

Iraq Situation Report: April 9-10, 2015

1 On April 10, a Salah al-Din tribal spokesperson stated that ISIS has executed 300 individuals, including “security force” members, former CoR candidates, and former Awakening members, in Qayarah sub-district, south of Mosul, for refusing to follow ISIS orders. ISIS also reportedly kidnapped 100 people, mostly Shammar tribal members, from Talu al-Baj, southwest of Shirqat.

2 On April 8, an Anbar provincial council member stated that ISIS executed 60 Abu Salman, Abu Mahal, Obeid, and Karabla tribal members in Qa'im district in western Anbar for allegedly delivering information to the security forces. On April 9, an Abu Nimr tribal leader stated that ISIS executed 270 civilians that it had previously kidnapped and held in prison.

3 On April 10, an Anbar provincial council member stated that ISIS attacked “joint forces” and captured the Abu Faraj area north of Ramadi. The Abu Nimr tribal leader stated that ISIS then executed 20 individuals, including IP and IA members, and burned several houses. A security source stated that a tanker SVBIED targeted the convoy of the Anbar Police Commander in Abu Faraj, injuring him. Another report stated that an SVBIED targeted security forces on Abu Faraj Bridge in northern Ramadi. A medical source in Anbar stated that the attacks killed four people and injured 42 others. An Anbar provincial council member stated that two FP commando battalions arrived as reinforcements. Clashes also occurred in Hamidiya, Abu Ghanim, Abu Suda, and Sadiqiya areas northeast of Ramadi, while IA Aviation and unconfirmed coalition airstrikes reportedly targeted ISIS “dens” north and east of Ramadi.

4 On April 10, the Golden Division commander stated that ISIS attacked central Ramadi and that the Golden Division, IA, FP, local police, rapid response brigades, and tribal fighters repelled the attack. Clashes were reported in Haouz and Andalus neighborhoods in central Ramadi.

5 On April 8, the Anbar deputy governor stated that the Peace Brigades and the First Martyr Brigades participated in operations in Anbar. A Kata'ib Hezbollah (KH) spokesperson stated that it fired rockets at ISIS in Sijariya, east of Ramadi. On April 9, Nujaba Movement and Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq stated they were ready to participate in operations in Anbar if PM Abadi requested their help and promised not to involve the international coalition. On April 10, a Badr Organization spokesperson also stated its readiness.

6 On April 9, a security source stated that ISIS and security forces engaged in “violent clashes” in Kubaisa sub-district, west of Hit district. ISIS reportedly closed the district's entrances, preventing residents from entering or leaving.

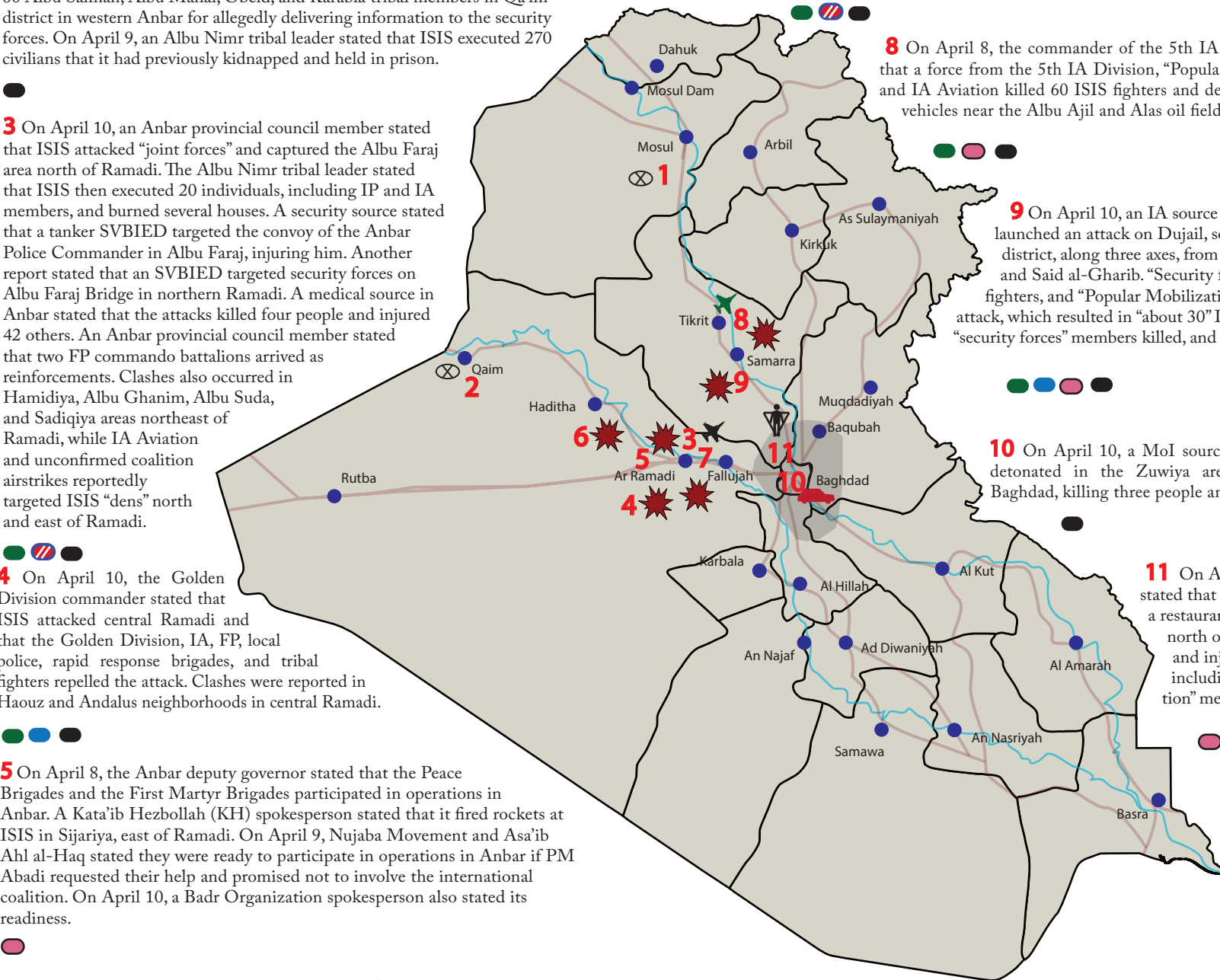
7 On April 9, a security source stated that “security forces” and tribal fighters have cleared the industrial area of Sijariya, east of Ramadi, amid what they reported as “intense” coalition airstrikes. CENTCOM has not confirmed these airstrikes.

8 On April 8, the commander of the 5th IA Division stated that a force from the 5th IA Division, “Popular Mobilization,” and IA Aviation killed 60 ISIS fighters and destroyed 25 ISIS vehicles near the Abu Ajil and Alas oil fields, east of Tikrit.

9 On April 10, an IA source stated that ISIS launched an attack on Dujail, southeast of Balad district, along three axes, from Kasarat, Muqala, and Said al-Gharib. “Security forces,” tribal fighters, and “Popular Mobilization” repelled the attack, which resulted in “about 30” ISIS fighters and five “security forces” members killed, and 22 others injured.

10 On April 10, a MoI source stated that a VBIED detonated in the Zuwiya area in Karrada, central Baghdad, killing three people and injuring 11 others.

11 On April 10, an IP source stated that a SVEST detonated in a restaurant in Mashahdah area, north of Baghdad, killing four and injuring 11 others, including “Popular Mobilization” members.



- Major Cities
- ★ Major Clash
- ✈ SVEST
- Iraqi Shi'a militias
- ✈ Airstrikes
- 🚗 VBIED
- ➡ Coalition
- ISIS
- ✈ Iraqi Airstrikes
- ⊗ Execution
- ISF
- ➡ Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes

Content: Patrick Martin, and Omar al-Dulimi
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ISIS responded to Iraqi-government led operations in Anbar by launching two major attacks on Ramadi and areas between Balad and Baghdad. ISIS captured the Abu Faraj area north of Ramadi, possibly intending to divert ISF attention from clearing operations east of Ramadi. The attack indicates that ISF will require a great deal of manpower in order to recapture major cities in Anbar from ISIS. Iranian-backed Shi'a militias may leverage such attacks to justify their entry into the fight in Ramadi, basing their involvement on the impression that the ISF alone is unable to clear the province alone. The involvement of local Anbari tribes on behalf of the ISF and the resolution of intra-tribal conflicts will be crucial in augmenting the ISF and providing the forces necessary to dislodge ISIS from Anbar. The role of coalition airstrikes is also an open question at this stage of the ISF operation in Anbar as CENTCOM has yet to confirm any airstrikes in the area. PM Abadi will soon visit the U.S., increasing opportunities for future security cooperation to defeat ISIS and rebuild Iraq. The attack by ISIS on al-Dujail north of Baghdad was successfully repelled by the ISF, but it nevertheless demonstrated ISIS's capacity to launch attacks north of Baghdad despite ISF and Shi'a militia clearing operations in December 2014. ISIS will remain a threat to holding forces on fronts like Tikrit that have been recently cleared.