

Iraq Situation Report: August 9, 2014

1 16 mortar rounds targeted volunteers, most likely including Iraqi Shi'a militias, in the area of Ouja, south of Tikrit. Seven volunteers were wounded and an unspecified number of homes were damaged.



2 The mayor of Tuz Khurmatu stated that ISIS launched an attack on the district from three axes. He added that the attack was repelled by the Peshmerga and volunteers.



3 Iraqi Police (IP) found six unidentified bodies with signs of torture in mostly Shi'a neighborhoods in Baghdad. Another force from the IP found four unidentified bodies in the area of Kweresh, south of Baghdad. Iraqi Shi'a militias.



4 ISIS detonated IEDs targeting the bridge that connects Barwana sub-district to Haditha district, causing severe damage to it, in order to prevent an ISF advance toward Barwana.

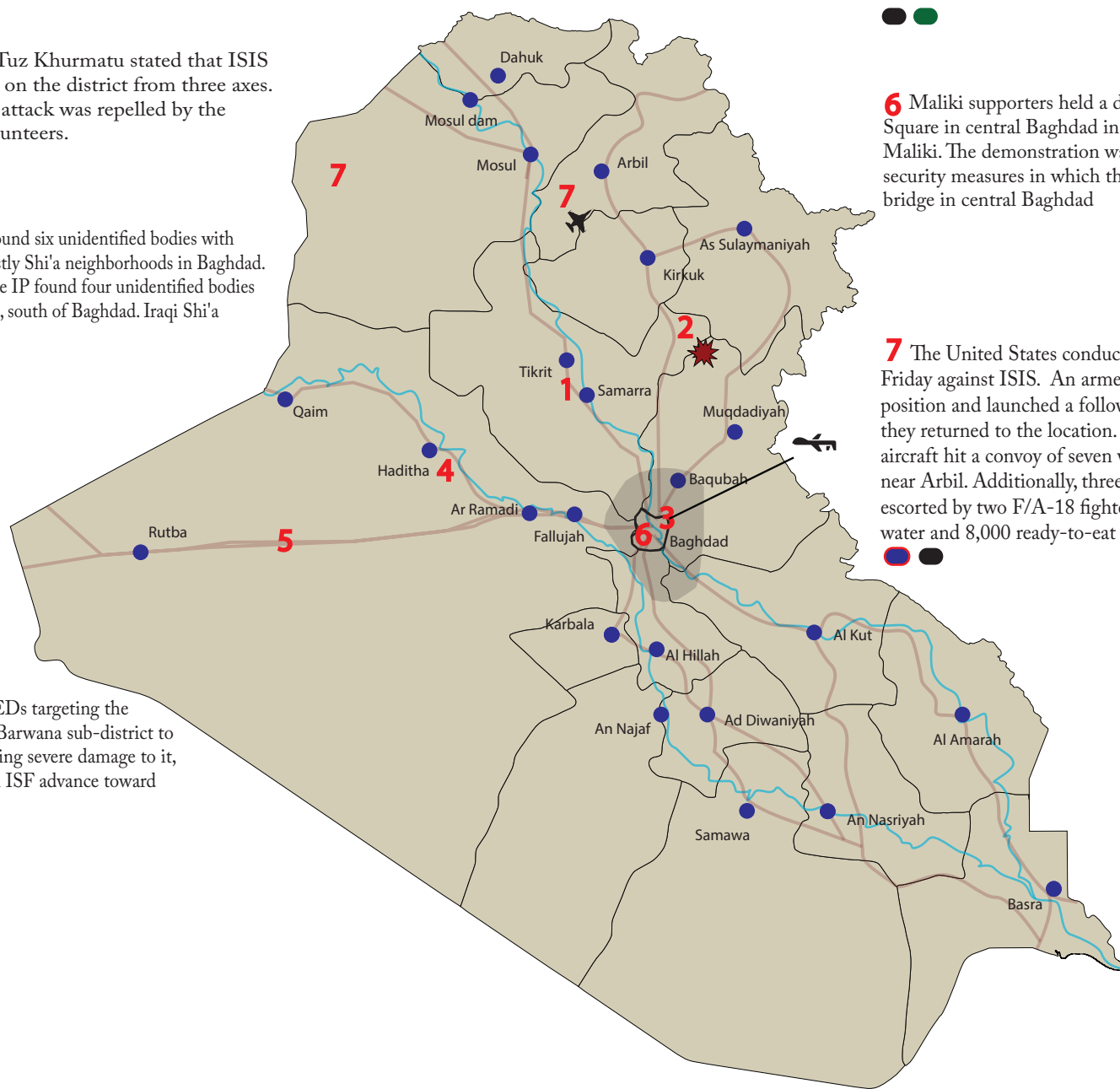


5 Unidentified gunmen riding in 4x4 vehicles attacked an IP force on the International Highway in the area known as "160 km," resulting in the death of two IP members and the injury of five others.

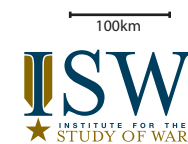


6 Maliki supporters held a demonstration in the Furdus Square in central Baghdad in support of a third term for Maliki. The demonstration was accompanied by heightened security measures in which the ISF blocked major roads and a bridge in central Baghdad

7 The United States conducted three rounds of airstrikes Friday against ISIS. An armed drone struck an ISIS mortar position and launched a follow up attack on ISIS fighters when they returned to the location. One hour later, four F/A-18 aircraft hit a convoy of seven vehicles and a mortar position near Arbil. Additionally, three U.S. Air Force cargo jets escorted by two F/A-18 fighter jets dropped 5,300 gallons of water and 8,000 ready-to-eat meals to Sinjar refugees.



- Major Cities
- ✈ Armed Drones
- ★ Major Clash
- ✈ Airstrikes
- Volunteers
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- Iraqi Shi'a militias
- Peshmerga
- ISF
- ISIS
- USA



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

U.S. military engagement against ISIS remains limited. Airstrikes are targeting military positions, such as mortars and convoys, to prevent further advance towards Arbil or towards Yazidi refugees on Mt. Sinjar. Resupply efforts by the U.S. are also directed at aiding the refugees, seeking to avert a humanitarian crisis brought on by hunger and thirst. Tomorrow is the last day for the new Iraqi president to task the "largest bloc" resulting from the national elections with selecting a prime minister. The National Alliance, a Shi'a coalition that contains Maliki's Da'wa Party, has rejected the idea of a third term for PM Maliki, and the Shi'a religious establishment in Najaf has expressed similar feelings. This pressure, coupled with the tight timeline, prompted PM Maliki supporters, likely at the behest of the Prime Minister, to demonstrate publicly in support of a third term for Maliki. This seems to indicate that PM Maliki will insist on securing the position and is relying on popular support. After securing a foothold in Barwana sub-district near the Haditha dam, ISIS targeted the bridge near Haditha in order to consolidate its gains. Denying this bridge to the ISF and anti-ISIS tribes is intended to block the advance of an IA brigade dispatched yesterday to secure Haditha district and the dam. If ISIS controls the Haditha dam, it will have control over the water flow from the Euphrates in addition to controlling the Mosul dam. ISIS also continued to challenge the Peshmerga, this time by attacking the Peshmerga-controlled area of Tuz Khurmatu. Finally, the attack against volunteers in Ouja is part of an effort to retake the area after the ISF, along with Iraqi Shi'a militias, gained a recent foothold.