

Iraq Situation Report: January 2-4, 2015

1 On January 3, an Adhesive Explosive Device (AED) detonated targeting a small bus, locally referred to as "Kia," in Kamaliyah in eastern Baghdad killing two individuals and injuring five others. On January 4, three IEDs detonated in Karrada, central Baghdad killing at least three individuals and injuring 11 others. Also, an IED detonated near a liquor store in Mahdiya in Dora, southern Baghdad killing one individual and injuring five others.



2 On January 4, ISIS initiated an attack from Rutba district, western Anbar targeting Iraqi Border Guards at a position on the Iraqi-Saudi border known as Inaza. The attack resulted in clashes that lasted for two hours killing two ISIS members and injuring four others. In addition, one border guard was killed and two others were injured. The ISIS contingent then returned to Rutba.



3 On January 4, ISIS reportedly kidnapped 35 individuals from the Obaid tribe in Alam sub-district, east of Tikrit. Another report from a leader of the Obaid tribe, Anwar al-Asi, indicated that ISIS entered Irbidha village of Alam and kidnapped 80 individuals from the Obaid tribe and looted vehicles, jewelry, and weapons from the residents. It is unclear at this time if these were two kidnapping incidents in separate locations or if both reports were referring to one incident.



4 On January 3, an anonymous security source reported that ISIS members riding in 30 vehicles entered the Shijra and Gharib villages, 12 km east of Hawija district, southwestern Kirkuk Province. The source added that ISIS kidnapped 170 individuals from the Jubur tribe in these villages after an unspecified number of residents burned an ISIS flag. On January 4, ISIS released 161 from the original 170 it kidnapped after tribal leaders and "distinguished figures" intervened.



5 On January 4, forces from the 27th Brigade of the 7th IA Division, most likely along with tribal fighters, cordoned off Kubaisa sub-district, south of Hit district, in preparation for an assault on the area. Also, the IA dropped leaflets on Hit urging residents to flee the district in advance of an expected military operation to clear the area of ISIS.



6 On January 3, an anonymous security source stated that ISIS kidnapped 50 individuals, including members of the IA and IP, in addition to former local officials in eastern Sharqat district, northern Salah ad-Din Province. On January 4, unidentified gunmen set an ISIS headquarters in Sdira al-Sufra village of Sharqat ablaze.



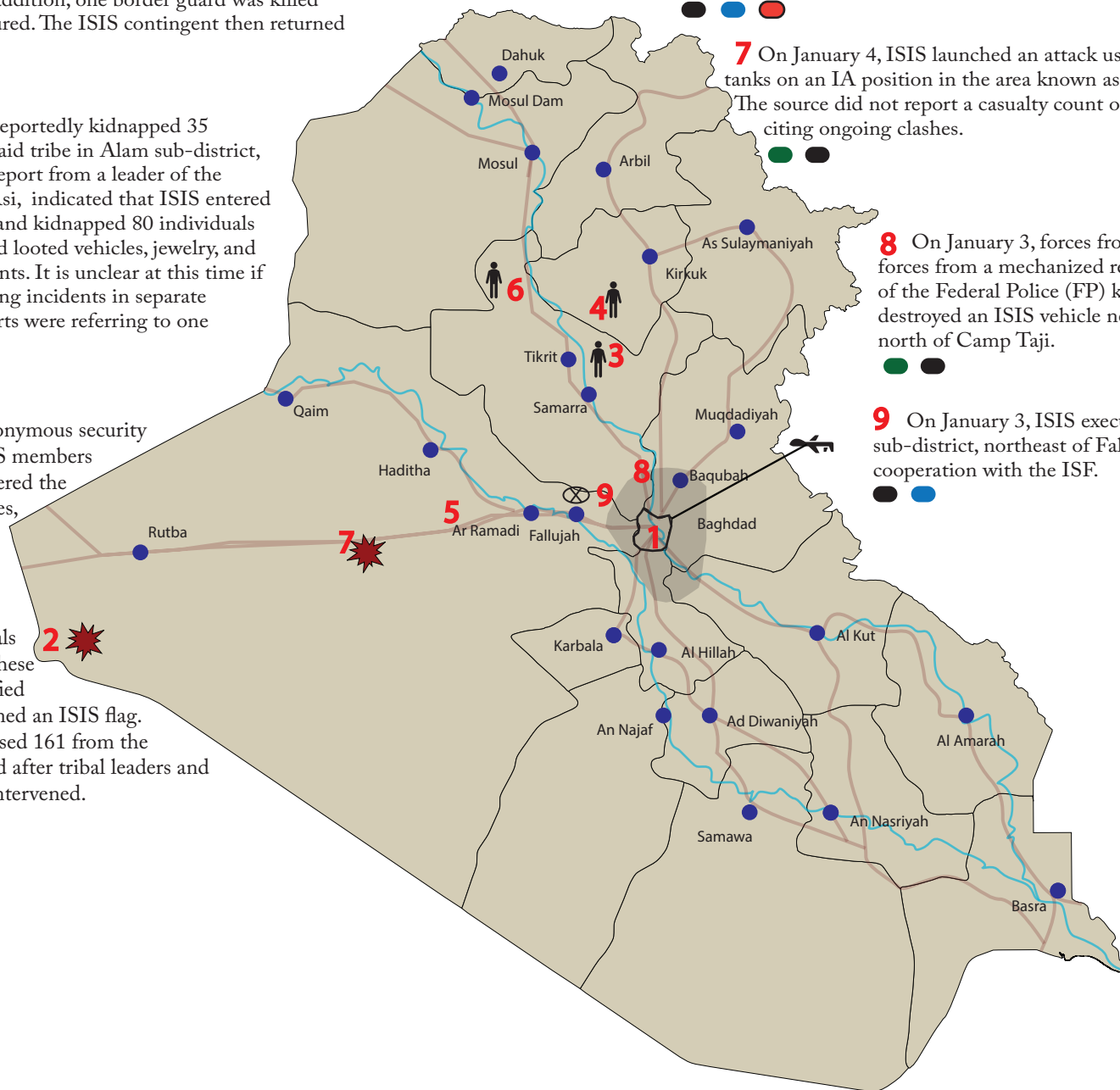
7 On January 4, ISIS launched an attack using armored vehicles and tanks on an IA position in the area known as "160 km," west of Ramadi. The source did not report a casualty count or the result of the attack citing ongoing clashes.



8 On January 3, forces from the 11th IA Division and forces from a mechanized regiment from the 2nd Division of the Federal Police (FP) killed seven ISIS members and destroyed an ISIS vehicle near the Nasir Installation north of Camp Taji.



9 On January 3, ISIS executed 15 individuals in Garma sub-district, northeast of Fallujah district, for their alleged cooperation with the ISF.



- Major Cities
- Major Clash
- Execution
- Kidnapping
- Armed Drones
- ISF
- ISIS
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- Unknown Gunmen

ISIS is taking pre-emptive measures to prevent tribal resistance or cooperation with the ISF behind its lines. Although mass kidnapping incidents similar to those described here have taken place before, the last two days have witnessed an increase in tempo of such activities in multiple areas considered out of government control. These forceful measures will most likely generate further discontent among Iraqi Sunni communities. They also reveal a sense of vulnerability for ISIS in areas where it sees a potential for a tribal cooperation with the ISF and Peshmerga, especially in the region of northern Salah ad-Din/south of Mosul where recent reports indicate cooperation between the Jubur, Lhib, and Sabawi tribes with the Peshmerga and ISF against ISIS. It is noteworthy that ISIS forces that carried out the kidnappings in southwestern Kirkuk and eastern Tikrit were reported to be from outside these areas, which indicates that ISIS is not present in high concentrations throughout all areas that fell out of government control. Meanwhile, the attacks in Baghdad are worrisome and indicative of ISIS freedom of movement in the capital despite heightened security measures imposed by the ISF and Iraqi Shi'a militias.