

Iraq Situation Report: November 10, 2014

1 Member of Anbar Provincial Council Suhaib al-Rawi stated that 50 U.S. advisors arrived at the al-Asad airbase, west of Hit in Iraq's western Anbar province, to train the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and anti-ISIS tribal fighters. Earlier, the commander the Emergency Regiment in Baghdadi sub-district where al-Asad is located, stated that an unspecified number of U.S. Apache helicopters arrived the base carrying a "senior" U.S. delegation that included trainers who discussed training with security commanders. A reporter stated that 180 advisors arrived at the base. A Jordanian plane loaded with humanitarian supplies arrived the base as well. Meanwhile, ISF and Popular Mobilization Units (PMUs) which include Iraqi Shia militias reportedly took control of parts of Shamiya area, west of Hit.



2 Security forces in Baiji district, Salah ad-Din province, reportedly captured the police directorate in the area and stationed themselves in an area located 3 km from the Baiji Oil Refinery, north of Baiji district. The source added that a coalition airstrike targeted an ISIS convoy between Baiji district and Siniyah sub-district, west of Baiji.



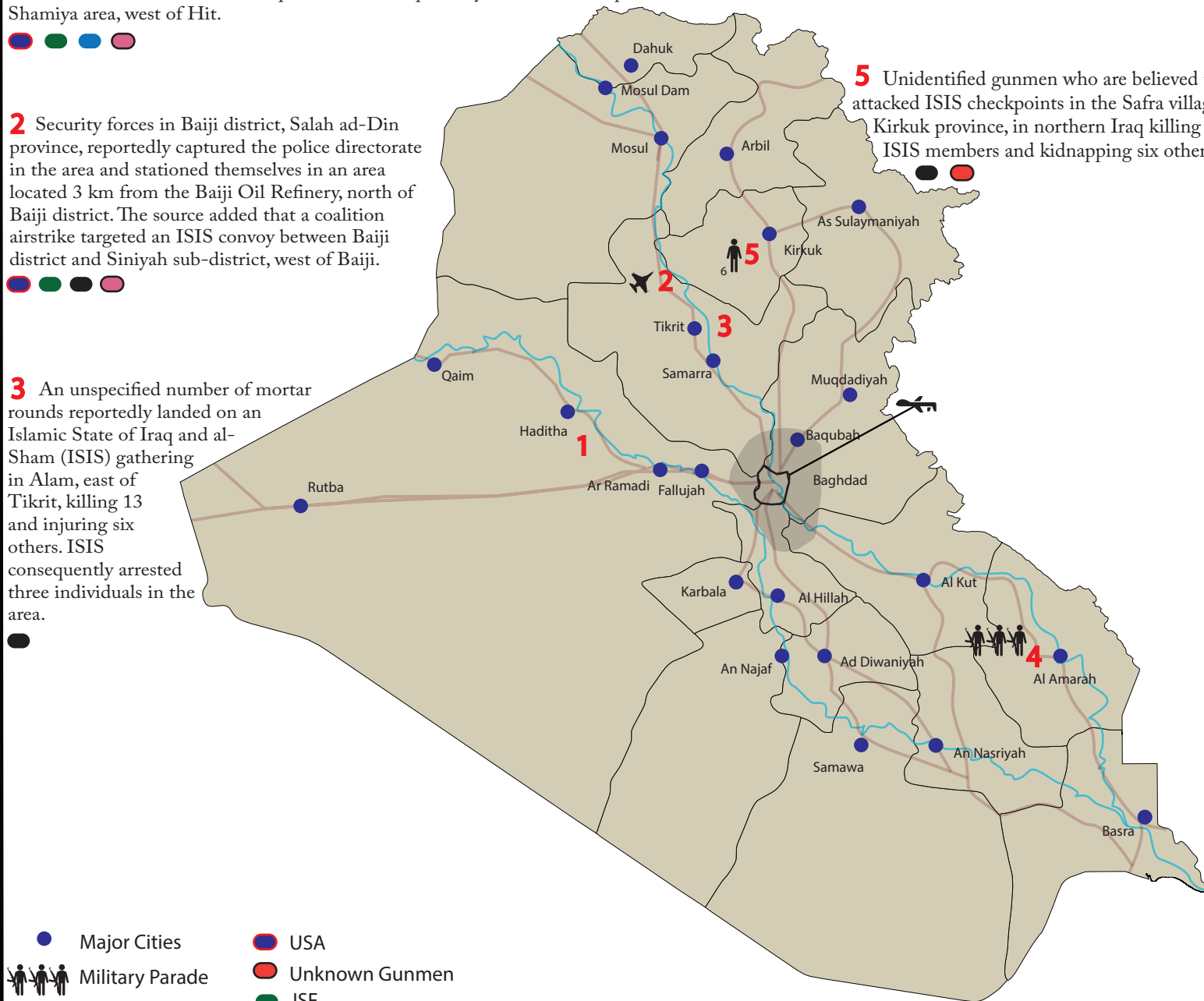
3 An unspecified number of mortar rounds reportedly landed on an Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) gathering in Alam, east of Tikrit, killing 13 and injuring six others. ISIS consequently arrested three individuals in the area.



4 On November 6, the Iraqi Shi'a militia Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq (AAH) conducted a parade in Amarra city in Maysan province in southern Iraq. AAH reportedly displayed captured ISIS vehicles while displaying pictures of three recaptured ISF Armored Personnel Carriers from Jurf al-Sakhar in northern Babil.



5 Unidentified gunmen who are believed to be tribal members attacked ISIS checkpoints in the Safra village in Hawija district, Kirkuk province, in northern Iraq killing three ISIS members and kidnapping six others.



- Major Cities
- Military Parade
- Airstrikes
- Armed Drones
- Kidnapping
- USA
- ISF
- ISIS
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- Iraqi Shi'a militias
- Unknown Gunmen



Content: Ahmed Ali and Sinan Adnan
Graphics: Brian Fisher

The weekend reports of the killing or wounding of the leader of the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS), Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, have not yet been confirmed. The lack of confirmation will result in continuing speculation about Baghdadi's fate and the future strength of ISIS in both Iraq and Syria. The Iraqi government, with the reported backing of U.S. advisors and Apache helicopters, continue to reinforce the strategic al-Asad airbase in western Anbar province in western Iraq. Al-Asad is a major Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) base in western Iraq that is still under Iraqi government and ISF control. ISIS has targeted it in the past, and if ISIS seeks to contest the location again, it will likely be for the purpose of defending its position in the nearby town of Hit to the south, and possibly also to signal that it is not halting operations in light of rumors that Baghdadi has been killed. In the south, Iraqi Shi'a militias are now increasingly visible and active. Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq (AAH) - a militia backed by the Iranian government - conducted a military parade in southern Iraq's Maysan province showcasing what it claims to be ISF equipment reclaimed from ISIS in the recently-cleared area of Jurf al-Sakhar in northern Babil. AAH has been fighting ISIS in different parts of Iraq along with other Iraqi Shi'a militias within the Popular Mobilization Units (PMUs). The parade in Amarra is a projection of force by AAH in the south intended to capitalize on the group's role in fighting ISIS and is also likely aimed to gain supporters in an area where its historical rival, the Sadrist Trend, is normally dominant. Given this development, it will be important to watch for the reaction of the Sadrist Trend and its military wing, the Peace Brigades, in southern Iraq, Baghdad, and on the battlefield.