

# Iraq Situation Report: August 13, 2014

**1** The Peshmerga, supported by volunteers, reportedly repelled an ISIS attack on Tuz Khurmatu killing 10 ISIS members and destroying three vehicles. The Peshmerga followed by shelling ISIS position west of Tuz Khurmatu.



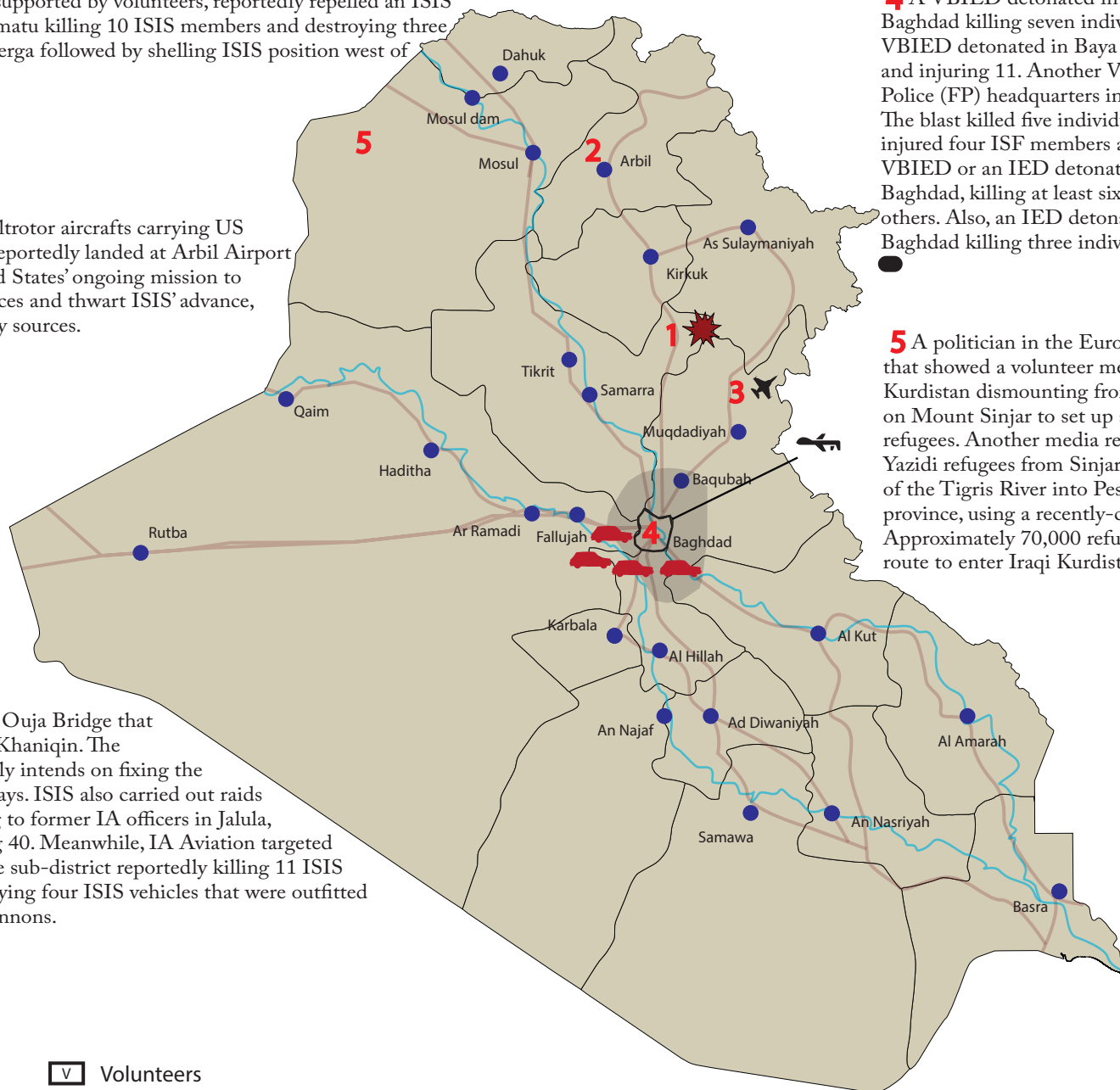
**2** Four American tiltrotor aircraft carrying US military personnel reportedly landed at Arbil Airport as part of the United States' ongoing mission to support Kurdish forces and thwart ISIS' advance, according to military sources.



**3** ISIS targeted the Ouja Bridge that connected Jalula to Khaniqin. The Peshmerga reportedly intends on fixing the bridge within two days. ISIS also carried out raids on homes belonging to former IA officers in Jalula, reportedly capturing 40. Meanwhile, IA Aviation targeted ISIS positions in the sub-district reportedly killing 11 ISIS elements and destroying four ISIS vehicles that were outfitted with anti-aircraft cannons.



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|--------------|------------|
| Major Cities | Volunteers |
| Airstrikes   | USA        |
| Armed Drones | Peshmerga  |
| Major Clash  | ISF        |
| VBIED        | ISIS       |



**4** A VBIED detonated in Baghdad al-Jadida, eastern Baghdad killing seven individuals and injuring 21. A VBIED detonated in Baya southwestern Baghdad killing 4 and injuring 11. Another VBIED detonated near a Federal Police (FP) headquarters in Amil, southwestern Baghdad. The blast killed five individual including ISF members and injured four ISF members and nine civilians. Either a VBIED or an IED detonated in Tayaran Square, in central Baghdad, killing at least six individuals and injuring 11 others. Also, an IED detonated in Karrada, central Baghdad killing three individual and injuring 11 others.

**5** A politician in the European Union filmed a video that showed a volunteer medical team from Iraqi Kurdistan dismounting from an IA Aviation helicopter on Mount Sinjar to set up a mobile clinic for Yazidi refugees. Another media report video showed hundreds of Yazidi refugees from Sinjar crossing from the Syrian side of the Tigris River into Peshkhabour, western Dohuk province, using a recently-constructed float bridge. Approximately 70,000 refugees have reportedly used this route to enter Iraqi Kurdistan.



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

ISIS and the Peshmerga continue to challenge one another for territorial control along the Kurdish internal boundaries in northern and eastern Iraq. After the Peshmerga cleared Gwer and Makhmour of ISIS presence on August 10, Peshmerga forces deployed south to Khanaqin, the Iranian border crossing in northern Diyala province, in an attempt to regain the territory they lost in nearby Jalula on August 13-14. ISIS has been particularly active in this area over recent weeks, though ISIS presence in northern Diyala likely became entrenched long ago. ISIS seized control of nearby Suleiman Beg on June 10 in conjunction with the fall of Mosul, indicating that ISIS military activities across its northern and eastern fronts have been synchronized for some time. ISIS likely engaged in attacks against Peshmerga positions in Kirkuk and Diyala provinces in July 2014 in order to limit the ability of the Peshmerga to defend Sinjar; likewise, ISIS is likely now increasing attacks along its eastern front in order to reduce pressure against ISIS positions between Mosul and Arbil, such as Gwer and Makhmour. ISIS established control in Jalula on August 14 and attacked the bridge connecting Jalula to Khanaqin. This was likely designed to block the Peshmerga from ISIS positions in Jalula after ISIS successfully drove the Peshmerga from the sub-district. In the capital, command over the ISF in Baghdad remains unclear as Nouri al-Maliki continues to direct some IA and IP to secure pro-Maliki demonstrations in central Baghdad. Meanwhile, Haider al-Abadi, his appointed successor, held a meeting with government and ISF officials in Baghdad to mitigate the fallout from violent protests in Karrada yesterday, during which disgruntled citizens mobilized and attacked Federal Police checkpoints. Citizens in Karrada remain frustrated that ISF have been unable to prevent ISIS VBIED attacks in the city. ISIS continues to launch multiple VBIED attacks in Baghdad as an ongoing effort to undermine the Iraqi government. These attacks will likely exacerbate political instability in Baghdad.