

Iraq Situation Report: September 23-24, 2014

1 On September 22, U.S. airstrikes targeted ISIS positions west and southwest of Kirkuk. Reportedly, the airstrikes targeted sites in al-Kawaz, al-Zab, and al-Riyadh areas, killing a number of ISIS members and destroying ISIS positions. On September 24, Iraqi sources reported U.S. airstrikes targeted an ISIS training camp in the Mahdthur area between Dibis and Hawijah in Western Kirkuk.



2 Iraqi Yazidi fighters along with the Syrian Kurdish YPG reportedly clashed with ISIS members in the vicinity of the Sinjar Mountain.



3 On September 23, ISIS launched an attack involving heavy mortar shelling and two SVBIEDs on the Baiji refinery, north of Tikrit. Iraqi Security Forces members onsite repelled the attack. The refinery reportedly suffered severe material damage as a result of the attack.



4 On September 23, ISIS attacked ISF positions in al-Refaat area near Balad north of Baghdad. ISIS also clashed with the ISF and Iraqi Shi'a militias in Tarmiyah, Falahat, and Mashahda. The clashes reportedly resulted in the destruction of four ISIS vehicles including three VBIEDs in the form of Humvees. In addition, a U.S. airstrike targeted an ISIS position northwest of Baghdad.



5 On September 23, a VBIED detonated in Sadr City, eastern Baghdad, killing at least 14 people and wounding 67 others. On September 24, an IED detonated in the Mahdia neighborhood of Dora district, south of Baghdad, killing one and wounding five. An IED detonated in central Baghdad killing one person and wounding six others in addition to an IED that detonated in the Mashtal neighborhood in eastern Baghdad.



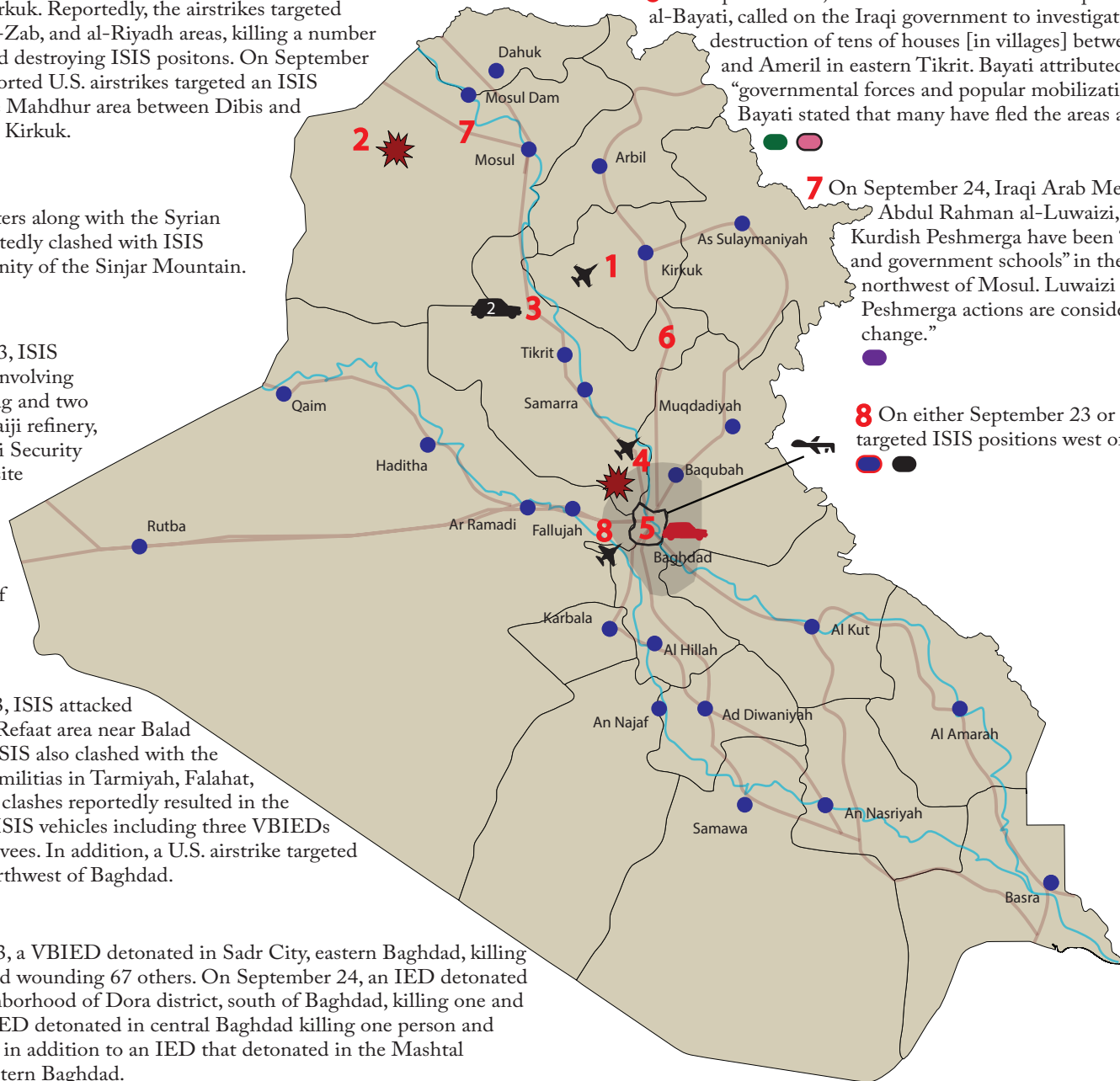
6 On September 24, a member of Salah ad-Din's provincial council, Rashid al-Bayati, called on the Iraqi government to investigate the "burning and destruction of tens of houses [in villages] between Tuz Khurmatu and Ameril in eastern Tikrit. Bayati attributed the actions to "governmental forces and popular mobilization [members]." Bayati stated that many have fled the areas as a result.



7 On September 24, Iraqi Arab Member of Parliament, Abdul Rahman al-Luwaizi, alleged that the Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga have been "destroying houses and government schools" in the Zumar area northwest of Mosul. Luwaizi stated that the Peshmerga actions are considered "demographic change."



8 On either September 23 or 24, U.S. airstrikes targeted ISIS positions west of Baghdad.



- Major Cities
- VBIED
- Airstrikes
- SVBIED
- Armed Drones
- Major Clash
- USA
- Peshmerga
- ISF
- ISIS
- YPG
- Iraqi Yazidi Gunmen
- Iraqi Shi'a militias



Content: Ahmed Ali
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The anti-ISIS U.S. air campaign continues to expand in Iraq. Targeting ISIS in Kirkuk may be intended to prevent it from launching an attack against the Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga based in the nearby areas. Furthermore, the airstrikes may seek to provide breathing space for Iraqi Sunni tribes that have recently been targeted by ISIS in the province. ISIS will likely respond through attempts to launch VBIED attacks in Kirkuk and by targeting Iraqi Sunni tribes that have historically worked against ISIS. The attacks in Baghdad are concerning given increased security measures in the city. While IED attacks have taken place Baghdad in the past, today's attacks indicate that ISIS still enjoys freedom of movement within the city.