

# Iraq Situation Report: April 28-29, 2015

**1** On April 29, a security source stated that ISIS launched an attack on Baiji Oil Refinery, north of Baiji, causing clashes to break out with “security forces” in the “Central Production” area. The governor of Salah al-Din stated that ISIS still controls a southeastern part of the refinery, but “security forces” hold the majority of the refinery. He added that “major” reinforcements will arrive today to the province and that a security operation will be launched to clear Baiji.

**2** On April 28, Albu Nimr tribal leader Naim al-Gaood stated that an armed group kidnapped and killed eight Albu Nimr IDPs of the same family from Anbar from their home in the Jihad area of southwestern Baghdad. Police also found two bodies with gunshot wounds to the head near a market in Amil in southwestern Baghdad. Unidentified gunmen in military uniforms also kidnapped a chief engineer in al-Mashada area, north of Baghdad.

**3** On April 28, an Anbar Operations Command (AOC) source stated that unidentified gunmen fired four mortar shells at al-Sharika neighborhood in central Ramadi, injuring acting AOC Commander Maj. Gen. Muhammad Khalaf Said al-Dulaimi and three AOC officers. On April 29, Interior Ministry (MoI) spokesperson Gen. Saad Maan stated that 1,491 IDP families returned to their homes in Anbar from Baghdad using the Bzibiz Bridge, citing the improved security situation in Ramadi. Separately, acting AOC commander Maj. Gen. al-Dulaimi stated that PM Haidar al-Abadi instructed him to integrate tribal fighters into the security forces and that the PM pledged to provide them with arms and equipment to clear areas in Anbar. Anbar Provincial Chairman Sabah al-Karhut stated that the provincial council called for PM Haidar al-Abadi to issue a special 15-day amnesty for deserters from the Iraqi army (IA) and Iraqi police (IP) to allow them to return to their positions in Anbar without consequences.

**4** On April 28, anonymous local sources in Kirkuk stated that ISIS moved armored military vehicles from Hawija district to the area between Rashad and Riyadh sub-districts, southwest of Kirkuk, in order to either target nearby security forces or break the siege on the ISIS-controlled village of Bashir, south of Kirkuk. DoD stated that two airstrikes targeted ISIS “near Hawija.”

**5** On April 28, the director of al-Qazania sub-district, southeast of Baquba, Mazn Akram stated that “security forces” in Qazania declared a state of high alert a day after a VBIED detonated in the center of the sub-district which injured two people. The director stated that the attack is the first of its kind since 2003.

**6** On April 28, a Salah al-Din security source stated that ISIS launched a “surprise attack” on Sayyid Gharib area north of Dujail district, killing two “Popular Mobilization” members and wounding three others. Reinforcements arrived after two hours and forced ISIS to retreat.

**7** On April 27, the House Armed Services Committee released a draft Defense Authorization Bill that would authorize \$715 million in aid to Iraqi forces. The bill carves out “not less than 25%” of that aid for “the direct assistance to the Kurdish Peshmerga, the Sunni tribal security forces with a national security mission, and the Iraqi Sunni National Guard.” The draft would also require that these groups “be deemed a country,” if the Secretaries of State and Defense assess that the Iraqi Government is not seeking “political inclusion” or do not submit an assessment. This categorization would allow aid to be sent directly to these groups. This report has resonated in Iraq and was perceived by some as an effort to divide the country. The office of the PM and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, both released statements expressing their support for aid received by Iraq to fight terrorism but maintained that the bill runs counter to the sovereignty of Iraq. Also, Leader of the Sadrist Trend Moqtada al-Sadr stated that if this decision is followed through then he will order the armed wing of the Trend to attack U.S. interests. Meanwhile, a statement released by the U.S. Embassy in Iraq stated that U.S. policy toward Iraq has not changed and that the proposed bill is not U.S. law and it does not reflect the position of the U.S. government.



- Major Cities
- Peshmerga
- ISF
- ✈ Coalition Airstrikes
- ⊗ Execution
- 🚗 Coalition
- 👤 Iraqi Shi'a militias
- 🔥 Major Clash
- 🚗 VBIED
- ISIS
- 👤 Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes

Content: Sinan Adnan, Patrick Martin, and Omar al-Dulimi  
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A provision in the House Armed Services Committee draft Defense Authorization Bill has generated negative reactions in Iraq. Despite the fact that the draft is not U.S. law nor represents U.S. policy, anti-U.S. leaders in Iraq such as Moqtada al-Sadr have used it to attack the U.S. Others have used the provision stipulating that Iraqi Sunni and Kurdish forces be treated “as countries,” allowing direct aid, to enforce their narrative that the U.S. has a malicious role in Iraq and claiming that the U.S. seeks to divide Iraq. Critics of the Prime Minister will likely use reporting about the draft bill to attack U.S.-Iraqi cooperation. Meanwhile, Moqtada al-Sadr’s statement is in line with his nationalist rhetoric that pushes against both the U.S. and Iranian-backed Iraqi Shi’a militias. Shortly before his statement regarding the bill, Sadr released a statement calling for the marginalization of the Iranian-backed militias and an expansion for the role of the “Popular Mobilization” into Anbar and Mosul. Sadr, while critical of cooperation with the U.S., will likely express support for the state as his political rivals increase their attacks on the Abadi government. Sadr will need to tread carefully, however, balancing his support for the state against his continued opposition to the U.S. role in Iraq.