

Iraq Situation Report: July 17, 2014

1 Heavy clashes took place at the southern entrance of Tikrit last night between IA and volunteers and ISIS. ISIS gunmen fired mortar rounds on Camp Speicher which damaged two helicopters. ISIS now reportedly controls a runway at the base after launching a wide attack on July 17.

2 IA Aviation targeted the Abu-Ajil Hospital, located east of Tikrit. The hospital reportedly houses wounded ISIS fighters.

3 On July 16, ISIS fired mortar rounds for the third day on the Amerli sub-district east of Tikrit which resulted in the injury of “dozens” of the residents. This area has been surrounded by ISIS for 33 days and its local leader stated that the IA aviation drops 10% of the needed water and food supplies.

4 An anonymous tribal source stated that dozens of civilians fled their homes in the al-Tamim neighborhood, in western Ramadi, after militants took control of the area. Families reportedly fled to Hit and al-Baghdadi, west of Ramadi.

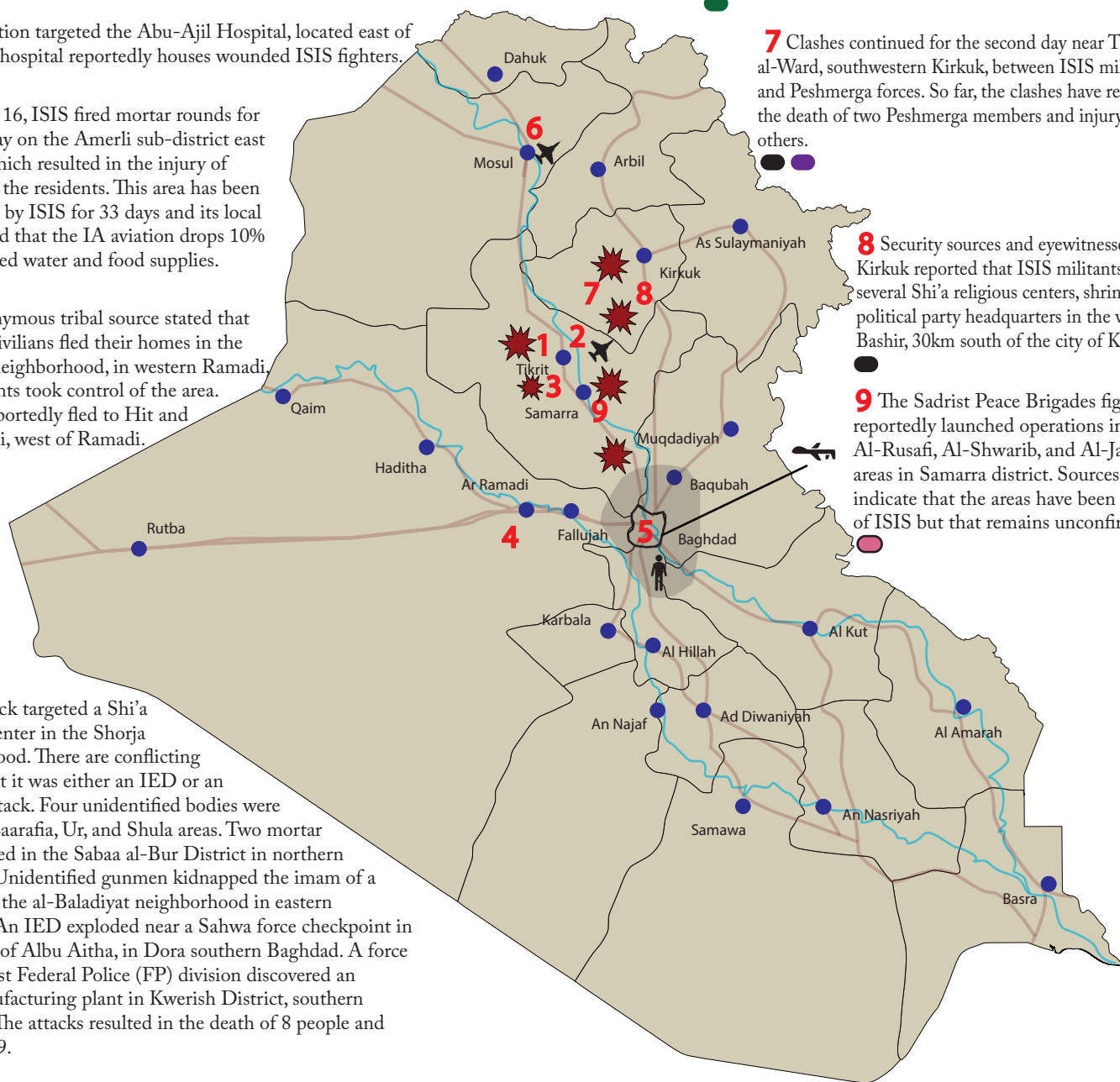
5 An attack targeted a Shi’a religious center in the Shorja neighborhood. There are conflicting reports that it was either an IED or an SVEST attack. Four unidentified bodies were found in Zaarafia, Ur, and Shula areas. Two mortar shells landed in the Sabaa al-Bur District in northern Baghdad. Unidentified gunmen kidnapped the imam of a mosque in the al-Baladiyat neighborhood in eastern Baghdad. An IED exploded near a Sahwa force checkpoint in the village of Albu Aitha, in Dora southern Baghdad. A force from the 1st Federal Police (FP) division discovered an IED-manufacturing plant in Kwerish District, southern Baghdad. The attacks resulted in the death of 8 people and injury of 29.

6 Airstrikes targeted the water treatment plan in eastern Mosul which cut water supplies from reaching the eastern part of Mosul. ISIS published images yesterday of the workers fixing the pipes after they were damaged due to strikes.

7 Clashes continued for the second day near Tal al-Ward, southwestern Kirkuk, between ISIS militants and Peshmerga forces. So far, the clashes have resulted in the death of two Peshmerga members and injury of 53 others.

8 Security sources and eyewitnesses in Kirkuk reported that ISIS militants blew up several Shi’a religious centers, shrines, and political party headquarters in the village of Bashir, 30km south of the city of Kirkuk.

9 The Sadrist Peace Brigades fighters reportedly launched operations in the Al-Rusafi, Al-Shwarib, and Al-Jalam areas in Samarra district. Sources indicate that the areas have been cleared of ISIS but that remains unconfirmed.



- Major Cities
- ✈ Airstrikes
- ★ Major Clash
- 👤 Kidnapping
- ISF
- ISIS
- Peshmerga
- Shi’a militias



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

The ISIS assault in Bashir, 30km south of Kirkuk city, continued with attacks upon Shi’a religious centers, shrines, and political party headquarters. These indicate the level of control ISIS has in the area. Furthermore, ISIS may be attempting to split Peshmerga forces along the extensive exposed border region between Sinjar and Jalula; it is, however, possible that ISIS will escalate attacks upon Kirkuk city if it achieves sustained control of Bashir. ISIS has also launched an attack upon COB Speicher west of Tikrit, seizing an airfield that was likely key to ISF aerial resupply and reinforcement in northern Iraq. The persistent effort by ISIS to establish control of Amerli, east of Tikrit suggests that ISIS means to weed out this pocket of resistance. The Sadrist Peace Brigades charged with the perimeter security of Samarra have reportedly launched operations in areas east of the city. Nevertheless, ISIS has wide operational presence to the east and west of Samarra; these ISIS elements are likely to continue their activities south of Samarra in the vicinity of Balad and Taji. ISIS may also be encroaching upon Ramadi from the west, indicating that they can flex among offensive efforts in Haditha, Hit, and Ramadi in order to maximize resources to take all three cities. Meanwhile, ISIS mortar fire in northern Baghdad and an IED factory south of Baghdad indicate the emergence of support zones in both areas. Continued reports of murdered civilians in Baghdad indicate the further pursuit of localized control by Shi’a militias within the capital.