

Iraq Situation Report: July 20, 2014

1 Four airstrikes reportedly targeted the Wihda neighborhood in eastern Mosul and the Jawsaq neighborhood in southwestern Mosul. The strikes resulted in the injury of 9 people and destruction of 12 houses.

2 Iraqi Security Forces reportedly sent reinforcements from Baghdad to the Dhuluiya area, north of Baghdad, to shore up the defenses of the anti-ISIS tribes and forces in the area. According to reports, ISIS is now based in the areas of Kbeba in the east and Khazraj and Bajwari in the north of the area. ISIS is reportedly targeting Dhuluiya from these areas.

3 Sources from the Fallujah hospital reported that 15 people were killed, including women and children, when shelling targeted various neighborhoods in Fallujah. 20-27 were injured in the attacks. According to the sources, the shelling included mortars, barrel bombs, and rockets.

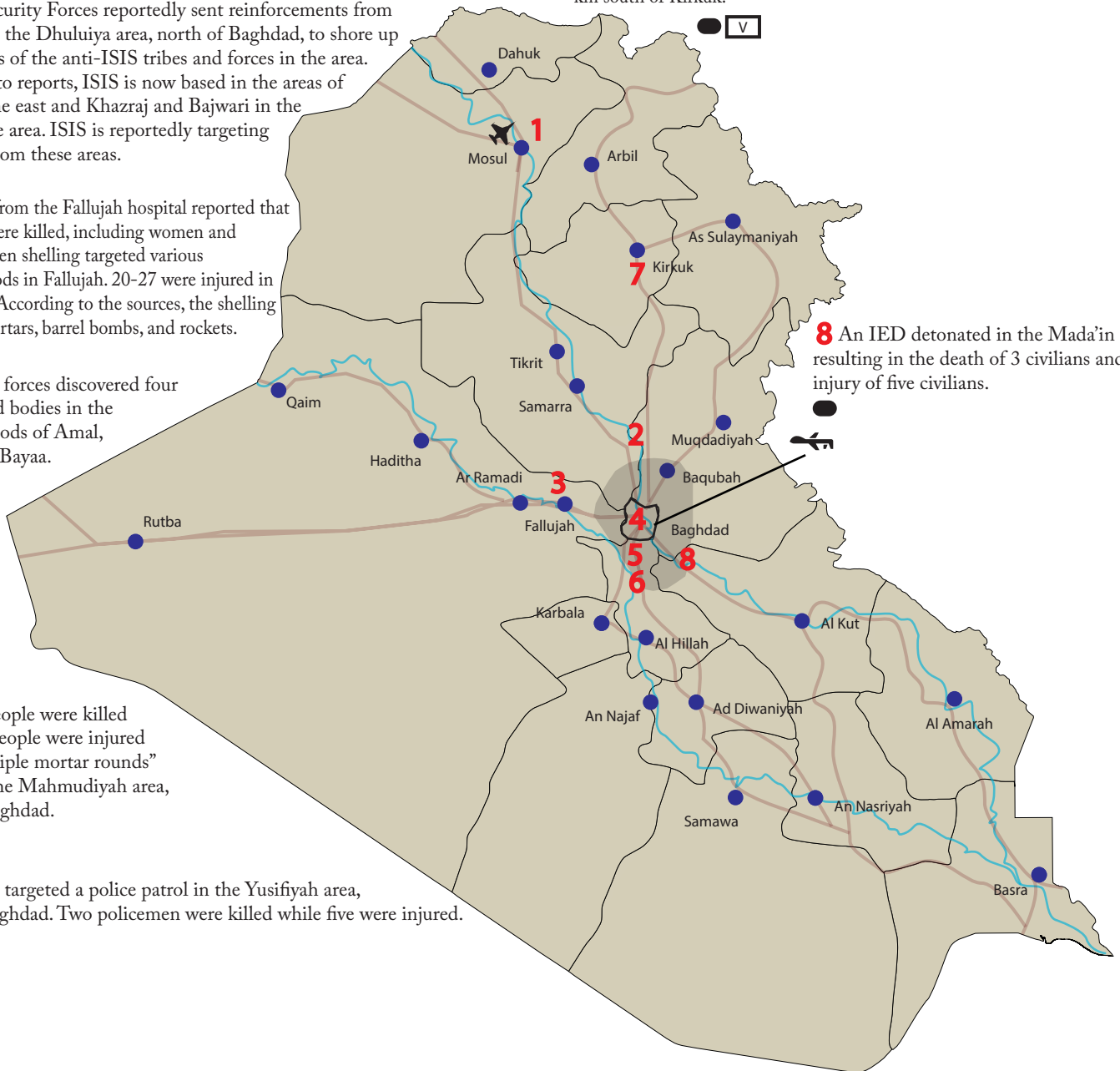
4 Security forces discovered four unidentified bodies in the neighborhoods of Amal, Shaab, and Bayaa.

5 Three people were killed and three people were injured when "multiple mortar rounds" landed in the Mahmudiyah area, south of Baghdad.

6 An IED targeted a police patrol in the Yusifiyah area, south of Baghdad. Two policemen were killed while five were injured.

7 A Katyusha rocket landed in the Taza area, 20 km south of Kirkuk resulting in the injury of nine people from the same family. Meanwhile, 200 volunteers from southern Iraq arrived in Kirkuk. The volunteers flew from the Najaf airport in southern Iraq to Sulaimaniyah's airport and will be assigned to protect the Imam Zain al-Abdin Bin Ali shrine in Daquq which is located approximately 40 km south of Kirkuk.

8 An IED detonated in the Mada'in area resulting in the death of 3 civilians and injury of five civilians.



by Ahmed Ali, Kimberly Kagan, and Aaron Reese

The situation in the vicinity of Baghdad continues to intensify. ISIS has emplaced IEDs in places such as Mada'in, Yusifiyah, and Mahmudiyah in the southern belts of Baghdad. ISIS has previously conducted IED or suicide attacks in these three locations. ISIS may use these locations as possible avenues of approach if it decides to attack Baghdad from the southern belt of the city. ISIS may also be attempting to restrict the ISF's mobility corridors in those areas. Iraqi Shi'a militia executions inside Baghdad may increase in response to the VBIED wave in Shi'a neighborhoods on 19 July. Kidnapping and reprisal killings will cause major concern for Iraqi Sunni civilians in the city. The deployment of volunteers from southern Iraq to Kirkuk province signifies the spread of their role to protect shrines in areas where ISIS is making advances. The reallocation of Iraqi Security Forces from Baghdad to Dhuluiya signals the real challenge that ISIS poses there. ISW has assessed that ISIS may try to draw the ISF out of Baghdad in advance of more robust attacks there.