

Iraq Situation Report: July 26, 2014

1 On July 25, ISIS released a statement to deny reports that emerged on July 23 regarding alleged attempts to expel Iraqi Sunni Kurds from Mosul

2 ISIS launched an attack on the Baiji oil refinery and took control of the “Nitrogen unit” in the facility. This has initiated heavy clashes with the ISF who reportedly repelled the attack in coordination with the IA Aviation. Also, a force from the CTS conducted an air assault on the “600 Homes” residential area near the facility and is carrying out a clearing operation.

3 The Fallujah hospital reported that IA forces shelled Fallujah, Garma, and Saqlawiyah which damaged homes and shops and resulted in the death of three individuals and the injury of nine others, including women and children.

4 A force from the IP found six unidentified dead bodies in the area of Taji that had gunshot wounds to the head and chest.

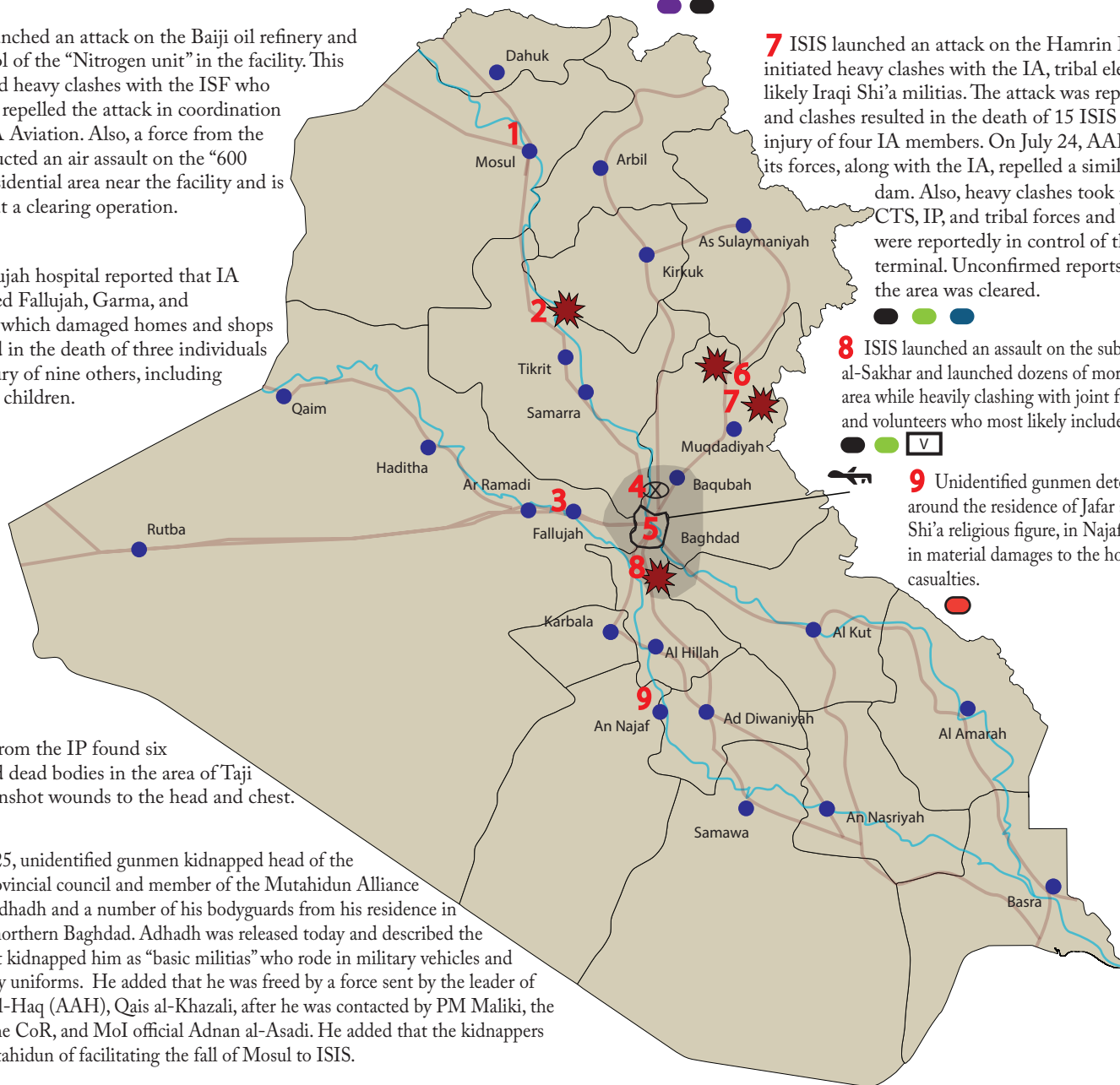
5 On July 25, unidentified gunmen kidnapped head of the Baghdad provincial council and member of the Mutahidun Alliance Riyadh al-Adhadh and a number of his bodyguards from his residence in Adhamiya, northern Baghdad. Adhadh was released today and described the gunmen that kidnapped him as “basic militias” who rode in military vehicles and wore military uniforms. He added that he was freed by a force sent by the leader of Asa’ib Ahl al-Haq (AAH), Qais al-Khazali, after he was contacted by PM Maliki, the speaker of the CoR, and MoI official Adnan al-Asadi. He added that the kidnappers accused Mutahidun of facilitating the fall of Mosul to ISIS.

6 Heavy clashes took place between the Peshmerga and ISIS in the neighborhoods of Shuhada, Wihda, and Tajnid. Reports indicate that Jalula is under Peshmerga control. These reports remain unconfirmed especially given that similar reports emerged on July 24.

7 ISIS launched an attack on the Hamrin Dam. The attack initiated heavy clashes with the IA, tribal elements, and most likely Iraqi Shi’a militias. The attack was reportedly repelled and clashes resulted in the death of 15 ISIS gunmen and the injury of four IA members. On July 24, AAH reported that its forces, along with the IA, repelled a similar attack on the dam. Also, heavy clashes took place between CTS, IP, and tribal forces and ISIS gunmen who were reportedly in control of the Hamrin gas terminal. Unconfirmed reports indicate that that the area was cleared.

8 ISIS launched an assault on the sub-district of Jurf al-Sakhar and launched dozens of mortar rounds on the area while heavily clashing with joint forces of the IA, IP, and volunteers who most likely include Iraqi Shi’a militias.

9 Unidentified gunmen detonated two IEDs around the residence of Jafar al-Ibrahimi, an Iraqi Shi’a religious figure, in Najaf. The attack resulted in material damages to the home with no reported casualties.



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| ● Major Cities | ● ISF and Militias | ● Anti-ISIS Tribes |
| ⊗ Execution | ● Unknown Gunmen | □ Volunteers |
| ➔ Armed Drones | ● ISF | ● Shi’a militias |
| ★ Major Clash | ● ISIS | ● Peshmerga |



by ISW Iraq Team and Aaron Reese

ISIS efforts to control critical infrastructural like the Hamrin Dam is worrisome, as ISIS has previously used its control of Fallujah dam in order to counter the ISF and prevent water supplies from reaching southern Iraq. While the shelling of Fallujah has been ongoing since the fall of the city to ISIS, the shelling of Garma is part of a joint IA and AAH operation named Assad Allah al-Ghalib that was launched on July 21. The kidnapping of Adhadh and the intervention of Khazali illustrate the freedom of movement and influence enjoyed by Iraqi Shi’a militias in the capitol. Meanwhile, Northern Babil remains a front line where clashes continued between the ISF and Iraqi Shi’a militias on one side and ISIS on the other. As ISW has reported elsewhere, ISIS has multiple approaches to Baghdad not limited to a North-South axis. Najaf is not known for witnessing IED attack, which makes the IEDs targeting Jafar al-Ibrahimi stand out. It will be important to watch for similar attacks in Najaf; if the attacks were launched by extreme Sunni groups like ISIS, this would represent a step change.