

# ISIS ADVANCES IN ANBAR (SEPTEMBER 1-OCTOBER 7, 2014)



## ISIS Offensive

### September 1-20

- 1** ISIS attacked Haditha and the Haditha Dam from the vicinity of Haditha district and Barwana.
- 2** ISF and tribal forces supported by IA aviation drove ISIS from Barwana, Haditha, surrounding villages, and the dam. The U.S. also conducted airstrikes in the vicinity of Haditha.
- 3** ISIS attacked and destroyed bridges north of Fallujah and Ramadi.

### September 21-27

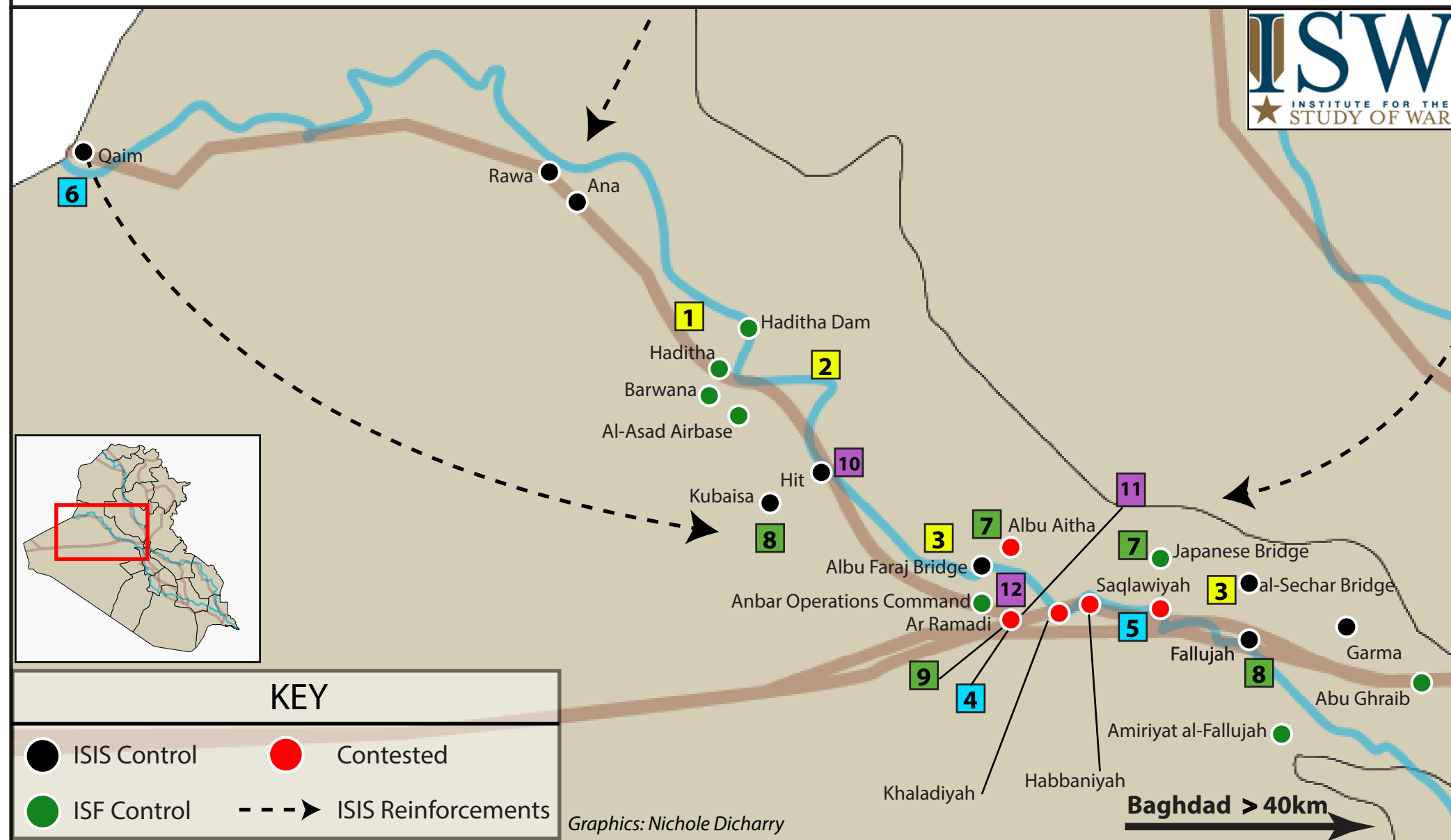
- 4** ISIS attacked ISF north of Ramadi, but ISF counterattacked with tribal support.
- 5** ISIS overran an ISF position in Saqlawiyah. ISF responded by breaking this siege, but the area remains contested.
- 6** The U.S. conducted airstrikes in the vicinity of Qaim.

### September 28-October 4, 2014

- 7** ISIS besieged 240 IA soldiers in Albu Aitha and advanced to the west of the Japanese bridge, north of Ramadi.
- 8** ISIS seized Hit and Kubaisa. Meanwhile the U.S. conducted airstrikes in the vicinity of Fallujah.
- 9** ISF withdrew from Ramadi to Anbar Operations Command Headquarters for unknown reasons.

### October 5-7, 2014

- 10** ISIS besieged police stations in Hit and captured the Abu Sayer district to the west of the city.
- 11** ISIS attacked Albu Risha area of Ramadi and north Ramadi but were repelled.
- 12** IA Aviation attacked ISIS positions in northern Ramadi.



### KEY

- ISIS Control
- ISF Control
- Contested
- ▶ ISIS Reinforcements

Graphics: Nichole Dicharry

Baghdad > 40km

ISIS is advancing in Anbar and threatening Baghdad from the west, and U.S. airstrikes have not blunted their advance into key cities such as Ramadi. As of October 7, ISIS controls most of the territory between Qaim on the Syrian border and Abu Ghraib, only 40 km from Baghdad. ISIS has conducted a sophisticated campaign in Anbar Province over the past four weeks in order to capture additional cities in the Euphrates River Valley. It has consolidated its supply route from Syria into central Iraq, gained freedom of movement in both countries, and received reinforcements for the Anbar offensive probably from its safe havens in the Albu Kamal area in Syria; Mosul; and Iraq's Lake Thar Thar region. ISIS, fortified by these additional troops, has captured Hit and its outer suburbs. It has severed the supply lines between the few ISF-held areas of Ramadi and Haditha. ISIS has also attacked ISF lines of communication to prevent any ISF reinforcements from entering Anbar. ISIS is conducting sustained attacks in Ramadi, the hub of anti-ISIS tribal resistance in Anbar. ISIS seeks to overcome ISF ground forces near Ramadi to ensure that airstrikes do not interrupt its Anbar urban offensive and to gain control of the city. ISIS may also seek to attack the al-Asad airbase located 25 miles northwest of Hit. ISIS would thereby gain control of almost the whole the Euphrates River Valley. ISIS's objectives are not confined to Anbar. Ultimately, ISIS aims to surround Baghdad from its belts. To this end, ISIS continues to contest Amiriyat al-Fallujah, south of Fallujah. If it gains this pivotal position, ISIS will further isolate ISF forces in Anbar and increase its freedom of movement between Anbar and the southern belt of Baghdad.