

Iraq Situation Report: January 16, 2015

1 On January 16, ISIS members in “central Sinjar” launched an attack on Peshmerga positions, presumably within the district. The attack initiated clashes resulting in the death of two ISIS members and the injury of 12 others. The source did not report a casualty count on the Peshmerga side but highlighted that clashes remain ongoing with the Peshmerga receiving air cover. On January 15, similar clashes killed eight ISIS gunmen.

2 On January 15, an anonymous source from Anbar Operations Command (AOC) stated that coalition airstrikes destroyed 25 boats in the river between the Angur and Tash areas, south of Ramadi. The source added that the strikes also destroyed 12 armored vehicles in the area while security forces arrested 10 “terrorists.”

3 On January 16, an SVBIED targeted al-Zahawi Café in central Baquba, Diyala Province injuring at least 16 individuals.

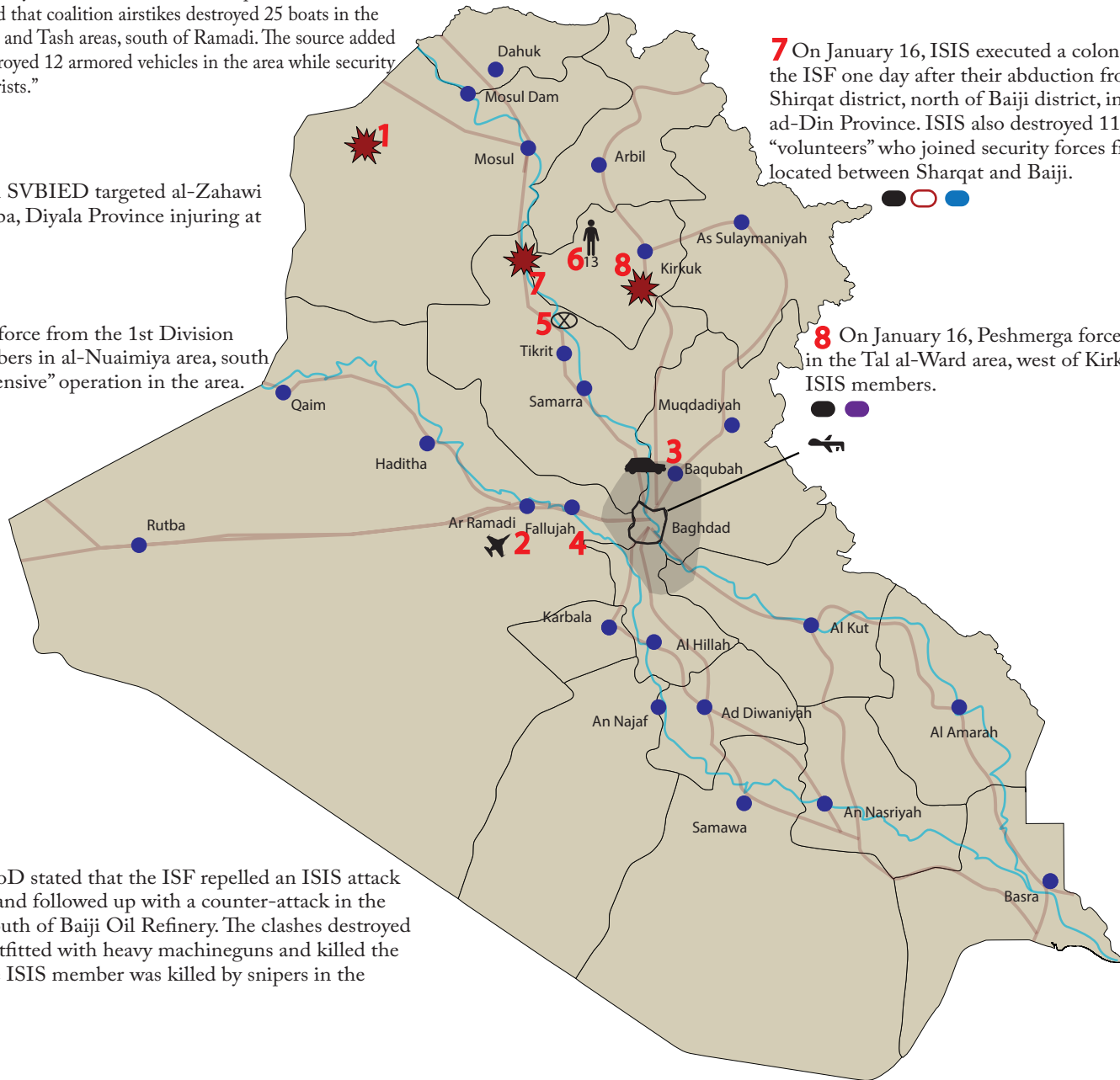
4 On January 16, a force from the 1st Division killed four ISIS members in al-Nuaimiya area, south of Fallujah, in an “offensive” operation in the area.

5 On January 16, MoD stated that the ISF repelled an ISIS attack on the Baiji refinery and followed up with a counter-attack in the area of Albu Jwari, south of Baiji Oil Refinery. The clashes destroyed two pickup trucks outfitted with heavy machineguns and killed the passengers, while one ISIS member was killed by snipers in the refinery.

6 On January 16, ISIS kidnapped 13 officers and members of the Iraqi Army in the main area of Hawija district, as well as al-Zab and al-Riyadh sub-districts, west of Kirkuk, for forming a force to support tribal fighters in attacks against ISIS. The kidnapped officers were taken to a jail in Hawija before their appearance in an ISIS court.

7 On January 16, ISIS executed a colonel and a major from the ISF one day after their abduction from their homes in Shirqat district, north of Baiji district, in northern Salah ad-Din Province. ISIS also destroyed 11 homes belonging to “volunteers” who joined security forces from al-Zowiya area, located between Sharqat and Baiji.

8 On January 16, Peshmerga forces clashed with ISIS in the Tal al-Ward area, west of Kirkuk, and killed 15 ISIS members.



- Major Cities
- ★ Major Clash
- ✈ Airstrikes
- 🚁 Armed Drones
- 👤 Kidnapping
- ⊗ Execution
- 🚗 SVBIED
- 👤 Kidnapping
- Peshmerga
- ISF
- ISIS
- Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- Coalition



Content: Sinan Adnan & ISW Iraq Team
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ISIS has escalated its attacks on Baquba, the capital city of Diyala Province, at a time when Iraqi Shi'a militias and Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) are preparing to launch an assault to clear ISIS from the last area under its control in Diyala province. This area extends from the main area of Muqadadiyah district north and northeast towards the Hamrin Lake. ISIS consolidated control over this agricultural area following its defeat in the nearby Sadia, Jalula, and the Hamrin Ridge in November of 2014. The area has recently been used by ISIS as a launching pad for intense indirect fire attacks on Muqadadiyah to the south, causing a major disruption of daily life in the area and a public outcry. This coming operation will likely be the main effort for the militias, at least in Diyala, and will almost certainly be led by the leader of Badr Organization, Hadi al-Ameri, who is the de facto head of security of Diyala. It will be important to watch if Iraqi Sunni tribal fighters from the Jubur and Izza tribes in Diyala participate in this operation as has been reported by a local official from the province.