

# Iraq Situation Report: June 9 - 10, 2015

**1** On June 8, anonymous witnesses stated that ISIS destroyed the police station in the Bab al-Jadid area of central Mosul and the police directorate building in the Thaqafiya area of northern Mosul using bulldozers. A medical source also stated that the ISIS Sharia court executed 25 people, mostly police officers, with gunshots to the head. Between June 8 and 10, DoD stated that nine airstrikes targeted ISIS "near Mosul."

**2** On June 9, Iraqi Army (IA) and Iraqi Police (IP) forces, with U.S.-led Coalition "air support", destroyed three VBIEDs near al-Khasfa village, west of Haditha. Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) operations in "al-Knaz" and "al-Anaz" in the "vicinity" of Haditha and Baghdadi sub-district also killed 26 ISIS members.

**3** On June 8, the Jazeera and Badia Operations Command (JBOC) commander stated that JBOC forces conducted an operation in Baghdadi sub-district, west of Hit district, killing 15 ISIS members and destroying four vehicles. On June 9, Iraqi warplanes reportedly struck "a number" of ISIS positions in Dulab area, northeast of Baghdadi. Between June 8 and 10, DoD stated that three airstrikes targeted ISIS "near Baghdadi."

**4** On June 9, the FP 3rd Commando Brigade repelled an ISIS attack in eastern Husayba, killing six ISIS members and seizing weapons, including "armor-piercing rockets". On June 10, the FP 2nd Commando Brigade erected a "trap network" east of Ramadi, killing nine ISIS members and destroying a motorcycle VBIED. Interior Minister Muhammad al-Ghabban later visited Habaniya base, east of Ramadi, to inspect recently-formed police battalions.

**5** On June 10, an Iraqi airstrike destroyed ISIS vehicles near the Yabani Bridge, northwest of Fallujah.

**6** On June 8, FP commandos clashed with ISIS in Garma sub-district, northeast of Fallujah, killing four ISIS members. On June 9, the Military Intelligence Directorate claimed to strike ISIS "dens" in Fallujah and the Harariat area, east of Fallujah, with rockets, killing 22 ISIS members. On June 10, an Iraqi airstrike targeted ISIS near the Shiha Bridge, north of Garma. The "Popular Mobilization" also reportedly raided an ISIS camp in Hamra area north of Garma, capturing three ISIS members, vehicles, weapons, and explosives.

**7** On June 9 three ISIS fighters disguised in Iraqi military uniforms and wearing Suicide Vests (SVESTs) attacked the Amiriyyat al-Fallujah council building. One attacker detonated his SVEST inside the building. The IA, IP, and tribal fighters killed the other two, with unclear reports regarding the detonation of the fighters' vests. The local council chairman, Shaker al-Issawi, stated that 17 people were wounded in the attack, however the Ministry of Defense (MoD) later stated that only one person was killed and two others were wounded, including Issawi.

**8** On June 8, IA Aviation destroyed a VBIED and a vehicle carrying ISIS members on the road between Baiji and Haditha. On June 9, the FP stated that the ISF killed four ISIS snipers and disarmed various explosives near Buaiji Bridge, south of Baiji. The ISF then advanced toward the Khashm al-Jazeera area, and killed an ISIS fighter wearing an SVEST in Siniya sub-district, west of Baiji. The Joint Operations Command (JOC) denied media reports that the ISF is "targeting" mosques in Baiji, calling such reports "malicious propaganda." Between June 8 and 10, DoD stated that eleven airstrikes destroyed ISIS targets "near Baiji."

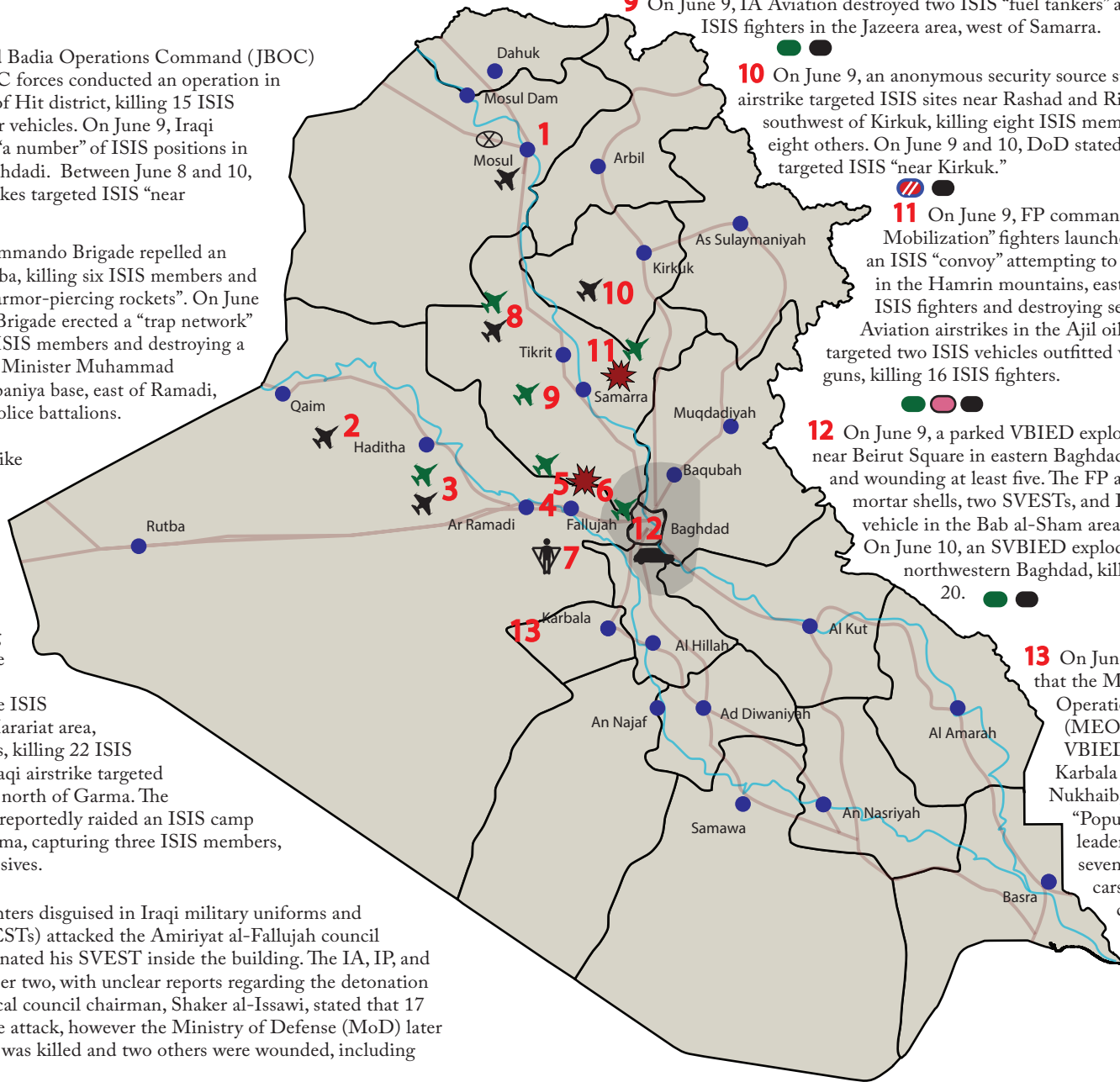
**9** On June 9, IA Aviation destroyed two ISIS "fuel tankers" and a vehicle carrying ISIS fighters in the Jazeera area, west of Samarra.

**10** On June 9, an anonymous security source stated that a Coalition airstrike targeted ISIS sites near Rashad and Riyadh sub-districts, southwest of Kirkuk, killing eight ISIS members and wounding eight others. On June 9 and 10, DoD stated that two airstrikes targeted ISIS "near Kirkuk."

**11** On June 9, FP commandos and "Popular Mobilization" fighters launched a surprise attack on an ISIS "convoy" attempting to take control of a peak in the Hamrin mountains, east of Tikrit, killing 23 ISIS fighters and destroying seven vehicles. IA Aviation airstrikes in the Ajil oil fields, east of Tikrit, targeted two ISIS vehicles outfitted with heavy machine guns, killing 16 ISIS fighters.

**12** On June 9, a parked VBIED exploded on Palestine Street near Beirut Square in eastern Baghdad, killing at least one and wounding at least five. The FP also discovered 40 mortar shells, two SVESTs, and IEDs inside a stolen FP vehicle in the Bab al-Sham area in northern Baghdad. On June 10, an SVBIED exploded in Shula area of northwestern Baghdad, killing six and wounding 20.

**13** On June 10, the MoD stated that the Mid-Euphrates Operations Command (MEOC) interdicted eight VBIEDs attempting to enter Karbala province from Nukhaib, west of Karbala. A "Popular Mobilization" leader stated that there were seven VBIEDs. Some of the cars were reportedly carrying IDPs.



- Major Cities
- ☒ SVEST
- ISF
- ☒ SVBIED
- ✈ Iraqi Airstrikes
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- ☒ Execution
- ✈ Airstrikes
- Iraqi Shi'a militias
- ☒ Major Clash
- ☒ Coalition
- ISIS

Content: Theodore Bell, Patrick Martin, and ISW Iraq Team  
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ISIS's deployment of VBIEDs to Karbala and reports of ISIS's movement of VBIEDs in Anbar suggest ISIS may be preparing for renewed offensive operations. ISIS likely seeks to consolidate control over the Euphrates and simultaneously launch its signature VBIED waves against Shi'a majority targets. By sending VBIEDs to Karbala, ISIS may be pursuing several courses of action. ISIS may be testing the security of Karbala in preparation for an attack on the city and its Shi'a shrines during the holy month of Ramadan. ISIS would likely use such an attack to spark sectarian strife, emulating AQI's February 2006 bombing of the al-Askari mosque in Samarra. It is also possible that Karbala is a diversion, and that ISIS intends to draw the ISF and "Popular Mobilization" away from their existing lines of effort in Anbar, Baghdad, and Samarra, where ISIS may launch a main attack during Ramadan. ISIS attacks in Baghdad would serve to undermine the Iraqi government and the ISF and portray the capital as unsecure nearly one year after the declaration of the caliphate. Consolidating and defending in Anbar is also likely a main objective, and it is possible that the VBIEDs were a defensive reaction to numerous airstrikes and counter-attacks reported in Anbar over the last two days. ISIS appears to be moving numerous vehicles and VBIEDs elsewhere in Iraq additionally, west of Samarra, west of Baiji, east of Tikrit, and along the Hamrin ridge. ISIS may be pre-positioning for Ramadan strikes, though ISF, Iraqi Aviation, and coalition airstrikes largely interdicted the reported VBIEDs among them.