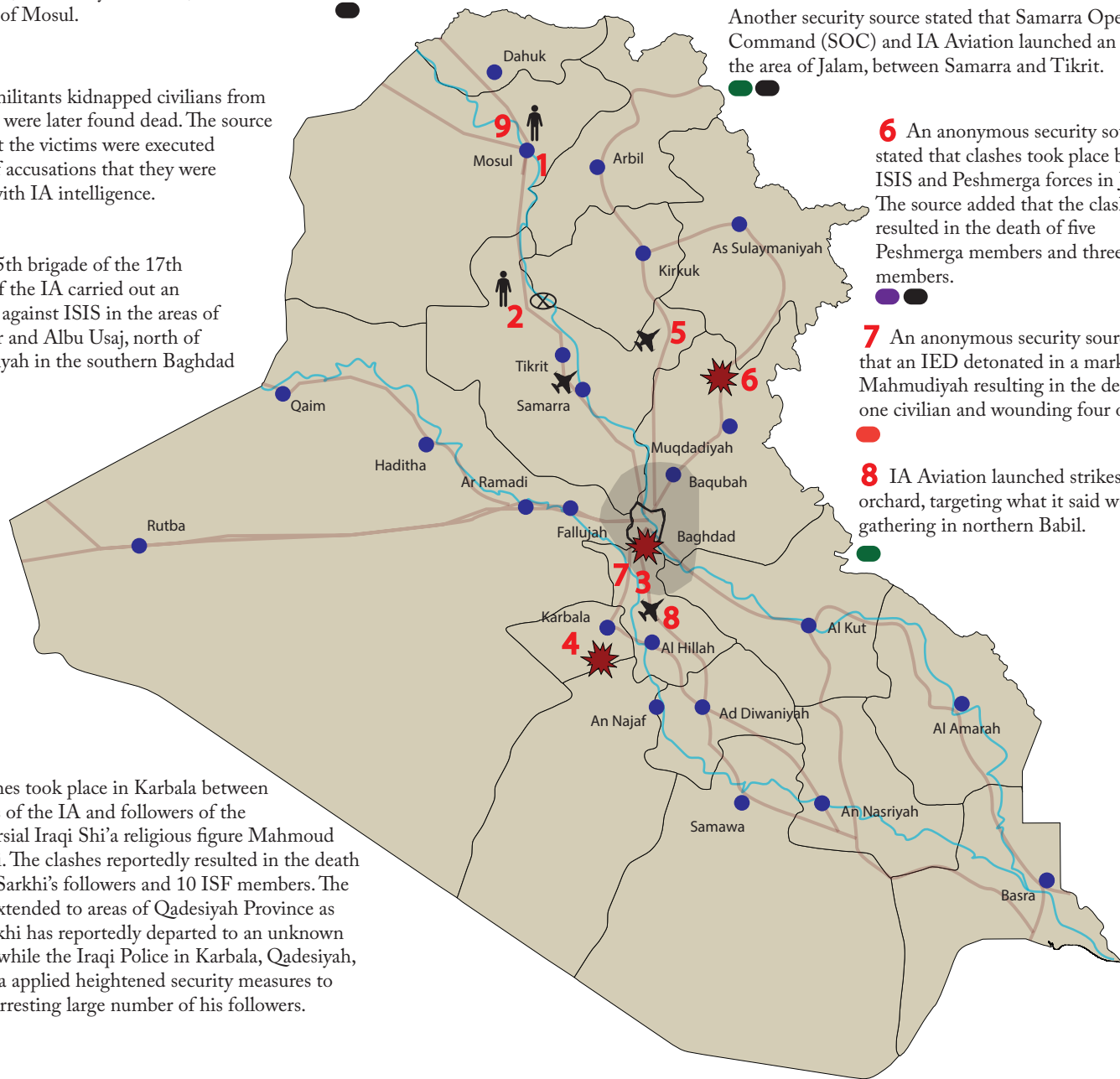
**9** ISIS published images of the "repentance" of large numbers of former members of the government security apparatus in Mosul.

**5** IA Aviation bombed the Deir Ahmed village of Amerli, near Tuz Khurmatu, Salah ad-Din province. The source stated that the attack resulted in a large number of ISIS deaths and substantial material losses for ISIS. Another security source stated that Samarra Operations Command (SOC) and IA Aviation launched an attack in the area of Jalam, between Samarra and Tikrit.

**6** An anonymous security source stated that clashes took place between ISIS and Peshmerga forces in Jalula. The source added that the clashes resulted in the death of five Peshmerga members and three ISIS members.

**7** An anonymous security source stated that an IED detonated in a market in Mahmudiyah resulting in the death of one civilian and wounding four others.

**8** IA Aviation launched strikes on an orchard, targeting what it said was an ISIS gathering in northern Babil.



● Major Cities

★ Major Clash

✈ Airstrikes

⊗ Execution

♀ Kidnapping

● ISF

● ISIS

● Unknown gunmen

● Followers of al-Sarkhi

100km



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

The clashes between the Iraqi Security Forces and the followers of Iraqi Shi'a religious figure Mahmoud al-Sarkhi represent another challenge for the ISF. ISIS's campaign to target civilians in areas where it has control is likely to backfire, particularly if the group attempts to force people to pledge allegiance to its newly-declared Islamic State. ISIS systematically documented a mass "repentance" in Mosul. Similar, systematic "repentance ceremonies" of former ISF members elsewhere will help indicate the extent of ISIS's influence. Groups such as JRTN and local tribes may see this behavior as an opportunity to weaken ISIS. Nonetheless, ISIS remains the strongest insurgent group and continues to be able to impose its will on the population through the use of force.