

Iraq Situation Report: September 12-14, 2014

1 On September 12, ISIS executed three tribal leaders from the Albu Rayash division of the Ubaid tribe. They were among 20 individuals kidnapped on September 11, from the Saddam Complex village of the Rashad sub-district for allegedly planning to form an anti-ISIS force. ISIS also conducted a military parade in central Hawija district, reportedly after two ISIS members were killed by gunfire near Hawija Hospital. On September 13, ISIS decapitated the Mukhtar of the Saddam Complex village who is also a leader in Albu Rayash. In addition, ISIS reportedly kidnapped 50 former IA, IP, and Sahwa members in addition to notables from the Riyadh sub-district. On September 14, ISIS executed an individual in Zab sub-district for allegedly cooperating with the government, and threatened that it would destroy the homes of employees of the Hawija Hospital if they do not return to work. The employees stopped going to work after the hospital was targeted by an airstrike.

2 On September 12, ISIS detonated a VBIED in the form of an armored vehicle on a security checkpoint near Camp Speicher killing three individuals and injuring five others.

3 On September 13, ISIS reportedly raided a home in Sansal village of northern Muqadadiyah and detained six individuals including a tribal figure from the Juburi tribe for allegedly planning to form an anti-ISIS force.

4 On September 13, ISIS detonated a bomb on a boat targeting the only remaining bridge that connected Dhulueya to Balad, severing a main supply route for the Iraqi Security Forces.

5 On September 12, a Motorcycle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (MBIED) detonated in Haraj Market in the Maydan area of central Baghdad, killing two people and wounding eight others. Also, a Suicide Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (SVBIED) detonated on Tot Street in Ghadir, eastern Baghdad, killing at least four people and wounding thirteen others.

6 On September 11, IA Aviation reportedly targeted four ISIS boats carrying 18 ISIS members from Amiriyat al-Fallujah, southeast of Fallujah to Jurf al-Sakhar of northern Babil. On September 14, the ISF reportedly destroyed three other boats on the same route while forces from the Popular Mobilization, which includes Iraqi Shia militias, posted on the banks of the Euphrates to intercept offloading ISIS elements.

7 On September 13, joint force from the IA and tribal forces supported by IA Aviation launched an operation to clear ISIS from Albu Hayat area near Haditha. On September 14, Haditha council announced that engineers finished working on the bridge that connects Haditha to Barwana sub-district that was damaged in the recent operations. Barwana was reportedly cleared of ISIS forces, and displaced families have begun to return to Barwana.



- Major Cities
- ✈ Airstrikes
- 👤 Kidnapping
- ⊗ Execution
- 👥 Military Parade
- 🚲 MBIED
- 🚗 VBIED
- 🚚 SVBIED
- 🚁 Armed Drones
- 👤 Iraqi Shi'a militias
- 👤 Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- 👤 ISF
- 👤 ISIS



Content: ISW Iraq Team and Jessica D. Lewis
Graphics: Nichole Dicharry

ISIS is targeting early signs of resistance in predominantly Sunni areas in northern Diyala and western Kirkuk, an area with strong tribal presence and historic presence of ISIS competitors like JRTN and Ansar al-Islam. This ISIS effort is facilitated by its prior knowledge of human terrain in these areas that was enhanced by the systematic documentation of personal information of former ISF and Sahwa members. It is important to watch for similar ISIS targeting in Anbar, where the initial mobilization against AQI started in 2005-2006. This ISIS attack on the bridge near Dhulueya severed the remaining ISF supply line to the sub-district, which will likely degrade ISF defenses of the area and precipitate a humanitarian crisis. This has prompted the governor of Salah ad-Din to call for U.S. airstrikes and immediate reinforcement of Dhulueya to prevent its fall to ISIS. PM Abadi ordered the ISF to stop shelling urban areas controlled by ISIS, likely a direct reference to Fallujah, which has been a primary targeted of ISF bombardment since early 2014. This was an original condition of the Iraqi Sunnis prior to participating in the government before the fall of Mosul. PM Abadi stated that it is meant to give Iraqi Sunni communities the chance to counter ISIS, a gesture that was likely intended to reduce anti-government sentiment in Anbar. This decision will not necessarily diminish the threat posed by ISIS and anti-government groups operating in Fallujah and elsewhere in northern Iraq, but it is an important demonstration of Iraqi government intent to work with and not against the Iraqi Sunnis. Another promising sign, the joint ISF and tribal force effort to counter ISIS near Haditha continues to succeed in pushing back ISIS from the district.