

Iraq Situation Report: August 18-19, 2014

1 On August 19, the mayor of Amerli, a sub-district south of Tuz Khurmatu, denied reports indicating Amerli received seven cargo planes full of aid. He said that Amerli has been surrounded by ISIS for 68 days, adding that conditions for its 15,000 residents are increasingly deteriorating due to lack of water, electricity, and fuel for cooking.

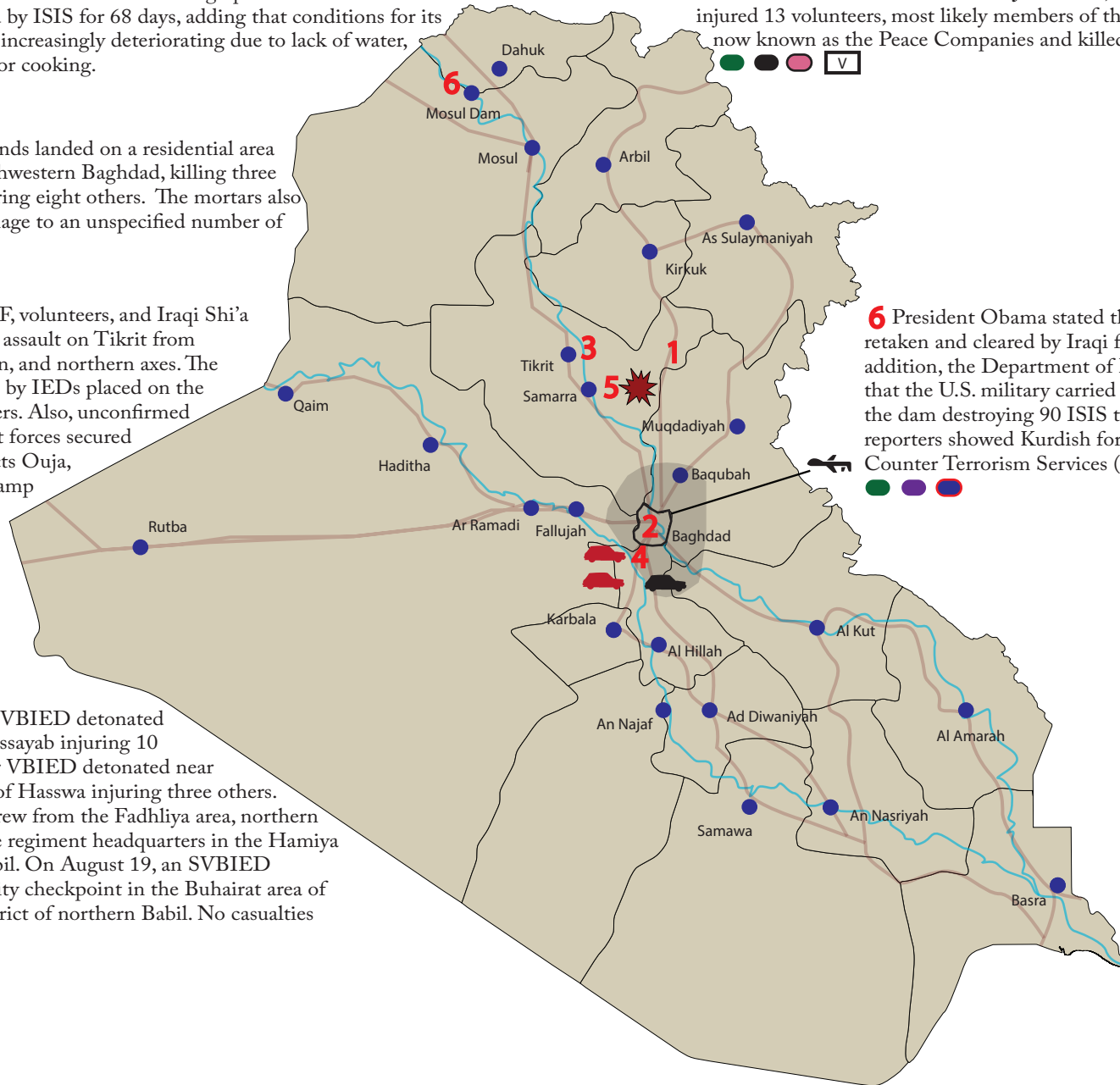
2 Three mortar rounds landed on a residential area in Sab al-Bour, northwestern Baghdad, killing three individuals and injuring eight others. The mortars also caused material damage to an unspecified number of homes.

3 On August 19, ISF, volunteers, and Iraqi Shi'a militias launched an assault on Tikrit from the southern, western, and northern axes. The assault was hindered by IEDs placed on the roads and ISIS snipers. Also, unconfirmed reports indicate joint forces secured the road that connects Ouja, south of Tikrit to Camp Speicher, west of Tikrit.

4 On August 18, a VBIED detonated near a hospital in Mssayab injuring 10 individuals. Another VBIED detonated near the Industrial Area of Hasswa injuring three others. Also, the ISF withdrew from the Fadhlia area, northern Jurf al-Sakhar to the regiment headquarters in the Hamiya area in northern Babil. On August 19, an SVBIED detonated at a security checkpoint in the Buhairat area of Iskandariya sub-district of northern Babil. No casualties were reported.

5 On August 19, clashes took place between ISF, volunteers, and Iraqi Shi'a militias on one side and ISIS in the Jalam area, east of Samarra. The clashes injured 13 volunteers, most likely members of the Promised Day Brigade, now known as the Peace Companies and killed four ISIS members.

6 President Obama stated that the Mosul Dam was retaken and cleared by Iraqi forces with U.S. air support. In addition, the Department of Defense (DoD) announced that the U.S. military carried out 35 airstrikes in and around the dam destroying 90 ISIS targets. Pictures posted by reporters showed Kurdish forces and members of the Counter Terrorism Services (CTS) at the dam compound.



- Major Cities
- SVBIED
- VBIED
- ★ Major Clash
- ✈ Armed Drones
- V Volunteers
- Iraqi Shi'a militias
- ISF
- ISIS
- Unknown Gunmen
- Peshmerga
- USA



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

On August 19, ISIS released its first video in response to the U.S. airstrikes in northern Iraq. The video showed the beheading of a U.S. journalist who was kidnapped in Syria in November 2012. Additionally, the video showed another journalist who was kidnapped, likely in August 2013. The ISIS fighter who beheaded the first journalist threatened in English, in a seemingly native British accent, that President Obama must cease airstrikes or the second journalist will be beheaded. ISIS took control of the Mosul Dam on August 7. In an effort to retake this critical infrastructure, the United States conducted 35 airstrikes against ISIS positions in and around the Mosul Dam. These airstrikes constitute most of the 68 airstrikes that have been carried out since the beginning of the U.S. military actions against ISIS in Iraq. The airstrikes were conducted in support of the Peshmerga, Counter Terrorism Services (CTS), and Iraqi Kurdish Special Forces, who successfully retook the dam. Images near the Mosul Dam confirm Kurdish and CTS forces maintain a joint presence in the area. In northern Babil, ISIS responded to Iraqi Shi'a militias and ISF's recent operations in northern Babil by conducting a counter-offense that successfully drove the joint forces from the Fadhlia and Karaghul areas. This occurred after severing a strategic supply route using an SVBIED near Jurf al-Sakhar on August 17.