

# Iraq Situation Report: July 21, 2014

**1** ISIS published images of military training it is carrying out in Ninewa for “volunteers.” The photos show training that includes religious lessons and introduction to light weaponry. Some trainees are dressed in Afghan-style garments and children and youth are shown receiving training as well.

**2** A source in Hawijah stated that 10 people were killed and 20 were wounded after IA Aviation targeted a residential area in central Hawijah. A source added that these areas contain the ISIS Shari’a courts.

**3** ISIS published images of its forces distributing flour to families in al-Qaim. Those receiving the flour are described as “poor families.”

**4** According to Lieutenant General Rashid Fleih, commander of the Anbar Operations Command (AOC), the ISF launched operations in al-Garma (east of Fallujah), al-Nuaimiya (south of Fallujah), and ISIS bases in Saqlawiyah (north of Fallujah).

**5** A security source in Diyala stated that clashes occurred between Ansar al-Sunna elements and ISIS elements in al-Asaker area, north of Sadia in northeastern Diyala Province. The clashes resulted in the death of six Ansar al-Sunna members and five ISIS fighters.

**6** Security sources in Salah ad-Din Province stated that at least three mortar rounds landed on the volunteer headquarters located in Bank Street of central Samarra City. Other sources, however, claimed that the rounds fell approximately 60-70 meters from the Al-Askari Shrine. Twenty volunteers were injured as a result of the attacks.



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The Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) continues to consolidate its governance presence in Mosul and western Iraq. This state of affairs contradicts reports that ISIS is ceding power in Mosul to other armed groups including the Ba’athist JRTN. On the other hand, Diyala continues to be the front line where ISIS continues to vie for power with other groups. These dynamics and competition will continue to be manifested as events unfold. It is difficult to confirm the veracity that ISIS is distributing aid to “poor families” in Qaim. It is clear, however, that ISIS propaganda seeks to portray it as an organization that is responsive to local needs. It will be important to watch the effect of this strategy on the population’s response. The Iraqi Security Forces’ (ISF) multiple and repeated attempts in the last seven months to regain parts of Anbar are indicative of the difficulties the ISF will face in retaking bigger urban centers such as Mosul and Tikrit. Nonetheless, the ISF are likely launching these operations to prevent ISIS from taking control of Ramadi and Haditha in Anbar province.