

Iraq Situation Report: September 8-9, 2014

1 On September 8, ISIS launched a major attack on Dhuluiyah sub-district, southeast of Samarra in Salah ad-Din Province. ISIS used mortar rounds, at least three SVBIEDs in the form of HUMVEEs, and gunmen. One SVBIED penetrated the defenses of the area and detonated in central Dhuluiyah. The assault left at least 20 individuals killed and 100 others wounded. On September 9 ISIS launched another attack that included 20 mortar rounds. Clashes were reported to be ongoing. Meanwhile, reports indicated that mine sweepers and members of the “Popular Mobilization” that includes Iraqi Shia militias arrived in Dhuluiyah.

2 On September 8, an anonymous source from the forensic medicine department in Ninewa stated that ISIS delivered 30 bodies to the department. The bodies belonged to individuals kidnapped by ISIS less than a week earlier. The source stated that among the dead were former senior army officers, civilians, ISF members, electoral candidates, and a civilian kidnapped two months ago.

3 On September 9, airstrikes targeted a gathering of gunmen in a main street of Zab sub-district of Hawija District in southwestern Kirkuk Province. The attack injured three civilians while the casualty count from the gunmen remains unknown.

4 On September 8, locals from Mosul reported that ISIS established security checkpoints in the streets of the city that resemble the ISF checkpoints before ISIS took control of Mosul. ISIS allegedly checked for ID cards, weapons, and cell phone content, in addition to “enforcing Sharia law.”

5 On September 8, a tribal leader in the Zowiya village, near Baiji in northern Salah ad-Din province, stated that militants from the ISIS stormed the village and took dozens of people hostage after the residents refused to pledge allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and refused to attend the Friday prayer designated by ISIS.

6 On September 9, Chairman of Haditha Council Khalid Suleiman stated that the operation launched in the environs of the district resulted in further gains in the Khafajiyah, Barwana, Albu Hayat, and Alus areas. Meanwhile, clashes took place with ISIS outside Barwana resulting in the death of three IP members, two tribal gunmen, and the injury of 12 others. On September 8, CENTCOM reported that they launched airstrikes in support of the ISF and the “Sunni tribes” near Haditha Dam.



- Major Cities
- ✈ Airstrikes
- 👤 Kidnapping
- ★ Major Clash
- 🚛 SVBIED
- 🚁 Armed Drones
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- Unknown Gunmen
- USA
- ISF
- ISIS



Content: Ahmed Ali and ISW Iraq Team
Graphics: Nichole Dicharry

The Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) is intent on regaining momentum. The Dhuluiyah fight will be a bellwether event for the Iraqi Sunni tribes in Salah ad-Din and for ISIS as well. The area has been attacked by ISIS for the last two months but has withstood the attacks despite a reported lack of reinforcements from the ISF. Dhuluiyah holds strategic geographic significance given its proximity to Samarra to the north in Salah ad-Din and to Khalis to the south in Diyali, in addition to proximity to the significant Baghdad-Samarra highway. If ISIS controls Dhuluiyah, it will force ISF and Iraqi Shi'a militias to concentrate resources in the area. Furthermore, ISIS will be able to hamper the supply lines between Baghdad and Samarra. Given the importance of Samarra as the site of the important Askari Shrine, such a development would be a significant setback for the ISF. In Mosul, ISIS is likely neutralizing any possibilities of resistance by establishing checkpoints and by targeting former army officers and leaders of possible anti-ISIS activities.