

# Iraq Situation Report: May 19-20, 2015

**1** On May 19, a Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS) commander stated that CTS forces were “one kilometer” away from the Baiji Oil Refinery, northeast of Baiji district. On May 20, ISIS announced the death of Saddam Hussein’s nephew, Ibrahim Sabawi al-Hasan, during clashes on the “outskirts of Baiji”. The Baath Party’s Dhi Qar website confirmed his death. DoD stated that between May 18 and May 20, nine airstrikes targeted ISIS “near Baiji”.

**2** On May 18, a DoD spokesman stated that the strategy to defeat ISIS is working and that Ramadi would be taken with ISF and U.S.-led Coalition airpower. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) stated that 25,000 people fled Ramadi, but that UN agencies are running out of supplies and funds to support them. On May 19, MoD stated that it evacuated soldiers from Malab area in southeastern Ramadi and a DoD spokesman stated that Iraqi soldiers had abandoned “half a dozen” tanks and artillery pieces, a larger number of armored personnel carriers, and “about 100” Humvees in Ramadi. On May 19 the Anbar provincial council chairman stated that the ISF controlled “30 percent” of Ramadi, including Malab and Sijariya and Sufiya areas east of Ramadi. On May 20, the MoD stated that IA Aviation transported reinforcements to military units in Ramadi. DoD also stated that between May 18 and May 19, 12 airstrikes targeted ISIS “near Ramadi” with no airstrikes reported in the area on May 20.

**3** On May 18, an Anbar council member stated that the Habaniya military base, east of Ramadi, would be the “foundation” for supporting security forces reorganizing in Khalidiya, east of Ramadi, to recapture Ramadi. A local tribal leader stated that ISIS captured Jawiba area and attacked Husayba, east of Ramadi but the ISF and tribal fighters in Habaniya repelled the attack. On May 19, the Anbar provincial council stated that “3,000” Shi’a militia members were in Habaniya, and state television stated that “75,000” had prepared for the Ramadi operation. The Anbar police chief called on “all individuals” who withdrew from Ramadi to join the Habaniya police to recapture Husayba, Madiq, Felahat, and “other areas” east of Ramadi. A Federal Police (FP) media official stated that ISIS attacked defensive positions in Sijariya, but the FP foiled the attack. MoD stated that a force from the 8th Division and Iraqi airstrikes destroyed a bridge ISIS built between Mlahima and Saqlawiyah areas, north of Habaniya.

**4** On May 20, MoD stated that rapid reaction forces and Salah al-Din Operations Command (SDOC) commandos cleared “vital parts” of Tel Abu Jarad, west of Baiji, and opened “the oil road”. The MoD statement also reported that Iraqi Special Operations Forces (ISOF) and the “Popular Mobilization” seized vital points in Tel Abu Jarad. DoD stated that between May 18 and May 20, nine airstrikes targeted ISIS “near Baiji”.

**5** On May 20, the Jazeera and Badia Operations Command (JBOC) confirmed that the ISF recaptured Jubba village, north of al-Baghdadi sub-district and northeast of al-Asad Airbase. An anonymous security source stated that Albu Mahal and Albu Obeid tribal fighters augmented the ISF.

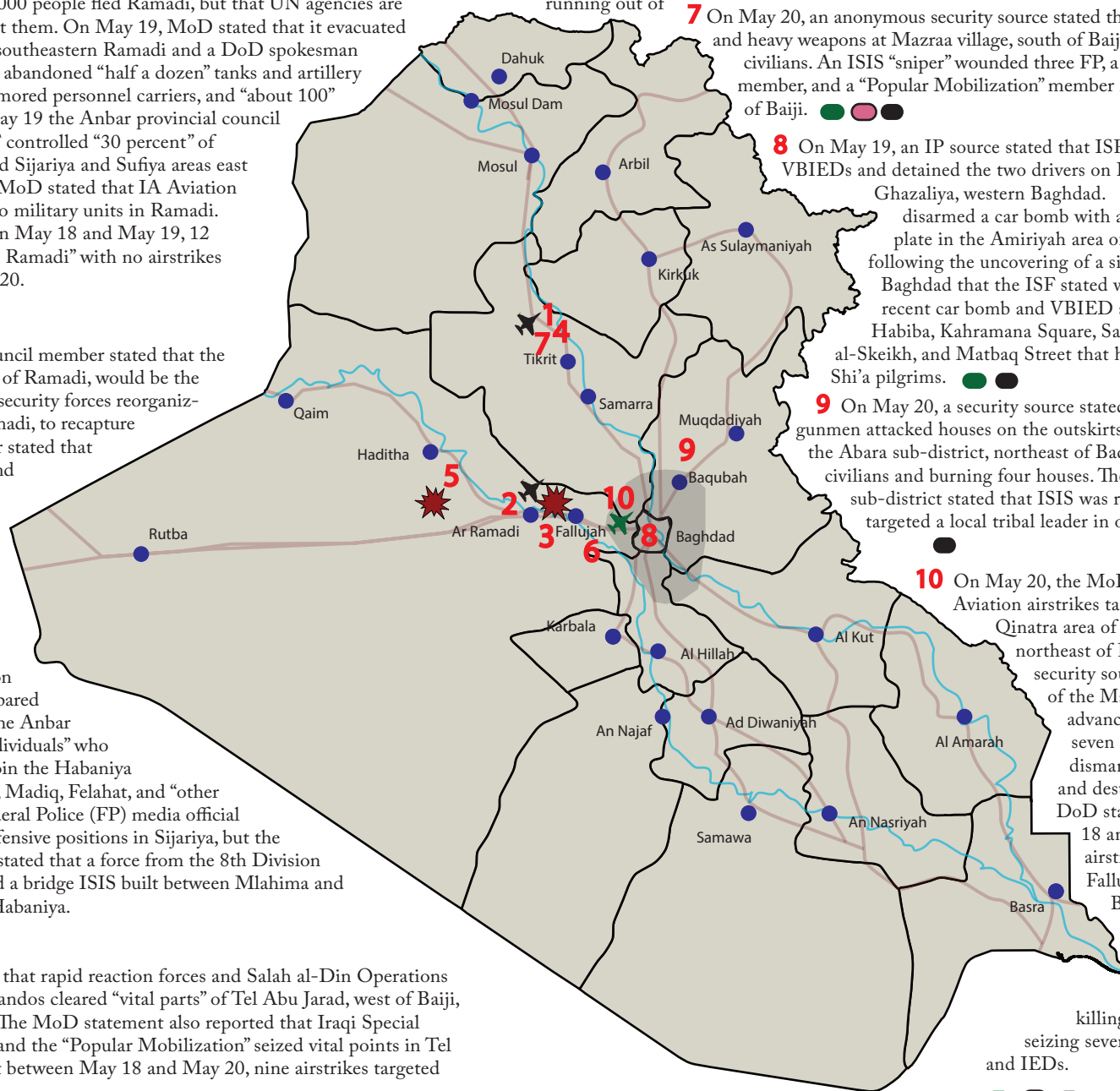
**6** On May 19, the MoD stated that a force from the 8th Division attacked ISIS members near Amiriyat al-Fallujah sub-district, southeast of Fallujah, killing 14 ISIS members and destroying a rocket launching platform.

**7** On May 20, an anonymous security source stated that ISIS fired mortars and heavy weapons at Mazraa village, south of Baiji, wounding eight civilians. An ISIS “sniper” wounded three FP, a local Iraqi police (IP) member, and a “Popular Mobilization” member in Malha village, south of Baiji.

**8** On May 19, an IP source stated that ISF dismantled two VBIEDs and detained the two drivers on Basra Street in Ghazaliya, western Baghdad. On May 20, the ISF disarmed a car bomb with a Sulaimaniya license plate in the Amiriyah area of western Baghdad following the uncovering of a six-man ISIS cell in Baghdad that the ISF stated was responsible for recent car bomb and VBIED attacks in Karrada, Habiba, Kahramana Square, Sadoun Street, Bab al-Skeikh, and Matbaq Street that had targeted and killed Shi’a pilgrims.

**9** On May 20, a security source stated that unidentified gunmen attacked houses on the outskirts of Zaghnia village, near the Abara sub-district, northeast of Baquba, killing two civilians and burning four houses. The director of Abara sub-district stated that ISIS was responsible and had targeted a local tribal leader in order to create “sedition”.

**10** On May 20, the MoD stated that IA Aviation airstrikes targeted ISIS in the Qinatra area of Garma sub-district, northeast of Fallujah. An anonymous security source stated that “Forces of the Martyr al-Sadr” made advances in Garma, killing seven ISIS members, dismantling a tanker VBIED, and destroying weapons caches. DoD stated that between May 18 and May 20, five airstrikes targeted ISIS “near Fallujah”. On May 20 the Baghdad Operations Command (BOC) also reported ISF advances in and around Garma, reportedly killing 27 ISIS fighters and seizing several House Borne IEDs and IEDs.



- Major Cities
- ✈ Airstrikes
- ✳ Major Clash
- ✈ Airstrikes
- ✈ Iraqi Airstrikes
- ✈ Coalition
- ✈ Iraqi Shi’a militias
- ISF
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- ISIS

Content: Jessica Lewis McFate, Theodore Bell, and Patrick Martin  
Graphics: Evan Sterling



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ISIS is consolidating control over Ramadi and launched attacks to the east in an effort to preempt counterattacks by the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and “Popular Mobilization” staging at the Habaniya base. The ISF maintains control over Ramadi’s eastern suburbs, and ISF reinforcements and thousands of Popular Mobilization fighters have arrived in Habaniya and Khalidiya, east of Ramadi. On May 20 the ISF, reportedly with Sunni tribal fighters, recaptured Jubba, northeast of al-Asad Airbase. The strengthening of ISF positions in Habaniya and near al-Asad Airbase is critical to maintaining the ISF’s forward positions in Anbar and to Iraq’s overall effort to reclaim the province. The ISF and Popular Mobilization are also emphasizing attacks upon ISIS positions east of Fallujah, speaking to the high value placed on the Baghdad belts and the defense of the capital in response to Ramadi’s fall. In Baiji, ISF and Popular Mobilization forces advanced north toward the refinery, indicating that the ISF will not abandon its northernmost position in order to mass for operations in Anbar. Meanwhile ISIS continues to demonstrate its ability to operate in Diyala province, a threat stream that is likely to increase after the recent prison break in Khalis.