

Iraq Situation Report: August 4, 2014

1 Forces from the Peshmerga were deployed to the Mosul Dam. The new force is reportedly larger and better equipped than the forces that had clashed with ISIS previously in the area. Also, unconfirmed reports suggest that the Peshmerga have retaken the area of Wana, located near the dam, that fell to ISIS yesterday.

2 Large numbers of residents from Bashiqa sub-district, north of Mosul, fled the area in fear of an ISIS advance. The residents headed to the areas of Shaikhan and Okra, northeast of Mosul.

3 Three IA Aviation helicopters reportedly arrived at Camp Speicher in order to participate in military operations. This comes after ISIS gunmen infiltrated the base on July 18 and damaged at least three helicopters.

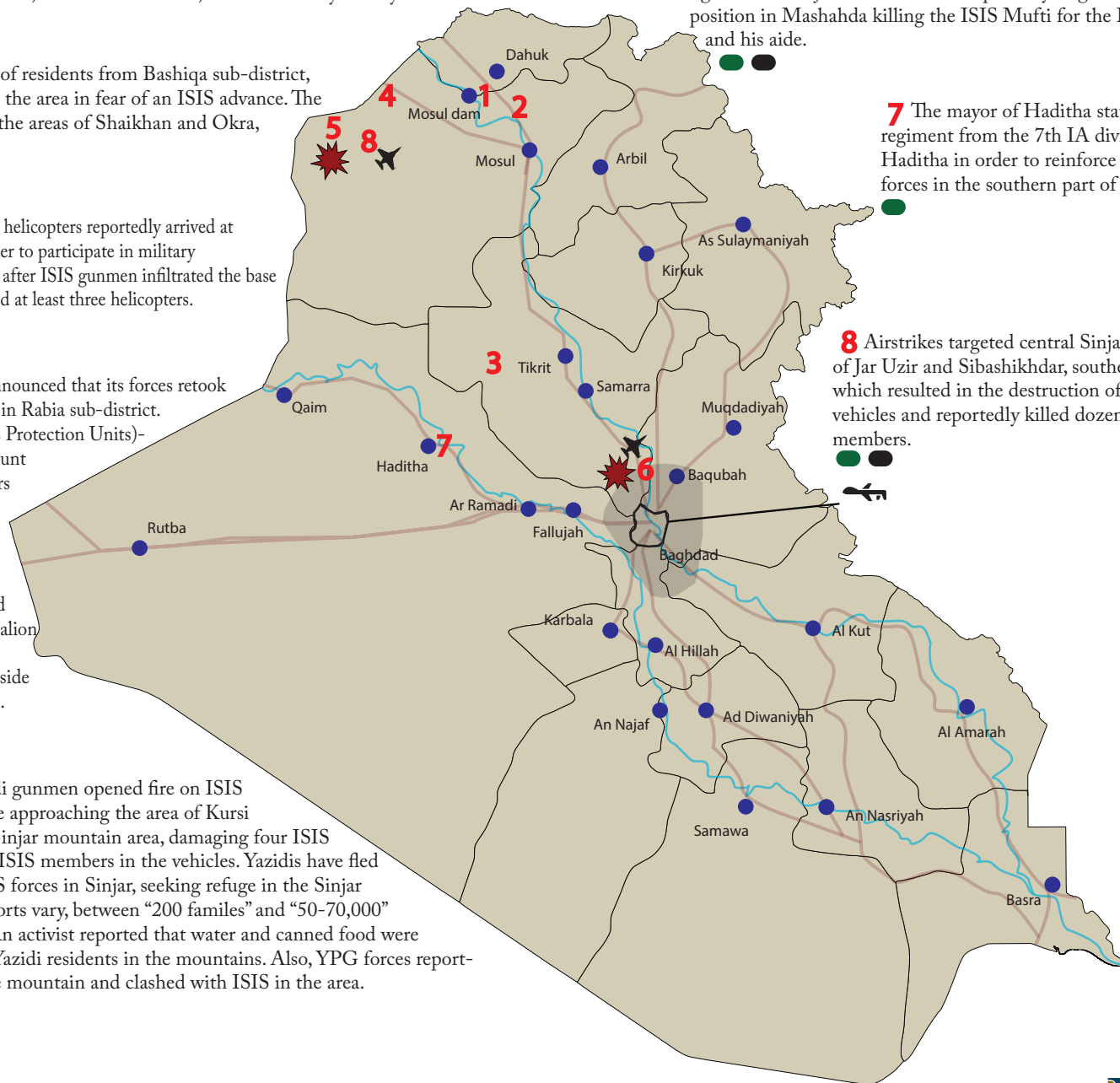
4 The Peshmerga announced that its forces retook Walid village, located in Rabia sub-district. Also, a YPG (People's Protection Units)-leaning YouTube account showed YPG members engaged in what appeared to be a firefight in an area alleged to be Rabia. Also, reports indicated that a Peshmerga battalion refused to withdraw, instead fighting alongside the YPG against ISIS.

5 Dozens of Yazidi gunmen opened fire on ISIS vehicles as they were approaching the area of Kursi al-Jabaliyah in the Sinjar mountain area, damaging four ISIS vehicles and killing ISIS members in the vehicles. Yazidis have fled from advancing ISIS forces in Sinjar, seeking refuge in the Sinjar mountain area. Reports vary, between "200 families" and "50-70,000" displaced persons. An activist reported that water and canned food were air-dropped to the Yazidi residents in the mountains. Also, YPG forces reportedly deployed to the mountain and clashed with ISIS in the area.

6 Heavy clashes took place between IA forces and ISIS in Mashahda, north of Baghdad. Three IA members were killed along with one ISIS gunman. Also, eight IA members and four ISIS fighters were injured. IA Aviation reportedly targeted an ISIS position in Mashahda killing the ISIS Mufti for the Baghdad Belts and his aide.

7 The mayor of Haditha stated that a regiment from the 7th IA division arrived in Haditha in order to reinforce the IP and tribal forces in the southern part of the district.

8 Airstrikes targeted central Sinjar and the areas of Jar Uzir and Sibashikhdar, southern Sinjar which resulted in the destruction of four ISIS vehicles and reportedly killed dozens of ISIS members.



- Major Cities
- ✈ Armed Drones
- ★ Major Clash
- ✈ Airstrikes
- Yazidi Gunmen
- ISF
- People's Protection Units (YPG)
- Peshmerga
- ISIS



Content: ISW Iraq Team
Graphics: Nichole Dicbarry

ISIS took control of the Sinjar district yesterday, while hundreds of families fled the area to the nearby Sinjar Mountain. ISIS will most likely launch an offensive in order to have uncontested control over the mountain to create a contiguous area of control between the northern parts of Iraq and Syria similar to the area between Qaim and Abu Kamal in Syria. This would facilitate the movement of supplies and fighters between Iraq and Syria further actualizing the "Islamic Caliphate." The role of the YPG and their deployment to Iraqi territories will be important to watch; it is still unclear if they will be a component of a potential Kurdish counter-attack. Meanwhile, Haditha remains a strong pocket of anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni tribal resistance. The Iraqi Government has sent reinforcements to the area multiple times in order to deny ISIS the opportunity to increase its control over areas of the upper Euphrates.