

Iraq Situation Report: November 25-26, 2014

1 On November 26, local sources from Mosul reported that ISIS ordered providers of cellular services in Mosul to stop their service while many ISIS members deployed in the city causing locals to be “worried and cautious.” Also, leader of ISIS, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was rumored to be in Mosul

2 On November 25, tribal gunmen reportedly clashed with members of ISIS at an ISIS checkpoint in Zab sub-district, southwestern Kirkuk killing five members of ISIS. Consequently, ISIS carried out raids and searches in the area to find the attackers. Also in southwestern Kirkuk on November 26, ISIS launched an attack on the Peshmerga in the outer perimeter of Kirkuk from the positions of Tarkalan, Khalid checkpoint area, and Moltaqa city. The Peshmerga reportedly repelled the attack

3 On November 26, ISIS gunmen launched an attack from Wana area of Tilkif district, 8 km north of Mosul against Peshmerga forces in vicinity of the Mosul Dam. Peshmerga forces reportedly repelled the attack.

4 On November 25, Chairman of Anbar Provincial Council Sabah Karhut stated that the two newly formed battalions of Anbari tribal fighters under the General Ahmed Sadaq Brigade received weapons and deployed to Ramadi. Colonel Hamed Shandukh from the IP in Anbar stated that security forces retook the Education Directorate located beyond the Governmental Compound in central Ramadi. On November 26, clashes reportedly continued between ISF/tribal fighters and ISIS in Huz, western Ramadi. Meanwhile, a coalition airstrike targeted an ISIS convoy of reinforcements from “the Anbar desert” to Ramadi reportedly destroying the convoy, but there were no more details.

5 On November 25, a joint force from the IA and tribal forces reportedly cleared the Mahbubiya area, located between Hit district and Baghdad sub-district, across the Euphrates toward Thar Thar Lake. The joint force killed 22 ISIS gunmen and dismantled 60 IEDs placed in the main road and buildings. The leader of the Albu Nimr tribe, Naim al-Gaud, described this as an area of ISIS concentration used to carry out attacks against security forces.

6 On November 25, unidentified gunmen (most likely members of Iraqi Shi’a militias) stormed a home in Section 11 of Sadr City, northeastern Baghdad, killing one man and three women. In addition, the ISF found two unidentified dead bodies in Sadr City. Also in Baghdad, an IED detonated in the Commercial Street, Siha neighborhood, Doura area, located in southern Baghdad. The explosion killed one individual and injured seven others.

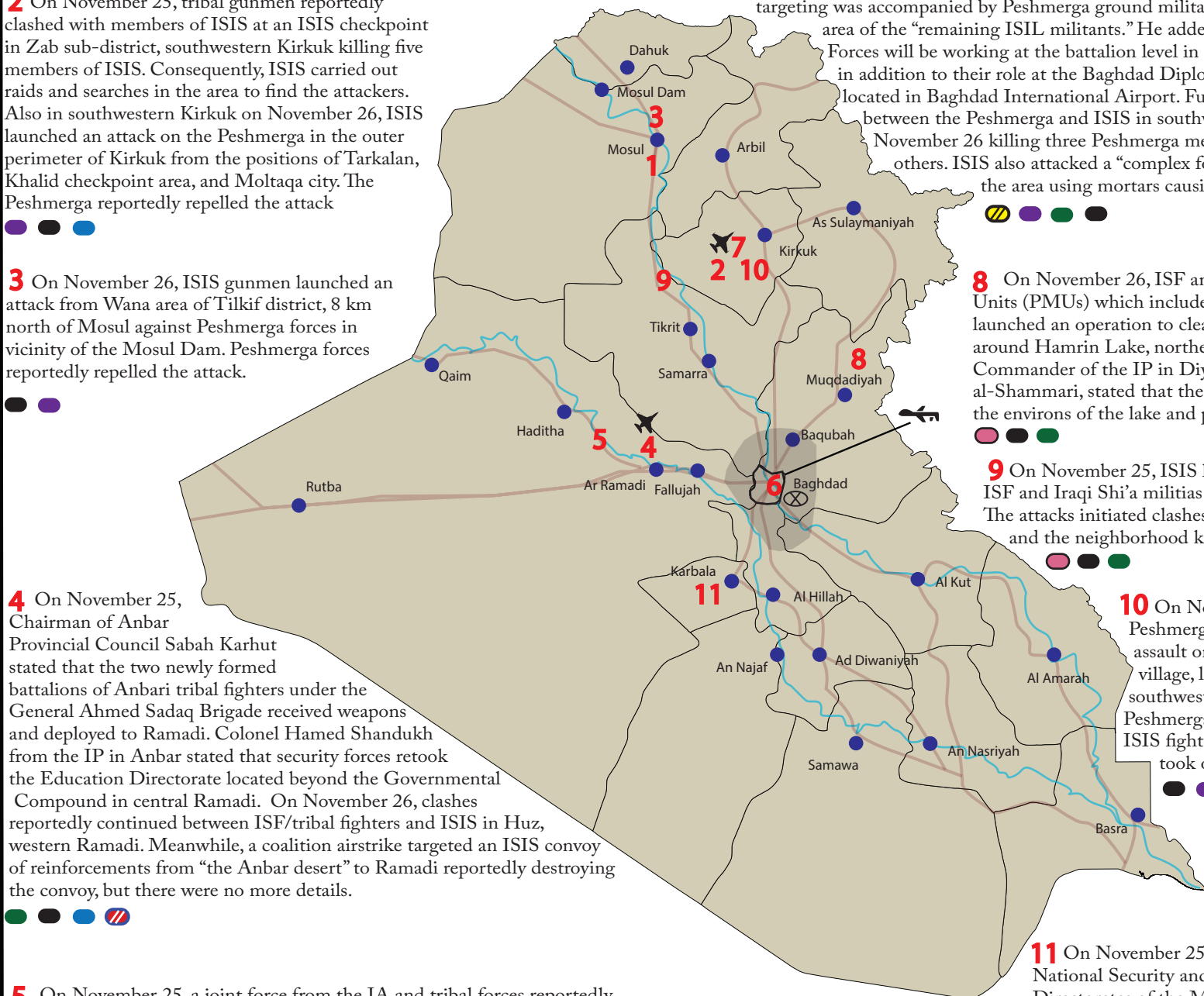
7 On November 25, Australian Defense Minister David Johnston stated that the Australian Air Force carried out strikes targeting a “large, well-established and hidden network of caves and bunkers” used by ISIS near Kirkuk. This targeting was accompanied by Peshmerga ground military operations to clear the area of the “remaining ISIL militants.” He added that Australian Special Forces will be working at the battalion level in support of CTS forward in addition to their role at the Baghdad Diplomatic Security Center located in Baghdad International Airport. Further clashes occurred between the Peshmerga and ISIS in southwestern Kirkuk on November 26 killing three Peshmerga members and injuring 16 others. ISIS also attacked a “complex for oil and gas lines” in the area using mortars causing a “large fire.”

8 On November 26, ISF and Popular Mobilization Units (PMUs) which include Iraqi Shi’a militias launched an operation to clear ISIS from villages around Hamrin Lake, northeastern Diyala province. Commander of the IP in Diyala, General Jamil al-Shammari, stated that the forces cleared ISIS from the environs of the lake and posted Iraqi flags.

9 On November 25, ISIS launched attacks on the ISF and Iraqi Shi’a militias in Baiji, north of Tikrit. The attacks initiated clashes in Asri, Nafut, Kahraba, and the neighborhood known as “600.”

10 On November 26, Peshmerga forces launched an assault on Tal al-Warid village, located 15 miles, southwest of Kirkuk city. The Peshmerga killed “dozens” of ISIS fighters and reportedly took over the village.

11 On November 25, elements from the National Security and the Intelligence Directorates of the MoI reportedly ambushed four VBIEDs that attempted to enter Karbala from its western entrance and arrested six individuals in the cars.



- Major Cities
- ⊗ Execution
- ✈ Airstrikes
- ✈ Armed Drones
- ISF
- ISIS
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- Coalition
- Peshmerga
- Australia
- Iraqi Shi’a militias



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Graphics: Aaron Reese

Fighting in northern Iraq has accelerated. The Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) is seeking to regain the momentum after suffering major territorial loses and setbacks recently in the strategic town of Baiji in Salah ad-Din province and the towns of Jalula and Sadia in Diyala province. ISIS over the last two days concentrated its fighting effort around Kirkuk city in a very likely effort to force a repositioning of Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga forces from other fronts, particularly Diyala. ISIS is also seeking to disrupt possible Peshmerga operations to clear Sinjar in western Ninewa province. ISIS is doing so by engaging Peshmerga forces around the Mosul dam. The Peshmerga are also making a push to pressure ISIS strongholds in the Tal al-Warid area in southwestern Kirkuk which was the Headquarters of the 47th Brigade of the now-defunct 12th Iraqi Army Division and as a result it is likely now an ISIS military headquarters. Meanwhile, the combined anti-ISIS forces of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), Iraqi Shi’a Militias within the Popular Mobilization Units (PMUs), and the Peshmerga continue to challenge ISIS in Diyala and capitalize on recent gains. The northern front’s developments are taking place concurrent with the persistent ISIS threat against the provincial capital of Anbar, Ramadi. The Anbar developments coupled with the northern front’s clashes signify the continued widespread confrontation between ISIS and forces seeking to dislodge it.