

# Iraq Situation Report: December 29, 2014

**1** Federal Police (FP) forces and Iraqi Shi'a militias within the Popular Mobilization Units (PMUs) launched operations to clear the center of Dhuluiya district which is located north of Baghdad and southeast of Samarra in Salah ad-Din Province. The clearing operations were launched from three axes and were led by Badr Organization leader Hadi al-Ameri. Reports indicate that al-Ameri raised the Iraqi flag on top of local government buildings in Dhuluiya. An SVEST attacker was killed by Iraqi Security Forces before he was able to target the ISF and PMUs in Dhuluiya. ISF also reportedly cleared around 150 Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in the vicinity of Dhuluiya and Balad.



**2** On December 29, ISIS attacked Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga positions in Daquq district, south of Kirkuk city. The attack was repelled by Peshmerga forces. A mortar shell struck Peshmerga forces at Maktab Khalid checkpoint, southwest of Kirkuk city. The shell injured three Peshmerga soldiers.



**3** On December 29, an attacker wearing an explosive Suicide Vest (SVEST) targeted a funeral for an Awakening (Sahwa) leader in the al-Hamamiyat area of Taji north of Baghdad. The attack resulted in the death of 29 people and injury of 54.



**4** On December 29, ISF, PMUs, and Khazraj tribal fighters cleared the area of al-Sada al-Na'im on the outskirts of Dujail north of Baghdad. An anonymous security source stated that the ISF and PMUs began operations to clear ISIS from the Sayed Gharib area, northwest of Dujail.



**5** On December 29, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) stated that ISIS attacked the Haditha Dam in western Anbar. Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) repelled the attack reportedly killing 30 ISIS members and destroying six armored vehicles. According to Haditha mayor Abdul Hakim al-Jughaifi, coalition airstrikes targeted a 14-vehicle ISIS convoy that was headed to Haditha and destroyed it.



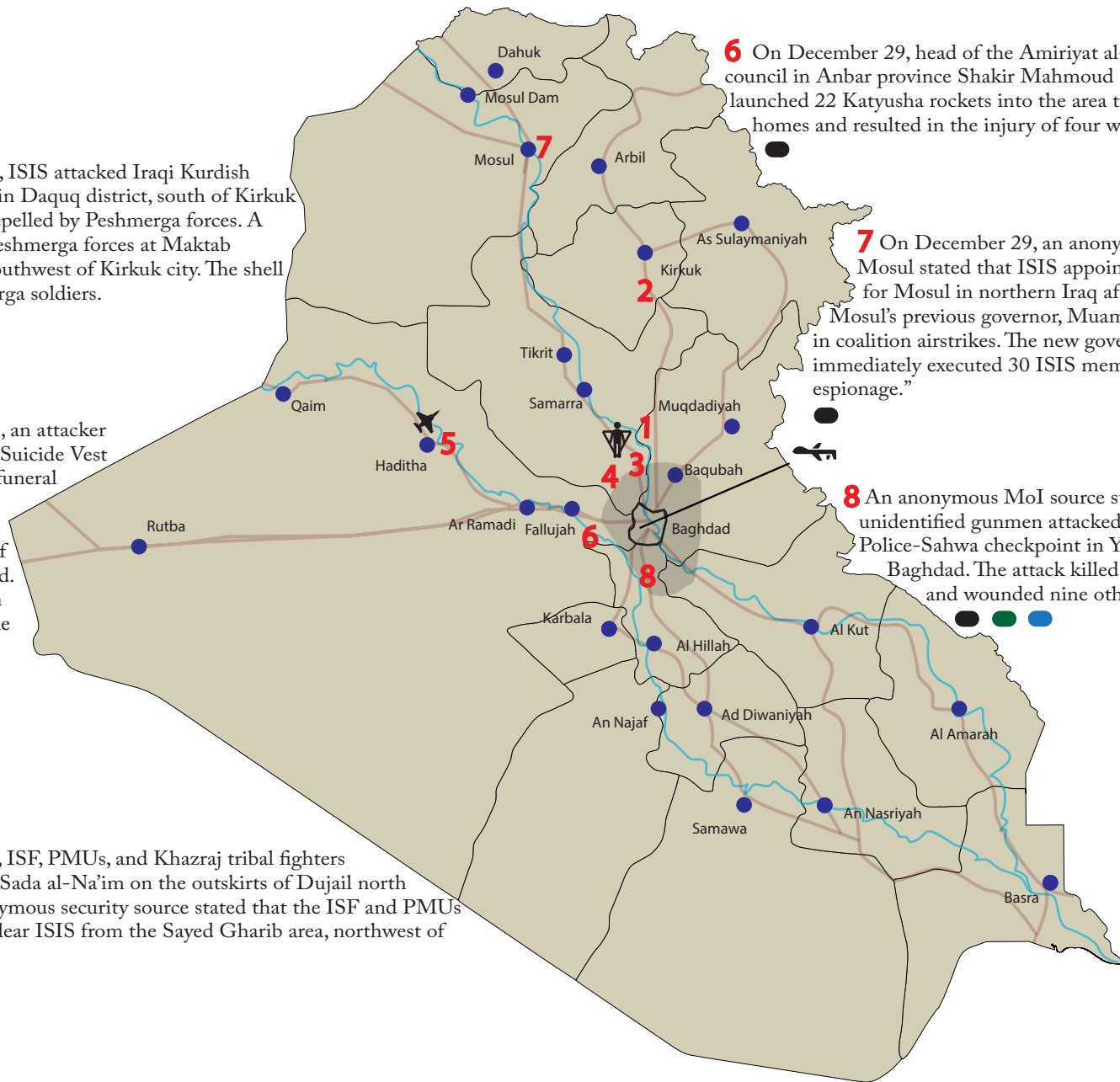
**6** On December 29, head of the Amiriyat al-Fallujah local council in Anbar province Shakir Mahmoud stated that ISIS launched 22 Katyusha rockets into the area that fell on civilian homes and resulted in the injury of four women and 3 children.



**7** On December 29, an anonymous source in Mosul stated that ISIS appointed a new governor for Mosul in northern Iraq after the killing of Mosul's previous governor, Muammar Hazem Tawhla in coalition airstrikes. The new governor, still unnamed, immediately executed 30 ISIS members for "treason and espionage."



**8** An anonymous MoI source stated that unidentified gunmen attacked a joint Iraqi Police-Sahwa checkpoint in Yusufiyah, south of Baghdad. The attack killed one police officer and wounded nine others.



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

100km



Content: Ahmed Ali  
Graphics: Brian Fisher

Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and Iraqi Shi'a militias within the Popular Mobilization Units (PMUs) continued their operations north of Baghdad and the areas linking Baghdad and Samarra in northern Iraq. These operations to clear the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) coincide with the beginning of the religious pilgrimage to commemorate the death of Imam Hasan al-Askari who is buried at the Samarra shrine. Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims are expected to travel to Samarra from southern Iraq. Therefore, these operations would in the short-term secure the Baghdad-Samarra highway and would facilitate the pilgrimage and aim to prevent high-profile ISIS attacks. In the long-term, the reported clearing of Dhuluiya where anti-ISIS tribes have been fighting ISIS since the summer of 2014 would also pressure ISIS in the northern Baghdad areas. Dhuluiya will, however, continue to be contested in the future as ISIS will likely seek the persistent destabilization of the Baghdad-Samarra highway. The highway is strategic not only for the defense of Samarra but also as a supply line for the ISF and PMUs to Tikrit, Baiji, and Mosul.