

Iraq Situation Report: October 16-17, 2014

1 On October 16, ISIS shelled the Baiji Refinery with mortars and hit a fuel tank resulting in setting it aflame. On October 17, Rapid Reaction Brigade, Federal Police, CTS units, and Popular Mobilization Units which include Iraqi Shi'a militias reportedly cleared the areas of Hamadi Shihab and Mahzam which lie between Baiji and Tikrit. IA Aviation also targeted reported ISIS gathering in Sharqat that was headed towards Baiji and included 20 people. ISF units have also reportedly been able to reach the Rayashiya area, just south of Baiji. CTS units are also reported to have penetrated ISIS lines in Tikrit and have positioned themselves close to ISIS.



2 On October 16, an SVBIED detonated in a predominantly Iraqi Turkmen neighborhood of central Tuz Khurmatu likely targeting the offices of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP). The attack injured three people.



3 On October 16, three VBIEDs detonated across Baghdad in predominantly Iraqi Shi'a areas. The first took place in Talebiah in eastern Baghdad in addition to two VBIEDs in Hurriyyah and Kadhmiah in northern Baghdad including a restaurant frequented by the members of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). At least thirteen people were killed and 51 were wounded in the attacks. On October 17, a VBIED took place in Sadr City and another in the Sulaikh area. The attacks resulted in the death of at least 22 people and injury of at least 81 people.



4 October 16, the Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) clashed with the Iraqi Army (IA) and Popular Mobilization Units in the areas of al-Zalayah, al-Tarablah, and al-Rafaiyah, south of Tikrit. The clashes resulted in the killing or injury of 22 IA and Popular Mobilization Units. Also on October 16, Counter-Terrorism (CTS) forces and Iraqi Army aviation attacked a six-vehicle ISIS convoy near al-Huwaish area in the Samarra Island, south of Tikrit.



5 On October 16, police and Iraqi Army Units in coordination with coalition airstrikes attacked ISIS positions around Amiriyat al-Fallujah in an attempt to break the ongoing ISIS siege of the area. Eighteen ISIS members were reportedly killed in addition to the destruction of 13 ISIS vehicles, armored vehicles, and tanks. ISIS is reportedly reinforcing from the areas of Fhelat and Nuaimiyah in Fallujah district. On October 17, IA reinforcements from Baghdad and Jurf al-Sakhar reportedly arrived Amiriyat al-Fallujah to break the siege as well including armored vehicles and tanks.



6 On October 16, a VBIED attack took place in Mahmudiyah, southern Baghdad, killing and wounding at least 18 people.



7 On October 17, ISIS launched an attack in Ramadi from the two axes of Tamim and the area known as 5 Kilometers. ISIS was "180 meters away from the government compound in Anbar" according to local officials and it used mortars to attack various government and security offices in the area. ISF units likely appear to have repelled the attack and launched an operation to clear an area of 5 Kilometers west of the city. The ISF also reportedly cleared the area of Abu Diab, north of the city.



8 On October 16, ISIS clashed with members of the Juburi tribe in Dhuluiya north of Baghdad. On October 17, clashes also took place between tribal members and ISIS in Dhuluiya. ISIS also clashed with tribes and Iraqi Shi'a militias associated with the Popular Mobilization units in al-Balad.

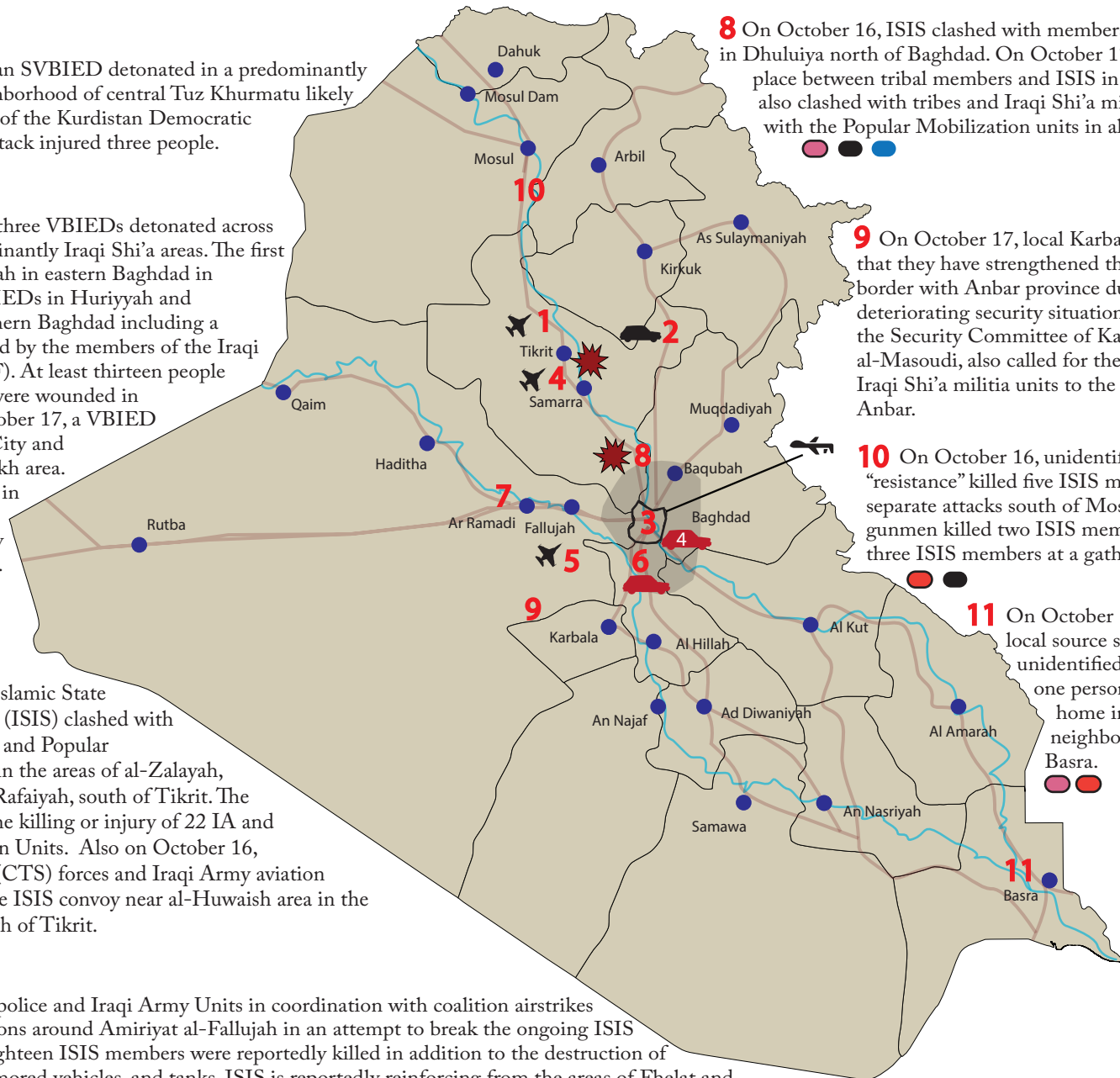


9 On October 17, local Karbala officials announced that they have strengthened the defenses along the border with Anbar province due to the deteriorating security situation there. The head of the Security Committee of Karbala, Aqil al-Masoudi, also called for the return of ISF and Iraqi Shi'a militia units to the border areas with Anbar.

10 On October 16, unidentified gunmen from the "resistance" killed five ISIS members in two separate attacks south of Mosul. The unidentified gunmen killed two ISIS members in Qayara and three ISIS members at a gathering in al-Shura.



11 On October 17, an anonymous local source stated that unidentified gunmen kidnapped one person in front of his home in the al-Jihad neighborhood in western Basra.



● Major Cities

★ Major Clash

👤 Kidnapping

✈️ Airstrikes

🚗 SVBIED

🚚 VBIED

🚁 Armed Drones

● ISF

● ISIS

● Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes

● USA

● Unknown Gunmen

● Iraqi Shi'a militias

100km



Content: Ahmed Ali
Graphics: Nichole Dicharry

The anti-ISIS offensive north of Tikrit is the first of its kind to challenge ISIS control of the Tigris. Baiji is central to ISIS control of northern Iraq, and ISF offensives north of Tikrit may break the ISIS control line and apply pressure to ISIS in the areas south of Mosul and the Zaab triangle in Kirkuk. Attacking units likely launched their operation from the environs of Tikrit University and Camp Speicher. This offensive is likely to move slowly and will require operations to clear individual villages, however. The ISF must sustained support to this offensive or units involved will become isolated within a major ISIS control zone. ISIS will likely counter this offensive by pressuring ISF units around Tikrit. ISIS may also surge on other fronts, such as Samarra and Anbar in order to limit the degree to which the ISF and Shi'a militias involved in this offensive can mass in the north. In Anbar, ISIS continues to lay siege to Amiriyat al-Fallujah and to attack Ramadi with the intent to control the Euphrates river valley. The ISIS siege of Amiriyat al-Fallujah has also had repercussions for neighboring Karbala, where security along the Anbar border has become an increasing concern. The kidnapping of a civilian in Basra signifies the increased impunity of Shi'a militias in Basra in light of the deployment of Basra-based IA assets to counter ISIS elsewhere in Iraq. Over the long term, Shi'a militia activities in southern Iraq will continue to escalate and will represent a major challenge for Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi.