

Iraq Situation Report: August 7, 2014

1 Peshmerga reportedly clashed with ISIS and captured the Do Kari area located 5 km from the Syrian border. Also, there are clashes reportedly ongoing in the areas of Sanoni and Khan Sur, northwest of Sinjar.

2 An SVBIED detonated on an ISF checkpoint at the northern entrance to Kadhimiyah, at least 13 individuals were killed and 26 others were wounded. An SVBIED detonated near another ISF checkpoint in southeastern Kadhimiyah, killing at least two individuals and wounding 10 others.

3 A VBIED detonated near a Shi'a mosque in central Kirkuk where displaced persons from Amerli, Taza, and Tuz Khurmatu reside. An SVBIED detonation followed the attack killing at least eight individuals and injuring at least 40 others.

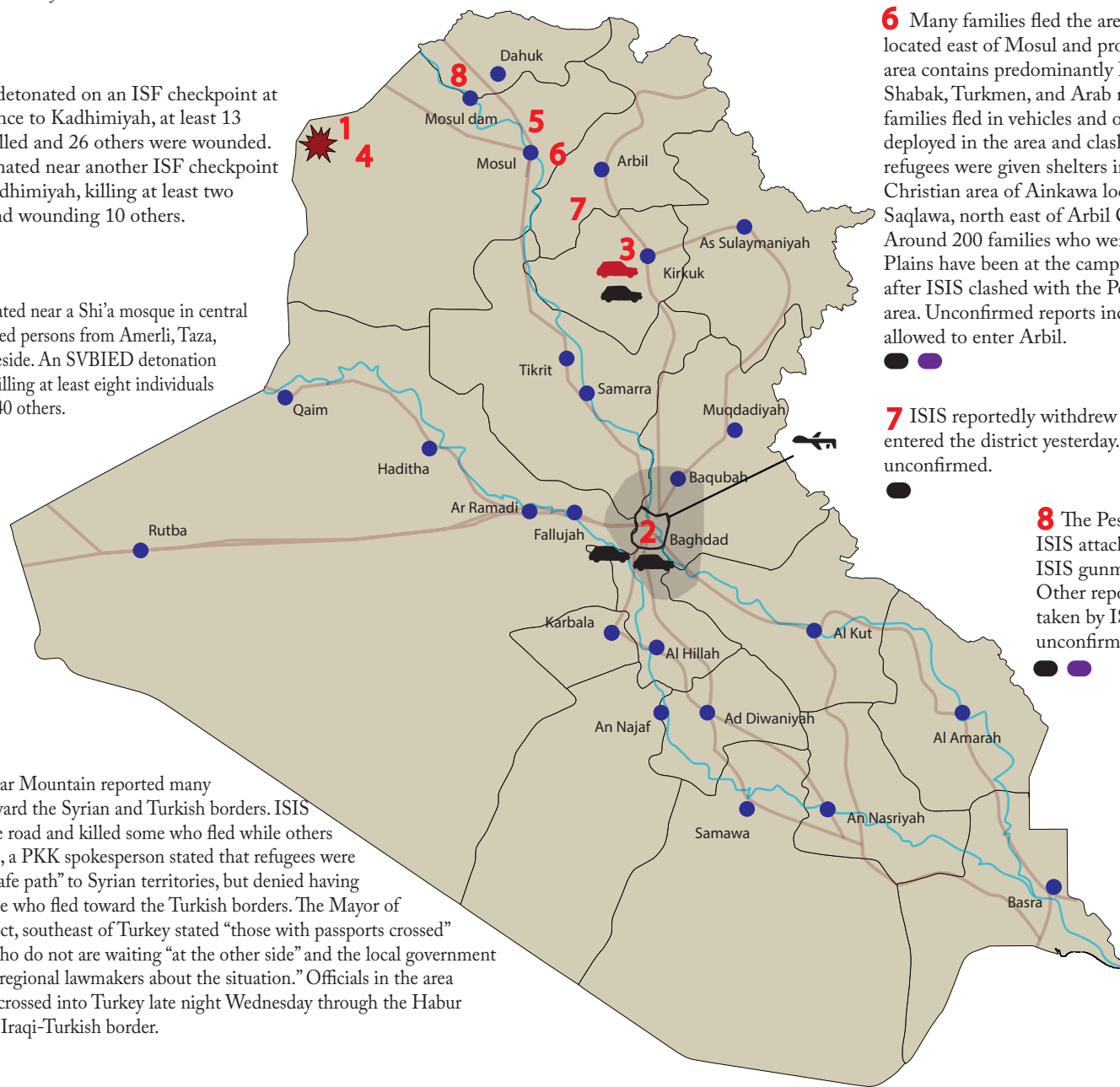
4 A refugee at Sinjar Mountain reported many families escaped toward the Syrian and Turkish borders. ISIS gunmen blocked the road and killed some who fled while others escaped. Meanwhile, a PKK spokesperson stated that refugees were evacuated using a "safe path" to Syrian territories, but denied having information on those who fled toward the Turkish borders. The Mayor of Sirnak's Silpoi district, southeast of Turkey stated "those with passports crossed" while "thousands" who do not are waiting "at the other side" and the local government is "in talks with the regional lawmakers about the situation." Officials in the area stated 150 refugees crossed into Turkey late night Wednesday through the Habur Border Gate on the Iraqi-Turkish border.

5 ISIS gunmen reportedly took control of Bashiqa and Tlikif, northeast and north of Mosul respectively.

6 Many families fled the area of the Ninewa Plains, an area located east of Mosul and proximate to Iraqi Kurdistan. This area contains predominantly Iraqi Christians with Yazedi, Shabak, Turkmen, and Arab minority populations. The families fled in vehicles and on foot after ISIS gunmen were deployed in the area and clashed with the Peshmerga. Some refugees were given shelters in churches in the predominantly Christian area of Ainkawa located in Arbil and the area of Saqlawa, north east of Arbil City and Duhuk province. Around 200 families who were at a refugee camp in Ninewa Plains have been at the camp since the fall of Mosul and fled after ISIS clashed with the Peshmerga forces protecting the area. Unconfirmed reports indicated that the refugees were not allowed to enter Arbil.

7 ISIS reportedly withdrew from Makhmur after they entered the district yesterday. These reports remain unconfirmed.

8 The Peshmerga reportedly repelled an ISIS attack on the Mosul Dam killing eight ISIS gunmen and capturing 12 others. Other reports indicated that the dam was taken by ISIS. Both of these reports remain unconfirmed.



- Major Cities
- ✈ Armed Drones
- ★ Major Clash
- 🚗 VBIED
- 🚚 SVBIED
- Peshmerga
- ISF
- ISIS



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

The status of the Mosul Dam remains unclear as reports conflict regarding who controls it. The dam requires consistent maintenance to function, and even if ISIS does not intend to use the Mosul Dam to achieve a military objective, as it did in Fallujah, the dam could still collapse from neglect. Sinjar mountain remains the isolated holding position for several thousand Iraqi Yazidis fleeing a potential massacre by ISIS. At the time of writing, there are unconfirmed reports of airstrikes in and around the Sinjar mountains. Refugees are trapped atop the mountain and remain in dire need of humanitarian assistance. ISIS and Peshmerga forces continue to clash north of Sinjar while ISIS expands its territorial gains near Mosul although the Peshmerga launched an offense against ISIS after the fall of Sinjar. The presence of ISIS in the area of the Ninewa Plains exacerbated a humanitarian crisis and will likely shift Peshmerga resources to defend Arbil. Extending eastward, ISIS attacked a Shi'a mosque in Kirkuk, killing refugees who previously fled ISIS staying at the mosque. ISIS's persistent effort throughout northern Iraq demonstrates ISIS's strength and intent to combat Peshmerga forces' ability to hold and consolidate territory proximate to Syria, thus solidifying a contiguous Islamic Caliphate. Meanwhile, following yesterday's VBIED wave in Baghdad, ISIS detonated two SVBIEDs at checkpoints just outside of Kadhimiyah, a Shi'a area in northwest Baghdad. ISIS conducts VBIED attacks against Shi'a targets in Baghdad as a method to foment sectarian unrest in the capital and undermine the Iraqi government in addition to degrading ISF defenses.