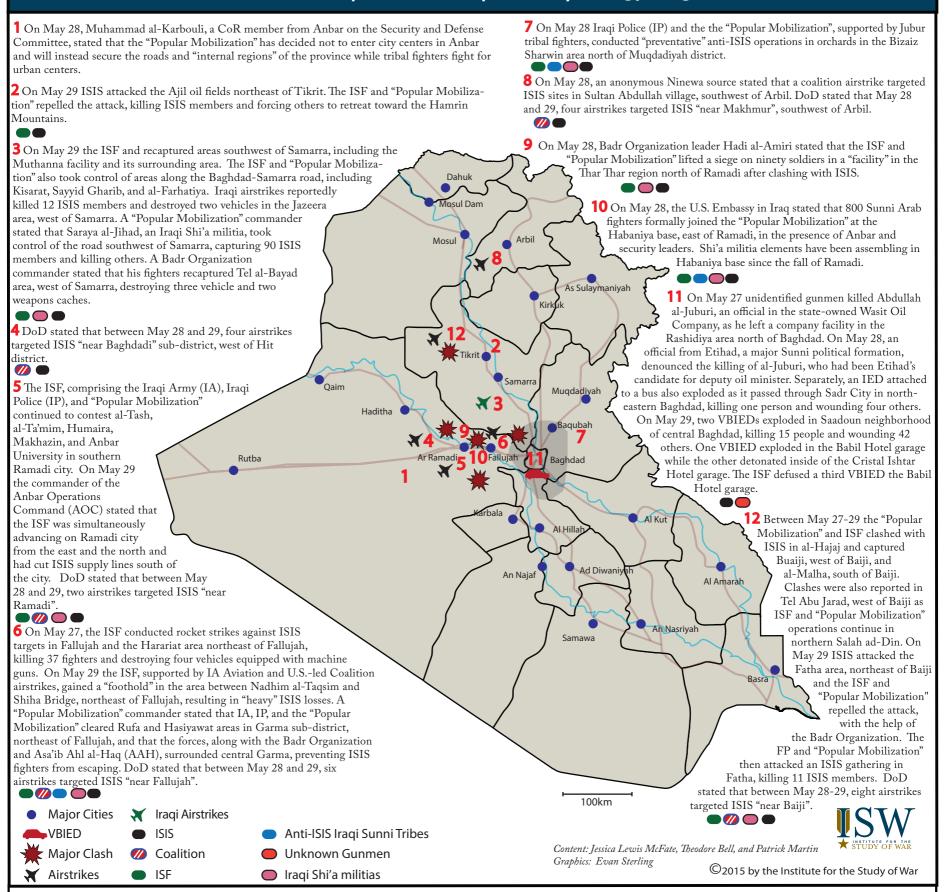
## Iraq Situation Report: May 28-29, 2015



The Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and the "Popular Mobilization" are on the counter-offensive across Salah ad-Din and Anbar provinces. In Ramadi, Iraqi officials have stated that the ISF and "Popular Mobilization" have surrounded the city and cut ISIS supply lines while continuing to advance northward into the city's southern neighborhoods from ISF-held territory east and possibly west of Ramadi city. The "Popular Mobilization," including Iranian-backed lethal militias Asa'aib Ahl al-Haq (AAH) and the Badr Organization, has similarly claimed to have surrounded Garma, northeast of Fallujah, where the ISF and these forces have long sought to halt an ISIS advance on Baghdad. The ISF and the "Popular Mobilization" have also retaken ground from ISIS south and southwest in Samarra, in line with the stated goal of "Operation Labaik ya Iraq" ("We are here for you, Iraq") to push south from Salah ad-Din to Ramadi city. The "Popular Mobilization," long concerned with protecting Baghdad and major Shi'a sites north and south of the capital, seeks to establish a protective ring around Baghdad as its forces and the ISF push south and west from Samarra and north and east from Fallujah. ISIS has responded to the counteroffensive by launching a series of VBIED attacks in the predominantly Shi'a provinces south of Baghdad and an IED in Sadr City. U.S.-led Coalition airstrikes have supported efforts in the vicinity of Fallujah, Baiji, and Mosul, despite the fact that "Popular Mobilization" elements, including the Badr Organization, are active in these vicinities. Meanwhile, eight hundred Sunni tribal fighters graduated from training at Habaniya base, showing that some Iraqi Sunni are entering the fight.