

# Iraq Situation Report: April 25-27, 2015

**1** On April 27, a Ninewa security source stated that a coalition airstrike killed six ISIS members in al-Filistin area, southeastern Mosul, who were preparing to target al-Gwer, southeast of Mosul.



**2** On April 24, ISIS attacked an IA base near the Thar Thar regulatory dam, northeast of Fallujah. On April 25, Anbar Operations Command sent reinforcements to clear the area with Iraqi and coalition air support. Three or four Humvee VBIEDs or SVBIEDs targeted the base, killing 13 IA members, including the commanders of the 1st Division and the 1st Brigade. On April 26, IA Aviation evacuated trapped soldiers near the base. Baghdad Operations Command later stated that security forces fully recaptured the area. Unconfirmed reports stated that ISIS executed up to 140 soldiers and officers, which MoD denied. Between April 24 and 26, DoD stated that 13 airstrikes targeted ISIS "near Fallujah."



**3** A member of Anbar local government, Mizhir al-Mula, stated on April 25th that three Suicide VBIEDs (SVBIEDs) targeted Trebil border crossing on the Iraq-Jordan border from three directions killing three guards and injuring 13 others. Another source stated that a Suicide Vest (SVEST) targeted the director of al-Walid sub-district, Dhari al-Arsan, when he arrived at the Trebil crossing, injuring him and three of his aides. Moreover, another source stated that four SVESTs targeted the Sakr and al-Rajaa border crossings on the Iraq-Jordan border, without specifying the number of casualties. On April 27, the Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture stated that the ground road to Iraq is opened and exports will gradually increase.



**4** On April 26, a source from the Border Guard Command stated that ISIS attacked a Border Guards post on the Iraq-Saudi border using medium and heavy weapons killing two soldiers and injuring five others.



**5** On April 27, a source stated that 10 cars carrying "unidentified" armed individuals wearing security uniforms "stormed" Taji Police Station, located north of Baghdad, taking five detainees who had been held on "terrorism charges." The Ministry of Interior (MoI) stated that Minister Mohammad al-Ghaban ordered the formation of an investigative committee to uncover the circumstances behind the attack by a group he said claims to belong to one of the "jihadist factions." Ghaban stated that this attack will harm the reputation of the "Jihad and history" of this group, in a likely reference to an Iraqi Shi'a militia. In a separate report, Ghaban stated that the "perpetrators" moved the detainees to Samarra, north of Taji, and that "security forces" arrested a "number" of the attackers.



**6** On April 26, a Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) detonated in the Amil neighborhood, southwestern Baghdad, killing four individuals and injuring 14 others. Another VBIED detonated near Abdul-Qadir al-Gilani Mosque, in central Baghdad, killing three and injuring 13 others. On April 27, a VBIED detonated at the junction between al-Baya and al-Amil neighborhoods in southwestern Baghdad, killing one and injuring five others. Another VBIED detonated in Mansur, central Baghdad killing at least three individuals and injuring 12 others.

**7** On April 26, a VBIED detonated near the passport office in Mahmudiya sub-district, southwest of Baghdad, killing two and injuring 13 others.

**8** On April 26, an SVBIED targeted an Iraqi Army (IA) checkpoint at one of the entrances leading to al-Nukhaib sub-district, west of Karbala, killing one IA soldier and injuring four others.

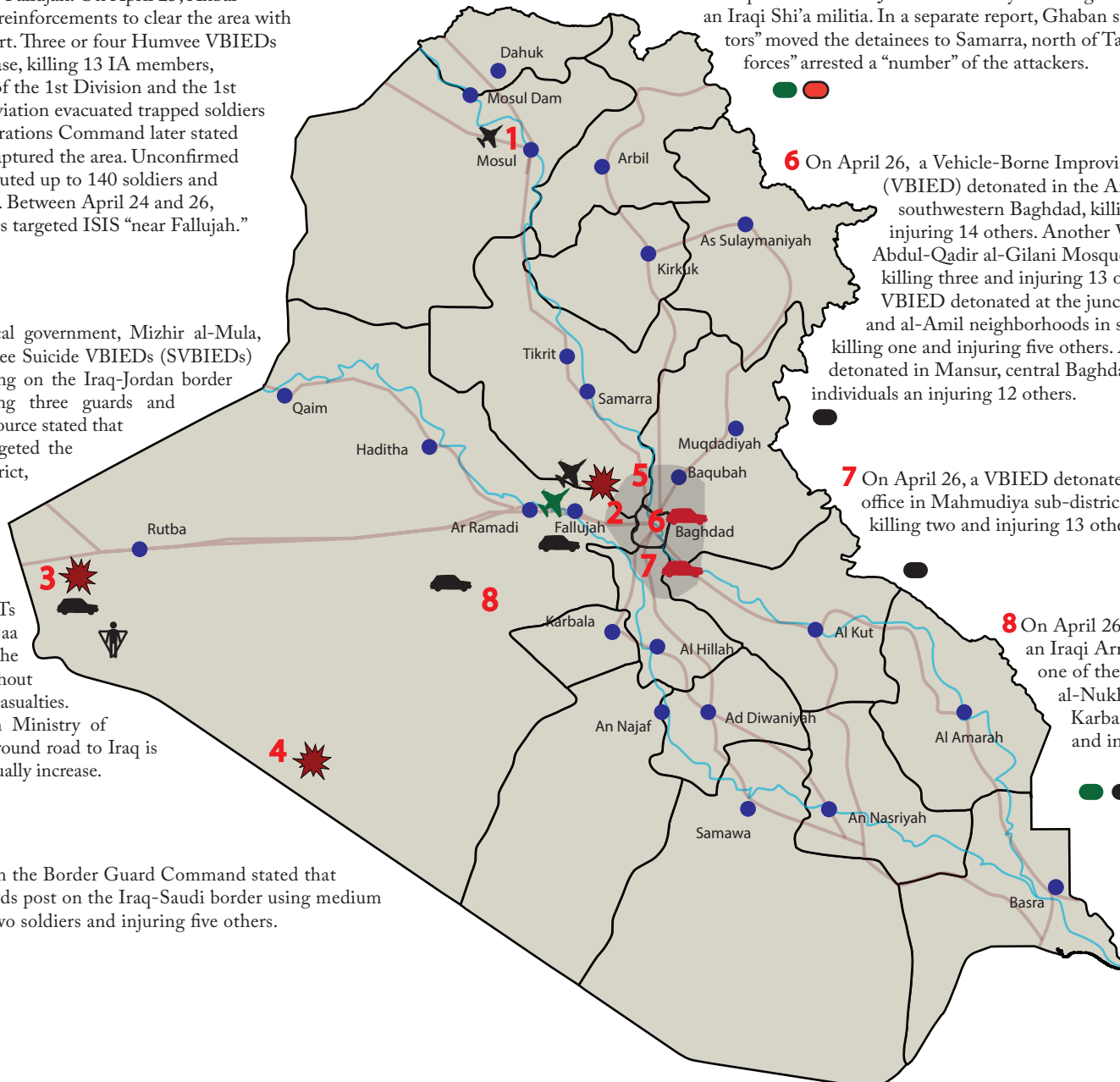
● Major Cities

✈ Coalition Airstrikes    🚒 SVEST    ● ISF    🚗 Unknown Gunmen

✈ Iraqi Airstrikes    🚗 SVBIED    🚚 Coalition    🚗 Iraqi Shi'a militias

🔥 Major Clash    🚗 VBIED    ● ISIS    🚗 Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes

Prime Minister (PM) Haidar al-Abadi and Defense Minister Khalid al-Ubaidi have come under increasing pressure over the last three days. Political opponents have launched efforts to target both figures specifically regarding the government's management of the security portfolio. This criticism was based on a recent attack by ISIS that resulted in the seizure of an IA outpost in eastern Anbar. Official reports of casualties from MoD and the PM did not exceed 13 dead, but rumors have since suggested that over 100 ISF members may have been killed. Iraqi society has become acutely sensitive to events that result in the death of besieged ISF members, especially after the killing of hundreds of ISF members besieged in Camp Speicher following the fall of Tikrit in June 2014. Therefore, reports of a massacre in Thar Thar have provided a rallying point for critics of Abadi and Ubaidi. It is unlikely that this campaign will achieve substantial results, such as the dismissal of the defense minister, but it does highlight that security is not the only challenge faced by the Abadi government.



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