

Iraq Situation Report: August 14, 2014

1 ISIS blocked traffic on the Qayara Bridge, a strategic bridge connecting Qayara to Makhmour and Iraqi Kurdistan. The bridge was previously blocked by the IA to prevent anti-government groups from having freedom of movement, but was reopened by the IA after an agreement was reached with the tribes.

2 Heavy clashes took place between ISIS and the Peace Companies (PC), a Shi'a militia, reportedly for more than nine hours in the sub-district of Hwish and Watban Street, four miles west of Samarra. The PC reportedly cleared the area of ISIS forces

3 ISIS launched 24 mortar rounds on a power station in Baiji burning a hundred barrels of fuel. Meanwhile, guards at the Baiji Oil Refinery shelled ISIS positions in the area of Albu Jiwari, near Baiji, reportedly killing two ISIS fighters, injuring seven others, and burning an ISIS vehicle. Also, IA Aviation launched strikes in central Baiji killing 17 ISIS gunmen, burning eight vehicles, and targeting a building used by ISIS as a position.

4 A VBIED targeted a Sahwa security checkpoint located 35 km east of Hit which resulted in the death of two Sahwa members and the injury of three others.

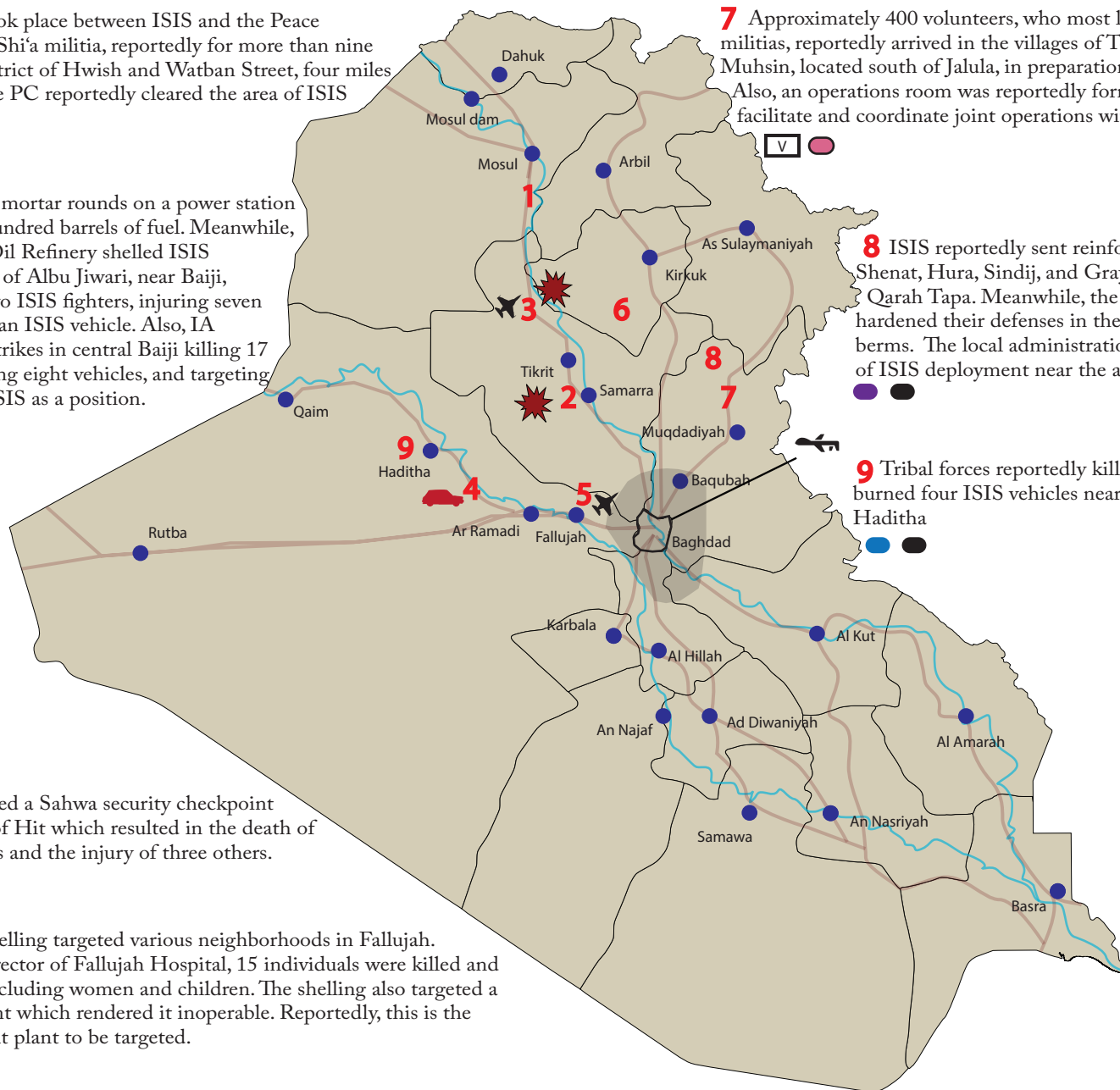
5 Airstrikes and shelling targeted various neighborhoods in Fallujah. According to the director of Fallujah Hospital, 15 individuals were killed and 15 others injured, including women and children. The shelling also targeted a water treatment plant which rendered it inoperable. Reportedly, this is the sixth water treatment plant to be targeted.

6 Eyewitnesses reported that increasing numbers of ISIS militants have been moving from Gwer and Sharqat and crossing the Little Zab River into Kirkuk province, prompting the ISF to increase the outflow of the Dokan Dam located to the east from 70 cubic meters per second to 300 cubic meters per second in an attempt to limit ISIS mobility.

7 Approximately 400 volunteers, who most likely include Iraqi Shi'a militias, reportedly arrived in the villages of Teli Hadi, Bit Adam, and Said Muhsin, located south of Jalula, in preparation to launch an assault on Jalula. Also, an operations room was reportedly formed in Khaniqin in order to facilitate and coordinate joint operations with the ISF.

8 ISIS reportedly sent reinforcements to the areas of Shenat, Hura, Sindij, and Grayat, all located 20 km north of Qarah Tapa. Meanwhile, the Peshmerga in the sub-district hardened their defenses in the area by establishing sand berms. The local administration, however, denied the reports of ISIS deployment near the area.

9 Tribal forces reportedly killed nine ISIS gunmen and burned four ISIS vehicles near the Fhima Bridge near Haditha



- Major Cities
- ✈ Airstrikes
- ✈ Armed Drones
- ✪ Major Clash
- 🚗 VBIED
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- Iraqi Shi'a militias
- ISF
- ISIS
- ☐ Volunteers
- Awakening
- Peshmerga



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

Nouri al-Maliki announced he would step down and support Haider al-Abadi's nomination as Prime Minister, ending the political crisis that intensified on August 10, 2014 and existentially threatened Iraq's political system. Cooperation between the ISF and Peshmerga to combat ISIS in northern Diyala may synchronize effects against ISIS positions in Jalula. This joint effort involves Peshmerga forces, volunteers who most likely include Iraqi Shia militias and likely ISF with the possible coordination with Iranian element given the proximity of Jalula to the Iranian border crossing. The success of joint efforts against ISIS in northern Diyala may provide a way for an Iraqi offensive force against ISIS to come together now that the greatest internal political threat to the ISF has been removed by Maliki. This joint ground force is facing ISIS on many fronts that saw increased violent activity today. IA forces engaged in clashes with ISIS north and southwest of Baghdad, while mortar fire struck Saba'a al-Bour northwest of the capital. Heavy clashes occurred between the Sadrist Peace Companies and ISIS south of Samarra, while IA airstrikes, at increased volume, struck neighboring Dhuluiya along with several other locations across Iraq. The most aggressive ISIS attack of the day occurred in Baiji, where ISIS struck a power station with a reported 24 mortar barrage. ISIS also appeared to encroach from positions near Arbil and Kirkuk, blocking a bridge in Qayarra to shape this terrain to its advantage. Nearby, the Northern Oil Company stated that Peshmerga forces and company staff withdrew from two oil fields located northwest of Kirkuk city, which the mayor of Dibis denied. The oil fields are not operating because most operators have fled. IA bombardment in Fallujah appears to be increasing, and today a water treatment plant was struck and rendered inoperable. The governance situation in Fallujah is becoming dire, while ISIS and other anti-government groups vie for power in the wake of a largely displaced civilian population in a city not far from Baghdad.