

# Iraq Situation Report: December 2-3, 2014

**1** On December 2, the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) attacked Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga forces in the Tal al-Ward area, west of Kirkuk, using mortars and heavy weapons. The Peshmerga repelled the attack, responding by targeting ISIS positions on the outskirts of Kirkuk city including the Makteb Khalid checkpoint that separates ISIS from the Peshmerga. On December 3, an anonymous security source in Kirkuk stated that international coalition airstrikes targeted ISIS in the areas of al-Riyadh, al-Rashad, and "villages in the Hawijah area," south and west of Kirkuk. The airstrikes reportedly killed 35 ISIS members.



**2** On December 2, Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and Popular Mobilization Units (PMUs), which include Iraqi Shi'a militias, reportedly clashed with ISIS near Tikrit University in northern Tikrit city. Iraqi Army (IA) Aviation participated in the clashes.



**3** On December 2, Iraqi Kurdish security sources stated that Peshmerga forces supported by the IA and international coalition completely cleared ISIS from the areas of al-Gwer sub-district, southeast of Mosul.



**4** On December 2, Abu Ghanim tribal fighters clashed with ISIS near al-Sajariya, east of Ramadi.



**5** On December 3, ISIS attacked Peshmerga forces stationed at the Ain Manei village south of the Mosul Dam, north of Mosul. The Peshmerga repelled the attack and were reportedly supported by coalition airstrikes.



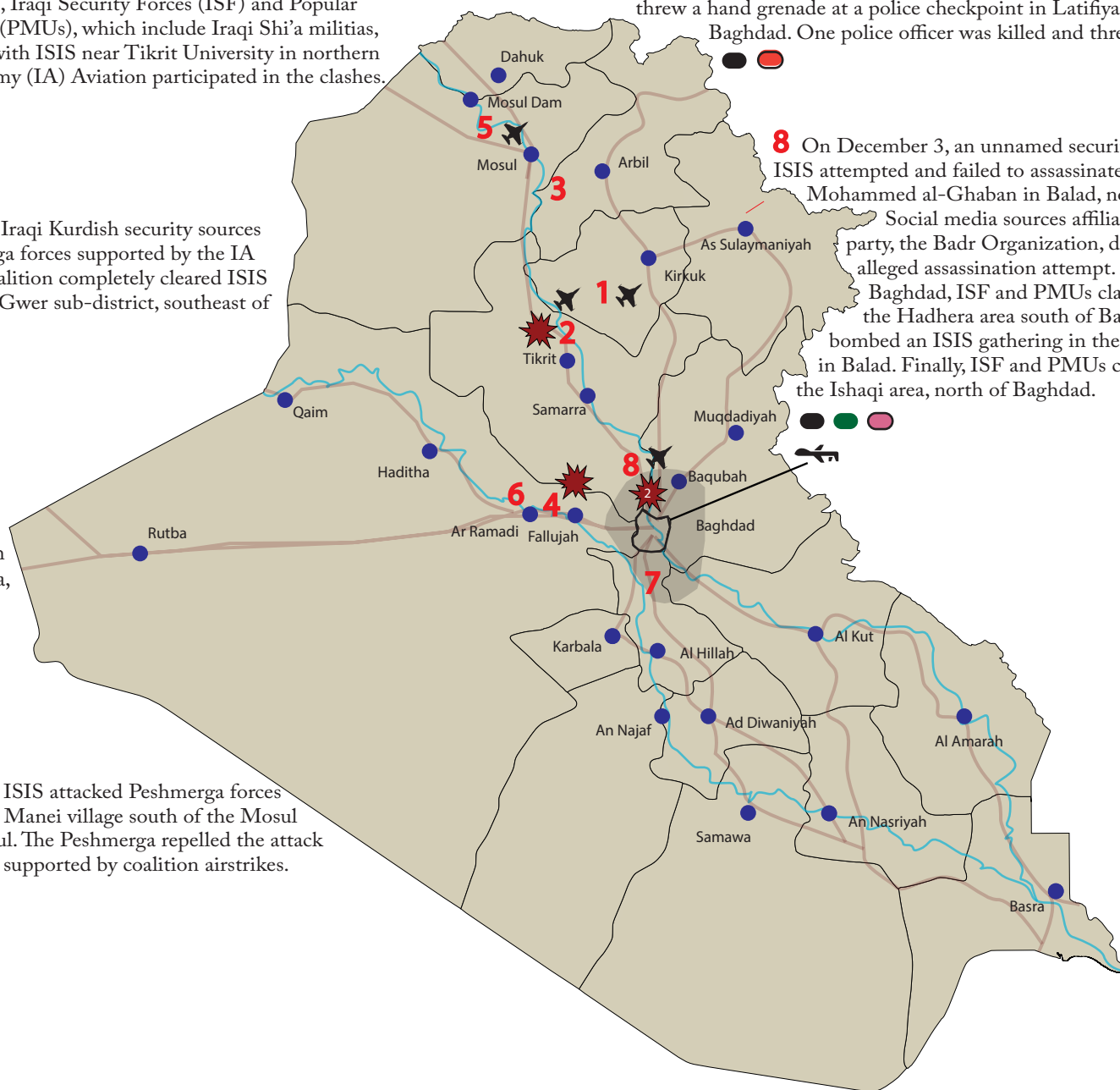
**6** On December 3, Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), including the Counter-Terrorism Services (CTS) forces, launched a large operation to clear the areas of al-Sajariya, al-Huz, al-Tamim, Abu Ali, al-Jassim, and al-Iskan near Ramadi. The operation is intended to clear ISIS of these areas. Also on December 3, the Chairman of the Anbar Provincial Council, Sabah Karhout, stated that the Anbar Provincial Council decided to "establish a fund" to collect donations from Arab countries to buy arms for tribal fighters in Anbar preparing to retake areas from ISIS.



**7** On December 2, a Ministry of Interior source stated that three mortar rounds landed on a farm in Arab Jubur, south of Baghdad. Three people were killed and eight injured. Also on December 3, unidentified gunmen threw a hand grenade at a police checkpoint in Latifiyah area, south of Baghdad. One police officer was killed and three wounded.



**8** On December 3, an unnamed security source stated that ISIS attempted and failed to assassinate Interior Minister Mohammed al-Ghaban in Balad, north of Baghdad. Social media sources affiliated with Ghaban's party, the Badr Organization, did not discuss the alleged assassination attempt. Also in northern Baghdad, ISF and PMUs clashed with ISIS in the Hadhera area south of Balad and IA aviation bombed an ISIS gathering in the Sayid Gharib area in Balad. Finally, ISF and PMUs clashed with ISIS in the Ishaqi area, north of Baghdad.



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

There are currently three ongoing fronts of engagements between the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) and forces countering it. The fronts are concentrated in the north, the west, mostly concentrated in Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province, and north of Baghdad. In the north, ISIS efforts appears concentrated on targeting Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga forces in order to prevent them from gaining any momentum that will propel them to clear ISIS from other areas in Kirkuk and Ninewa provinces. In the west, ISIS has not achieved gains in Ramadi, but it is still able to prevent the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and the Iraqi Sunni anti-ISIS tribes from diminishing the group's threat or presence in the province. The local government in Anbar is contemplating the possibility of Arab regional states' funding to buy arms that can help in countering ISIS. This is a notable development that indicates that the Iraqi government has so far not been able to shift military supplies and resources to the western front. It is important to watch if this call will also mean increased pressure on the Iraqi government to allocate and deploy further resources into Anbar. The north Baghdad front continues to be active in a persistent ISIS effort to prevent the ISF and Iraqi Shi'a militias within the Popular Mobilization Units (PMUs) from advancing to areas north of Baiji which was cleared of ISIS in mid-November.