

Iraq Situation Report: August 3, 2014

1 An anonymous source in the North Oil Company reported that ISIS militants seized control of the Ain Zala and Batma al-Murtafa oil fields in the Zammar sub-district. The source added that ISIS now controls almost the entirety of the oil pipeline running from northern Iraq to Turkey.

2 An anonymous local source reported that ISIS militants gave Peshmerga soldiers an ultimatum to withdraw from the Mosul Dam within two hours after seizing the nearby village of Wana, north of Mosul. An unnamed Peshmerga officer confirmed that there has been a series of armed clashes and artillery bombardments near the Dam in the past 24 hours.

3 The Directorate of Military Intelligence issued a statement saying that IA Aviation launched airstrikes on the Yadh area of Tal Afar, Ninewa province. The source added that the airstrikes destroyed 70 ISIS vehicles and killed or wounded 100 ISIS militants.

4 IA Aviation launched airstrikes on ISIS gatherings in small villages located between Amerli and Tuz Khurmatu, south of Kirkuk, in Salah ad-Din province. The district director of Amerli, Talib al-Bayati stated that security forces, working with Sahwa forces, volunteers, and IA Aviation repelled an ISIS attack in Amerli, after being besieged by ISIS for 54 days. Bayati added that the clashes are ongoing.

5 An anonymous local source in Diyala province stated that ISIS is giving people 48 hours to turn in their weapons in Sadia. The source added that the decision is prompted by a recent increase in the targeting of ISIS militants. ISIS also bulldozed 50 graves in a Sadia cemetery, "under the pretext" that the graves violate Islamic law.

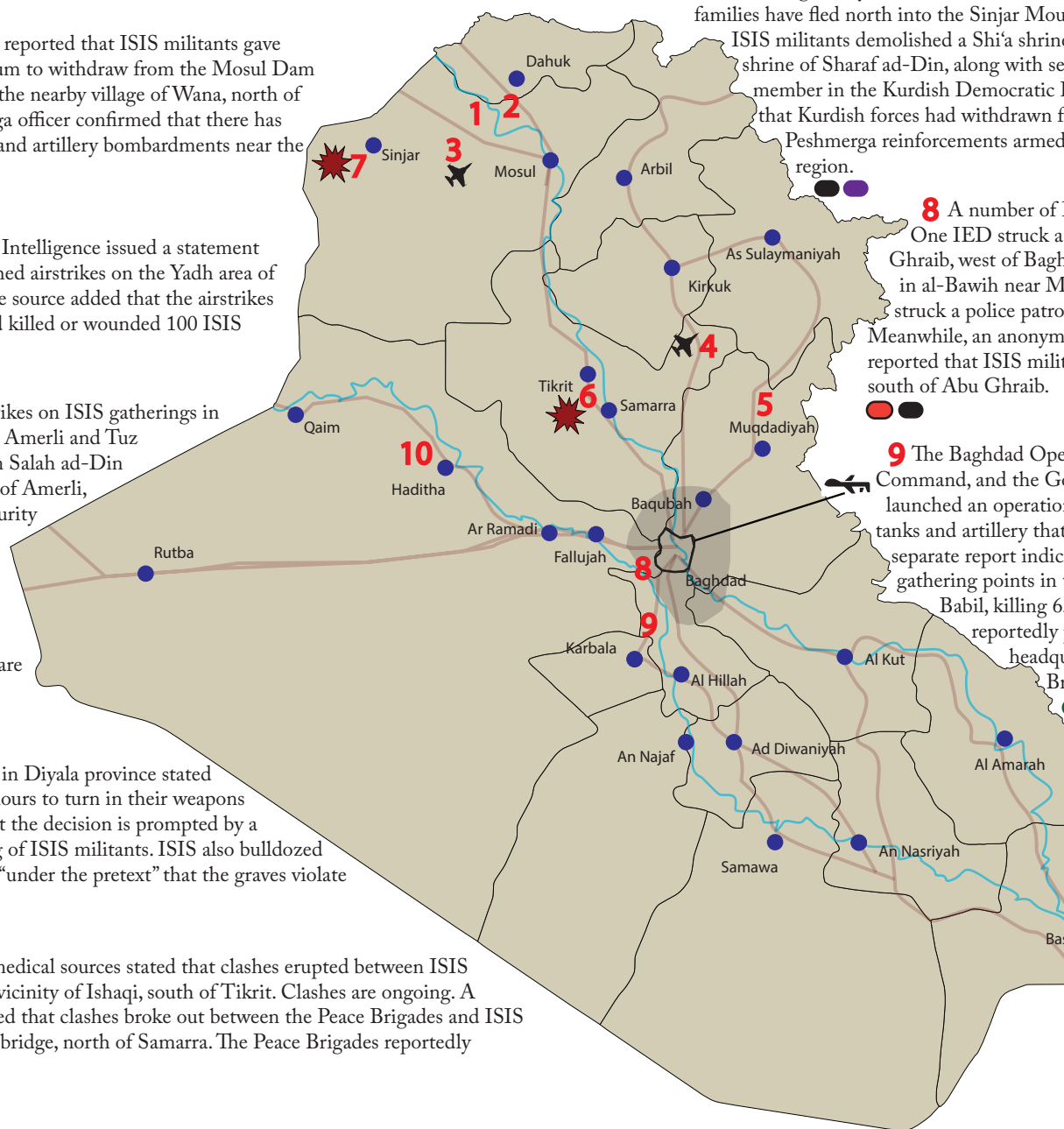
6 Anonymous security and medical sources stated that clashes erupted between ISIS and the Peace Brigades in the vicinity of Ishaqi, south of Tikrit. Clashes are ongoing. A separate security source reported that clashes broke out between the Peace Brigades and ISIS in the vicinity of the al-Rasasi bridge, north of Samarra. The Peace Brigades reportedly repelled the attack.

7 Heavy clashes were reported between ISIS militants and Peshmerga soldiers in Sinjar, west of Mosul. ISIS militants reportedly entered the area at dawn and raised their flag over the mayor's office after Peshmerga forces retreated from the village "without a fight." Eyewitnesses noted that hundreds of Yazidi and Shi'a Shabak families have fled north into the Sinjar Mountains. Local sources also reported that ISIS militants demolished a Shi'a shrine to Sayyidah Zaynab and the Yazidi shrine of Sharaf ad-Din, along with several other religious structures. A senior member in the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), Ali Awni, disputed the claim that Kurdish forces had withdrawn from the area and announced that Peshmerga reinforcements armed with heavy weaponry had traveled to the region.

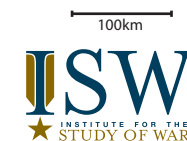
8 A number of IEDs detonated in the Baghdad Belts. One IED struck a police patrol on the highway near Abu Ghraib, west of Baghdad. Another IED struck a police patrol in al-Bawih near Mada'in, south of Baghdad. A third IED struck a police patrol in Yusufiyah, southwest of Baghdad. Meanwhile, an anonymous Ministry of Interior source also reported that ISIS militants attacked IA soldiers in al-Zaidan, south of Abu Ghraib.

9 The Baghdad Operations Command, Babil Operations Command, and the Golden Division (Special Forces) reportedly launched an operation to clear Jurf al-Sakhar of ISIS, using tanks and artillery that arrived in northern Babil yesterday. A separate report indicated that IA Aviation struck five ISIS gathering points in the orchards near Iskandariyah, northern Babil, killing 65 ISIS members. The militants were reportedly planning to attack the nearby headquarters of the IA 2nd Regiment, 31st Brigade.

10 An anonymous source from Anbar Operations Command stated that the ISF killed nine ISIS members, captured seven others, and destroyed 13 vehicles after ISIS militants attempted to storm Haditha from three axes. The mayor of Haditha, Abdul Hakim al-Jughaiifi, reported that IA and IP forces, supported by fighters from the al-Jughaiifi and Albu Nimr tribes, have launched an offensive on ISIS positions south of the city.



- Major Cities
- ✈ Airstrikes
- ✈ Armed Drones
- ★ Major Clash
- Anti-ISIS Tribes
- ISF
- ISIS
- Iraqi Shi'a militias
- Unknown Gunmen
- Peshmerga



Content: Jessica D. Lewis and ISW Iraq Team
Graphics: Nichole Dicharry

ISIS has launched a new offensive in northern Iraq to take control of Sinjar and other critical terrain in Kurdish areas north and west of Mosul. Reports indicate that ISIS has seized control of the Ain Zala and Batma oil fields northeast of Tel Afar, and additional unverified reports indicate that ISIS may also control Rabiya and Mosul Dam. These areas had all been under the protection of the Kurdish Peshmerga, and it is unlikely that the Peshmerga will be able to re-establish security in each. ISIS has been setting conditions for an offensive against the Kurdish Peshmerga forces in Sinjar and Mosul Dam areas for nine weeks, since June 11, 2014, when ISIS reportedly destroyed the Badush Bridge in order to disrupt Peshmerga mobility after the fall of Mosul. ISW subsequently observed complex attacks involving VBIEDs; attempts to thin the Peshmerga by attacking along the Hamrin Ridge, Kirkuk, and Sinjar including the Hamrin dam; and finally the seizure of the Badush dam north of Mosul. ISIS has shifted from battlefield preparation in Kurdish areas to an attack phase. These events illustrate that the ISIS offensive in Iraq has not culminated, but rather consists of a series of operational level offensives that its leadership launches simultaneously or sequentially in different provinces of Iraq and Syria. Meanwhile, the ISF launched airstrikes in Tel Afar and eastern Salah ad-Din and maintained ground contact with ISIS in northern Babil. Additional clashes south of Tikrit, south of Haditha, and in northern Diyala indicate that separate ISIS elements are actively engaged on multiple fronts simultaneously. Attacks against Iraqi Police patrols in the Baghdad Belts to the west and south of the capital have also begun to increase.