

# Iraq Situation Report: February 3-4, 2015

**1** On January 3, the Council of Ministers, headed by Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi, during its regular weekly session approved of the National Guard Law. The law was drafted by a committee headed by leader in Ahrar bloc of the Sadrist Trend, Baha al-Araji. The law will be sent to the State Advisory Council for a final review before it is sent to the CoR to be voted on. The CoM also approved of revisions to be applied to the Justice and Accountability Law, previously known as the De-Baathification law. That law will go through the same process before it becomes effective.

**2** On January 3, forces from the Federal Police (FP) supported by IA Aviation launched an attack on ISIS gunmen "as they attempted to advance toward" the areas of Tawaun, Nakhwa, and Watban Street, west of the main area of Samarra district. The clashes killed an ISIS "commander" of the area in addition to "90" other members. A force from Samarra Operations Command also carried out an operation southwest of Samarra and reportedly cleared ISIS from areas it recently captured, including the

**3** On February 3, an anonymous "local" source in Ninewa province stated that coalition airstrikes targeted an ISIS camp in al-Sabuniya area, west of Mosul, killing and injuring "dozens" of ISIS members and destroying "a number of vehicles and weapons." DoD reported that an airstrike near Mosul struck an ISIS "tactical unit" and destroyed one vehicle.

**4** On February 3, An anonymous Peshmerga source said that coalition airstrikes "intensively" targeted ISIS vehicles and positions in al-Rashad sub-district, southwest of Kirkuk City. The source added that the strikes destroyed Humvees and "military equipment", killing eight ISIS members and wounded 14 others.

**5** On February 1, an anonymous "medical source" in Ninewa and the Interior Ministry stated that international coalition airstrikes targeted an ISIS camp in Hamam al-Alil sub-district, south of Mosul. The strike killed nine "prominent" ISIS "leaders".

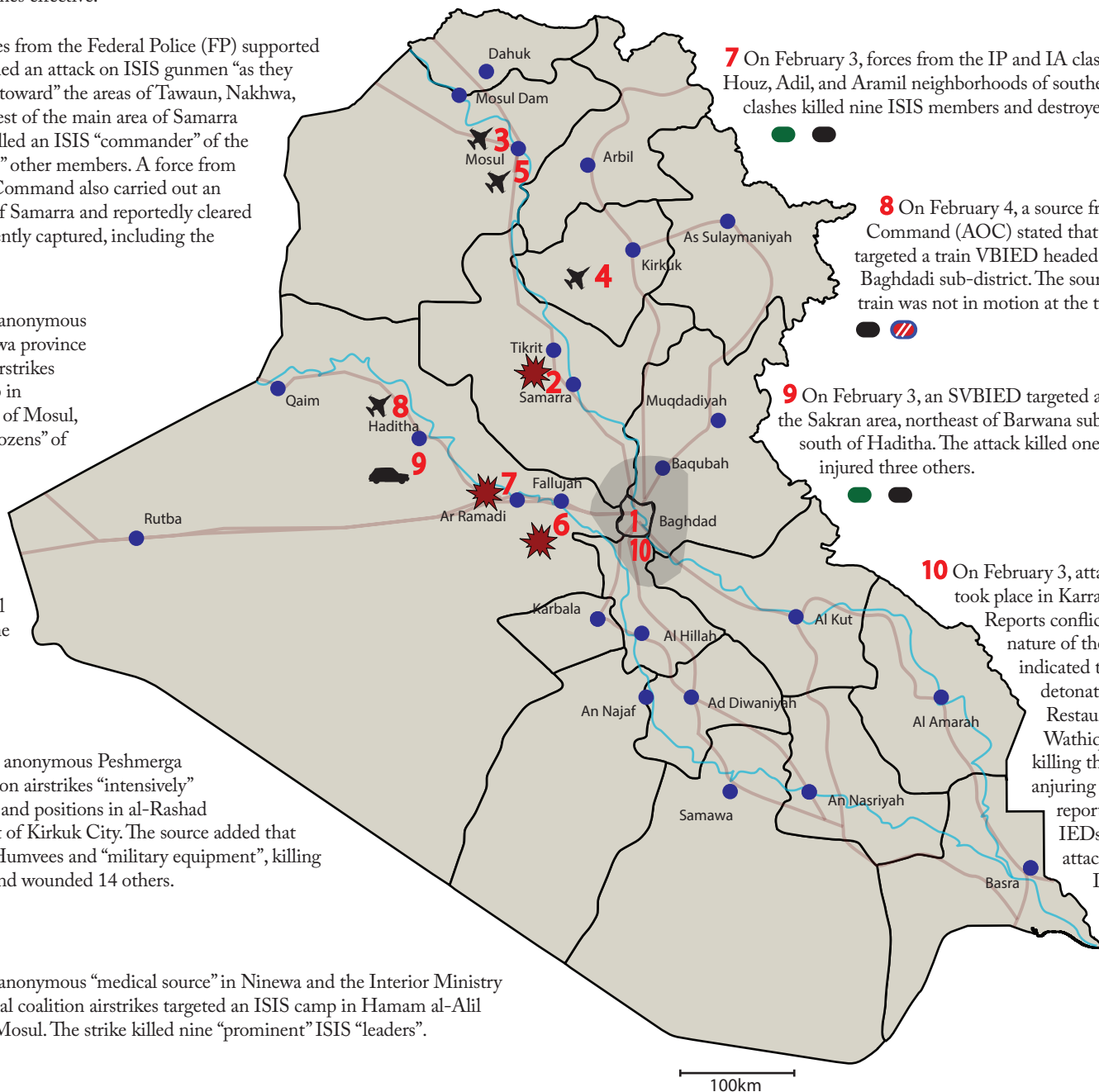
**6** A security source in Anbar Province said that a force from the 1st Rapid Reaction Division killed 10 ISIS fighters in an "offensive" operation in the Nuaimiya area, south of Fallujah. The force destroyed a rocket launch-pad and destroyed two ISIS vehicles. The force also dismantled an IED in the Harariyat area, east of Fallujah.

**7** On February 3, forces from the IP and IA clashed with ISIS in the Houz, Adil, and Aramil neighborhoods of southern Ramadi. The clashes killed nine ISIS members and destroyed four vehicles.

**8** On February 4, a source from Anbar Operations Command (AOC) stated that coalition airstrikes targeted a train VBIED headed from Ana toward Baghdadi sub-district. The source added that the train was not in motion at the time of the strike.

**9** On February 3, an SVBIED targeted an IA checkpoint in the Sakran area, northeast of Barwana sub-district, located south of Haditha. The attack killed one IA member and injured three others.

**10** On February 3, attacks with explosives took place in Karrada, central Baghdad. Reports conflicted regarding the nature of the attacks. One report indicated that a VBIED detonated near the Naur Restaurant located near Wathiq Square in Karrada killing three individuals and injuring 10 others. Another report indicated that three IEDs were used in the attack and that one of the IEDs was "placed under a modern car."



- 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: Sinan Adnan and ISW Iraq Team  
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The legislation of the National Guard Law, along with other conditions, were first demanded by Iraqi Sunni political leaders in exchange for their participation in PM Abadi's government. The goal behind the demand for this law was to give provinces with a Sunni majority the opportunity to maintain a security apparatus semi-independent of Baghdad. The initial approval of the law by the Council of Ministers is a positive indicator that the government is taking active measures to address grievances of Iraqi Sunnis. Nevertheless, it is important to highlight that further challenges lie ahead of the law; it will most likely involve a great deal of political maneuvering at the CoR before it is agreed upon. It will also likely be edited multiple times to accommodate the demands of different political blocs at the CoR. Despite the fact that the law was initially proposed to address Iraqi Sunni grievances, initial reporting from minister Saman Abdullah al-Dawudi, who is a member of the drafting committee, indicated that the National Guard would also include the "Popular Mobilization." The government uses the term "Popular Mobilization" to describe both Iraqi Shi'a volunteers and members of the Iranian-backed Iraqi Shi'a militias fighting ISIS. It is unclear at this time if the draft law discusses the future status of Iraqi Shi'a militias. The future status of the militias will almost certainly be a point of contention between militia leaders like Hadi al-Ameri and Qays al-Khazali backed by Iran on one hand; and Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi, moderate Shi'a leaders within the political sphere, and the Shi'a religious establishment in Najaf on the other hand. The debate over these issues could stall the law for a lengthy period of time.