

Iraq Situation Report: December 15, 2014

1 On December 15, a source in Kirkuk stated that the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) started to implement mandatory service by demanding that each family “nominates” one of its male members to fight alongside the organization in Hawija district, Zab Riyadh, Abassi, and Rashad areas in southwestern Kirkuk in preparation for the “big battle.” The source stated that residents strongly rejected this demand and added that this has caused many families to relocate their male members to other areas.

2 On December 15, residents of Mosul reported that robberies of commercial shops in the city have recently increased due to the absence of guards or security forces. Residents highlighted that the “Islamic Police” of ISIS does not conduct patrols during the night.

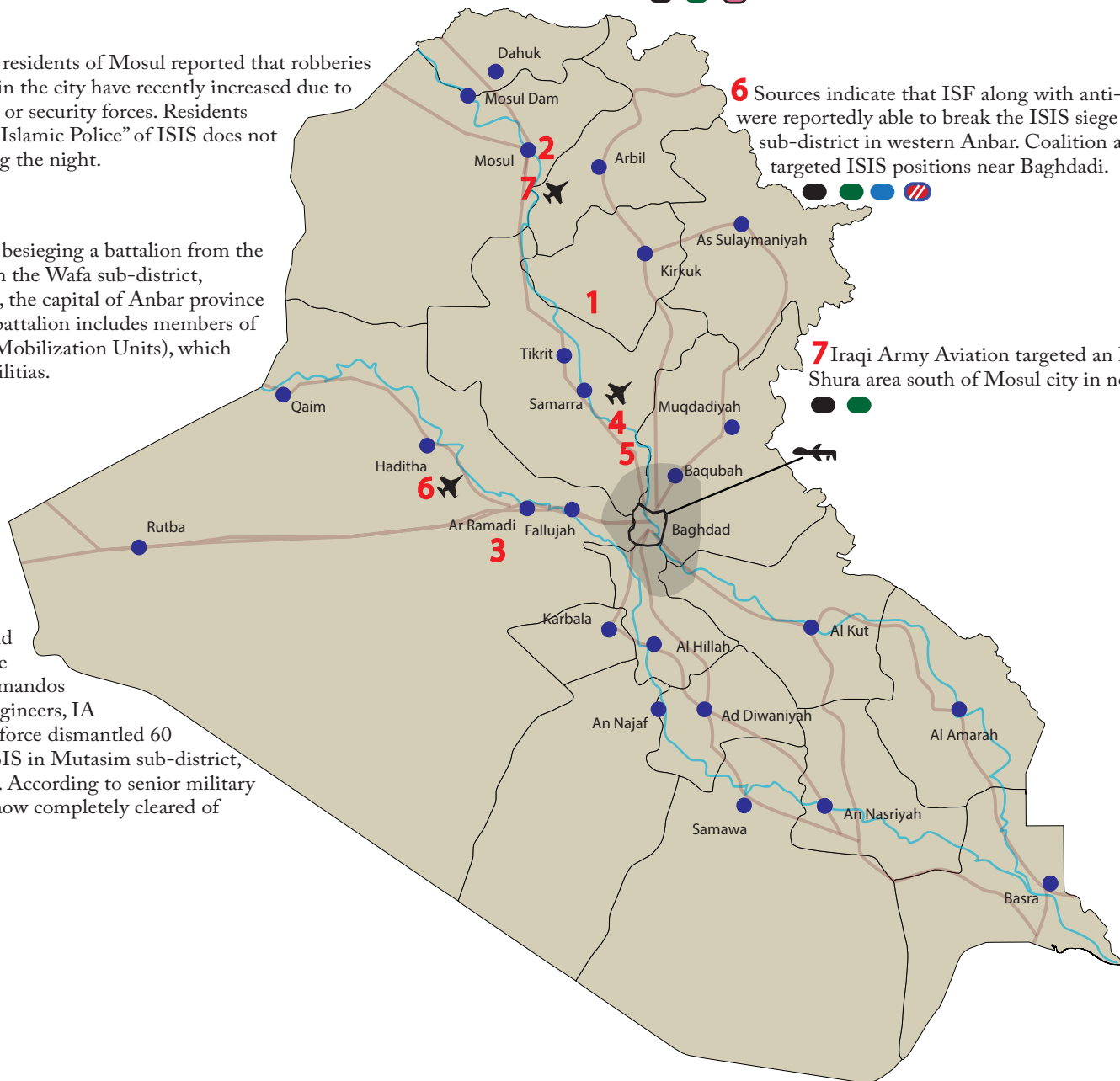
3 ISIS is reportedly besieging a battalion from the Federal Police (FP) in the Wafa sub-district, southwest of Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province in western Iraq. The battalion includes members of the PMUs (Popular Mobilization Units), which include Iraqi Shi’a militias.

4 On December 15, Ministry of Defense (MoD) stated that forces from Samarra Operations Command (SOC), Federal Police (FP), the Basra Commandos Battalion, military engineers, IA Aviation, and the air force dismantled 60 IEDs emplaced by ISIS in Mutasim sub-district, southeast of Samarra. According to senior military officers, Mutasim is now completely cleared of ISIS.

5 On December 15, Qassim al-Yassiri, PMU leader in Balad, north of Baghdad, stated that ISIS fighters are 300 meters away from the Iraqi Security Forces' and PMUs' defensive positions in Aziz Balad in the Balad area. He added that the ISF and PMUs area preparing to clear ISIS from the area. An Iraqi Police officer in Balad stated that the security forces near Aziz Balad and ISIS exchange fire frequently. A PMU commission spokesperson also announced that operations will be launched soon to clear areas north of Baghdad including Baiji.

6 Sources indicate that ISF along with anti-ISIS tribal fighters were reportedly able to break the ISIS siege against Baghdadadi sub-district in western Anbar. Coalition airstrikes also targeted ISIS positions near Baghdadadi.

7 Iraqi Army Aviation targeted an ISIS position in the Shura area south of Mosul city in northern Iraq.



- Coalition
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- Major Cities
- Iraqi Shi'a militias
- Airstrikes
- ISF
- Armed Drones
- ISIS



Content: Ahmed Ali
Graphics: Brian Fisher

The Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) appears to be taking steps to forcibly recruit members to its ranks. Today, reports indicate that it is doing so in areas it controls in Kirkuk in northern Iraq. This news follows December 14 reports that it is pursuing similar practices in the ISIS-held city of Mosul. If these reports are confirmed, this ISIS push is evidence that ISIS is facing manpower difficulties as it contends with pressure from coalition airstrikes in northern Iraq and on the ground from the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and Iraqi Shi’a militias within the Popular Mobilization Units (PMUs). These ISIS measures will also trigger a backlash from the population, particularly if they increase and are coupled with recent press reports of ISIS's failure to deliver services in areas it controls.