

# Iraq Situation Report: January 20-21, 2015

**1** On January 20, Anbar police commander General Kadhim Mohammad al-Fahdawi stated that ISIS launched an attack from the areas of Fursan, Andalus, and Albu Suda, all in Ramadi. He added that the attack initiated clashes that resulted in the death of ten ISIS members, the destruction of one ISIS vehicle outfitted with a “heavy weapon,” and the injury of two IP members. On January 21, he stated that ISIS launched an attack on Ramadi from the Tamim neighborhood, south of the city, across the river; from the Albu Ali al-Jasim area, northwest of Ramadi; the Jazeera area; and the Houz area, southern Ramadi. The attack initiated clashes killing 19 ISIS members. The commander emphasized that the attack failed and that ISIS did not gain ground in central Ramadi.



**2** On January 20 ISIS kidnapped 15 members of the Albu Ajil tribe from Albu Ajil village, east of Tikrit.



**3** On January 20, ISIS attacked the guesthouse of the leader of Awakening (Sahwa) of Anbar, Ahmed Abu Risha, in the Albu Risha area, northwest of Ramadi. ISIS took over the guesthouse and rigged it with IEDs while forces from the Iraqi Army (IA), Iraqi Police (IP) and tribal fighters from Albu Risha tribe clashed with ISIS in an attempt to clear them from the area.



**4** On January 21, forces from the 2nd Battalion, 42nd Brigade, of the 11th IA Division captured an ISIS “hideout” in al-Madain district, southeast of Baghdad used to manufacture IEDs and also contained ISIS leaflets.



**5** On January 20, ISIS launched an attack on a headquarters of the External Roads Police in the Sagar area located near Nukhaib sub-district of Rutba district, western Anbar. ISIS allegedly initiated this attack along two axes by sending a 4x4 military vehicle SVBIED that prematurely detonated when fired upon. Another report, however, indicated that the SVBIED detonated targeting a security checkpoint injuring two guards and that security forces conducted a controlled detonation of a VBIED in the vicinity. Following the SVBIED detonation, clashes took place between ISIS gunmen and the guards resulting in the death of six ISIS gunmen and injury of two guards.



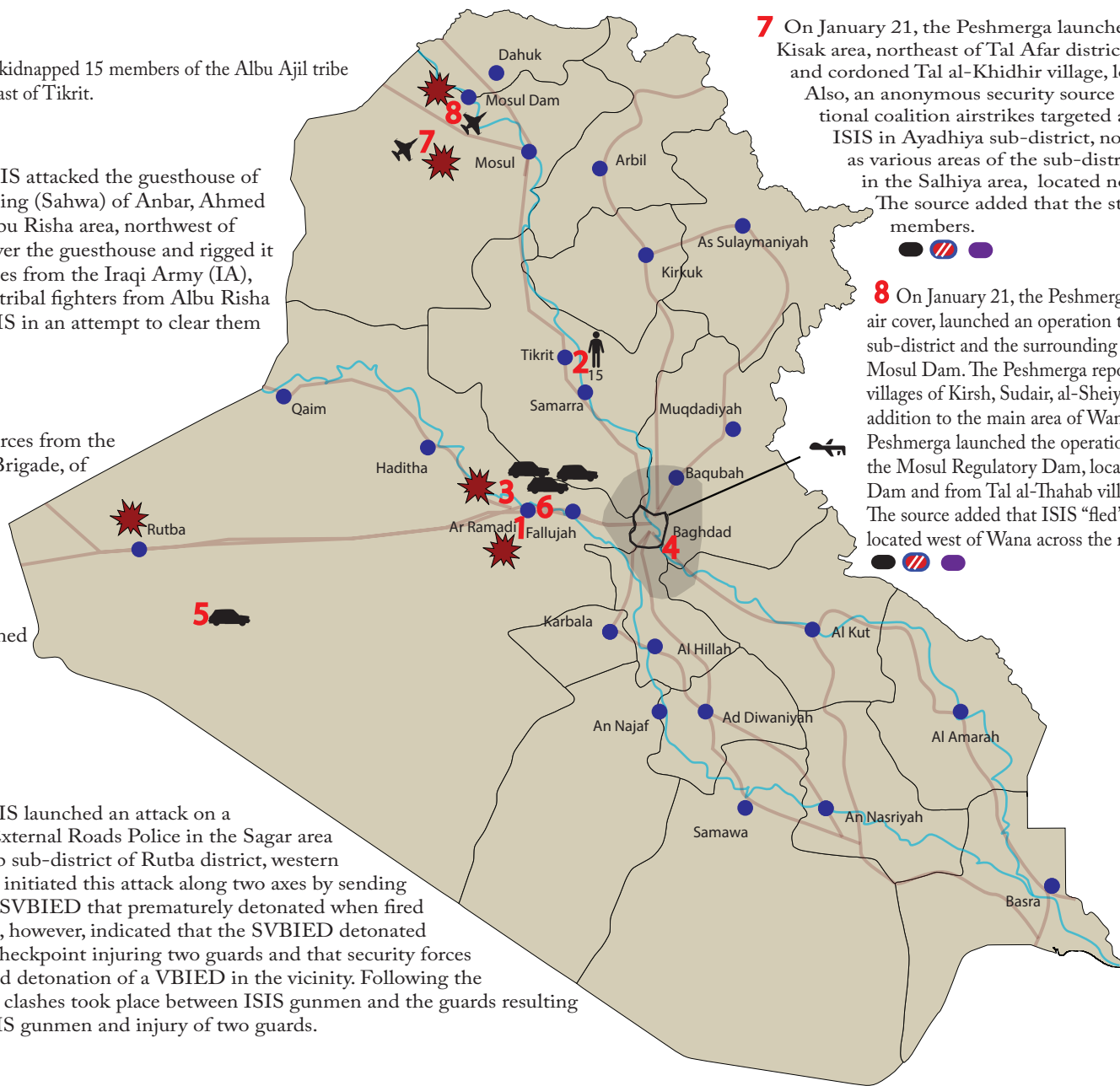
**6** On January 20, an SVBIED targeted forces from the IP and tribes in the Albu Ghanim area, east of Ramadi, killing three individuals and injuring 18 others. The forces were “preparing for an attack on ISIS.” Also Anbar police commander General Kadhim Mohammed al-Fahdawi stated that two truck SVBIEDs aimed to target security forces in the area but were forced by security forces to detonate prematurely.



**7** On January 21, the Peshmerga launched an attack on the Kisak area, northeast of Tal Afar district and west of Mosul, and cordoned Tal al-Khidhir village, located near Kisak. Also, an anonymous security source stated that international coalition airstrikes targeted a restaurant used by ISIS in Ayadhiya sub-district, north of Tal Afar, as well as various areas of the sub-district in addition to ISIS in the Salhiya area, located northeast of Tal Afar. The source added that the strikes killed 22 ISIS members.



**8** On January 21, the Peshmerga, supported by coalition air cover, launched an operation to recapture Wana sub-district and the surrounding villages, southwest of the Mosul Dam. The Peshmerga reportedly captured the villages of Kirsh, Sudair, al-Sheiya, and Hasan Jalad in addition to the main area of Wana sub-district. The Peshmerga launched the operation from the direction of the Mosul Regulatory Dam, located south of the Mosul Dam and from Tal al-Thahab village, northwest of Wana. The source added that ISIS “fled” to Iski Mosul village, located west of Wana across the river.



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



Content: Sinan Adnan  
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Peshmerga forces resumed their offensive posture in northern Iraq following a recent lull in anti-ISIS operations. This recent operational pause likely had to do with ISIS advances on areas near Arbil, prompting the KRG to allocated more resources to defend the Iraqi Kurdish capital. Peshmerga operations against ISIS today targeted two strategic areas. First, the Wana sub-district and its environs, located near the Mosul Dam. These areas will be a potential flashpoint for possible ISIS attacks on the strategic dam and Peshmerga positions in the area and nearby. Second, operations targeted the Kisak area, which sits on the road that connects Mosul to Tal Afar and proceeds onwards to Syria through Rabia sub-district and Sinjar district. If the Peshmerga succeed in taking control of Kisak, they would cause a major disruption to ISIS lines of communication (LOCs) to and from Tal Afar, Sinjar, and Syria. It will be important to watch for an ISIS counter-attack against the Peshmerga close to Arbil attempting to force the KRG to shift resources. Moving west, the last 48 hours have witnessed a significant increase in operational tempo of ISIS in Anbar Province. Attacks were concentrated in the same areas where ISIS focused its military efforts nearly a month ago, mainly in the provincial capital, Ramadi; in Sjarriya to the east, which lies adjacent to an important supply route that runs from Habaniya base to Ramadi; and in the Sahwa stronghold in the Albu Risha area.