

Iraq Situation Report: January 1-2, 2015

1 On January 1, ISIS launched an attack on Baghdadi sub-district, west of Hit from the direction of al-Joana Bridge and Juba Bridge, north of Baghdadi, and from the direction of Jabriya and Gtaina areas. Forces from the IA, the Emergency Brigade of Baghdadi sub-district, and tribal fighters from the Obaid tribe replied the attack and killed 10 ISIS members. The source added that coalition airstrikes targeted ISIS in the Dulab area, east of Baghdadi causing unspecified damage.



5 On January 1, MoD stated that forces from the 91st Brigade of the 19th Division “supported by the Peshmerga” cleared the villages of Tal al-Sheir, Jwizat Tahtanai, Jwizat Fuqani, and Sultan Abdullah of Makhmour district, southeast of Mosul. On January 2, “security forces,” Peshmerga, and fighters from Lihib abd Jubur tribes reportedly cleared Kanos and Sheikh Hamad areas southwest of Mosul. Another report indicated that the combined forces will advance toward Haijal, Sadira, and Safina areas, all located east of Sharqat on the eastern side of the river.



2 On January 2, an anonymous security source stated that coalition airstrikes targeted “terrorists,” in a likely reference to ISIS, positions in Rashad sub-district and Maktab Khalid area, southwestern Kirkuk province killing 15 “terrorists” and destroying three vehicles including a tank.



6 On January 2, unidentified gunmen opened fire on four Iraqi Sunni speakers and Imams of mosques in Zubair district, southwest of Basra city killing three and injuring the fourth. On January 2, Minister of Interior and leader in Badr Organization, Mohammed al-Ghaban ordered an investigation into the attack.



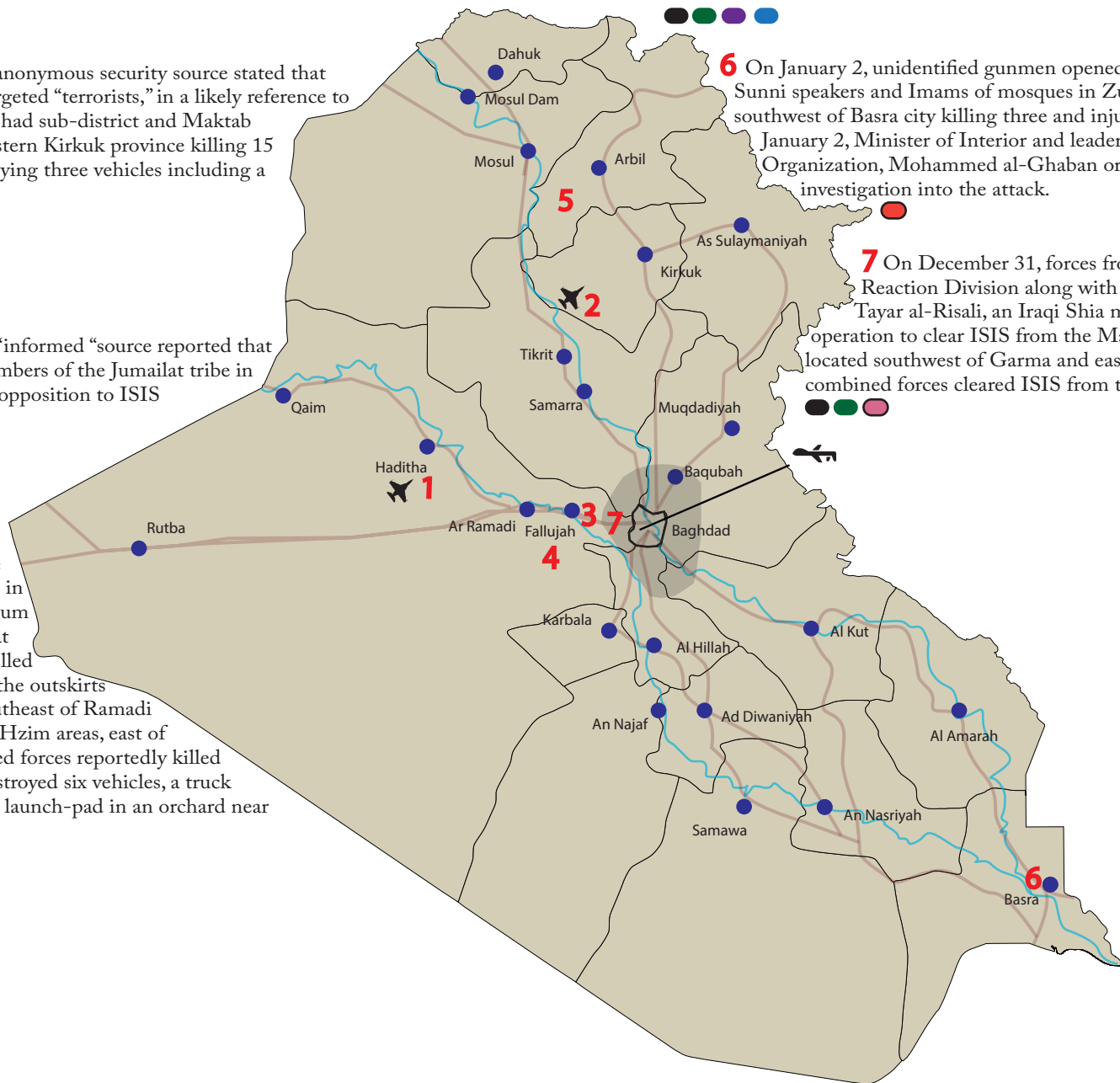
3 On January 1, an “informed” source reported that ISIS executed 15 members of the Jumailat tribe in Fallujah due to their opposition to ISIS practices.



7 On December 31, forces from the 1st Rapid Reaction Division along with forces from the Tayar al-Risali, an Iraqi Shia militia, conducted an operation to clear ISIS from the Mamil industrial area located southwest of Garma and east of Fallujah. The combined forces cleared ISIS from the area.



4 On January 2, the commander of the IP in Anbar, General Kadhum al-Fahdawi stated that IA and IP forces repelled an attack by ISIS on the outskirts of Habaniya base, southeast of Ramadi from the Jazeera and Hzim areas, east of Ramadi. The combined forces reportedly killed 22 ISIS members, destroyed six vehicles, a truck VBIED, and a rocket launch-pad in an orchard near Habaniya.



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



Content: Sinan Adnan
Graphics: Brian Fisher

The fight for northern Iraq is intensifying, especially in areas of northern Iraq where front lines have remained static. A notable development is the report about the participation of forces from the 19th Division in operations south of Mosul. The 19th Division is a new military formation intended to include members from the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 12th IA divisions that melted away during the rapid advance of ISIS in June of 2014. This formation will almost certainly include volunteer fighters, most likely displaced persons from Mosul, who reside in refugee camps. Many of the volunteers are likely to be Iraqi Sunnis from the northern areas, Mosul in particular. Some of these divisions are not from the Mosul area, and the ethnic and sectarian composition of the unit will be important to watch. The formation of the division was initially proposed by Defense Minister Khalid al-Obaidi on November 4, 2014 during a visit to Iraqi Kurdistan. During that visit he requested assistance from the Kurdistan Regional Government basing the new division in Iraqi Kurdistan and giving the force responsibility for clearing Mosul. It is too early to assess with initial reporting the extent of these forces' success, but these operations will likely be a major source of disruption for ISIS as they are generated from areas situated behind ISIS lines.