

Iraq Situation Report: August 20-21, 2014

1 On August 20, tribal gunmen and ISF clashed with ISIS at the entrance of Barwana sub-district that fell to ISIS on August 6, south of Haditha District. The clashes killed 17 ISIS gunmen. Meanwhile, ISIS attacked the southern entrance of Haditha which initiated clashes resulting in the reported death of 14 ISIS members. On August 21, ISIS attacked Haditha's northern entrance and the Sakran area, nine miles northwest of Haditha initiating clashes with the ISF, leading to the reported death of 12 ISIS members.

2 On August 20, the ISF reportedly withdrew from the areas of Shishen and al-Zohour in Tikrit and went southwest to the areas of Albu Obeid and al-Diom after clashing with ISIS. The security forces reportedly secured the road that connects south, west and north of Tikrit. On August 21, IA Aviation targeted three ISIS vehicles in central Tikrit in addition to six other vehicles near the eastern entrance of the city.

3 On August 20, leaflets with the MoD symbol were air dropped in Mosul. The leaflets condemned ISIS and its action in the city calling for the citizens of Mosul to stand alongside the government in order to retake the city. Also on August 21, ISIS reportedly took government issued ID cards from several citizens in Mosul's markets, demanding citizens obtain ISIS issued ID cards from an ISIS office in the city.

4 On August 21, ISIS gunmen attacked Dhuluiya sub-district but were repelled by tribal gunmen. The clashes killed two ISIS members and injured five others. In addition, three tribal gunmen were injured.

5 On August 20, a VBIED detonated on Palestine Street, eastern Baghdad killing eight individuals and injuring 21 others.

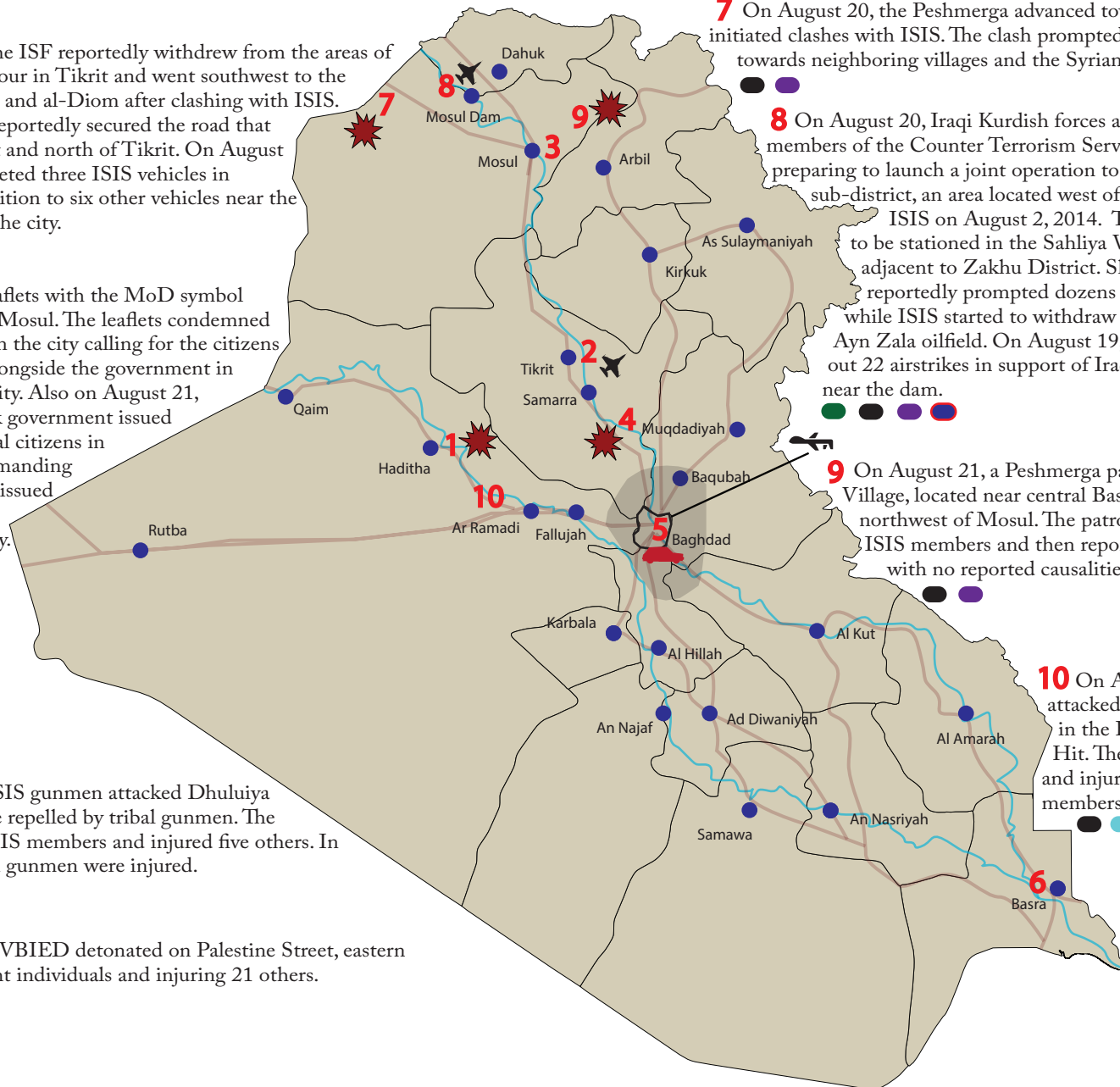
6 On August 20, the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Iraq, Nikolay Mladenov, stated since June 23rd, a wave of targeted killings in Basra province has killed at least 19 Sunnis and injured 19 others. Mladenov noted threats against Sunni mosques, organizations, and civilians, including black 'X' marks painted on buildings have lead Sunnis to flee the province.

7 On August 20, the Peshmerga advanced toward Rabia sub-district which initiated clashes with ISIS. The clash prompted hundreds of families to flee towards neighboring villages and the Syrian border.

8 On August 20, Iraqi Kurdish forces and ISF, who are most likely members of the Counter Terrorism Services (CTS), were reportedly preparing to launch a joint operation to drive ISIS from Zumar sub-district, an area located west of the Mosul Dam. Zumar fell to ISIS on August 2, 2014. The joint forces were reported to be stationed in the Sahliya Village, north of Zumar and adjacent to Zakhu District. Shelling in the area has reportedly prompted dozens of residents to flee the area while ISIS started to withdraw from parts of Zumar and the Ayn Zala oilfield. On August 19, 20, and 21, the U.S. carried out 22 airstrikes in support of Iraqi forces to expand control near the dam.

9 On August 21, a Peshmerga patrol entered the Bahzani Village, located near central Bashiqa sub-district, 17 km northwest of Mosul. The patrol clashed with ISIS killing two ISIS members and then reportedly withdrew from the area with no reported casualties.

10 On August 21, ISIS gunmen attacked a joint IP and Sahwa convoy in the Bakir neighborhood in central Hit. The attack killed four IP members and injured five others including Sahwa members.



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



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

Since August 8, the U.S. carried out 90 airstrikes against ISIS in northern Iraq. Of these strikes, 57 supported the ISF and Iraqi Kurdish forces on and around the Mosul Dam. While these strikes successfully allowed the joint forces to secure the dam, the Peshmerga's fighting capabilities in urban centers remains unclear after they recently received new weapons and equipment. Targeted airstrikes will likely be less effective in urban terrain given the opportunities to set up defensive positions under cover and concealment. Military operations in urban centers are usually preceded by leaflets urging citizens to depart the area for their safety. While the leaflets dropped in Mosul did not indicate an operation is imminent, leaflet drops likely indicate there will be a government effort to counter ISIS in the city. Still, there is not reporting on the timing or structure of potential counterattacks. Meanwhile, the recent ISIS effort to issue ID cards to Mosul's residents will most likely cause discontent among the populace. Enforcing strict administrative control over the populace has historically frustrated citizens in cities where ISIS's predecessor, AQI, has governed. Reports indicate that tribal forces in Garma, northeast of Fallujah rose against ISIS though reports remain unconfirmed. Haditha and Dhuluiya, however, remain strong pockets of resistance against ISIS where Iraqi Sunni tribes and ISF repel ISIS attacks almost daily.