

Iraq Situation Report: February 9, 2015

1 On February 9, leader of the Peshmerga in southern Kirkuk Wasta Rasul stated that coalition airstrikes targeted ISIS in the areas of Tal al-Warid, Said Khalis, Mula Abdullah, the Hawija institute, and other areas in in southwestern Kirkuk province. The leaders further stated that the strikes killed “40-100” ISIS members.



2 On February 9, an attacker wearing an SVEST detonated his explosives at a local restaurant near Adan square in Kadhmiya, northwestern Baghdad. The attack killed 21 individuals and injured 49 others.



3 On February 8, members of the “Popular Mobilization” in Ramadi city killed two individuals after detaining them. Chairman of Anbar Provincial Council (APC), Sabah Karhut, stated that the two men were detained by the “Popular Mobilization” and “executed by having their throats slit” at Anbar Operations Command (AOC). Another report from an anonymous source at AOC indicated that members of the “Popular Mobilization” detained the two men, stabbed them with knives, and “decapitated them” before “throwing their dead bodies in front of AOC.” Sabah Karhut also reported that the executed men were allegedly driving a car with Saudi Arabian license plates. According to Karhut, a force from AOC detained one of the several perpetrators. Zaidan al-Jabiri, leader of the Albu Jabir tribe to which the dead men belonged, stated that the execution was ordered by a “Popular Mobilization” leader. Prime Minister (PM) Haidar al-Abadi ordered an investigation into the matter.

On February 9, tribal leader in Ramadi Sheikh Majid al-Dulaimi stated that “dozens” of tribesmen demonstrated in front of AOC. Leader of Badr Organization Hadi al-Ameri denied that the “Popular Mobilization” carried out the killings and accused “volunteers” from the 10th IA division of being responsible. On February 9, a leader in the Jughaiifi tribe, Khudhir al-Jughaiifi, criticized Anbaris calling for the departure of the “Popular Mobilization” adding that they “do not represent tribal Sheikhs” fighting ISIS on the frontlines.



- Major Cities
- ✈ Airstrikes
- ⊗ Execution
- Unknown Gunmen
- Iraqi Shi'a militias
- ✡ Major Clash
- ⦿ SVEST
- ISF
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- Peshmerga
- ✈ Armed Drones
- ⦿ Kidnapping
- ISIS
- Coalition



Content: Sinan Adnan and ISW Iraq Team
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The deployment of Iraqi Shi'a militias to urban centers in Anbar was considered an important step in preventing the fall of Ramadi and other areas in the province to ISIS. A lack of manpower and weapons was a major motivating factor in the deployment to stop ISIS from gaining more ground in Anbar. On the local level, members of the militia are likely not responsive to the state or the local government of Anbar. This independence from a formal chain of command has allowed for occasional sectarian violence in their areas of operations. Such acts run counter to the state's intent to include Iraqi Sunnis in both politics and the fight against ISIS, and to address their grievances. The unresponsiveness of the militias to the state and the ISF places the local Anbari government, the defense ministry, and the Prime Minister in difficult position. On one hand, the militias provide valuable military capability to fight ISIS. On the other hand, lack of full control over these elements causes the formal leadership to appear weak and unable to protect the Iraqi people.