

Iraq Situation Report: October 9-10, 2014

1 On October 9, ISIS attempted to isolate the northern route to Baghdad by launching attacks in al-Ani, north of Dujail, 50 kms north of Baghdad. In the area, ISIS clashed with the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and Popular Mobilization units which include Iraqi Shi'a militia members. On October 10, ISIS clashed with Jubur tribal fighters in Dhuluiya, north of Baghdad, and in response IA Aviation bombed ISIS in Khazraj and Beshkan near Dhuluiya. On October 10, tribal fighters from Khazraj and Iraqi Shi'a militias clashed with ISIS in al-Hir, north of Dujail. a U.S. airstrike targeted an ISIS unit and destroyed an ISIS building in northwest of Baghdad. ● ● ● ●

2 On October 9, ISIS placed a number of religious figures under house arrest in Fallujah after the Council of Scholars of Fallujah refused to swear allegiance to ISIS. On October 10, IA soldiers and Iraqi Shi'a militias launched an attack from the Fallujah University area on an ISIS-controlled area, but ISIS reportedly repelled the attack. ● ● ● ●

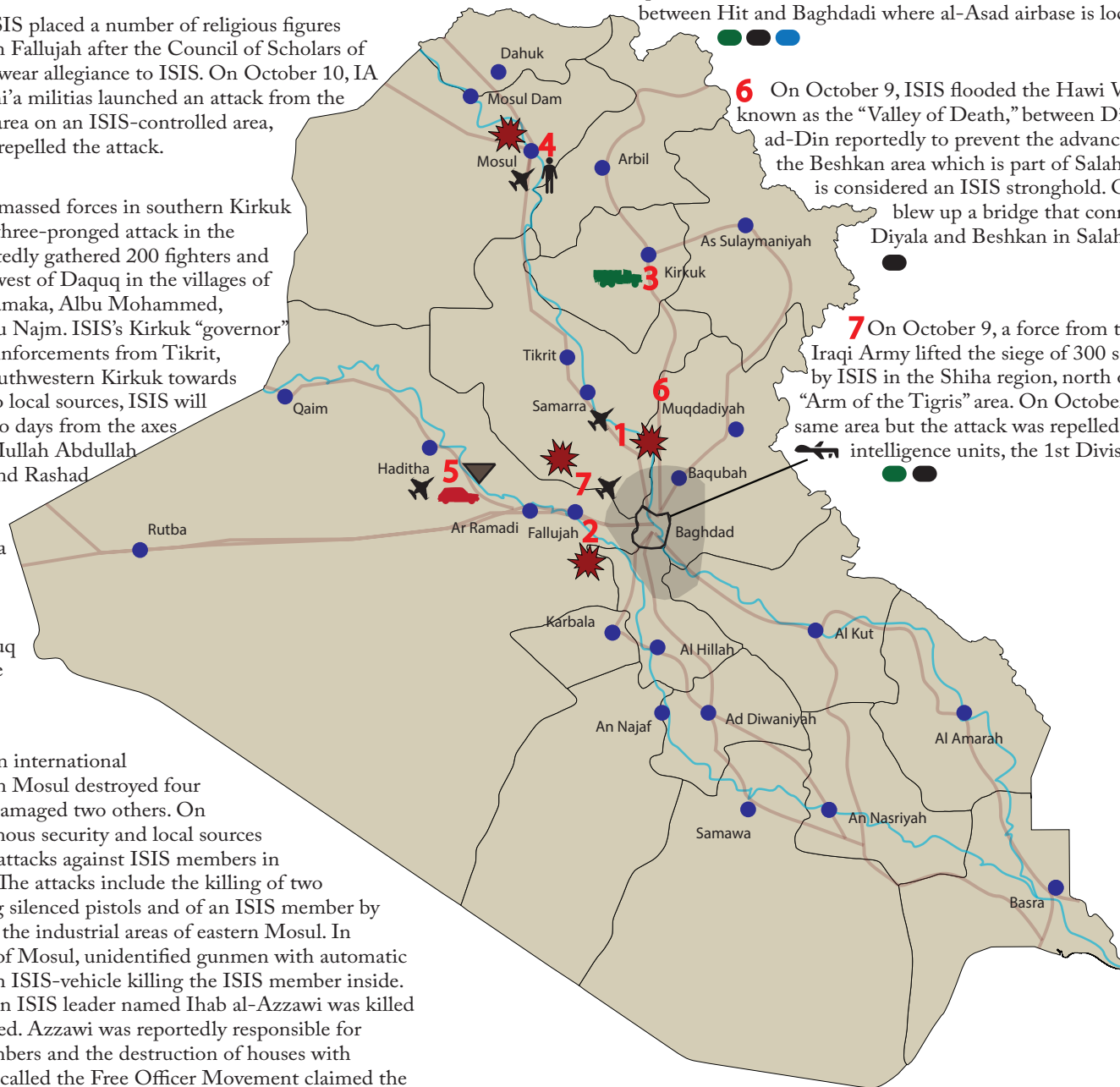
3 ISIS reportedly amassed forces in southern Kirkuk in preparation for a three-pronged attack in the province. ISIS reportedly gathered 200 fighters and 70 vehicles in areas west of Daquq in the villages of Tamur, al-Wihda, Samaka, Albu Mohammed, al-Atshana, and Albu Najm. ISIS's Kirkuk "governor" reportedly moved reinforcements from Tikrit, Baiji, and areas in southwestern Kirkuk towards Daquq. According to local sources, ISIS will attack in the next two days from the axes of al-Multaqa and Mullah Abdullah in western Kirkuk, and Rashad in southern Kirkuk. Peshmerga, Iraqi Army, and Iraqi Shi'a militias have also reinforced their presence and ammunition in Daquq in anticipation of the reported attack. ● ● ● ●

4 On October 8, an international coalition airstrike in Mosul destroyed four ISIS vehicles and damaged two others. On October 10, anonymous security and local sources reported a series of attacks against ISIS members in and around Mosul. The attacks include the killing of two ISIS members using silenced pistols and of an ISIS member by sniper fire in one of the industrial areas of eastern Mosul. In Badush, northwest of Mosul, unidentified gunmen with automatic weapons attacked an ISIS-vehicle killing the ISIS member inside. In Eastern Mosul, an ISIS leader named Ihab al-Azzawi was killed after being kidnapped. Azzawi was reportedly responsible for training suicide bombers and the destruction of houses with explosives. A group called the Free Officer Movement claimed the Azzawi attack. ● ● ● ●

5 On October 9, local police sources in Hit stated that the Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) fortified the entrances into Hit by emplacing explosives, while government buildings are being used as headquarters for ISIS. The IA is reportedly mobilizing its forces to launch a broad offensive on Hit and is reinforcing Albu Nimr tribal fighters in the area. On October 10, ISIS reportedly besieged "tens" of farming villages along the Euphrates River between Hit and Haditha. Also on October 10, a "military aircraft" reportedly bombed an ISIS convoy in the Midham area south of Haditha killing "dozens" ISIS members. Forces from the Jazeera and Badia Operations Command also defused 5 IEDs and a VBIED on the route between Hit and Baghdad where al-Asad airbase is located. ● ● ● ●

6 On October 9, ISIS flooded the Hawi Valley which, also known as the "Valley of Death," between Diyala and Salah ad-Din reportedly to prevent the advance of the ISF towards the Beshkan area which is part of Salah ad-Din province and is considered an ISIS stronghold. On October 10, ISIS blew up a bridge that connects Udhaim in Diyala and Beshkan in Salah ad-Din. ● ● ● ●

7 On October 9, a force from the 1st Division of the Iraqi Army lifted the siege of 300 soldiers trapped by ISIS in the Shiha region, north of Fallujah, in the "Arm of the Tigris" area. On October 10, ISIS attacked the same area but the attack was repelled by military intelligence units, the 1st Division, and IA Aviation. ● ● ● ●



- Major Cities
- Unknown Gunmen
- ISF
- Kidnapping
- ISF Reinforcements
- ISIS
- Airstrikes
- SVBIED
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- Armed Drones
- VBIED
- Peshmerga
- Major Clash
- IED
- Iraqi Shi'a militias



Content: Ahmed Ali
Graphics: Brian Fisher

The Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) is likely attempting to prevent Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) gains in Diyala by flooding the Hawi Valley. Concurrently, ISIS is attempting to isolate Dhuluiya in northern Baghdad and thereby sever the ISF supply line to Samarra, utilizing on ISIS's historical presence and staging area in the Beshkan village near Dhuluiya. It also appears that ISIS may be preparing an attack on Kirkuk; if the attack on Kirkuk takes place, this new campaign will be intended to open another front against the Peshmerga in Kirkuk and will affect any supply route between Baghdad and northern Iraq. The ISF are seeking to disrupt ISIS advances in Anbar by engaging its forces in Fallujah even though ISIS activity in the areas between Hit and Haditha indicate continued freedom of movement and likely probing attacks against the ISF and anti-ISIS tribal forces in Haditha and al-Asad airbase. The expansion of the anti-ISIS air campaign inside the city of Mosul represents the first targeting of ISIS in a densely-urban location and therefore signals a shift in the targeting of ISIS positions. Finally, unconfirmed small-scale anti-ISIS attacks in the city of Mosul signal the possibility of an early but not yet solidified popular movement to resist the presence of ISIS in the city.