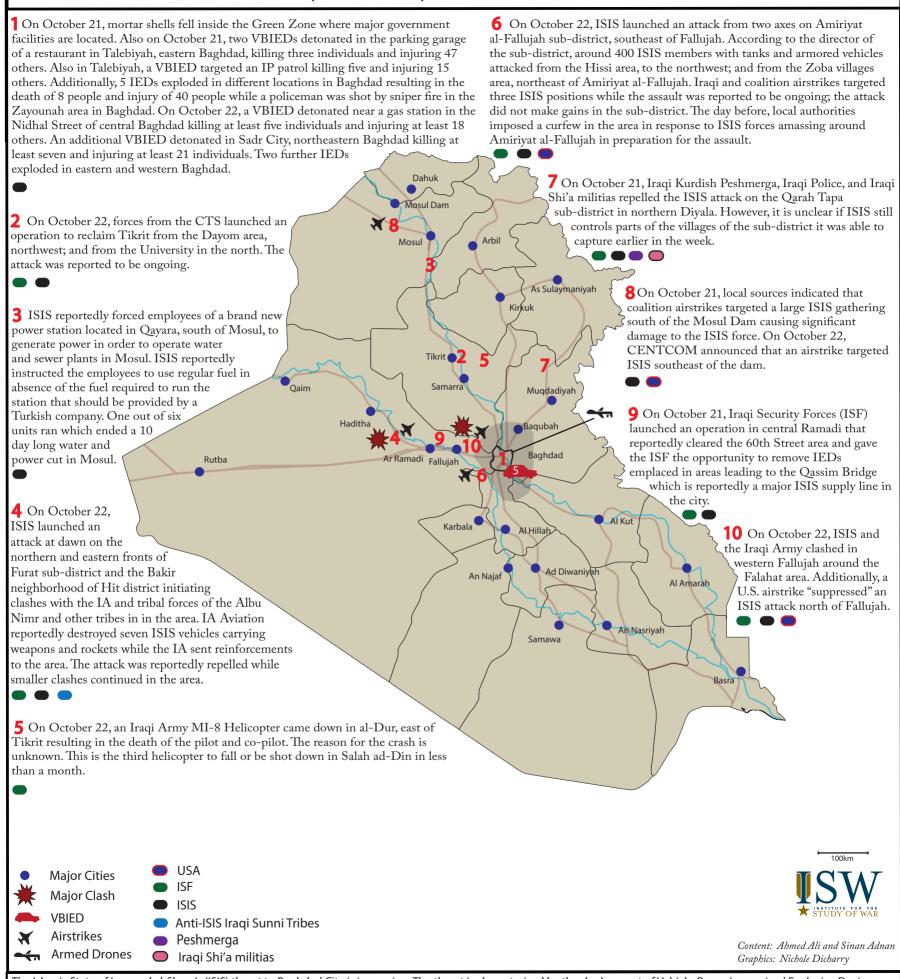
Iraq Situation Report: October 21-22, 2014



The Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham's (ISIS) threat to Baghdad City is increasing. The threat is characterized by the deployment of Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIEDs) and IEDs that are signature ISIS weapons typically used when ISIS is seeking to soften the defenses of an area. The threat is also manifested by the targeting of the Green Zone by mortar rounds and ISIS's ability to deploy suicide bombers throughout different areas of Baghdad. These tactics are also used when ISIS is unable to control terrain, but they illustrate ISIS freedom of movement in some areas of Baghdad. These attacks are intended to destabilize Baghdad and also to coincide with the occurrence of Ashura. It will be important to watch if these attacks result in forcing the ISF and Iraqi Shi'a militias to reposition forces from other areas to reinforce the capital. In Diyala and Anbar's Amiriyat al-Fallujah, ISIS continues to face difficulties as the Peshmerga, ISF, and anti-ISIS tribes are able to hold the terrain.