

Iraq Situation Report: July 29, 2014

1 Airstrikes targeted ISIS positions in al-Fadiliyah, near Jurf al-Sakhar, destroying five ISIS vehicles and killing a number of ISIS militants.



2 Yazidis and military intelligence detachments, who are most likely part of the Peshmerga force in Sinjar, fought ISIS in the Shlu area of northern Sinjar, Ninewa province. In the attack, 24 ISIS militants died and four vehicles were destroyed.



3 ISF and aligned tribes conducted a clearing operation in the Albu Bali area, east of Ramadi, killing three ISIS fighters.



4 IA clashed with ISIS militants in the al-Raud and al-Hamra areas in al-Garma, east of Fallujah, after IA stormed the area. The clashes killed nine ISIS fighters, destroyed nine vehicles and a VBIED in the form of a truck. IA Aviation bombed ISIS militants in the area.



5 ISIS gave Baiji residents 48 hours to vacate their homes before they launched an attack on the oil refinery. IA Aviation then targeted ISIS elements attempting to storm the facility, killing 15 ISIS fighters and destroying an ISIS vehicle.



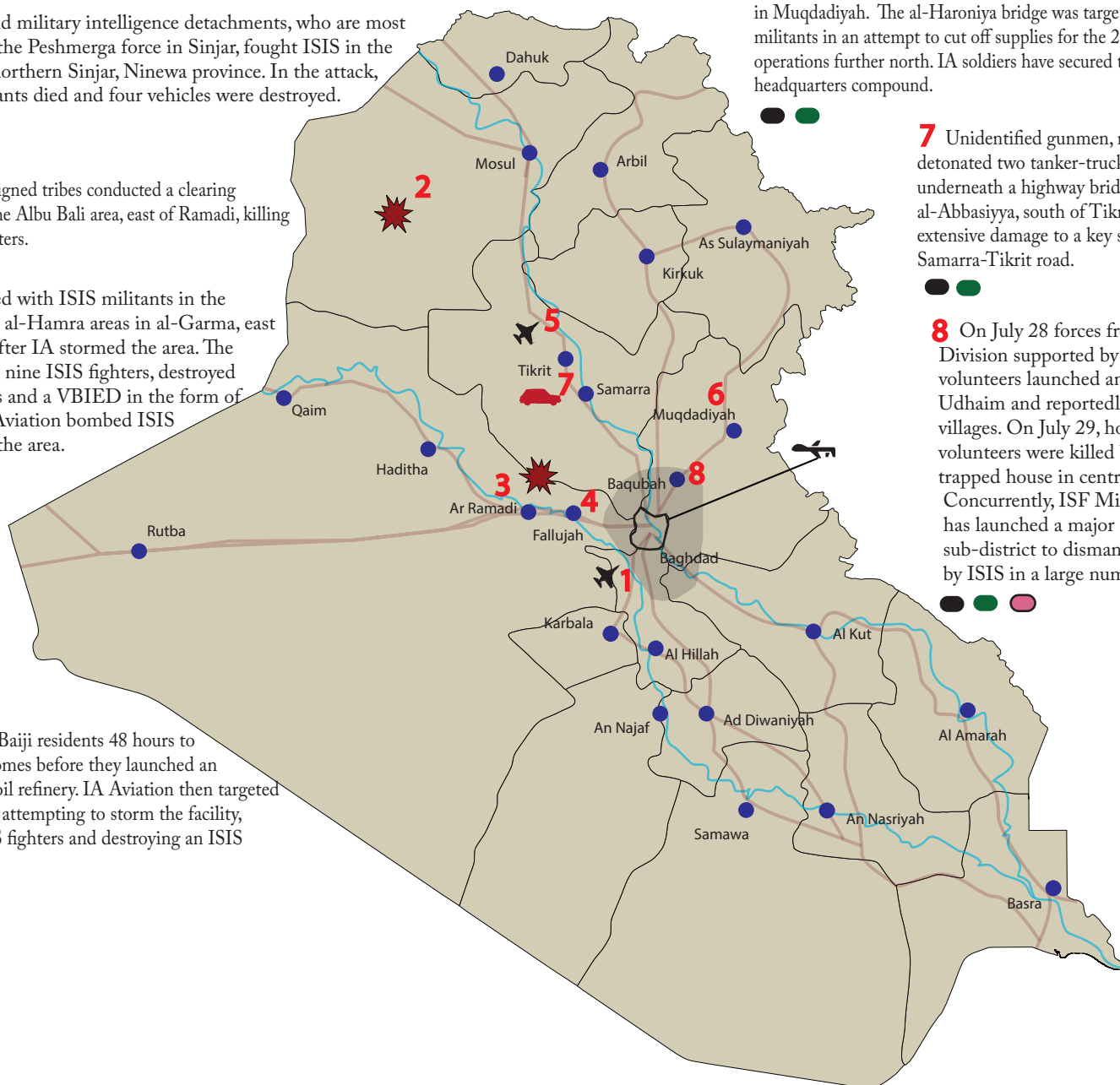
6 ISIS attempted to storm the 20th Brigade Headquarters in the Hamrin district near Muqdadiyah, northeast of Baquba, wounding two ISF soldiers and leading to the death of seven ISIS militants. The IA has constructed a second bridge to supplement the al-Haroniya bridge in Muqdadiyah. The al-Haroniya bridge was targeted by ISIS militants in an attempt to cut off supplies for the 20th Brigade and its operations further north. IA soldiers have secured the main road to the headquarters compound.



7 Unidentified gunmen, most likely ISIS, detonated two tanker-truck VBIEDs underneath a highway bridge in the district of al-Abbasiyya, south of Tikrit, causing extensive damage to a key structure on the Samarra-Tikrit road.



8 On July 28 forces from the 5th IA Division supported by IA Aviation and volunteers launched an operation in Udham and reportedly cleared three villages. On July 29, however, two volunteers were killed by a booby-trapped house in central Udham. Concurrently, ISF Military Engineering has launched a major operation in the sub-district to dismantle IEDs emplaced by ISIS in a large number of homes.



- Major Cities
- Anti-ISIS Tribes
- Airstrikes
- Shi'a militias
- Armed Drones
- ISF
- Major Clash
- ISIS



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ISIS continued to challenge the Peshmerga near Sinjar, although these are not major operations and do not demonstrate a desire to control Sinjar. Instead, ISIS could be testing the defenses of the Peshmerga. The targeting of the bridge that connects Samarra and Tikrit was likely done in order to prevent ISF reinforcements from Balad, an area currently reported to be reinforced by volunteers, to Tikrit. Udham was cleared by the ISF and Iraqi Shi'a militias in June. The launch of the current clearing operation indicates that ISF has not been fully successful in maintaining its control over the area. ISW therefore currently considers Udham to be contested.