

Iraq Situation Report: July 19, 2014

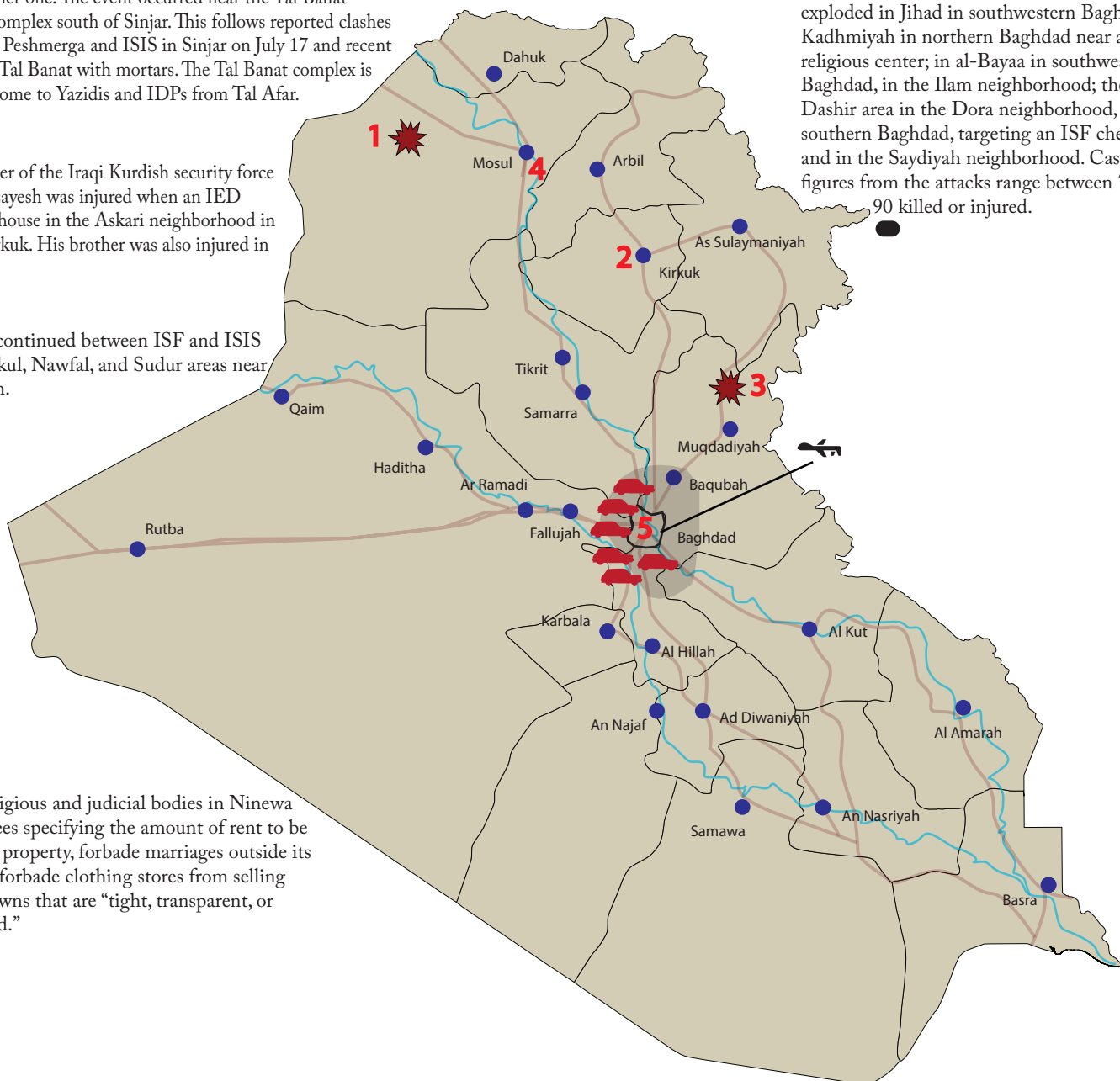
1 Peshmerga forces stationed in Sinjar stopped a VBIED driven by a person wearing an SVEST before he was able to detonate either one. The event occurred near the Tal Banat residential complex south of Sinjar. This follows reported clashes between the Peshmerga and ISIS in Sinjar on July 17 and recent targeting of Tal Banat with mortars. The Tal Banat complex is reportedly home to Yazidis and IDPs from Tal Afar.

2 A member of the Iraqi Kurdish security force known as Asayesh was injured when an IED targeted his house in the Askari neighborhood in southern Kirkuk. His brother was also injured in the attack.

3 Clashes continued between ISF and ISIS in the Tawakul, Nawfal, and Sudur areas near Muqdadiah.

4 ISIS religious and judicial bodies in Ninewa issued decrees specifying the amount of rent to be charged for property, forbade marriages outside its courts, and forbade clothing stores from selling women's gowns that are "tight, transparent, or embroidered."

5 Six Vehicle-Born Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIEDs) exploded in five neighborhoods in Baghdad city. The VBIEDs exploded in Jihad in southwestern Baghdad; Kadhmiah in northern Baghdad near a Shi'a religious center; in al-Bayaa in southwestern Baghdad, in the Ilam neighborhood; the Abu Dashir area in the Dora neighborhood, in southern Baghdad, targeting an ISF checkpoint; and in the Saydiyah neighborhood. Casualty figures from the attacks range between 70 to over 90 killed or injured.



- Major Cities
- ★ Major Clash
- ✈ Armed Drones
- 🚗 VBIED
- Peshmerga
- ISF
- ISIS
- Asayesh



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ISIS's VBIED command is active again, launching its first signature wave of Vehicle-Born Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIEDs) since the beginning of the Mosul offensive. The last VBIED wave occurred on May 13, 2014. VBIED waves, defined as six or more attacks on a single day, are the signature pattern of attacks that ISIS pursued as it gained strength in 2012 and 2013. The successful VBIEDs detonated in Baghdad's Shi'a neighborhoods. This renewed capability is particularly significant because the ISF and Shi'a militia groups have deployed thickly through Baghdad, particularly in these Shi'a neighborhoods. The Shi'a militia group Asai'b Ahl al-Haq, for example, has been prominent in Abu Dashir since late 2012, for example. ISW assesses that ISIS intends to continue VBIED waves in Baghdad and elsewhere through the end of Ramadan. Meanwhile, ISIS has extended its campaign against primarily Kurdish-protected areas by attempting a complex attack in Sinjar using both a VBIED and a Suicide Vest. Sinjar, which has been quiet since Tal Afar fell, may become a more significant focus for ISIS as it attempts to complete its line of communication from Mosul, Iraq to ar-Raqqa, Syria. Events in Syria may also be driving the timing of this attack, as ISIS completed its military operation to connect its line of communication between its strongholds in ar-Raqqa and Deir ez-Zour. ISIS continued its campaign for social and religious control in Mosul. After driving out Christians yesterday, ISIS imposed further measures on rents, marriages, and female dress. ISIS and the ISF continued their fight for areas outside of Muqdadiah, which an anonymous source prematurely reported yesterday as having been cleared by Iraqi forces.