

# Iraq Situation Report: June 2 - 3, 2015

**1** On June 3, the commander of the Salah al-Din Operations Command (SDOC) denied media reports that four SVBIEDs in Baiji killed and wounded “dozens” of Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and “Popular Mobilization” members on June 1, acknowledging that only three “Popular Mobilization” fighters had been wounded. The ISF and “Popular Mobilization” cleared al-Askari neighborhood in central Baiji and engaged ISIS in al-Sinai neighborhood in southern Baiji, killing 30 ISIS members and detonating three VBIEDs before they reached their targets. U.S. CENTCOM stated five airstrikes targeted ISIS “near Baiji” on June 2 and 3.



**2** On June 3, a “Popular Mobilization” commander stated that his group killed seven ISIS members and captured one other in Jubba sub-district north of al-Baghdadi, adjacent to al-Asad Airbase, capturing weapons and equipment.



**3** On June 2, ISIS closed the Warrar Dam in northern Ramadi, causing the Euphrates River to dry up west of Habaniya, Khalidiya, Jazeera Abu Hazim, and Madiq. The water has been redirected toward Lake Thar Thar, north of Ramadi, and into canals that have been unused for “years.” An Anbar provincial council member called for the ISF to expedite recapturing Ramadi and the dam and warned of the “fall” of Khalidiya and Habaniya areas. ISIS fired mortar shells at Habaniya, and several shells landed in the Habaniya base with no reported casualties. On June 3, the Abu Nimr tribal leader stated that ISIS was “mobilizing” to attack Khalidiya, taking advantage of the dry river bed. U.S. CENTCOM stated that three airstrikes targeted ISIS “near Ramadi” on June 3.



**4** On June 3 forces from the Iraqi Army (IA) 8th Division, the “Popular Mobilization”, and a commando brigade from the IA 14th Division conducted operations in Husayba, al-Yatami, and Albu Sarun orchards area east of Ramadi, killing four ISIS members and destroying a VBIED and a rocket launch site.



**5** On June 2 there were unconfirmed reports that ISIS closed the Fallujah Dam, south of Fallujah, and erected concrete barriers taken from government departments and the police directorate on the dam to protect it from airstrikes. U.S. CENTCOM stated that two airstrikes targeted ISIS “near Fallujah” on June 3 and 4.



**6** On June 3, an IED detonated near the Martyr Ali Mais station at the Trebil border crossing with Jordan, killing two Iraqi Police (IP officers) and wounding one.



**7** On June 3 “heavy” U.S.-led Coalition bombing reportedly targeted ISIS positions and checkpoints in al-Khan and Hussein al-Sultan areas and al-Masna and Shamlan villages, north of Hawija district, killing “tens” of ISIS members, including the ISIS Hawija “police chief.” U.S. CENTCOM stated that two airstrikes targeted ISIS “near” Hawija between June 2 and 3.



**8** Badr Organization leader Hadi al-Ameri and Interior Minister Muhammad al-Ghabban visited the Muthanna facility, southwest of Samarra, which was recaptured by the ISF and “Popular Mobilization” on May 31.



**9** On June 2, the Iranian-backed Iraqi Shi'a militia Nujaba Movement (NM) stated that it destroyed an ISIS boat IED as it attempted to target the Samarra Dam, west of Samarra city. On June 3 the commander of the Samarra Operations Command (SOC) announced a joint operation comprising the IA, FP, and “Popular Mobilization” to retake the Jazeera area west of Samarra. On June 3, IA artillery shelled an ISIS “stronghold” in the Jazeera area west of Samarra, destroying ISIS facilities and vehicles. Meanwhile the Federal Police (FP) launched a “surprise attack” on ISIS west of Samarra from the axes of Watban Street and al-Layn areas, killing “nearly 50” ISIS fighters and destroying four vehicles. ISF forces under the SOC also destroyed “several” boat VBIEDs on the Thar Thar River, southwest of Samarra. The NM also claimed to have killed “50” ISIS fighters and destroyed three SVBIEDs using Kornet rockets near the brick factory in the area, likely claiming credit for the same activities. The NM meanwhile claimed to have cleared 90% of the Khat al-Layn area, west of Samarra, killing 34 ISIS fighters.

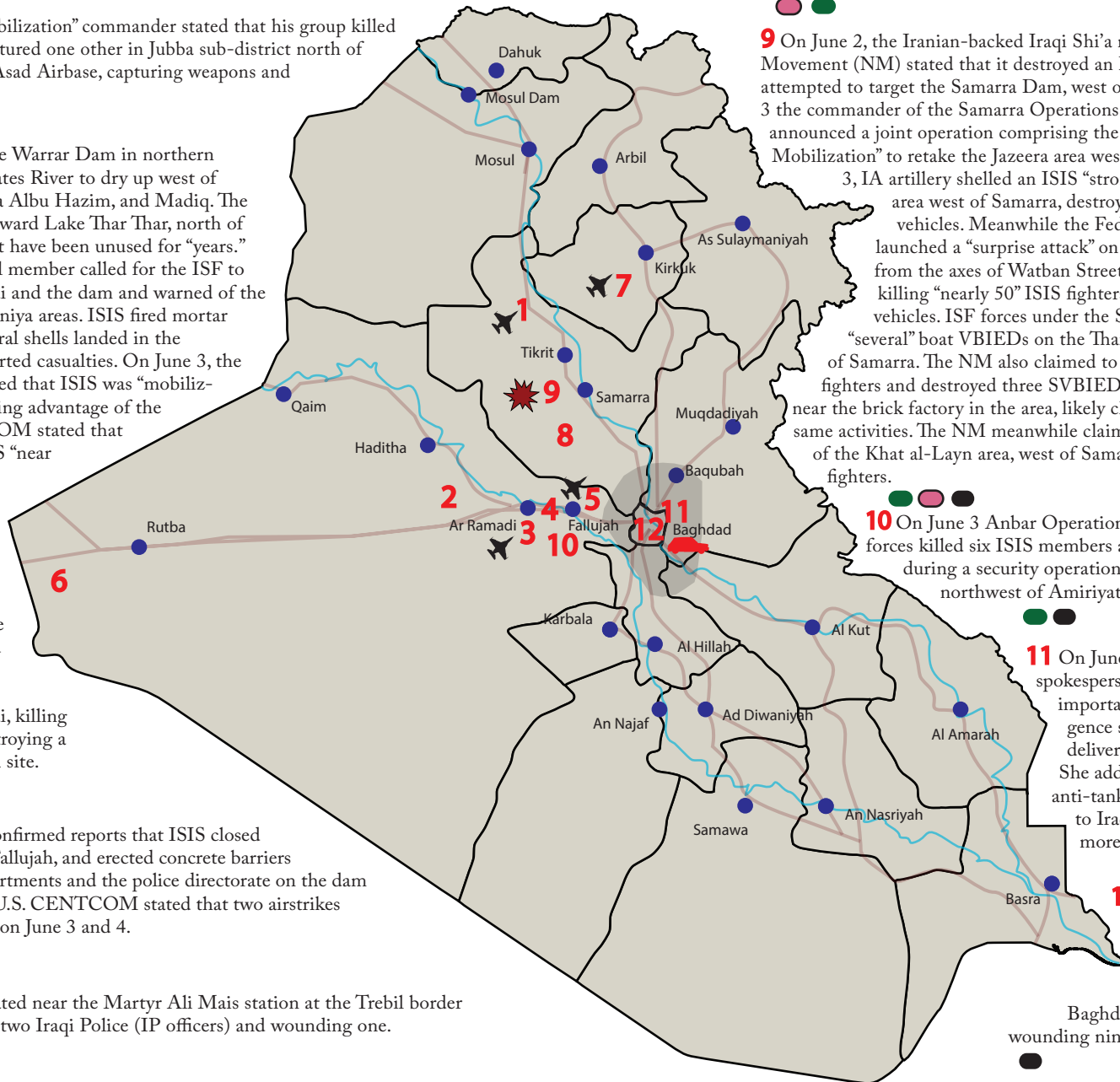


**10** On June 3 Anbar Operations Command (AOC) forces killed six ISIS members and wounded 13 others during a security operation in al-Fahilat village, northwest of Amiriyat al-Fallujah.



**11** On June 2, a State Department spokesperson stated that it was important to increase intelligence sharing and accelerate delivery of assistance to Iraq. She added that 1,000 AT4 anti-tank weapons were delivered to Iraq on May 30 and that more deliveries would occur.

**12** On June 2, a VBIED detonated near a popular restaurant on Palestine Street in eastern Baghdad, killing three and wounding nine.



- Major Cities
- ✈ Airstrikes
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- VBIED
- ▨ Coalition
- ISIS
- ★ Major Clash
- ISF
- Iraqi Shi'a militias

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ISIS is once again attempting to leverage Iraqi dams to force operational recalculations on the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). On June 2 ISIS closed the Warrar Dam, north of Ramadi, threatening water supplies to Khalidiya and Habaniya, east of Ramadi, where the ISF and “Popular Mobilization” have staged counter-offensives since the fall of Ramadi on May 18. Unconfirmed reports state that ISIS has also closed the Fallujah Dam, south of Fallujah. ISIS’s closure of the Fallujah Dam in April 2014 caused flooding in Fallujah and Abu Ghraib and mass displacement of Fallujah residents. The flooding in 2014 also limited ISF mobility in the area and forced the ISF to redeploy. The ISF and “Popular Mobilization” have continued to contest the eastern and southern suburbs of Ramadi over the past week and current ISIS manipulation of water flow eastward to Baghdad likely seeks to disrupt ISF operations in Ramadi. Alternatively, ISIS may be draining the Euphrates riverbed so that it can easily deploy reinforcements from northern Ramadi city to the south to meet the ISF and “Popular Mobilization” offensive. ISIS may also yet seek to cause a humanitarian crisis among the 85,000 Ramadi residents displaced eastward since the fall of Ramadi. On June 2 the Iranian-backed Iraqi Shi'a militia the Nujaba Movement (NM) reportedly destroyed an ISIS boat-borne IED as it approached Samarra Dam on the Tigris, west of Samarra city. NM is also operating alongside, although unlikely under, the Samarra Operations Command in the Jazeera, west of Samarra. This interaction mirrors Iraqi Shi'a militia operations elsewhere in Iraq, including in Baiji, where ISF commanders announce joint operations with the “Popular Mobilization” and the militias act as ISF force multipliers, yet remain outside of formal ISF command and control. ISIS leveraging of Iraqi dams threaten Baghdad and majority Shi'a southern Iraq. This threat to Baghdad comes as the “Popular Mobilization”, with the ISF, is fighting to secure a protective ring around the north and west of the capital as part of the “Labayk ya Iraq” (“We Are Here for You, Iraq”) operation.