

Iraq Situation Report: January 22-23, 2015

1 An anonymous security source said that Peshmerga and PMUs killed an ISIS “military commander” and 17 ISIS members in the village of al-Salahiya, north of Shirqat district. (NINA)

2 An anonymous forensic medicine source said on January 22 that ISIS executed Muhammad Khader al-Jahishi Nahra, a member of Tal Afar district local council, in the center of Mosul. ISIS had captured him in June in Mosul’s Bab al-Tawb area.

3 An anonymous local source in Ninewa said on January 23 that ISIS members executed 56 people in Sinjar district, west of Mosul. Those killed included civilians from the Albu Mityut tribe, as well as former police and army officers from the same tribe who had previously “repented.”

4 An anonymous MoI source reported that a number of IEDs detonated in and near Baghdad on January 23. One IED detonated on al-Falah Street in Sadr City, eastern Baghdad, killing two and injuring nine. A second IED detonated in Habibiya neighborhood, eastern Baghdad, killing one and injuring eight. A third IED detonated in al-Mashtel neighborhood, southeastern Baghdad, killing two and injuring six others. A fourth IED was detonated in al-Shaab neighborhood, in northeastern Baghdad, killing three and injuring 10. A fifth IED exploded in a café in al-Obeidi area, east of Baghdad, killing two and injuring 11.

5 On January 23, Diyala province police chief Lt. Gen. Jamil al-Shammari reported that Iraqi Police (IP), Iraqi Army (IA), PMUs, and tribal forces began operations planned by PMUs and tribal forces to retake villages in Mansuriyah sub-district, north of Muqdadiah district. Badr Organization official Karim al-Nuri said that the operation has recaptured the villages of Tukul, Nufil, and Sherwin, and is progressing towards al-Shuhani in northern Mansuriyah, with ISIS fighters reportedly retreating in. Hadi al-Ameri, Badr Organization leader and supervisor for military operations in Diyala, said that the operation was launched from four axes from the north: the first consisted of forces from the ISF and Badr Organization from the area of the former 2nd Corps headquarters. Jubur tribal fighters and IP came through Dali Abbas, while forces from the Golden Division and Shi’a militia Asa’ib Ahl al-Haq (AAH) came from the al-Bazul area. Lastly, PMUs and ISF came through the Balur area. A Moroccan ISIS mufti, Abu Ishaq al-Maghrebi, and one other ISIS member, were reportedly killed by PMUs as they fled from Nufil. Nearby, Sadiq al-Husseini, the head of Diyala’s security committee, said that ISF and PMUs launched a “surprise attack” from three directions and recaptured the al-Sudur mini-dam from ISIS, northeast of Muqdadiah district.

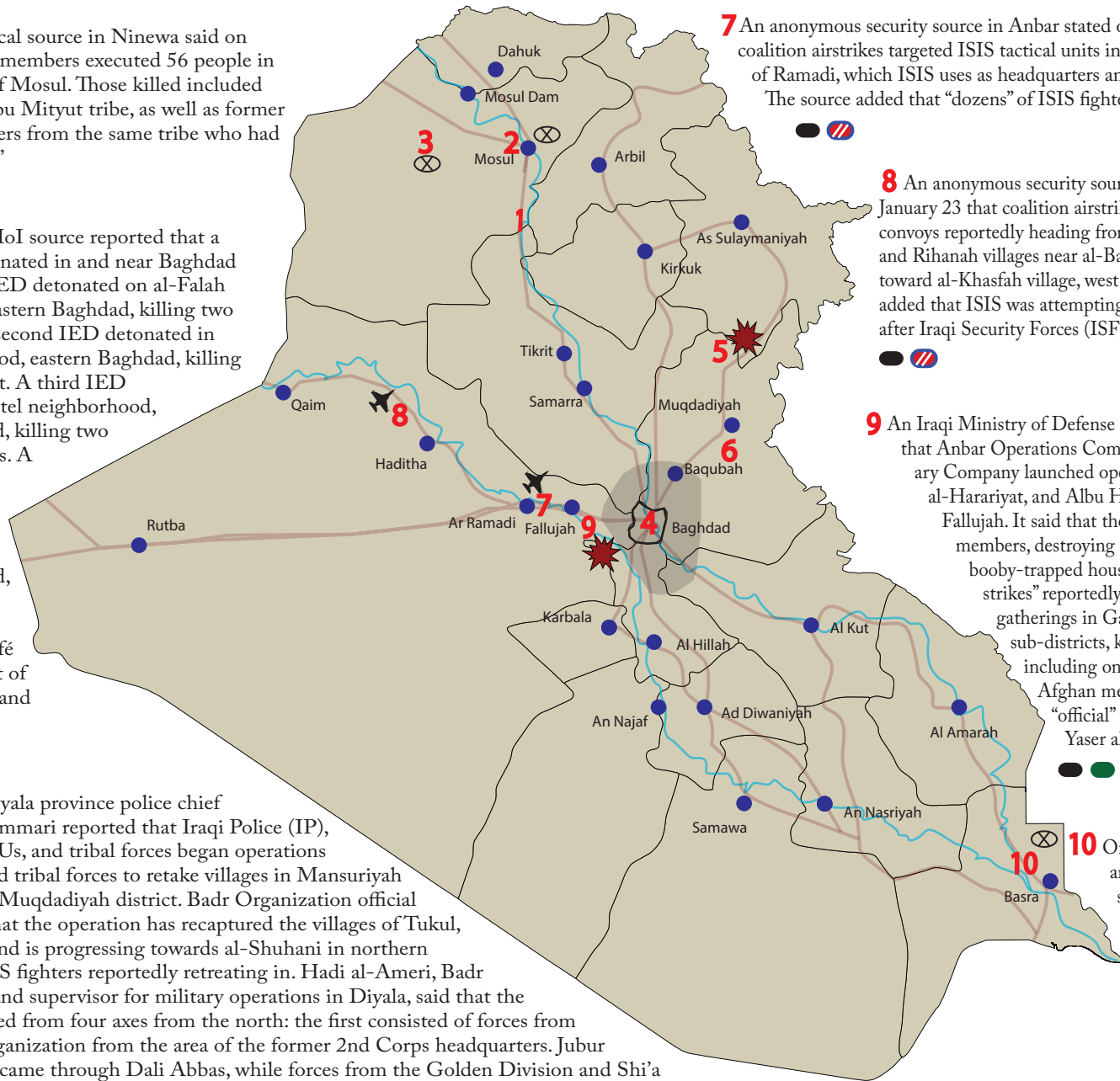
6 On January 23, an anonymous local source in Diyala said that a mortar shell struck east of Muqdadiah sub-district, northeast of Baquba, killing an Iraqi police major, as well as two reporters from al-Ghadeer television station. The attack wounded two reporters from al-Iraqiya, along with an Iraqi police colonel and two other Iraqi police members. An anonymous local source in Diyala also reported that an IED near al-Harwaniya’s police station, east of Muqdadiah, killed five, including police chief Col. Adil Naji Abbas.

7 An anonymous security source in Anbar stated on January 23 that coalition airstrikes targeted ISIS tactical units in Anbar University, east of Ramadi, which ISIS uses as headquarters and as a Shari’a Court. The source added that “dozens” of ISIS fighters were killed.

8 An anonymous security source in Anbar stated on January 23 that coalition airstrikes destroyed three ISIS convoys reportedly heading from al-Zuwiya, al-Sijer, and Rihanah villages near al-Baghdadi sub-district, toward al-Khasfah village, west of Haditha. The source added that ISIS was attempting to retake al-Khasfah after Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) captured the area.

9 An Iraqi Ministry of Defense (MoD) statement said that Anbar Operations Command’s 1st Expeditionary Company launched operations in al-Hitawin, al-Harariyat, and Albu Hadid al-Nasr, southeast Fallujah. It said that the attack killed 22 ISIS members, destroying two vehicles and a booby-trapped house. Additionally, “missile strikes” reportedly targeted ISIS gatherings in Garma and Shurtan sub-districts, killing 29 ISIS members, including one Saudi member, three Afghan members, and an ISIS “official” for Garma and Shurtan, Yaser al-Fahdawi.

10 On January 22, an anonymous security source said that unidentified gunmen killed the Imam of the al-Amidiya mosque in Basra, Sheikh Asad Abd al-Halim, after noon prayers.



- Major Cities
- ✈ Airstrikes
- ⊗ Execution
- Unknown Gunmen
- Iraqi Shi’a militias
- ✶ Major Clash
- 🚗 SVBIED
- ISF
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- Peshmerga
- 🚁 Armed Drones
- 👤 Kidnapping
- ISIS
- 🚚 Coalition



Content: Aaron Reese
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A joint force of Iraqi Police, Iraqi Army, and Popular Mobilization Units containing Iraqi Shi’a militias reportedly launched an operation to retake villages in the Mansuriyah sub-district, north of Muqdadiah. Badr Organization leader Hadi al-Ameri claimed that attack was launched from four axes, affirming his involvement in the operation. This operation is likely intended to clear ISIS from its remaining stronghold in Diyala northwest of Muqdadiah. A separate attack by ISF and PMUs recaptured the Sudur irrigation dam from ISIS, a longstanding ISIS stronghold between Diyala and southern Salah ad Din. ISIS control of the dam has begun to cause a water crisis in Balad Ruz, Diyala. Residents of Balad Ruz had protested recently on January 18, demanding the recapture of the dam. The Anbar Operations Command additionally launched an operation to clear villages southeast of Fallujah. An additional report suggested that Peshmerga and PMUs had killed an ISIS commander in Ninewa, north of Shirqat. Peshmerga and IA have recently begun to attack ISIS from east of the Tigris near this position. Although difficult to verify, this would be the first suggestion of PMU activity this far north. ISIS is still likely the dominant military power in southern Ninewa, but there have been indications that ISIS control of local villages has begun to slip. ISIS executions across Ninewa are also further indications that ISIS is feeling pressured by internal resistance in the province.