

Iraq Situation Report: February 24-25, 2015

1 On February 24, a VBIED and an IED detonated in the Jisr Diyala area of southern Baghdad, killing 22 individuals and injuring 51 others.

2 On February 24, a VBIED detonated in the Askari neighborhood of Tuz Khurmatu, northern Salah ad-Din, killing three individuals and injuring six others.

3 On February 23, “intense” clashes broke out between members of the “Popular Mobilization” and ISIS in Mikishifa area, south of Tikrit, killing one member of the “Popular Mobilization” and injuring six others.

4 On February 24, a “local” source from Ninewa stated that coalition airstrikes targeted ISIS in the Kindi Camp and in the Ghabat area, northern Mosul.

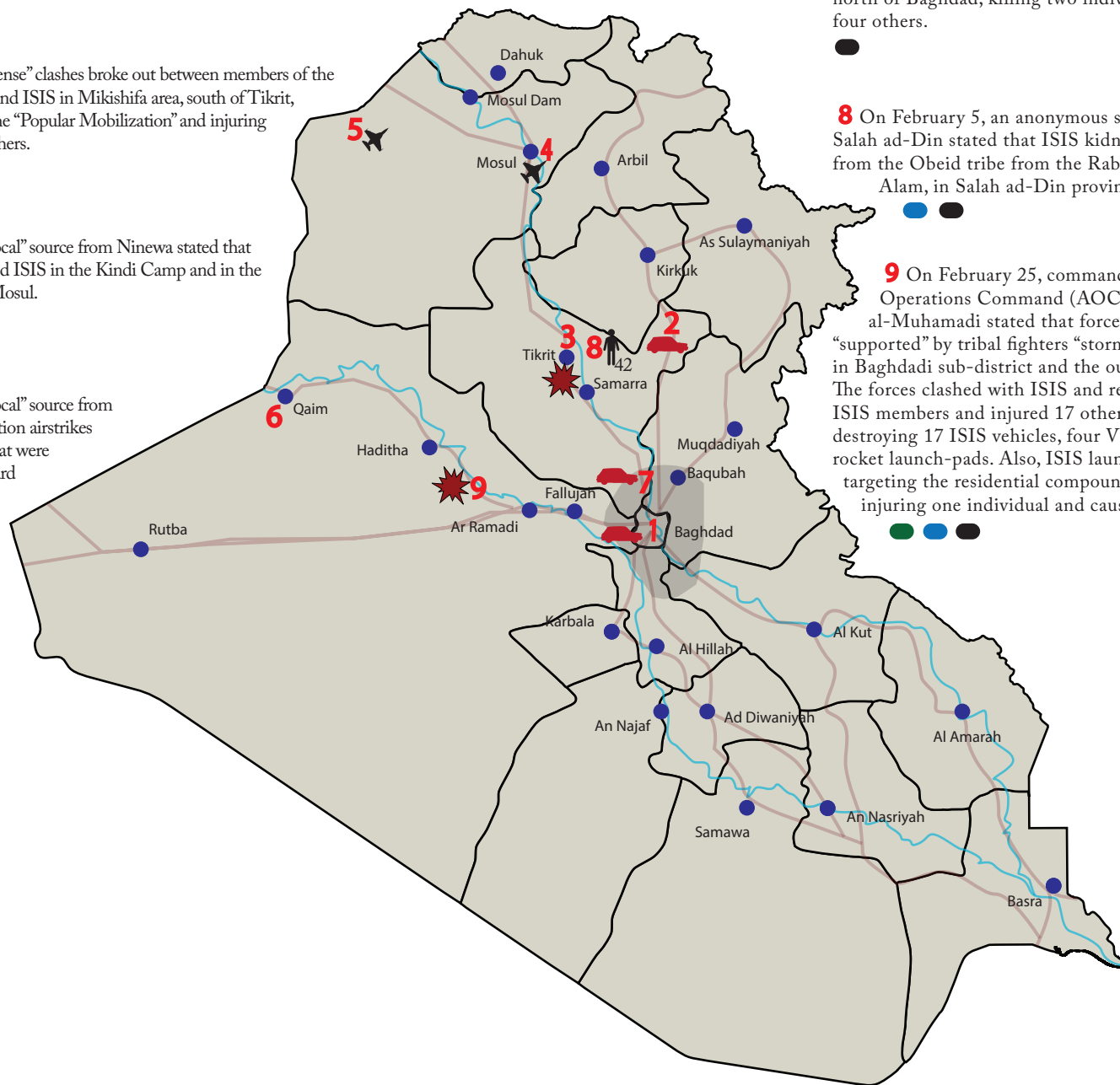
5 On February 24, a “local” source from Ninewa stated that coalition airstrikes targeted ISIS vehicles that were heading from Syria toward Mosul. The targeting took place on the Iraqi-Syrian border and resulted in the death of 29 ISIS members.

6 On February 25, an anonymous source from Anbar Operations Command (AOC) stated that “400” ISIS members crossed the Iraqi-Syrian border near Qaim.

7 On February 24, a VBIED detonated in Mishahda, north of Baghdad, killing two individuals and injuring four others.

8 On February 5, an anonymous security source from Salah ad-Din stated that ISIS kidnapped 42 individuals from the Obeid tribe from the Rabidha village, north of Alam, in Salah ad-Din province.

9 On February 25, commander of Anbar Operations Command (AOC) General Qassim al-Muhamadi stated that force from the IA and IP “supported” by tribal fighters “stormed” ISIS “gatherings” in Baghdadi sub-district and the outskirts of Hit district. The forces clashed with ISIS and reportedly killed 23 ISIS members and injured 17 others in addition to destroying 17 ISIS vehicles, four VBIEDs, and three rocket launch-pads. Also, ISIS launched mortar rounds targeting the residential compound in Baghdadi, injuring one individual and causing material damage.



- Major Cities
- ISF
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- ★ Major Clash
- 🚗 VBIED
- ✈️ Airstrikes
- 👤 Kidnapping
- 👤 SVEST
- Iraqi Shi'a militias
- 🚚 Coalition
- ISIS



Content: Sinan Adnan and ISW Iraq Team
Graphics: John Sauerboff

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ISIS has likely reconstituted in areas in the southern Baghdad belt in a way that enables it to launch VBIED attacks against Baghdad. The ISF and various Iraqi Shi'a militias dislodged ISIS from its stronghold in Jurf al-Sakhar, northern Babil, in October of 2014. Jurf al-Sakhar most likely housed ISIS VBIED cells that manufactured VBIEDs and deployed them to target civilians and ISF in Babil province and in areas of southern Baghdad and south of Baghdad. These attacks decreased dramatically following the defeat of ISIS in Jurf al-Sakhar. The last three days, however, have witnessed two VBIED attacks in Baya and Jisr Diyala, areas of southern Baghdad. The VBIEDs were most likely deployed from areas south of Baghdad, as Jurf al-Sakhar remains under ISF and militia control. ISIS remains capable of launching terror attacks against civilians as well as asymmetric and conventional attacks against Iraqi security forces. The organization will likely work to increase its operational tempo, both in terms of conventional attacks and terror attacks against Baghdad and Samarra, as the Mosul offensive approaches in order to divert ISF, militia, and Peshmerga resources.