

# Iraq Situation Report: December 22, 2014

**1** According to security sources, an ISIS armored convoy, consisting of both tanks and armored vehicles, moved from the al-Bakr neighborhood of Ramadi toward al-Baghdadi which is home to the al-Asad airbase in western Anbar. Reportedly, ISIS members are wearing military uniforms in order to evade coalition airstrikes and IA aircraft and local Anbar sources added that ISIS moved armored vehicles from Syria over the last two days in preparations for an attack on Haditha. ISF and anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni tribe members also targeted a Suicide Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive (SVBIED) that was intended to attack a joint ISF-Tribal checkpoint in al-Baghdadi. Coalition airstrikes also targeted ISIS near al-Asad.



**2** Albu Nimr tribal leader Naim al-Gaud stated that the ISF reportedly cleared the areas of al-Tallah, Jibalah, al-Habibiyah, and al-Jazeera, near Hit in western Anbar province. Gaud stated that clashes were reported to be ongoing near the northern entrance to Hit district and ISIS members were reportedly retreating toward the center of the district.



**3** An anonymous Iraqi Police (IP) source stated that IA soldiers clashed with ISIS in Yathrib, near Balad, north of Baghdad. Also in Balad, three mortar rounds fell killing one civilian and wounding 13 others.



**4** Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and Popular Mobilization Units (PMUs) that include Iraqi Shi'a militias intensified security measures on the northern border of Jurf al-Sakar, northern Babil province, in response to attacks and Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) operations south of Baghdad and in Amiriyat al-Fallujah in Anbar province. The operations were meant to prevent the infiltration of "terrorists into safe areas."



**5** On December 21, the local council in the district of Muqdadiah in northeastern Diyala province announced that schools will be suspended for two weeks due to increased ISIS mortar shelling targeting the center of the district. On December 22, another local source stated that 50 mortar rounds have targeted Muqdadiah's center in ten days resulting in the death or injury of 50 civilians. The source identified an ISIS cell based in the village of Shaq Raq, 8 kilometers north of Muqdadiah's center, as responsible for the targeting of the district.



**6** Iraqi Army and PMU members attacked an ISIS position east of Baiji in Salah ad-Din Province.



**7** International coalition airstrikes targeted ISIS near Sinjar in western Ninewa.



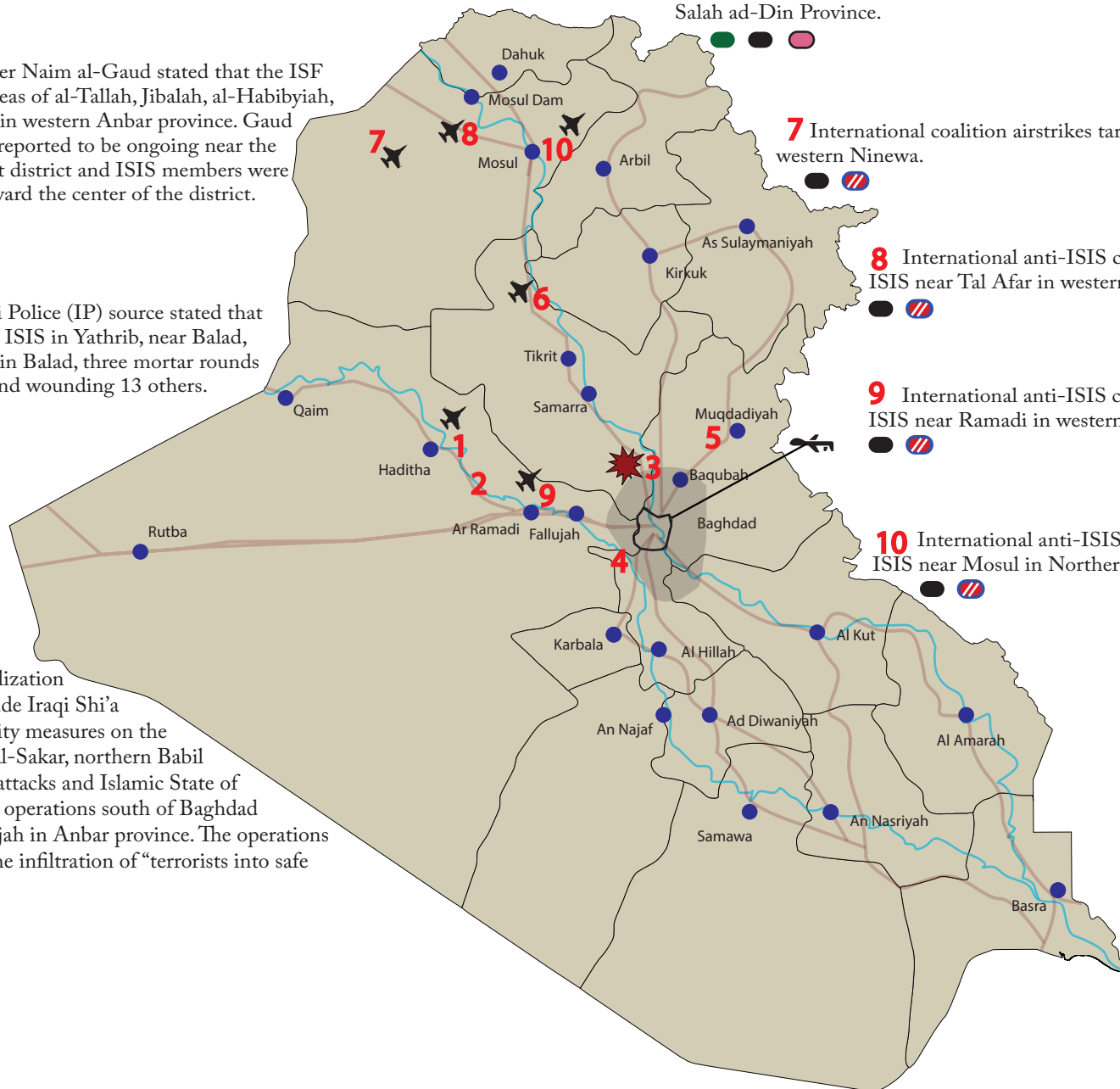
**8** International anti-ISIS coalition airstrikes targeted ISIS near Tal Afar in western Ninewa.



**9** International anti-ISIS coalition airstrikes targeted ISIS near Ramadi in western Iraq.



**10** International anti-ISIS coalition airstrikes targeted ISIS near Mosul in Northern Iraq.



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

100km



Content: Ahmed Ali  
Graphics: Nichole Dicharry

The Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and Iraqi Shi'a militias within the Popular Mobilization Units (PMUs) are responding to likely threats from the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) in the northern Babil area. The area was cleared of ISIS in October of this year; ISIS threats from those areas emanate from a potential assault on the town of Amiriyat al-Fallujah in Anbar Province. In the nearby city of Ramadi, Anbar's capital, reports indicate that ISIS may have moved military assets from Ramadi further west near the town of al-Baghdadi which is home to Anbar's largest military installation, al-Asad airbase. If these reports are true, they indicate a future ISIS push targeting al-Baghdadi. Al-Asad is one of the few remaining ISF and anti-ISIS tribal strongholds in Anbar and ISIS has sought control of it since it took control of Anbar's Hit district in October of this year. This includes attacks in nearby areas in order to weaken ISF and tribal defenses. The fall of al-Asad would allow ISIS the opportunity to target Haditha, northwest of al-Baghdadi, which has withstood ISIS attacks for the last six months.