

Iraq Situation Report: November 17, 2014

1 Local sources from southern and western Kirkuk province reported that ISIS gunmen attempt to mobilize and recruit male students to fight alongside the organization. The sources reported that the gunmen visited an unspecified number of schools urging the students to carry arms. Teachers in these schools rejected this step while dozens of families prevented their sons from attending their schools in fear of ISIS forcing them to fight. Meanwhile, local sources also reported that ISIS shifted power supplies from Zab sub-district to Abassi sub-district, southwestern Kirkuk province. This decision was, according to the sources, taken because Abassi has more residents supportive of ISIS than Zab, some of whom may have been relocated from other areas of ISIS control.

2 ISIS reportedly launched an attack on Peshmerga forces south of Mosul Dam. According to a Peshmerga source, coalition airstrikes and the Peshmerga repelled the attack resulting in unspecified number of casualties from ISIS side. ISIS also launched an attack on Zumar sub-district, west of the Mosul Dam. The attack was reportedly repelled by Peshmerga forces in the area.

3 Forces from the Iraqi Army (IA) and tribal forces reportedly repelled an ISIS attack on Amiriyat al-Fallujah sub-district, southeast of Fallujah district. The attack was launched from the direction of al-Owissat area southeast of Amiriyat al-Fallujah.

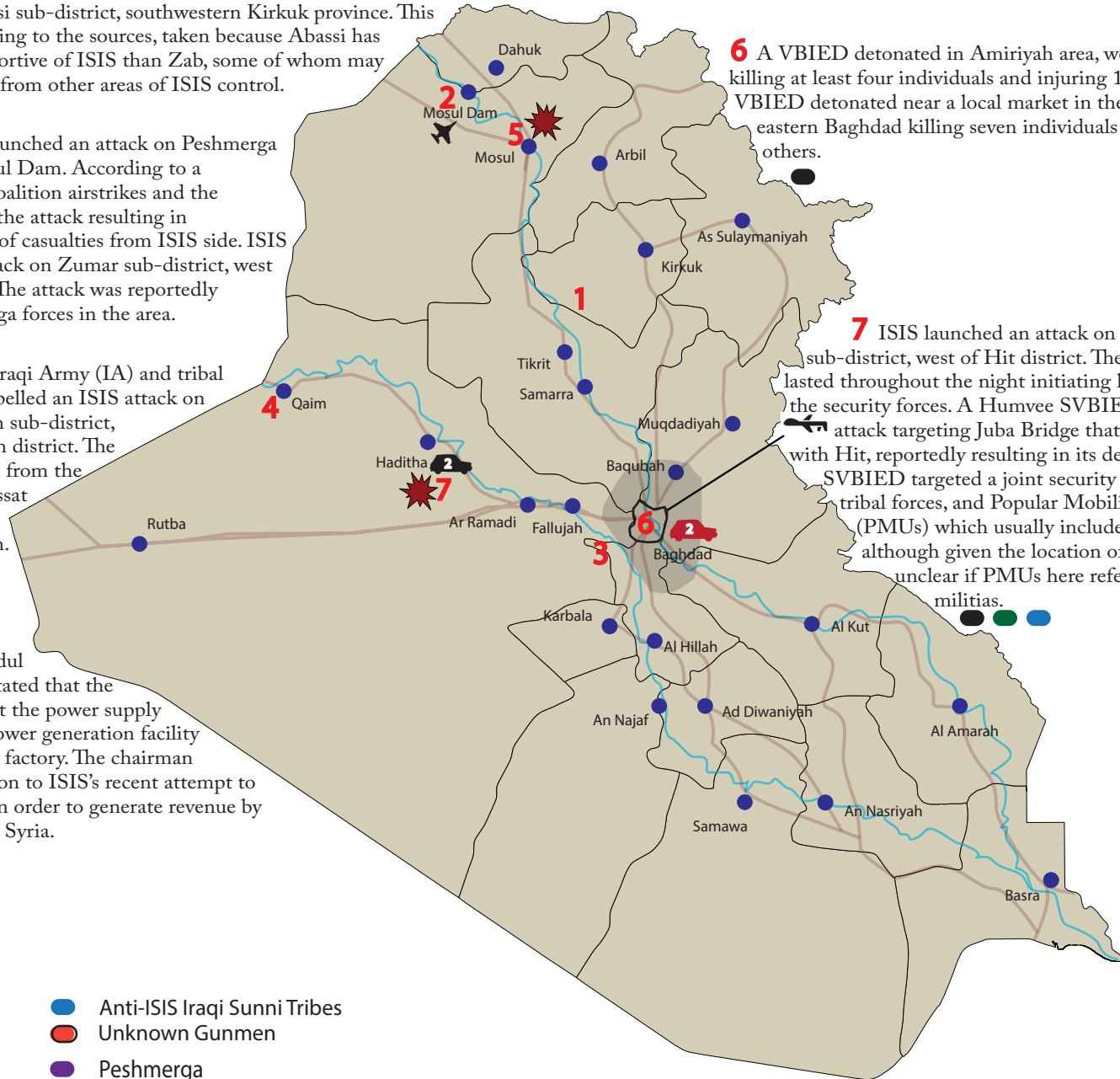
4 Chairman of Haditha district Abdul Hakim al-Jughaifi stated that the local government cut the power supply from the Haditha power generation facility to the Qaim cement factory. The chairman attributed the decision to ISIS's recent attempt to operate the facility in order to generate revenue by exporting cement to Syria.

5 Unidentified gunmen reportedly targeted ISIS positions in the areas of Islah al-Zerai and Refai of western Mosul. The gunmen used light and medium weapons in the clashes that lasted for half an hour. A causality figure was not reported.

6 A VBIED detonated in Amiriyah area, western Baghdad, killing at least four individuals and injuring 13 others. Also, a VBIED detonated near a local market in the Mashtal area of eastern Baghdad killing seven individuals and injuring 22 others.

7 ISIS launched an attack on the Baghdadi sub-district, west of Hit district. The attack reportedly lasted throughout the night initiating heavy clashes with the security forces. A Humvee SVBIED was used in the attack targeting Juba Bridge that connects Baghdadi with Hit, reportedly resulting in its destruction. Another SVBIED targeted a joint security checkpoint of ISF, tribal forces, and Popular Mobilization Units (PMUs) which usually includes Iraqi Shi'a militias, although given the location of the attack, it is unclear if PMUs here referenced to the militias.

- Major Cities
- SVBIED
- VBIED
- ✈ Airstrikes
- ★ Major Clash
- ✈ Armed Drones
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- Unknown Gunmen
- Peshmerga
- Coalition
- ISF
- ISIS



Content: Sinan Adnan
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Although Baiji district is not fully cleared by the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and Iraqi Shi'a militias, it is clear that ISIS has lost a significant part of the area and has decided not to reinforce it from Hawija, an ISIS stronghold located north of Baiji. It is unclear if the ISF and militias intend to capitalize on their momentum in Baiji by attempting to advance north toward Hawija. Nevertheless, the gains achieved by the ISF and militias in Baiji seem to have spurred ISIS to call for enlistment by the youth of Hawija, likely in anticipation of an ISF push from Baiji. The ISF and militias also may decide to launch a major attack on Tikrit, now that it is isolated from Baiji. Either way, it appears that the ISF and militias for now have the opportunity to set the terms of battle by choosing where and when to fight, at least in the area extending from Tikrit through Baiji, and toward Hawija. This is a significant development given that ISIS has had the initiative at least since the fall of Mosul in June of 2014. The attack by ISIS on Baghdadi sub-district today almost certainly was aimed at disrupting the ISF and tribal forces and diverting their resources.