

# Iraq Situation Report: December 9-10, 2014

**1** On December 10, ISIS reportedly fired “dozens” of mortar rounds on Mkishifa area, located between Samarra and Tikrit. A tanker SVBIED also targeted an ISF and Popular Mobilization Units (PMUs), which include Iraqi Shi’a Militias, position in the area killing at least 10 PMUs and injuring 18 others. Also, clashes took place in the Mkishifa and Zalaya areas. Mayor of Samarra stated that the “gunmen” enjoy wide freedom of movement in Mkishifa and Abassiya areas. Also, ISIS reportedly targeted the Albu Jaran power station, west of Mkishifa using IEDs. Commander of Samarra Operations Command, General Imad al-Zihiri stated that security forces killed “dozens” of ISIS in Mkishifa and cleared the road between Tikrit and Samarra.



**2** On December 10, ISIS launched an attack from four axes on the Government Compound in central Ramadi. IP Commander in Anbar, General Kadhim al-Fahdawi stated that forces from the IP, IA, and tribes repelled the attack.



**3** On December 9, an IED detonated targeting Shia pilgrims walking to Karbala in the Dwanim area, southwest of Baghdad killing two and injuring seven other pilgrims. Also, Baghdad Operations Command reported that it thwarted an SVBIED attack on pilgrims in Idwaniya area, south of Baghdad.



**4** An SVBIED detonated on an ISF gathering in the Albu Dur area, north of Mkishifa, between Samarra and Tikrit causing an unspecified number of casualties.



**5** On October 10, commander of an IP Emergency battalion in Salah ad-Din, Colonel Ziad al-Lihibi stated that ISIS launched a wide attack on Baiji from the eastern and southern axes. The commander added that ISIS used various weapons including three Abrams tanks, Humvees, and armored vehicles. Security forces took positions on top of the buildings to repel the attack supported by IA Aviation and the Iraqi air force. According to the commander, the clashes remain ongoing.



**6** On December 9, a “joint force” supported by the air force conducted a “surprise operation” in an unspecified area of northern Muqdadiyah targeting an ISIS gathering, killing 15 ISIS members and leaders. On December 7, IA Aviation reportedly dropped leaflets on villages northeast of Muqdadiyah urging residents to depart their villages in preparation for an operation to clear these villages from ISIS. Tribal fighters from the Izza and Jubur tribe from the area are reportedly going to participate in the operation.



**7** On December 9, six Katyusha rockets or mortars reportedly landed in Kadhmiya, Hurriya al-Thanya, and Dolai of northwestern Baghdad, two rockets on each area, killing five people and injuring 12 others. Also, four mortars landed in a deserted yard near homes in Chukuk, north of Baghdad injuring four individuals.

**8** On December 9, MoD stated that a force from the 36th mechanized brigade under Anbar Operations Command (AOC) killed 14 ISIS members in the Hayakil area, southeast of Fallujah.



**9** On December 9, an Iraqi airstrike reportedly targeted ISIS in the Mutasim sub-district, southeast of Samarra killing 20 ISIS members and injuring an unspecified number of others. On December 10, an SVBIED targeted ISF and PMUs on the outskirts of Mutasim, causing an unspecified number of casualties. Commander of Samarra Operations Command, General Imad al-Zihiri stated that 60% of the area was cleared from ISIS. Also, forces from the 11th mechanized division reportedly arrived in the area.



**10** On December 10, ISIS attacked the ISF stationed near the Cement Plant east of Fallujah and controlled the Flour Plant near the highway between Baghdad and Fallujah. ISIS reportedly launched the attack from Garma, northeast of Fallujah, initiating clashes that resulted in killing three people including a woman and a child in addition to injuring 12 “extremists.” According the source, ISIS attempted to control the Mazra Camps, east of Fallujah without providing more details.



**11** Three mortar rounds landed on the Mamal neighborhood, northeastern Samarra injuring four individuals.



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



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The Islamic State in Iraq and Sham (ISIS) is challenging the ISF and militias following a lull in offensive activity observed after multiple recent successes of ISF, militias, and the Peshmerga against ISIS. The most notable ISIS attack was on Baiji in a likely attempt to reclaim strategic terrain that ISIS recently lost to the ISF and militias. Meanwhile, ISIS attacked the combined forces on the road between Samarra and Camp Speicher, which likely has the most concentration of security forces north of Samarra. For the immediate term, this attack has disrupted the ISF supply route between Samarra and Camp Speicher. ISIS also continued to hold terrain in the Mutasim sub-district, southeast of Samarra, against ISF attacks. It is possible that ISIS launched these attacks in the vicinity of Samarra in order to divert ISF resources away from the ISIS main attack in Baiji. At the same time, ISIS renewed its urban assault on central Ramadi, leveraging a continued offensive posture that has not suffered serious setbacks like other ISIS fronts. ISIS also began a projection east of Fallujah toward Baghdad that constitutes the greatest threat to the capital. The Iraqi Government will most likely allocate more resources east of Fallujah to prevent ISIS from expanding further toward Baghdad. Meanwhile, ISIS is also attacking Shia pilgrims en route to Karbala for the Arbaen pilgrimage on December 13. This constitutes a very large inflection in simultaneous ISIS offensive activity on multiple fronts, and it is likely designed to capture Baiji and Ramadi as principal objectives.