

Iraq Situation Report: November 8-9, 2014

1 On November 8, five Vehicle-Borne Explosive Devices (VBIEDs) exploded in Baghdad. The first one exploded near a restaurant in the Amin neighborhood in eastern Baghdad. Two VBIEDs exploded in the same area near a gas station in the Amel neighborhood in southwestern Baghdad. Meanwhile, two VBIEDs exploded in Sadr city in eastern Baghdad and the Karrada neighborhood in central Baghdad. These attacks resulted in the death of 39 civilians and injury of 113. On November 9, an IED exploded in the Ur neighborhood in eastern Baghdad and another IED exploded in the Washash area in western Baghdad. These attacks resulted in the death of 4 civilians and injury of at least 18.

7 On November 8, Deputy Chairman of the Anbar Provincial Council Faleh al-Issawi announced that a U.S. airstrike targeted a gathering of senior ISIS leaders including ISIS leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in the Rumana area in the Qaim district on the Iraqi-Syrian border. Issawi stated that the airstrike destroyed 40 ISIS vehicles and allegedly seriously wounded Baghdadi and other ISIS leaders. He reported that Baghdadi received treatment at a hospital in Qaim and was then transferred to Syria for further treatment.

2 A Suicide VBIED targeted an Iraqi Army (IA) and Iraqi Police (IP) checkpoint in the area known as "35 Kilometer" west of Ramadi in western Iraq's Anbar province. The attack resulted in the death of 3 IP members and injury of 4 IA members.

8 On November 8-9, ISIS "kidnapped" 25 members and officers of the Iraqi Police south of Mosul. Fifteen high-ranking officers who had earlier disavowed their ties with the Iraqi Security Forces were taken by ISIS in the Qayarra area of Ninewa province and their locations are now unknown. In Sharqat's villages of Khanuga and al-Shagra in Salah ad-Din province, ISIS took 10 officers from their houses to the Qayarra airbase which is now an ISIS headquarters.

3 On November 8, security forces cleared 8 villages near the town of Hit in western Anbar of ISIS. The villages include Albu Shatab, Jamal, Yarza, and Shabaniyya in the Dulab sub-district in Hit. Tribal forces along with IA and IP units launched an effort to defuse IEDs emplaced by ISIS in the villages.

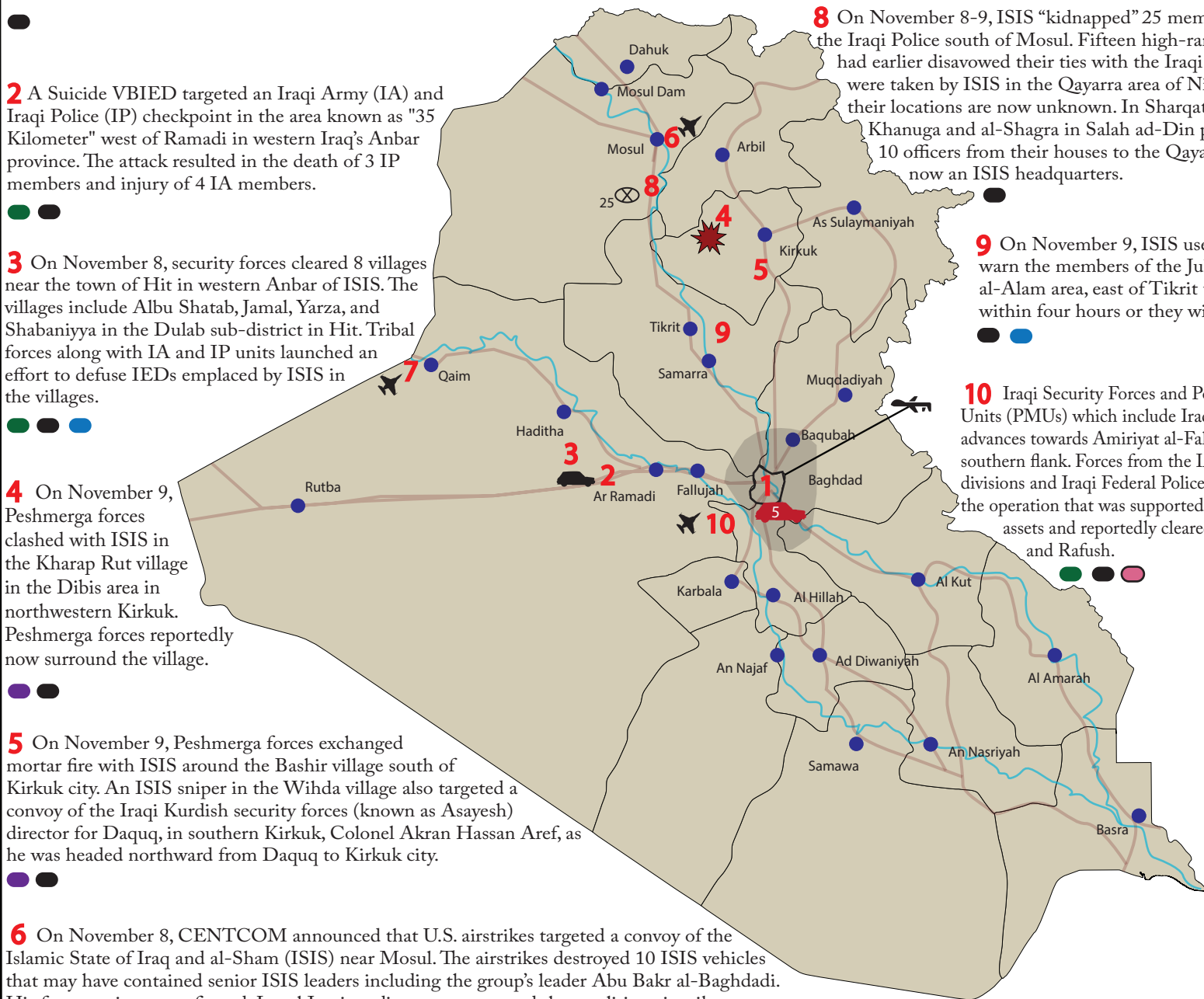
9 On November 9, ISIS used loudspeakers to warn the members of the Juburi tribe in the al-Alam area, east of Tikrit to vacate the area within four hours or they will be killed.

4 On November 9, Peshmerga forces clashed with ISIS in the Kharap Rut village in the Dibis area in northwestern Kirkuk. Peshmerga forces reportedly now surround the village.

10 Iraqi Security Forces and Popular Mobilization Units (PMUs) which include Iraqi Shi'a militias made advances towards Amiriyat al-Fallujah from its southern flank. Forces from the IA 6th, 17th, and 14th divisions and Iraqi Federal Police units were involved in the operation that was supported by Iraqi Air Force assets and reportedly cleared areas in Dwelibah and Rafush.

5 On November 9, Peshmerga forces exchanged mortar fire with ISIS around the Bashir village south of Kirkuk city. An ISIS sniper in the Wihda village also targeted a convoy of the Iraqi Kurdish security forces (known as Asayesh) director for Daquq, in southern Kirkuk, Colonel Akran Hassan Aref, as he was headed northward from Daquq to Kirkuk city.

6 On November 8, CENTCOM announced that U.S. airstrikes targeted a convoy of the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) near Mosul. The airstrikes destroyed 10 ISIS vehicles that may have contained senior ISIS leaders including the group's leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. His fate remains unconfirmed. Local Iraqi media sources reported that coalition airstrikes targeted an ISIS convoy near the Tayran area in southwestern Mosul that resulted in destruction of 13 ISIS vehicles. The same sources also reported that coalition airstrikes destroyed two ISIS IED factories in the industrial area in western Mosul. ISIS reportedly launched an operation in the area after the airstrikes to "check IDs of areas residents."



- Major Cities
- ★ Major Clash
- ✈ Airstrikes
- 🚗 VBIED
- 🚚 SVBIED
- 🚁 Armed Drones
- ⊗ Execution
- 🇺🇸 USA
- 🇮🇶 Peshmerga
- 🇮🇶 ISF
- ⚫ ISIS
- 🇮🇶 Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- 🇮🇶 Iraqi Shi'a militias



Content: Ahmed Ali
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The significant event of the weekend is the reported targeting of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS), by U.S. airstrikes. The airstrikes targeting Baghdadi and other senior ISIS leaders reportedly took place either near the city of Mosul in northern Iraq where Baghdadi appeared publicly for the first time in June of this year to give a sermon at the beginning of Ramadan or near the border town of Qaim in western Iraq's Anbar province. At this point, it is unclear if Baghdadi was killed or injured in either location. However, local officials in Anbar report serious injury to him and other ISIS leaders in the Qaim airstrikes. For these high-profile attacks, it typically takes time to get confirmation and reliable information particularly in the absence of a solid ground intelligence presence. Nonetheless, it is very likely that senior ISIS leaders were targeted during these airstrikes. This possibility is reinforced by ISIS carrying out campaigns to "kidnap" high-ranking officers of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) near Mosul. ISIS suspects those officers of conveying targeting data to the coalition and has recently executed some of those officers in Mosul. In Anbar, the ISF are able to carry out operations to target ISIS presence near the town of Hit in the western parts of the province. It is too early to tell if those operations will result in the full clearing of Hit, but the operations can increase pressure on ISIS as the ISF and Popular Mobilization Units (PMUs) are seeking to soften ISIS positions near the town of Amiriyat al-Fallujah. ISIS has been seeking to control Amiriyat al-Fallujah, located in southern Anbar province, recently in an effort to support its overall presence in Anbar.