

# Iraq Situation Report: July 16, 2014

**1** A local leader of Ansar al-Sunna, an Iraqi Sunni armed group, was found decapitated in the outskirts of Sadia after he disappeared from the area last week.

**2** Two hundred families fled the area of Tajnid, southern Julula, after ISIS gunmen took control of large areas of the neighborhood. Also, the Peshmerga clashed with gunmen in the area of Wihda, southern Julula.

**3** The members of the Iraqi Security Forces that launched the assault on Tikrit yesterday retreated from their positions. They faced heavy clashes with ISIS and their progress was hampered by booby-trapped buildings.

**4** Heavy clashes took place between ISIS and the Peshmerga near the Tal al-Ward area, 20 km southwest of Kirkuk city. The clashes are reportedly ongoing and ISIS mortar attacks resulted in the injury of 21 Peshmerga members.

**5** Airstrikes targeted a power station in Mosul University which rendered the station inoperable and injured 10 individuals. Also, an airstrike targeted the area of Rashediya, northwestern Mosul, which resulted in the death of two individuals and injured four others from one family.

**6** ISIS cut the water supply from reaching the area of Makhmur, located south of Mosul and controlled by the KRG. ISIS reportedly cut the water after the local government of Makhmur cut the electricity from Arab villages in the vicinity. Residents in Makhmur demonstrated for the restoration of services.

**7** ISIS reportedly destroyed 20 houses that belonged to ISF personnel in Hawija.

**8** A VBIED detonated in central Hit which resulted in the death of five individuals and injured nine others.

**9** Security forces found 12 unidentified dead bodies in different areas of Baghdad.



● Major Cities

✈ Airstrikes

★ Major Clash

🚗 VBIED

➡ Armed Drones

● Shi'a militias

● Ansar al-Sunna

● ISF

● ISIS

● Peshmerga

100km



by ISW Iraq Team and Nichole Dicharry

ISIS continues its offensive into Kurdish areas along Kirkuk City and along the Arab-Kurd contested Green Line along the Hamrin Ridge. ISIS's attacks in Kirkuk escalated after July 9 when, according to security sources, ISIS conducted an armed parade of vehicles in the areas southwest of Kirkuk, demonstrating its military capabilities around the city. ISIS's contest for Jalula, along the Hamrin Ridge, has been underway since the fall of Mosul. ISIS had engaged tribal elders in Jalula on July 8 in order to gain control of some Arab neighborhoods there through negotiation after a series of clashes with Peshmerga in previous weeks. ISW assesses that ISIS is conducting a deliberate campaign for Kurdish areas in Iraq, possibly to divert pressure by Peshmerga forces elsewhere and possibly to set conditions for further operations. ISIS continues to prioritize the Middle Euphrates. ISIS has likely designed the attack in Hit to set conditions for further attacks on Haditha or Ramadi by targeting local tribes and civilians. ISIS has so far failed to gain control of Haditha despite three attempts on the city by force as well as by negotiation. ISIS continues to leverage its ability to control water resources to put pressure on inhabited areas, cutting water to villages in Makhmur. ISIS has previously used its control of the Fallujah dam to deny water to Shi'a population centers and to flood parts of Baghdad. The ISF counteroffensive in Tikrit continued, though the fighting forces retreated tactically after encountering ISIS's signature booby-trapped buildings. Iraqi Shi'a militias continue to be active in Baghdad as execution-style killings are again taking place in the city.