

Iraq Situation Report: July 8, 2014

1 ISIS elements established control of Zowiya village, northern Salah ad-Din after heavily clashes with local tribes that had resisted. ISIS fired approximately 60 mortar rounds, killing 13 individuals over the course of the fighting. ISIS gunmen also blew up 10 homes in the village and searched homes for weapons. Other reports indicated that 50 tribal members were executed by ISIS.

2 An SVBIED detonated at an IP checkpoint in southern Samarra. The attack resulted in the death of two IP members, two civilians, and the injury of six others, half of whom were civilians. Also, multiple IEDs detonated on an IP patrol in southern Samarra, killing three IP members and burning four IP vehicles.

3 The deputy chairman of the Anbar Provincial Council, Falih al-Issawi, stated that ISIS militants killed several leaders of anti-government armed groups at a July 6 meeting in Fallujah after the leaders refused to pledge allegiance to the leader of ISIS, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Issawi added that the incident heightened tension in the city and called for the Iraqi Government to take advantage of this opportunity to reach out to these groups.

4 An anonymous medical source at the Fallujah General Hospital stated that four Katyusha rockets fell on the hospital and on the Fallujah College of Medicine. Sources from the hospital also added that mortars landed on civilian homes in the Fallujah neighborhoods of al-Askari, al-Jughayfi, al-Nazal, al-Shuhada, and Jubail, wounding seven civilians.

5 On July 7, two SU-25s reportedly targeted buildings located in central Tuz Khurmatu, which is Peshmerga-controlled. One of the damaged buildings belonged to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). These attacks resulted in the death of one child and the injury of eight other individuals. This has generated discontent among the local government, the Peshmerga, and the PUK.

6 According to an anonymous source in Jalula, Peshmerga forces are using tribal elders as mediators to negotiate with gunmen in order to peacefully take control of the predominantly Iraqi Arab neighborhoods of al-Tajnid and al-Wihda.

7 The Mayor of Tuz Khurmatu, Shalal Abdul, stated that ISIS has been extracting oil from the Hamrin Ridge area and the Ajil Oil Field north of Salah ad-Din and selling that oil to generate revenue. According to Abdul, ISIS is selling tankers of oil to smugglers for \$ 10,000-\$ 14,000 each.



- Major Cities
- ★ Major Clash
- ✈ Airstrikes
- ISF
- ISIS
- Unknown gunmen
- Shi'a militias
- Anti-ISIS Tribes
- Anti-Government Armed Groups
- Peshmerga
- ☒ SVBIED
- ☒ Execution



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ISIS continues to threaten tribes as it attempts to enforce the pledge of allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of ISIS and the self-proclaimed Caliph of the Islamic State. The fall of Zowiya indicates the challenges the tribes in rural villages will face in countering ISIS, which may be focusing on rural areas in order to gain control of lines of communication and, eventually, other urban areas. ISIS continues to attack the Samarra area where the Sadrist "Peace Brigades" are currently consolidated as a holding force. ISIS's effort in Samarra is intended to divert resources from Tikrit, although the Iraqi Security Force likely deems the Peace Brigades sufficient to secure Samarra without reinforcement. ISIS is establishing a system by which it can financially benefit from controlling oil fields, such as Ajil, in northern Iraq. Further gains of oil resources by ISIS hinge on the fate of the Baiji refinery, which the Iraqi government continues to try to secure.