

# Iraq Situation Report: December 16-17, 2014

**1** On December 17, Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga forces launched an operation supported by anti-ISIS coalition airstrikes to clear ISIS from areas located south of Zumar sub-district, west of Mosul in western Ninewa province. The operation reportedly cleared the villages of Karkamish, Karez, Kobanki, Kasrij, Faqirruq, Hamu Kulu, and Hanka. Said Mamozini, head of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), stated that this will facilitate the “movement towards liberating Sinjar district.” On December 17, Peshmerga and Golden Division of the Counterterrorism Services (CTS) forces reportedly surrounded the former headquarters of the 3rd IA Division in the Kisak area, 35 km west of Mosul while other forces started searching the buildings, previously occupied by ISIS, for rigged explosives. The CTS took up positions at the Mosul Dam three days ago and “informed the Peshmerga that it wants to go to the headquarters,” the source stated.

**2** On December 17, forces from the 1st Rapid Reaction Division reportedly targeted ISIS positions in the Shihabi area of eastern Fallujah with artillery killing “dozens” of ISIS members and causing “major” damage. Forces from the division also destroyed two ISIS boats in Dhira Dijla area.

**3** On December 17, ISIS launched an attack on Haditha district but it was thwarted by coalition airstrikes that targeted the attacking forces in the Wadi al-Akhdhar and Ghabat areas.

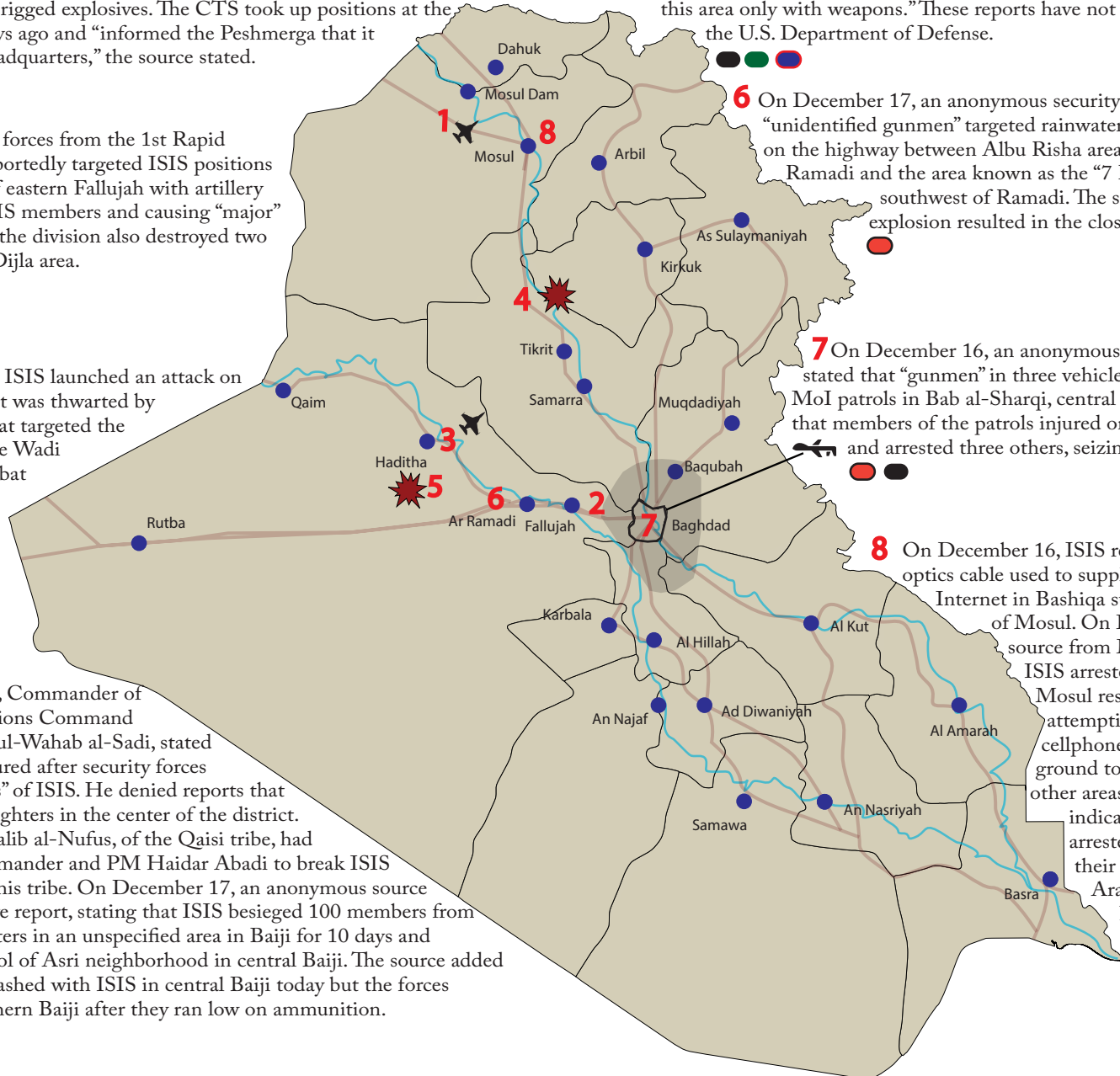
**4** On December 16, Commander of Salah ad-Din Operations Command (SOC), General Abdul-Wahab al-Sadi, stated that all of Baiji is secured after security forces cleared some “pockets” of ISIS. He denied reports that ISIS besieged tribal fighters in the center of the district. Baiji tribal leader Ghalib al-Nufus, of the Qaisi tribe, had urged the SOC Commander and PM Haidar Abadi to break ISIS siege on members of his tribe. On December 17, an anonymous source contradicted the above report, stating that ISIS besieged 100 members from the IP and tribal fighters in an unspecified area in Baiji for 10 days and reportedly took control of Asri neighborhood in central Baiji. The source added that security forces clashed with ISIS in central Baiji today but the forces withdrew to the southern Baiji after they ran low on ammunition.

**5** On December 16, an Iraqi Army (IA) commander, Colonel Salam Nadhim, stated that U.S. forces along their “Iraqi partners” clashed with a force from the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) for two hour in the Dulab area located between Hit district and Asad base in western Anbar province. Tribal leader, Mahmoud al-Nimrawi stated that U.S. forces intervened in self-defense because of ISIS proximity to the base. He described the U.S. forces as “a special force” and that ISIS “withdrew” from the area after the clashes. Nimrawi added that the forces withdrew back to Asad base and that the U.S. “promised to supply tribal fighters in this area only with weapons.” These reports have not been confirmed by the U.S. Department of Defense.

**6** On December 17, an anonymous security source stated that “unidentified gunmen” targeted rainwater drainage with IEDs on the highway between Albu Risha area northwest of Ramadi and the area known as the “7 KM” located southwest of Ramadi. The source added that the explosion resulted in the closure of the highway.

**7** On December 16, an anonymous security source stated that “gunmen” in three vehicles opened fire on MoI patrols in Bab al-Sharqi, central Baghdad. He added that members of the patrols injured one of the gunmen and arrested three others, seizing their vehicles.

**8** On December 16, ISIS reportedly cut a fiber optics cable used to supply Mosul with Internet in Bashiqa sub-district, northeast of Mosul. On December 17, a local source from Mosul reported that ISIS arrested a number of Mosul residents for attempting to use their cellphones, utilizing high ground to pick up signal from other areas. Another report indicated that ISIS arrested residents for using their cellphones in the Arabi, Shalalat, and the Fifth Bridge areas.



- Major Cities
- ★ Major Clash
- ✈ Airstrikes
- ✈ Armed Drones
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- Iraqi Shi'a militias
- ISF
- ISIS
- Coalition
- USA
- Peshmerga
- Unknown Gunmen



Content: Sinan Adnan & Ahmed Ali  
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