

Iraq Situation Report: October 25-26, 2014

1 On October 26, local security sources in Baghdadi sub-district, west of Hit, stated that the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) launched seven shells that contained chlorine towards Baghdadi. The shells either did not explode or fell in uninhabited areas. The same sources stated that the IA, Iraqi Police, and anti-ISIS tribes were reportedly able to clear 14 areas around Baghdadi and Hit after ISIS reportedly fled to Hit, Rawa, and Ana. The source also added that coalition airstrikes disrupted an ISIS attack on Baghdadi that was going to take place from three axes.



2 On October 26, Peshmerga forces were able to prevent a truck SVBIED attack that was targeting a Peshmerga unit headquarters in Tuz Khurmatu, east of Tikrit. The SVBIED used in the attack was an Iraqi Army vehicle and reportedly contained 3 tons of explosives. An IED also exploded in a Tuz Khurmatu neighborhood resulting in the injury of two civilians.



3 On October 25, an SVBIED targeted Iraqi Army (IA) units and Iraqi Shi'a militias within the Popular Mobilization Units in Taji, north of Baghdad. The attack resulted in the death of 10 members of the IA and Iraqi Shi'a militias and injury of 27.



4 On October 26, two Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) exploded in Baghdad. One IED exploded in the Adel neighborhood in western Baghdad and another IED exploded in the Dora neighborhood in southern Baghdad. The attacks resulted in the death of 3 civilians and injury of 11 civilians. Counter-Terrorism authorities also announced that it arrested a "terrorist network... backed by foreign intelligence" in Baghdad that was planning to assassinate high-profile individuals.



5 On October 26, Iraqi Security Forces prevented an SVBIED attack on its forces near al-Hajaj north of Baiji. Additionally, between October 24-25, 5 airstrikes targeted ISIS units and buildings near Baiji.



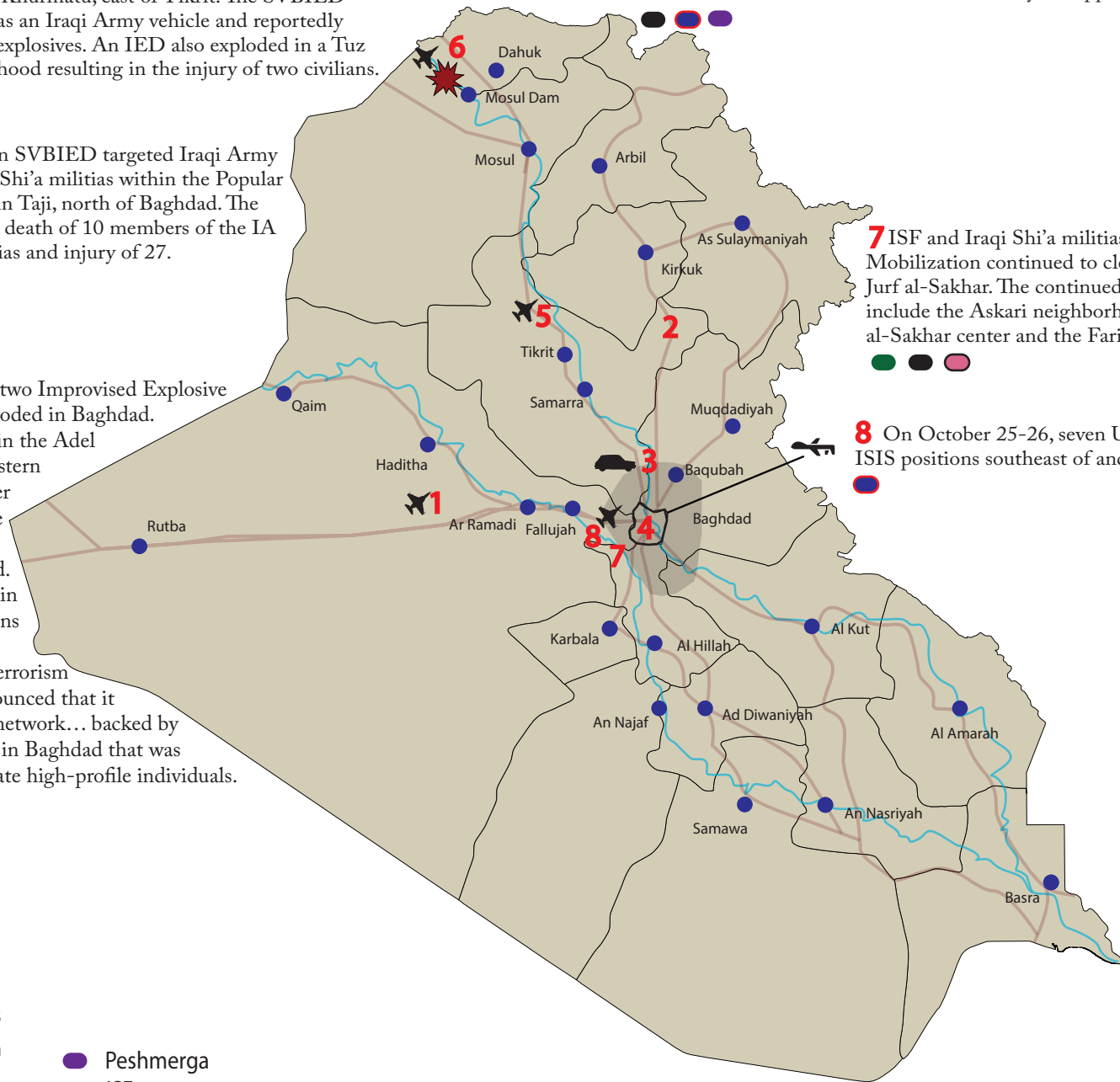
6 On October 25, the Peshmerga launched an operation to reclaim the Zumar area on the Iraqi-Syrian border. Initially, the Peshmerga were able to take control of five villages and as the operation progressed the Peshmerga were able to enter the center of Zumar after heavy clashes with ISIS and impose Peshmerga control. The operation was carried out with support of coalition airstrikes and CENTCOM announced that, between October 25-26, 9 airstrikes targeted ISIS positions, vehicles, and units in the vicinity of the Mosul dam. These airstrikes were likely in support of the operation.



7 ISF and Iraqi Shi'a militias within the Popular Mobilization continued to clear areas of ISIS in Jurf al-Sakhar. The continued clearing operations include the Askari neighborhood in Jurf al-Sakhar center and the Farisiyah area.



8 On October 25-26, seven U.S. airstrikes targeted ISIS positions southeast of and near Fallujah.



- Major Cities
- ★ Major Clash
- SVBIED
- ✈ Airstrikes
- ✈ Armed Drones
- Peshmerga
- ISF
- ISIS
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- USA
- Unknown Gunmen
- Iraqi Shi'a militias

100km



Content: Ahmed Ali
Graphics: Nichole Dicharry

The Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga continue to launch operations to clear areas that fell to the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) in early August. This weekend's Peshmerga operations cleared most of the area of Zumar in northwestern Ninewa province on the Iraqi-Syrian border. Zumar was the first location seized by ISIS during its August push. Zumar's clearing will allow the Peshmerga the possibility to launch operations towards Sinjar and can provide a psychological boost to the Peshmerga. Although ISIS will likely consolidate in Sinjar to prevent any Peshmerga advances, U.S. and coalition airstrikes appear to have played a major role in allowing the Peshmerga to carry out the operation. In Anbar, ISIS continues to pressure the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and the anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni tribes in the Baghdadi sub-district in western Anbar which is home to the important al-Asad airbase. ISIS is likely intensifying its Anbar push after it has been mostly expelled from northern Babil's Jurf al-Sakhar which is south of Anbar. The setback to ISIS in Jurf al-Sakhar will likely lead to increased pressure on Amiriyat al-Fallujah.