

Iraq Situation Report: October 11-12, 2014

1 On October 12, the chief of Anbar's police, Ahmed Saddag al-Dulaimi, was killed in an IED attack in northern Ramadi's Abu Risha area. Afterwards, Anbar's Operations Command announced a curfew in the city and that an operation will be launched to "avenge" the assassination of Saddag. Some tribes in Anbar also announced they will fight against ISIS as a result of Saddag's assassination. Iraq's interior ministry reportedly agreed to appoint General Kadhim Faris to be the new police chief.



2 On October 11, according to local sources, Peshmerga forces launched operations to clear Sinjar of ISIS presence. The Peshmerga forces are reportedly supported by Iraqi Yazidi forces and



3 On October 11-12, local sources indicate that ISIS has rigged houses and government offices with explosives in Bartala east of Mosul and that ISIS forces have withdrawn from the city. ISIS also reportedly transported furniture of governmental offices in Bartala, Baqshiqa, and Hamdaniyah to Mosul.



4 On October 11, Peshmerga forces clashed with ISIS forces in the Maryam Beg area south of Kirkuk. On the same day, local sources indicated that coalition airstrikes targeted an ISIS headquarters south of Kirkuk killing and injuring at least 80 ISIS members. CENTCOM confirmed that coalition airstrikes targeted ISIS south and southwest of Kirkuk between October 11-12. On October 12, ISIS attacked Peshmerga forces in the Abdulllah village in Daquq district, south of Kirkuk. Peshmerga forces repelled the attack and were reportedly supported by YPG forces. Kirkuk's governor also announced that ISIS forces are gathered in the Hawija area in preparations of an attack on Kirkuk.



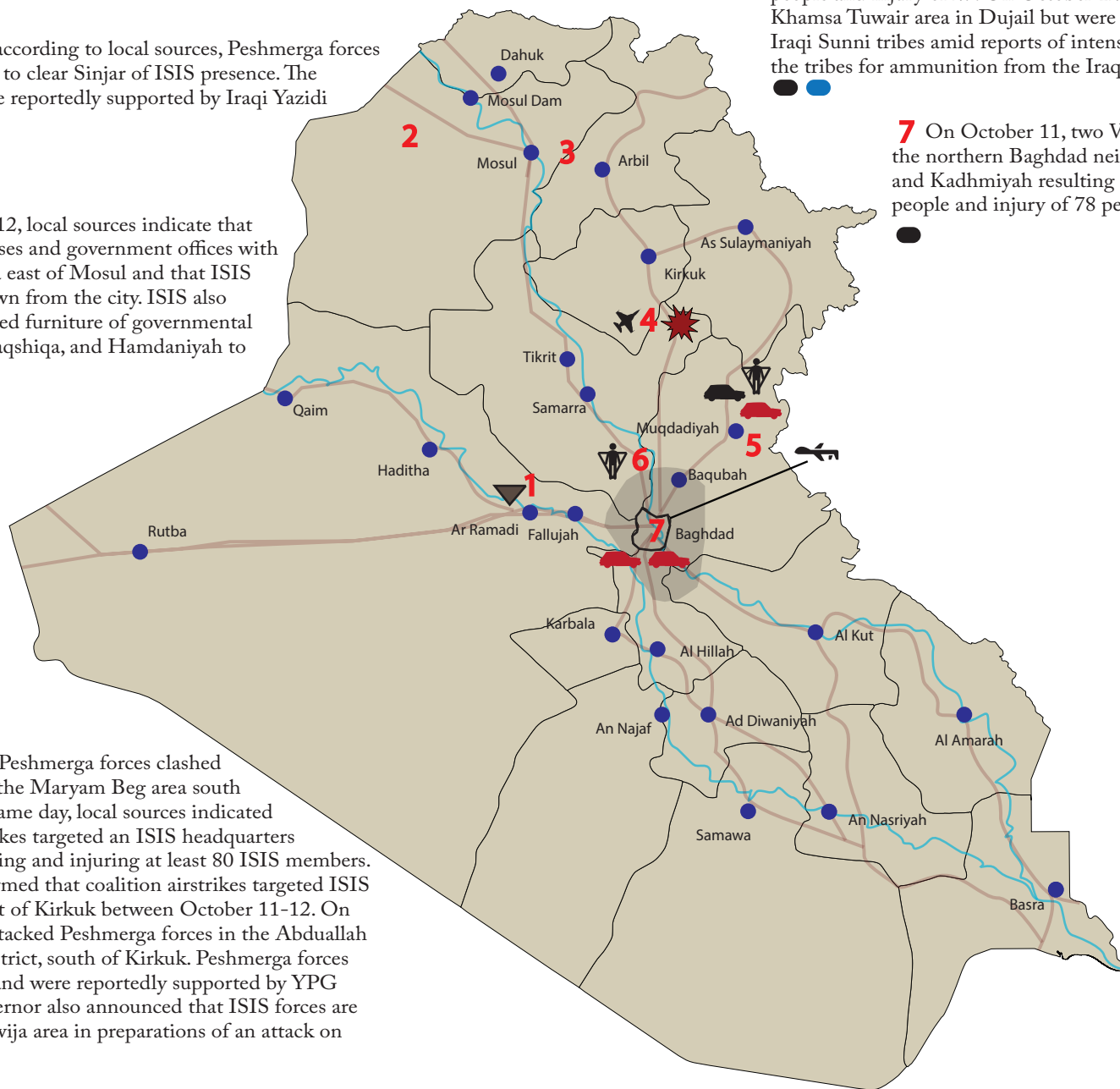
5 On October 12, three attacks targeted the area home to the government and security offices in Qara Tapa in northeastern Diyala. The attacks included an SVBIED, an SVEST, and a VBIED. The attacks resulted in the death of at least 22 people and injury of 120.



6 On October 11, an SVEST attack targeted a market in Mashahda, north of Baghdad, resulting in the death of 7 people and injury of 27. On October 12, ISIS attacked the Khamsa Tuwair area in Dujail but were repelled by anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni tribes amid reports of intense clashes and calls by the tribes for ammunition from the Iraqi government.



7 On October 11, two VBIEDs exploded in the northern Baghdad neighborhoods of Shula and Kadhmiah resulting in the death of 41 people and injury of 78 people.



- Major Cities
- Airstrikes
- Armed Drones
- Major Clash
- SVEST
- SVBIED
- VBIED
- IED
- ISF
- ISIS
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- Peshmerga
- People's Protection Units (YPG)
- USA
- Yazedi Gunmen



Content: Ahmed Ali
Graphics: Jennifer Cafarella

The current northern front is escalating between the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) and the Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga. ISIS is probing the Peshmerga defense lines in southern Kirkuk province in particular where the Peshmerga and Iraqi Shi'a militias have been able to target ISIS presence in Tuz Khurmatu and Amerli in Salah ad-Din along the Baghdad-Kirkuk highway. ISIS actions are intended to cut off the highway in order to interrupt the supply line and coordination between the Peshmerga and Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). The Peshmerga are also taking the initiative to target ISIS in Sinjar, but it is unclear how the Peshmerga will capitalize on reported ISIS movement in the Ninewa Plains towns. The assassination of Anbar's police chief, General Ahmed Saddag, will result in at least temporarily disrupting the local police and tribal anti-ISIS effort given Saddag's prominent leadership role. Over the long term, it will be important to watch if Saddag's assassination will galvanize the tribes against ISIS or will permanently affect the effort to blunt the ISIS push to control Anbar province. All of this is particularly significant given the recent calls by Anbar local leaders for U.S. forces to deploy in the province.