

# Iraq Situation Report: August 22, 2014

**1** Leader of the Badr Organization and Iraq's Minister of Transportation, Hadi al-Ameri, reportedly arrived at Tuz Khurmatu, northern Salah ad-Din. Ameri was reportedly accompanied with 2000 fighters who are most likely Badr members. The force was reportedly preparing to launch an operation to break the siege of Amerli sub district located south of Tuz Khurmatu that has been besieged by ISIS for approximately 70 days. This comes after ISF reinforcements reportedly arrived to Amerli on August 21 preparing to break the siege.

**2** The Peshmerga launched an operation to retake Zumar sub-district, 12 miles west of the Mosul Dam. A Peshmerga officer stated that the Peshmerga seized the Bardiya Village, adjacent to Zumar and is heavily clashing with ISIS in the northern outskirts of Zumar. Meanwhile, U.S. air support targeted ISIS positions in the area. Earlier, ISIS gunmen detonated IEDs on the IP commander of Zumar sub-district's house. There were no reported casualties since the home was empty during the attack. Meanwhile, a reported American airstrike targeted two ISIS positions in the Hamu Kalaw village killing six ISIS members and destroying six ISIS vehicles.

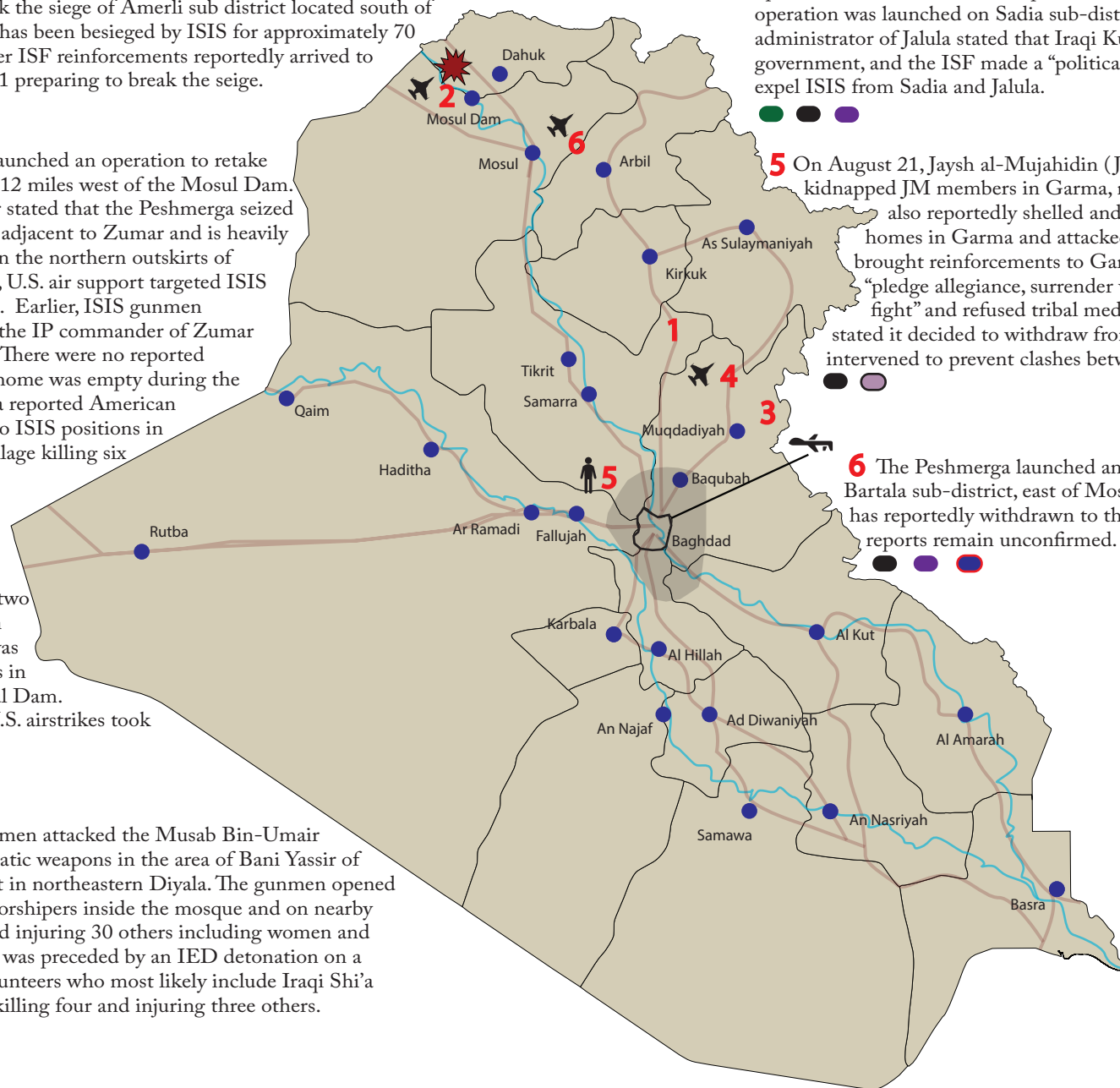
CENTCOM reported that U.S. airstrikes destroyed two ISIS vehicles and an ISIS position that was firing on Iraqi forces in vicinity of the Mosul Dam. It is unclear if the U.S. airstrikes took place in Zumar.

**3** Unidentified gunmen attacked the Musab Bin-Umair mosque with automatic weapons in the area of Bani Yassir of the Hamrin District in northeastern Diyala. The gunmen opened fire on the Friday worshipers inside the mosque and on nearby homes killing 40 and injuring 30 others including women and children. The attack was preceded by an IED detonation on a gathering of the volunteers who most likely include Iraqi Shi'a militias in the area killing four and injuring three others.

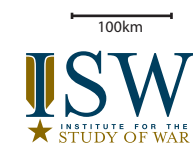
**4** The Peshmerga, supported by IA Aviation, launched an operation on ISIS in Jalula. The Peshmerga shelled ISIS positions in preparation to storm Jalula while enforcements arrived to Khaniqin in to support the operation. Meanwhile, AAH reported that a joint ISF and AAH operation was launched on Sadia sub-district, south of Jalula. The local administrator of Jalula stated that Iraqi Kurdish leaders, the central government, and the ISF made a "political and military decision" to expel ISIS from Sadia and Jalula.

**5** On August 21, Jaysh al-Mujahidin (JM) stated that ISIS kidnapped JM members in Garma, northeast of Fallujah. ISIS also reportedly shelled and demolished JM members' homes in Garma and attacked JM positions. ISIS brought reinforcements to Garma and demanded JM "pledge allegiance, surrender weapons, depart the area, or fight" and refused tribal mediation. On August 22, JM stated it decided to withdraw from Garma after tribal leaders intervened to prevent clashes between JM and ISIS.

**6** The Peshmerga launched an attack on ISIS in villages of Bartala sub-district, east of Mosul under U.S. air support. ISIS has reportedly withdrawn to three villages in the area. These reports remain unconfirmed.



- Major Cities
- ✈ Airstrikes
- 👤 Kidnapping
- 💣 Major Clash
- 🚁 Armed Drones
- Unknown Gunmen
- Iraqi Shi'a militias
- ISF
- ISIS
- JM
- ☐ Volunteers
- Peshmerga
- USA



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

The attack on worshipers in Diyala was most likely carried out by Iraqi Shi'a militias or Iraqi Shi'a volunteers. ISIS is active in the vicinity, and although it is not clear if ISIS was involved in the attack, it serves ISIS's goals in inciting sectarian tensions and decreasing the Iraqi Sunni community's confidence in the political process. The attack on the mosque will increase sectarian tensions and further undermine the Iraqi Sunni's perception that the government and the security forces can provide protection. In an immediate response, major Iraqi Sunni political figures announced their withdrawal from the ongoing political negotiations to form a government. This abdication further impedes Iraqi Sunni political leaders' ability to convince their already disillusioned constituency that they intend to create a governmental structure that will defend citizens' rights. While this withdrawal is unlikely to be permanent, it might prolong the process of forming the government by PM-designate, Haider al-Abadi who strongly condemned the attack and called for the perpetrators to be punished. In northern Iraq, the Peshmerga are confronting ISIS on three fronts, likely in an effort to keep ISIS pinned, a tactic ISIS used against the Peshmerga prior to the fall of Sinjar. ISIS persistently conducts attacks and consolidates power in Garma despite the ISF and militias' ongoing effort to conduct operations to take control of the area. ISIS will likely need to draw more resources to Garma in order to fill the void created by JM's departure.