

Iraq Situation Report: August 5, 2014

1 Mortar rounds landed on an IA and volunteers headquarters in the area of Latifiyah, south of Baghdad. Three IA members and two volunteers were killed, three IA members and five volunteers were injured.



2 IA and IP forces supported by tribal gunmen from the Jighaifa and Albu Nimr tribes clashed with ISIS in the area of Khafajeya, south of Haditha reportedly killing dozens of ISIS members and destroying five ISIS vehicles. Also, another joint force repelled an ISIS attack on a power plant located south of Haditha.



3 ISIS gunmen attacked a Sahwa headquarters in the area of Tarmiyah, north of Baghdad, using light and medium weapons, killing three Sahwa members and injuring five others.



4 The Peshmerga reportedly launched an assault on Sinajr originating from Rabia sub-district, north of Sinjar. These reports remain unconfirmed.



5 Heavy shelling with mortar rounds reportedly targeted the Sidiq, Hadba, Malayin, Sakar, and Sada Village neighborhoods of northern Mosul. The shelling prompted dozens of northern Mosul's residents to flee to central and western Mosul. The mortars were reportedly launched from the area of Shalalat and Tlikif district, north of Mosul. Other reports indicated the mortars that landed on the Sakar neighborhood originated from heavy clashes between ISIS and the Peshmerga killing two civilians and injuring two others.



6 ISIS and the Peshmerga clashed in the sub-district of Bashiqa, eight miles northeast of Mosul. Casualties were not reported. Many Bashiqa residents fled the area yesterday, fearing an ISIS advance. Unconfirmed reports state the Peshmerga seized the Hadba and Sumer neighborhoods, located in eastern Mosul. ISIS is moving heavy weapons from the western to the eastern side of Mosul and placing explosives at the city's approaches. Eyewitnesses reported heavy airstrikes in eastern and northern Mosul neighborhoods.



7 ISIS and the Peshmerga clashed on the outskirts of Goyar sub-district, southeast of Mosul. The clashes were reportedly ongoing while the Peshmerga shelled villages of the Sabawi tribe suspected of harboring ISIS.



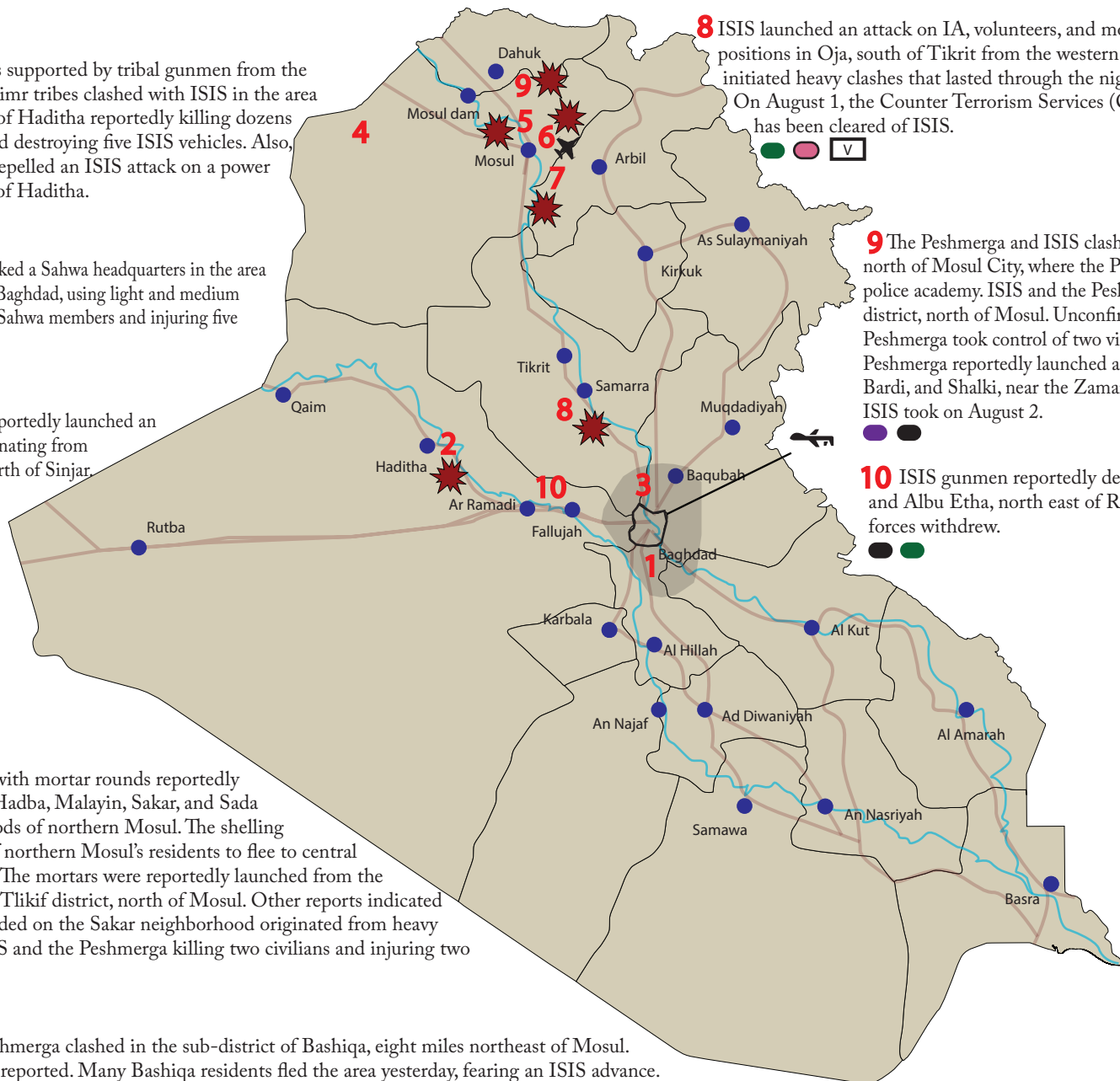
8 ISIS launched an attack on IA, volunteers, and most likely Iraqi Shi'a militias positions in Oja, south of Tikrit from the western and the eastern axes. The attack initiated heavy clashes that lasted through the night. No casualties were reported. On August 1, the Counter Terrorism Services (CTS) announced that the area has been cleared of ISIS.



9 The Peshmerga and ISIS clashed in the Shalalat area, four miles north of Mosul City, where the Peshmerga reportedly seized a police academy. ISIS and the Peshmerga clashed in the Tlikif district, north of Mosul. Unconfirmed reports indicated the Peshmerga took control of two villages in the district. The Peshmerga reportedly launched an assault on the areas of Sahbala, Bardi, and Shalki, near the Zamar sub-district, north of Mosul that ISIS took on August 2.



10 ISIS gunmen reportedly deployed to the areas of Hamdhiya and Albu Etha, north east of Ramadi after the IA and the IP forces withdrew.



- Major Cities
- Armed Drones
- Major Clash
- Airstrikes
- Iraqi Shi'a militias
- Peshmerga
- ISF
- ISIS
- Awakening
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- V Volunteers



Content: ISW Iraq Team and Lauren Squires
Graphics: Nichole Dicharry

The president of Iraqi Kurdistan and the leader of the KDP, Masoud Barzani, issued orders for the Peshmerga to take an offensive role against ISIS. Multiple clashes between ISIS and the Peshmerga north and east of Mosul may indicate that a Peshmerga counter-offensive has begun. ISIS had seized a number of Kurdish controlled positions west and north of Mosul, including Sinjar, northern oil fields, and a town proximate to the Mosul Dam. While the status of these positions remain unclear with the Peshmerga claiming that they retook the area near the dam and launched an offensive on Sinjar, the implications of a Peshmerga offensive directed at Mosul are significant. First, the Peshmerga are conducting a strategic counter-offensive against ISIS not in the positions that ISIS has seized but rather in other areas surrounding Mosul. In contrast, ISF counteroffensives tend to concentrate on areas that ISIS has seized. A Peshmerga attack on Mosul may perturb the ISIS battle plan by choosing locations to fight that can set new terms of battle. Second, the Peshmerga attacked ISIS on multiple fronts in what appears to be coordination with the central government, given the concurrent airstrikes reported in northern and eastern Mosul. Barzani's cooperation with Baghdad in this offensive is somewhat surprising, as he has been the staunchest advocate for Kurdish independence and the efforts to conduct joint operations with the ISF will tend to draw Baghdad and Arbil together. The effectiveness of this Kurdish counter-offensive cannot yet be ascertained. ISIS has most likely set up defensive positions around the city, and ISIS may be capable of repelling an urban offensive in Mosul as they have repelled ISF offensives in Tikrit. ISIS will also likely pressure the Peshmerga by attacking it along the Green Line and by conducting terrorist attacks in Kirkuk and other areas vital to the Kurds. ISIS in its other sectors continues to pursue its enduring, terrain-based objectives, including Haditha and Ramadi in Anbar and Tarmiyah and Latifiyah in the Baghdad belts. ISIS may exercise its capability to attack the capital region in order to preserve its operational initiative if it is compromised in the north.