

# Iraq Situation Report: May 30 - June 01, 2015

**1** On May 30, the ISF reportedly had cleared the areas surrounding Baiji Oil Refinery and Iraqi Special Operations Forces (ISOF) and the “Popular Mobilization” cleared the “600 area” and the “Albu Juwari road” adjacent to the Baiji refinery. ● ● ●

**2** On June 1 an Iraqi airstrike on an ISIS convoy in al-Jidam area near al-Qa'im killed 14 ISIS members and destroyed four vehicles, including “a large bus,” reportedly transporting ISIS foreign fighters from Syria to Iraq. ● ●

**3** On May 30, anonymous Ninewa witnesses stated that Coalition airstrikes destroyed ISIS weapons and equipment caches in Kanhash village of Gwer sub-district, west of Arbil. Four U.S.-led coalition airstrikes targeted ISIS near Mosul on May 30 and May 31. ● ● ●

**4** On May 30 “elite” Federal Police (FP) forces and “Popular Mobilization” fighters attacked Baiji district and cleared the Khozaimi and Nakhwa areas, “an oil line” west of Baiji, and captured Buaiji village south of the city. ISIS fighters reportedly fled Baiji. On May 31, the “Popular Mobilization” shelled an ISIS convoy of “nearly 50” vehicles, including VBIEDs, as it tried to target the ISF, east of al-Siniya sub-district, west of Baiji. The ISF and “Popular Mobilization” also cleared al-Siniya sub-district and Tel Abu Jarad, west of Baiji. Two U.S. airstrikes targeted ISIS positions “near Baiji” on May 30 and May 31. On June 1 the ISF “surrounded” ISIS in Baiji from the west, south, and east but IEDs impeded their advance in the city. Meanwhile an Iraqi Army (IA) Aviation airstrike killed 35 ISIS fighters in Baiji. ● ● ● ● ●

**5** On May 31, ISIS attacked a IA 1st Rapid Intervention Division (RID) base in Nadhim Thar Thar, north of Fallujah. The 1st RID repelled the attack, killing 13 ISIS fighters and destroying five SVBIEDs using Russian Kornet rockets. ● ●

**6** On May 29 “major military reinforcements” and food supplies arrived at al-Asad Airbase, west of Hit district. On May 31, the Baghdadi police director stated that ISIS attacked the housing complex in Baghdadi with three “rockets carrying chlorine gas” but the Ministry of Defense (MoD) disputed the report and stated that ISIS attacked with mortars. DoD stated on May 30 and May 31 three airstrikes targeted ISIS “near Baghdadi.” ● ● ● ●

**7** On May 30, the Popular Mobilization Commission (PMC) stated that the ISF had freed 170 soldiers who had been besieged in the Muthanna chemical facility for three months. On June 1 the FP stated that ISIS attacked the Muthanna chemical facility but the FP repelled the attack, destroying four SVBIEDs and killing ten ISIS members. An ISIS tank VBIED reportedly detonated at the Muthanna chemical facility, killing 38 IA, FP, and “Popular Mobilization” members including the 3rd FP Battalion commander and wounding 46 others, including the 9th FP Brigade commander. The attack involved three armored HMMVW SVBIEDs and killed 37, including “several senior officers” and wounded 33. The exact casualty count is unclear. ● ● ●

**8** On May 28, an Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) commander Jassem Nouri was killed fighting ISIS “near Ramadi.” On May 30 the ISF had initiated operations to seal off Ramadi from the west, encompassing Traffic Directorate Building, Anbar University, and “the 5km Area”. The Anbar Police Directorate formed six “emergency battalions” at the Habaniya base, east of Ramadi, each reportedly consisting of 400 Ramadi IP members. These forces will secure territory in Ramadi after it is recaptured. On May 30, FP and “Popular Mobilization” forces, armored vehicles, and tanks, arrived on the eastern outskirts of Ramadi. The IA, Iraqi Police (IP), and “Popular Mobilization” also cleared the Anbar Traffic Directorate building and the “7km Area”, west of Ramadi. On June 1 the elite Golden Division (GD) attacked ISIS positions in al-Mukhazin area of Anbar University, killing four ISIS members wearing SVESTs. UNHCR stated that 85,000 people had fled Ramadi since it fell to ISIS and that 180,000 total had been displaced from Ramadi since April. Three U.S.-led coalition airstrikes targeted ISIS “near Ramadi on May 30 and May 31.” ● ● ● ● ●

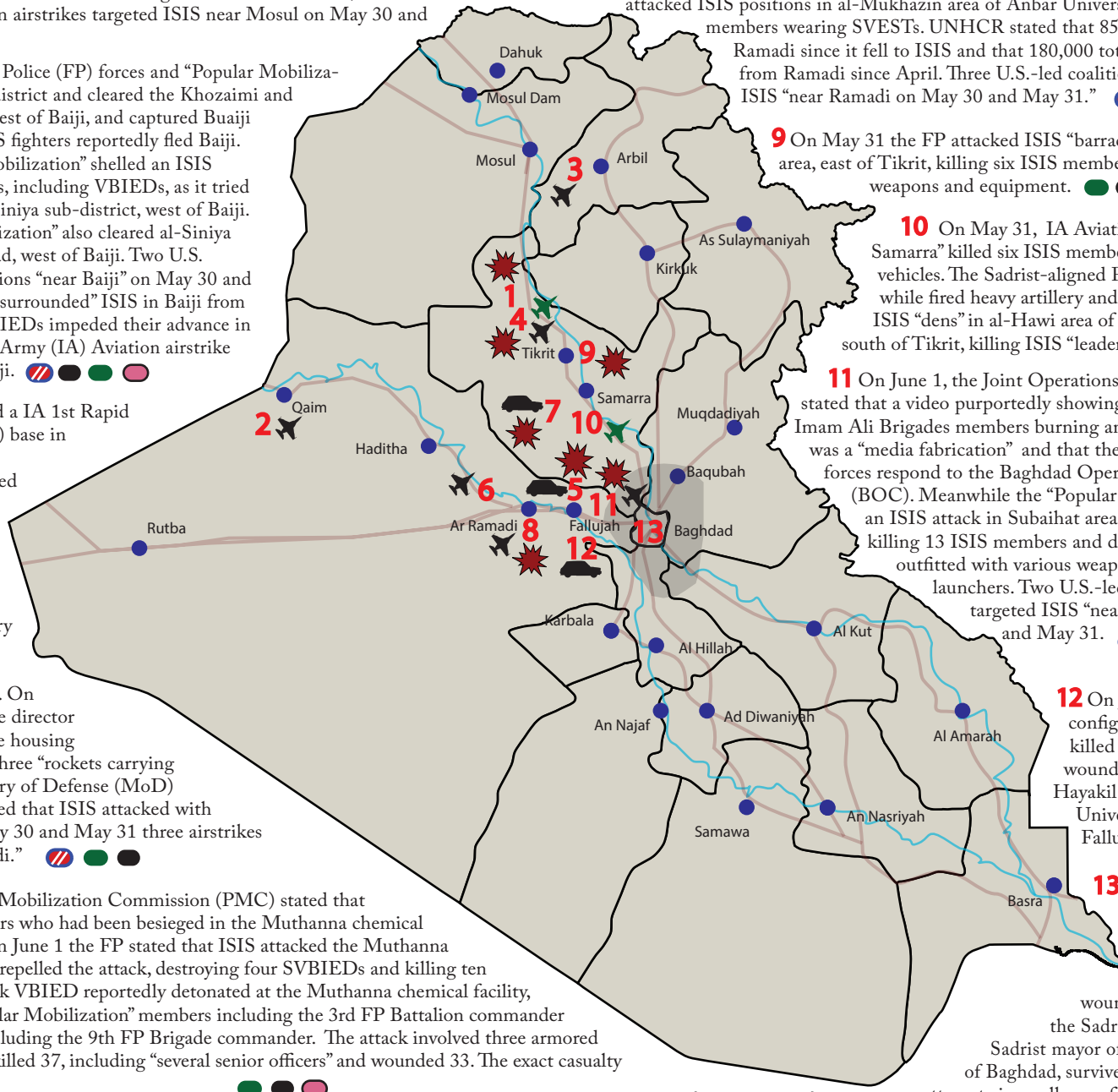
**9** On May 31 the FP attacked ISIS “barracks” in the Ajil oil field area, east of Tikrit, killing six ISIS members and capturing weapons and equipment. ● ●

**10** On May 31, IA Aviation airstrikes “south of Samarra” killed six ISIS members and destroyed two vehicles. The Sadrist-aligned Peace Brigades meanwhile fired heavy artillery and Katyusha rockets at ISIS “dens” in al-Hawi area of Ishaqi sub-district, south of Tikrit, killing ISIS “leaders”. ● ● ● ●

**11** On June 1, the Joint Operations Command (JOC) stated that a video purportedly showing lethal, Iranian backed Imam Ali Brigades members burning an Anbari civilian alive was a “media fabrication” and that the “Popular Mobilization” forces respond to the Baghdad Operations Command (BOC). Meanwhile the “Popular Mobilization” repelled an ISIS attack in Subaihat area of Garma sub-district, killing 13 ISIS members and destroying four vehicles outfitted with various weapons, including rocket launchers. Two U.S.-led Coalition airstrikes targeted ISIS “near Fallujah” on May 30 and May 31. ● ● ● ● ●

**12** On June 1, a HMMVW configured as an SVBIED killed four FP members and wounded seven others in the Hayakil area of Fallujah University, southeast of Fallujah. ● ●

**13** On May 30 two mortars landed on in the Doura area of southern Baghdad, killing one and wounding three. On May 31 the Sadrist Trend stated the Sadrist mayor of Husseinia area, north of Baghdad, survived an assassination attempt via small arms fire. ●



- Major Cities
- ✈️ Iraqi Airstrikes
- 🚗 SVBIED
- ISIS
- 🔥 Major Clash
- 🚁 Coalition
- 🚁 Unknown Gunmen
- ✈️ Airstrikes
- ISF
- Iraqi Shi'a militias
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes

Content: Theodore Bell and Patrick Martin  
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ISIS has launched major attacks against the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) in the Thar Thar region, north of Fallujah and southwest of Samarra, in an effort to maintain freedom of maneuver and protect Ramadi's northern flank. The Thar Thar region is a long-established ISIS control zone that permits the group to move fighters and equipment on north-south as well as east-west axes, proximate to Baghdad. The region was similarly crucial to ISIS's predecessor, Al-Qa'ida in Iraq (AQI). On May 26 the Popular Mobilization Commission announced “Operation Labaik ya Hussein” (later changed to “Labayk ya Iraq”, or, “We Are Here for You, Iraq”) to clear northern and western Salah ad-Din and southwest of Tikrit, extending to northeastern Ramadi. These forces are attempting to regain terrain in the vicinity of Baiji city and its surrounding areas. Since May 26 the ISF and “Popular Mobilization” forces, including Iranian-backed Iraqi Shi'a militias, have advanced southwest of Samarra toward the Thar Thar region. This offensive aims to challenge ISIS's freedom of maneuver northwest and north of Baghdad and disrupt its access to Diyala province, which ISIS has challenged with spectacular attacks. In an interview with the UK Telegraph, Hadi al-Ameri, the Iraqi commander of the Iranian-backed Badr Organization, stated that the protection of Baghdad was a greater priority than retaking Ramadi. ISIS activity in the Thar Thar region, including in the Muthanna area, should be understood in the context of this counter-offensive.