

Iraq Situation Report: March 9, 2015

1 On March 9, Baghdad Operations Command (BOC) stated that security forces and the “Popular Mobilization” took “full control” of al-Qinatr crossing north of Garma sub-district and northeast of Fallujah, killing “dozens” of ISIS members. An anonymous security source in Anbar stated that forces from First Rapid Intervention Division, 6th Division, and 17th Division, supported by the “Popular Mobilization” and coalition and Iraqi air cover, recaptured the area and dismantled an unspecified number of IEDs. Another anonymous security source stated that the Fallujah General Hospital had received 150 “dead and wounded” ISIS members from Garma. However, Anbar Operations Command (AOC) commander Maj. Gen. Qassim Muhammadi stated that the deputy commander of the 1st Division, Brig. Gen. Wadah Mahmud, was killed during fighting in Garma.



2 On March 9, a security source stated that two SVBIEDs and one VBIED detonated in the Mula Ali area, located southwest of Kirkuk City, targeting a “security force” that was heading toward the area to clear it of ISIS. The attack resulted in the death of five “security forces,” including Peshmerga fighters, and injuring 30 others. Peshmerga commander in the area Wasta Rasul stated that the Peshmerga launched an operation to clear the Tel al-Ward area, the Maktab Khaled area, and al-Wahda village, southwest of Kirkuk city, and the Kharab al-Rut area, west of Kirkuk. Rasul stated that Peshmerga forces had cleared the “Suspension Bridge” and Sultan al-Mirai village southwest of Kirkuk. An anonymous security source added that the operation will also target Mula Abdullah and Nahrawan, southwest of Kirkuk, and al-Dibis, northwest of Kirkuk. A Peshmerga leader stated that the Peshmerga destroyed four SVBIEDs southwest of the city. He also stated that coalition airstrikes supported the Peshmerga in Tel al-Ward, causing “extensive damage” to ISIS.



3 On March 8, a VBIED detonated near the passport office in al-Mahmudiya district, south of Baghdad, killing two individuals and injuring eleven others.



4 On March 9, Samarra Operations Command (SOC) stated that ISIS launched an attack on “security forces” west of Samarra. The source added that the attack was repelled by “security forces” and Iraqi Army Aviation, killing “dozens” of ISIS fighters and destroying three vehicles.



5 On March 9, CoR member from Salah ad-Din Badr al-Fahal, stated that Federal Police (FP) forces and “Popular Mobilization” entered central Alam, northeast of Tikrit. Another report indicated that the combined forces took control of the Communications Building, located 500 meters from central Alam. These reports are initial and remain unconfirmed. Also, an anonymous security source in Salah al-Din stated that “security forces” took control of the Fatha Bridge, northeast of Baiji.



6 On March 6, the U.S. Defense Department stated that Iraqi Security Forces and Anbari tribal fighters with coalition air support, surveillance assets, and “Advise and Assist” teams recaptured “the city of al-Baghdadi” along with the police station and three bridges, one of which had been under ISIS control since September. Coalition airstrikes also supported the ISF in recapturing seven villages north-west of Baghdadi on the road to Haditha district.



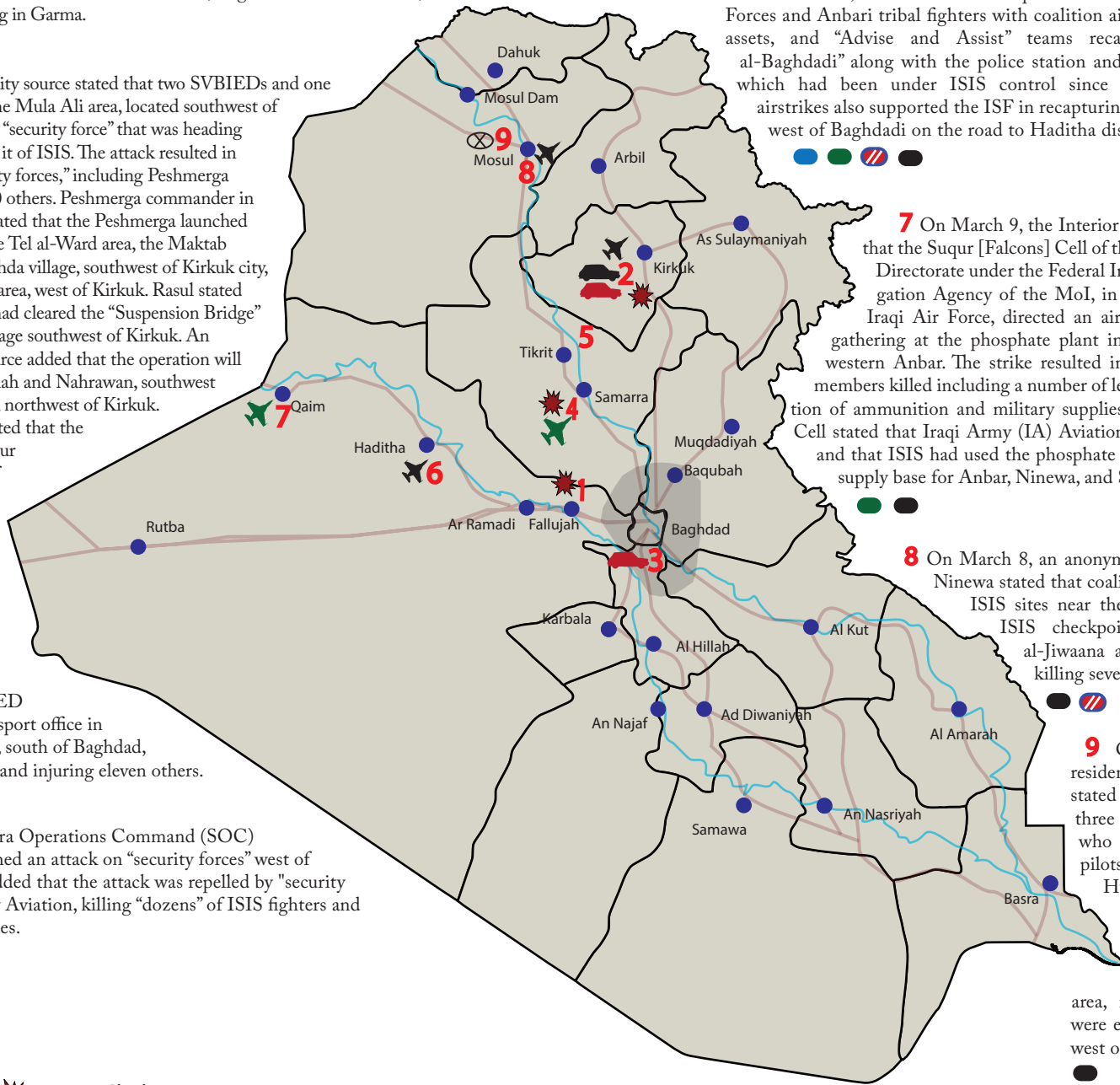
7 On March 9, the Interior Ministry (MoI) stated that the Suqr [Falcons] Cell of the General Intelligence Directorate under the Federal Intelligence and Investigation Agency of the MoI, in coordination with the Iraqi Air Force, directed an airstrike against an ISIS gathering at the phosphate plant in the al-Qa'im area of western Anbar. The strike resulted in “more than 60” ISIS members killed including a number of leaders, and the destruction of ammunition and military supplies. The Suqr [Falcons] Cell stated that Iraqi Army (IA) Aviation carried out the strike and that ISIS had used the phosphate plant as a training and supply base for Anbar, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din.



8 On March 8, an anonymous security source in Ninewa stated that coalition airstrikes targeted ISIS sites near the Qayarah Bridge and ISIS checkpoints in al-Jidaa and al-Jiwaana areas, south of Mosul, killing seven ISIS members.



9 On March 9, “Local residents” in Ninewa province stated that ISIS executed three Brigadier Generals who previously served as pilots during the Saddam Hussein era. The source stated that the pilots were kidnapped last week from their houses in Badush area, north of Mosul, and were executed in Iski Mosul, west of Mosul.



- Major Clash
- Major Cities
- Iraqi Airstrikes
- VBIED
- SVBIED
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- Iraqi Shi'a militias
- ISF
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100km

Content: Sinan Adnan, Patrick Martin and Omar al-Dulimi
Graphics: John Sauerboff



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Very recent reports indicate that Alam, an area of Iraqi Sunni majority that showed early signs of resistance to ISIS, has been re-taken by the combined forces allied with the Iraqi government. Although these reports are preliminary, the cooperation between Iraqi Sunnis and Iranian-backed Iraqi Shi'a militias such as the Badr Organization is noteworthy. Iraqi Sunnis who fought against ISIS and those who wish to reclaim their homes are suffering from manpower issues and a lack of military support. They are therefore willing to cooperate with Shi'a militias out of necessity against a common enemy. So far, there have been no reports of problems between Iraqi Sunni fighters, Iranian-backed militias, and the ISF. The success of such joint operations is a positive sign and a model that may be recreated in the future. Significantly, there have been no reports thus far of extrajudicial killings in this operation. This is especially important in recently captured Albu Ajil village, where there is a perception that local residents cooperated with ISIS during the massacre at Camp Speicher. The resistance of some Iraqi Sunni communities against ISIS has led to the emergence of new Iraqi Sunni leaders on the local level. Such leaders most likely have the support of their communities and could be integrated into security and state structures in order to increase the effective representation of Sunni communities.

