

Iraq Situation Report: September 18-19, 2014

1 Between September 15-18: Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga forces cleared ISIS members from 15 villages west of Qarah Tapa sub-district in northeastern Diyala province. The clashes reportedly resulted in killing ten ISIS militants, destroying five ISIS vehicles, and capturing large quantities of weapons and IEDs. The source added that ISIS forces fled towards the borders with Kirkuk province and the Udhaim sub-district.

2 On September 18, ISIS destroyed homes belonging to Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police members in the Qayyara sub-district, south of Mosul. According to eyewitnesses, ISIS suspected the former ISF members of providing intelligence, guiding U.S. airstrikes in the area.

3 On September 18, ISIS members clashed with Iraqi Shi'a militias in Ouja, south of Tikrit, injuring 17 militia members. In areas west of Tikrit, a "suicide attack" targeted a gathering of IA soldiers and Iraqi Shi'a militias in al-Aiwej causing an unknown number of ISF casualties.

4 On September 19, a VBIED exploded near the Kirkuk Citadel in downtown Kirkuk, killing 13 people and wounding 20. The VBIED took place near a weapons market.

5 On September 19, IA soldiers and IP officers, supported by IA Aviation and tribal fighters, launched an operation to clear ISIS from the '5 Kilometer' area, west of Ramadi.

6 On September 18, a U.S. airstrike targeted an ISIS ammunition stockpile southeast of Baghdad.

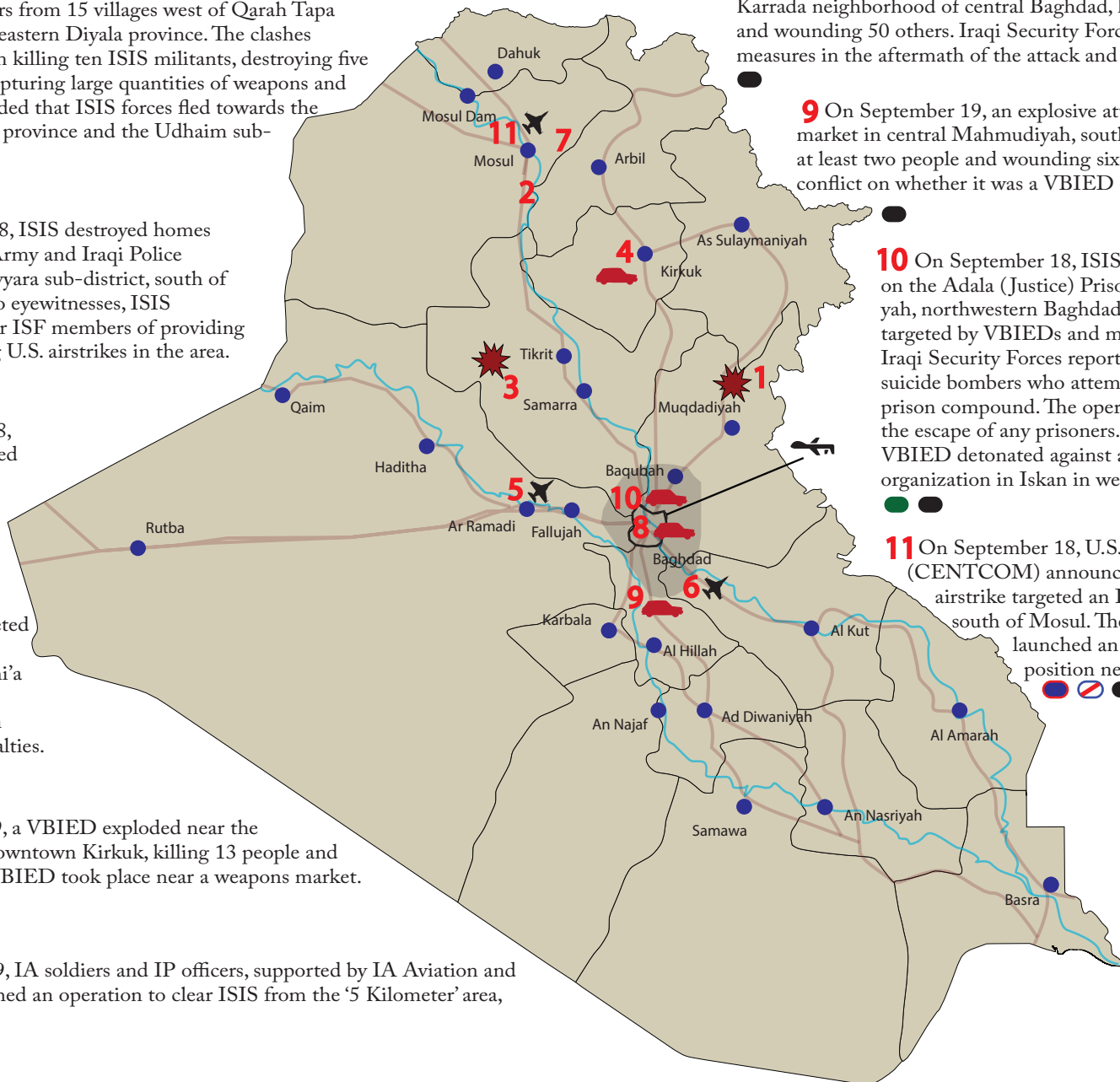
7 On September 18, ISIS members used IEDs to destroy the iron bridge that connects Arbil and Mosul over the Khazer River along Highway 2, east of Mosul, before withdrawing from the area. There is a second, smaller bridge nearby that is still operational. On September 19, Peshmerga forces also killed the driver of an SVBIED before it could detonate near the Bartella junction, east of Mosul.

8 On September 19, a VBIED detonated near a restaurant in the Karrada neighborhood of central Baghdad, killing nine people and wounding 50 others. Iraqi Security Forces intensified security measures in the aftermath of the attack and closed two bridges.

9 On September 19, an explosive attack took place in a market in central Mahmudiyah, south of Baghdad, killing at least two people and wounding six others. Reports conflict on whether it was a VBIED or an IED.

10 On September 18, ISIS launched an attack on the Adala (Justice) Prison of eastern Kadhmiah, northwestern Baghdad. The compound was targeted by VBIEDs and mortar rounds. The Iraqi Security Forces reportedly detained two suicide bombers who attempted to infiltrate the prison compound. The operation did not result in the escape of any prisoners. Meanwhile, a VBIED detonated against an office of the Badr organization in Iskan in western Baghdad.

11 On September 18, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) announced that a U.S. airstrike targeted an ISIS training camp south of Mosul. The French air force also launched an attack on an ISIS position near Mosul.



- Major Cities
- VBIED
- ✈ Airstrikes
- USA
- ✈ France
- ISF
- ISIS
- Peshmerga
- Unknown Gunmen
- Iraqi Shi'a militias
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes



Content: Ahmed Ali
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The Peshmerga are applying tactical pressure to ISIS on the ground east of Mosul and in northern Diyala. ISIS is also facing tactical pressure west of Ramadi from the ISF and aerial fires. ISIS is likely responding to these attacks by deploying VBIEDs against civilian and military targets. ISIS is also increasing pressure on the population that may show resistance to ISIS presence and advances, as in Qayyara, south of Mosul. The combined ISF, Peshmerga, and aerial efforts will not likely disrupt ISIS strategically as long as its primary defenses in Fallujah, Tikrit, Baiji, Hawija, and Mosul still hold. Clearing these areas will prove difficult for ground forces given the likelihood that ISIS has emplaced primary ground defenses in areas surrounding these cities.