

Iraq Situation Report: November 18-19, 2014

1 On November 18, ISF and Popular Mobilization Units (PMUs), which include Iraqi Shi'a militias, began a military operation to clear ISIS militants from Sadia and Jalula sub-districts, northeast of Baquba. The operation was initiated from the direction of the Imam Ways area, using the road that connects Muqdadiyah to Sadia and Jalula. On November 19, clashes reportedly took place as a "joint" force from the Peshmerga and PMUs advanced towards Sadia as Peshmerga forces dismantled many IEDs that were emplaced in the road. Eight agricultural villages were reportedly cleared from ISIS and 90 IEDs dismantled on the road. According to the IP commander in Diyala, the road that connects Muqdadiyah to to Khaniqin and Sadia has been cleared. So far, 30 ISIS members were killed in the operation while the commander of the Eighth Emergency Battalion of the IP, Lt Col. Ali al-Bawi was killed by an IED explosion as he was on the road to Sadia. Also, the leader of the Zarkosh tribe in Diyala, Abdul Samad Al-Zarkoshi, stated that 1,000 Zarkosh tribal fighters mobilized to assist the ISF in the operation.

2 On November 19, an SVBIED detonated near Arbil Governorate building in central Arbil killing five individuals and injuring 22 others.

3 A VBIED detonated in the Qadisiya neighborhood, eastern Kirkuk, injuring five individuals.

4 On November 19, ISIS launched an attack from two axes on Ramadi. One axis was from the direction of Tamim area and the area known as 5 km to the west. The other axis was from the Huz and Girtan areas. ISF and tribal forces reportedly repelled the attack.

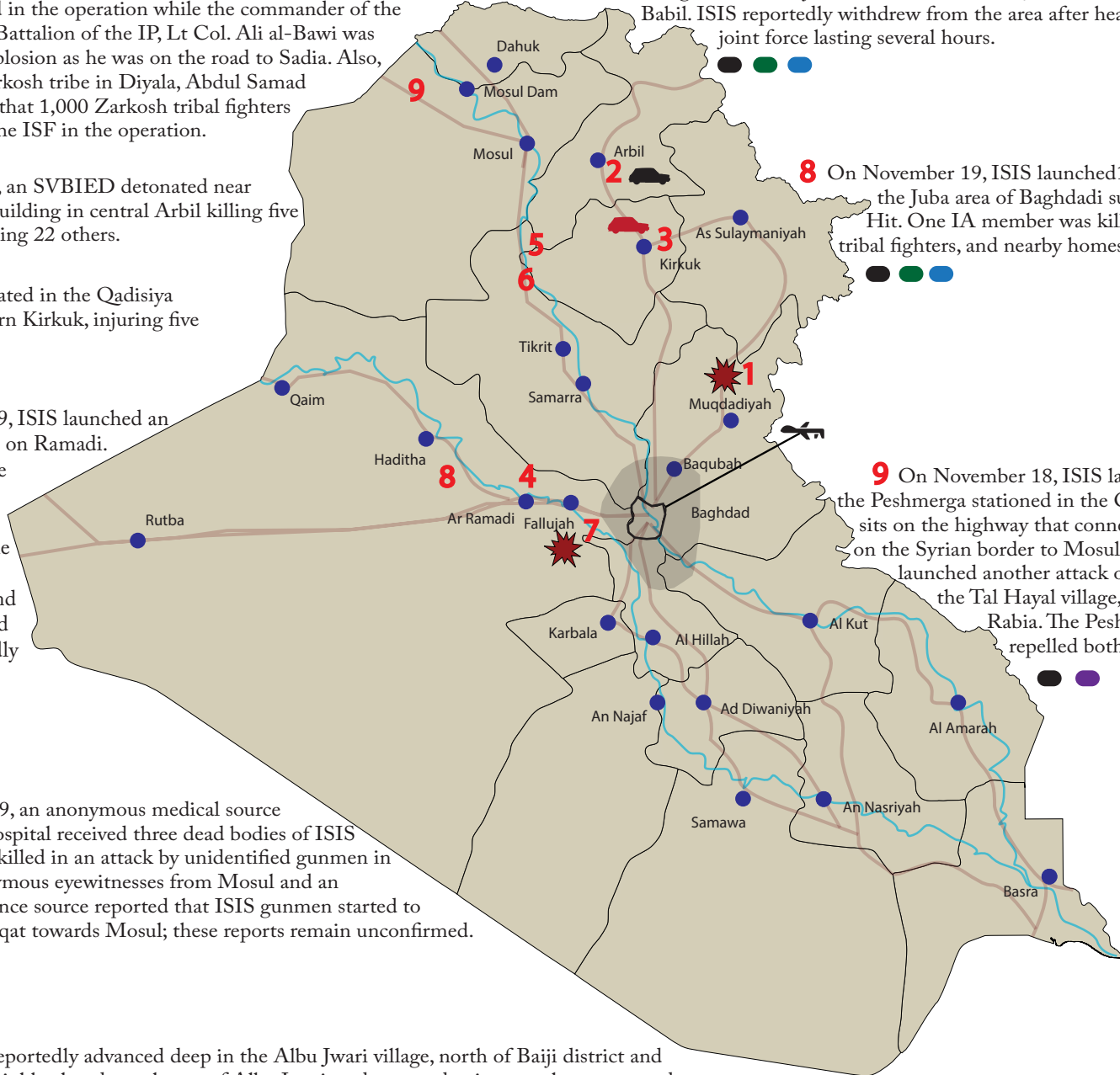
5 On November 19, an anonymous medical source stated that Mosul hospital received three dead bodies of ISIS members who were killed in an attack by unidentified gunmen in Sharqat. Also, anonymous eyewitnesses from Mosul and an anonymous intelligence source reported that ISIS gunmen started to withdraw from Sharqat towards Mosul; these reports remain unconfirmed.

6 Security forces reportedly advanced deep in the Albu Jwari village, north of Baiji district and also in the Masafi neighborhood, northwest of Albu Jwari, and are conducting searches supported by engineers to dismantle IEDs. Meanwhile, a leader of the Jisat tribe in the area, Hamid al-Hachim, stated that tribal fighters from the al-Jisat and Jubur tribes now control the areas of al-Hajaj and Albu Tuma, south of Baiji and are supporting the security forces in central Baiji. He added that ISIS militants fled to the desert areas towards Ninewa. Also, security forces are reportedly preparing to launch an operation to enter Tikrit and Alam, east of Tikrit.

7 On November 17th, Amiriyat al-Fallujah Police Chief, Major Arif al-Janabi, stated that ISF, in coordination with IA Aviation, launched a military operation to clear the southern environs of the sub-district. Specifically in areas around Razaza Lake and the Majar area, south of Amiriyat al-Fallujah, resulting in the capture of Majar on November 18. Four IP officers were killed while eight IA and IP members were wounded. Also, 30 ISIS fighters were killed and 16 ISIS vehicles destroyed. The ISF and tribal forces also moved further east towards Owissat, an ISIS stronghold located just across the river from Jurf al-Sakhar in northern Babil. ISIS reportedly withdrew from the area after heavy clashes with the joint force lasting several hours.

8 On November 19, ISIS launched 16 mortar rounds on the Juba area of Baghdadi sub-district, west of Hit. One IA member was killed along with two tribal fighters, and nearby homes were damaged.

9 On November 18, ISIS launched an attack on the Peshmerga stationed in the Owinat village that sits on the highway that connects Rabia sub-district on the Syrian border to Mosul and Tal Afar. ISIS launched another attack on the Peshmerga in the Tal Hayal village, four miles east of Rabia. The Peshmerga reportedly repelled both attacks.



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



Content: Sinan Adnan
Graphics: Brian Fisher

Iraqi Security Forces, Iraqi Shi'a militias, Kurdish forces, and Iraqi Sunni anti-ISIS tribes are applying pressure on ISIS across multiple fronts. Around Amiriyat al-Fallujah sub-district, southeast of Fallujah, the ISF and tribal fighters launched an operation to clear ISIS from the southern environs of the sub-district. Although it is hard to verify now the degree to which this operation has been successful, this operation nevertheless represents a shift from defensive to offensive posture by the security forces in Amiriyat al-Fallujah who have faced repeated ISIS incursions. Another operation was launched in order to retake the sub-districts of Sadia and Jalula, both located east of the Hamrin Ridge and Hamrin Lake in northeastern Diyala province. Although the announced goal of the operation is to retake both sub-districts, the military effort as of right now is concentrated on clearing the road and villages that lead to Sadia sub-district. The Kurdish Peshmerga were expelled from Jalula and Sadia on August 11 and June 17 respectively. Both areas fall on the green line of the internal contested boundaries between the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and the central government. It is therefore important to watch for the degree of Peshmerga involvement in these operation as an indicator of Iraqi Kurdish desire to return to areas not populated by an Iraqi Kurdish majority. Further north, the attack in Arbil is an anomaly given the relative security in the province in comparison to other areas of Iraq.