

# Iraq Situation Report: May 28-29, 2015

**1** On May 28, Muhammad al-Karbouli, a CoR member from Anbar on the Security and Defense Committee, stated that the "Popular Mobilization" has decided not to enter city centers in Anbar and will instead secure the roads and "internal regions" of the province while tribal fighters fight for urban centers.

**2** On May 29 ISIS attacked the Ajil oil fields northeast of Tikrit. The ISF and "Popular Mobilization" repelled the attack, killing ISIS members and forcing others to retreat toward the Hamrin Mountains.

**3** On May 29 the ISF and recaptured areas southwest of Samarra, including the Muthanna facility and its surrounding area. The ISF and "Popular Mobilization" also took control of areas along the Baghdad-Samarra road, including Kisarat, Sayyid Gharib, and al-Farhatiya. Iraqi airstrikes reportedly killed 12 ISIS members and destroyed two vehicles in the Jazeera area, west of Samarra. A "Popular Mobilization" commander stated that Saraya al-Jihad, an Iraqi Shi'a militia, took control of the road southwest of Samarra, capturing 90 ISIS members and killing others. A Badr Organization commander stated that his fighters recaptured Tel al-Bayad area, west of Samarra, destroying three vehicle and two weapons caches.

**4** DoD stated that between May 28 and 29, four airstrikes targeted ISIS "near Baghdad" sub-district, west of Hit district.

**5** The ISF, comprising the Iraqi Army (IA), Iraqi Police (IP), and "Popular Mobilization" continued to contest al-Tash, al-Ta'mim, Humaira, Makhazin, and Anbar University in southern Ramadi city. On May 29 the commander of the Anbar Operations Command (AOC) stated that the ISF was simultaneously advancing on Ramadi city from the east and the north and had cut ISIS supply lines south of the city. DoD stated that between May 28 and 29, two airstrikes targeted ISIS "near Ramadi".

**6** On May 27, the ISF conducted rocket strikes against ISIS targets in Fallujah and the Harariat area northeast of Fallujah, killing 37 fighters and destroying four vehicles equipped with machine guns. On May 29 the ISF, supported by IA Aviation and U.S.-led Coalition airstrikes, gained a "foothold" in the area between Nadhim al-Taqsim and Shiha Bridge, northeast of Fallujah, resulting in "heavy" ISIS losses. A "Popular Mobilization" commander stated that IA, IP, and the "Popular Mobilization" cleared Rufa and Hasiyat areas in Garma sub-district, northeast of Fallujah, and that the forces, along with the Badr Organization and Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq (AAH), surrounded central Garma, preventing ISIS fighters from escaping. DoD stated that between May 28 and 29, six airstrikes targeted ISIS "near Fallujah".

**7** On May 28 Iraqi Police (IP) and the the "Popular Mobilization", supported by Jubur tribal fighters, conducted "preventative" anti-ISIS operations in orchards in the Bizaiz Sharwin area north of Muqdadiyah district.

**8** On May 28, an anonymous Ninewa source stated that a coalition airstrike targeted ISIS sites in Sultan Abdullah village, southwest of Arbil. DoD stated that May 28 and 29, four airstrikes targeted ISIS "near Makhmur", southwest of Arbil.

**9** On May 28, Badr Organization leader Hadi al-Amiri stated that the ISF and "Popular Mobilization" lifted a siege on ninety soldiers in a "facility" in the Thar Thar region north of Ramadi after clashing with ISIS.

**10** On May 28, the U.S. Embassy in Iraq stated that 800 Sunni Arab fighters formally joined the "Popular Mobilization" at the Habaniya base, east of Ramadi, in the presence of Anbar and security leaders. Shi'a militia elements have been assembling in Habaniya base since the fall of Ramadi.

**11** On May 27 unidentified gunmen killed Abdullah al-Juburi, an official in the state-owned Wasit Oil Company, as he left a company facility in the Rashidiya area north of Baghdad. On May 28, an official from Etihad, a major Sunni political formation, denounced the killing of al-Juburi, who had been Etihad's candidate for deputy oil minister. Separately, an IED attached to a bus also exploded as it passed through Sadr City in north-eastern Baghdad, killing one person and wounding four others. On May 29, two VBIEDs exploded in Saadoun neighborhood of central Baghdad, killing 15 people and wounding 42 others. One VBIED exploded in the Babil Hotel garage while the other detonated inside of the Cristal Ishtar Hotel garage. The ISF defused a third VBIED the Babil Hotel garage.

**12** Between May 27-29 the "Popular Mobilization" and ISF clashed with ISIS in al-Hajaj and captured Buaiji, west of Baiji, and al-Malha, south of Baiji. Clashes were also reported in Tel Abu Jarad, west of Baiji as ISF and "Popular Mobilization" operations continue in northern Salah ad-Din. On May 29 ISIS attacked the Fatha area, northeast of Baiji and the ISF and "Popular Mobilization" repelled the attack, with the help of the Badr Organization. The FP and "Popular Mobilization" then attacked an ISIS gathering in Fatha, killing 11 ISIS members. DoD stated that between May 28-29, eight airstrikes targeted ISIS "near Baiji".



- Major Cities
- ✈️ Iraqi Airstrikes
- 🚗 VBIED
- ⬛ ISIS
- 🌪️ Major Clash
- 🛩️ Coalition
- ✈️ Airstrikes
- 🟢 ISF
- 🟡 Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- 🔴 Unknown Gunmen
- 🟠 Iraqi Shi'a militias

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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'ib 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.