

Iraq Situation Report: June 11 - 12, 2015

1 On June 12, a Diyala provincial council member stated that Peshmerga conducted operations to clear ISIS “sleeper cells” in Qara Tapa sub-district, west of Khanaqin.

2 On June 11, the Baghdad Operations Command (BOC) stated that the Federal Police (FP) 2nd Brigade dismantled a Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) on Palestine Street in the Rusafa area in eastern Baghdad and the Iraqi Army (IA) 54th Brigade dismantled a VBIED in the Qadisiya area of northwestern Baghdad.

3 Over June 11-12, the Nujaba Movement (NM) stated that NM operations, west of Samarra, targeted ISIS camps and inflicted “large losses” on ISIS.

4 On June 12, an Anbar Operations Command (AOC) source stated that the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) conducted a “large-scale” operation in the 5km Area, west of Ramadi, killing 13 ISIS members and destroying three VBIEDs.

5 On June 12, a Golden Division (GD) source stated that the GD foiled an ISIS attack at Fallujah University campus, killing four attackers wearing SVESTs.

6 On June 11, Interior Ministry (MoI) intelligence directed Iraqi airstrikes at an ISIS meeting in Qa'im in western Anbar, killing 16 ISIS members and wounding 11 others. The DoD stated that one airstrike targeted ISIS “near Qa'im.”

7 On June 11, the BOC stated that the IA 59th Brigade cleared al-Hamra area, north of Garma sub-district, northeast of Fallujah, destroying five “explosives factories” and six VBIEDs. The MoD also stated that ISF airstrikes destroyed ISIS “dens” near Shiha Bridge, north of Garma. On June 12, a “Popular Mobilization” commander stated that the IA and “Popular Mobilization” killed five ISIS members in the Rashad area of Garma. The Nujaba Movement also stated that its fighters killed an ISIS member in Garma.

8 On June 10, the Khalidiya district deputy police chief stated that “heavy equipment” and weapons were distributed to tribal fighters within the “Popular Mobilization,” and were deployed to the “front lines.” On June 11, “Liberation Battalions” and the “Popular Mobilization” reportedly targeted ISIS gatherings in Albu Bali, east of Ramadi, with mortars and Katyusha rockets, killing six ISIS members and wounding 18 others. The IA 8th Division shelled ISIS gatherings in al-Fahilat, Albu Daij, east of Ramadi with artillery, destroying ten vehicles. On June 12, FP commandos “infiltrated” ISIS positions in eastern Husayba, east of Ramadi, destroying three towers used by snipers. The DoD stated that on June 12, two airstrikes targeted ISIS “near Ramadi.”

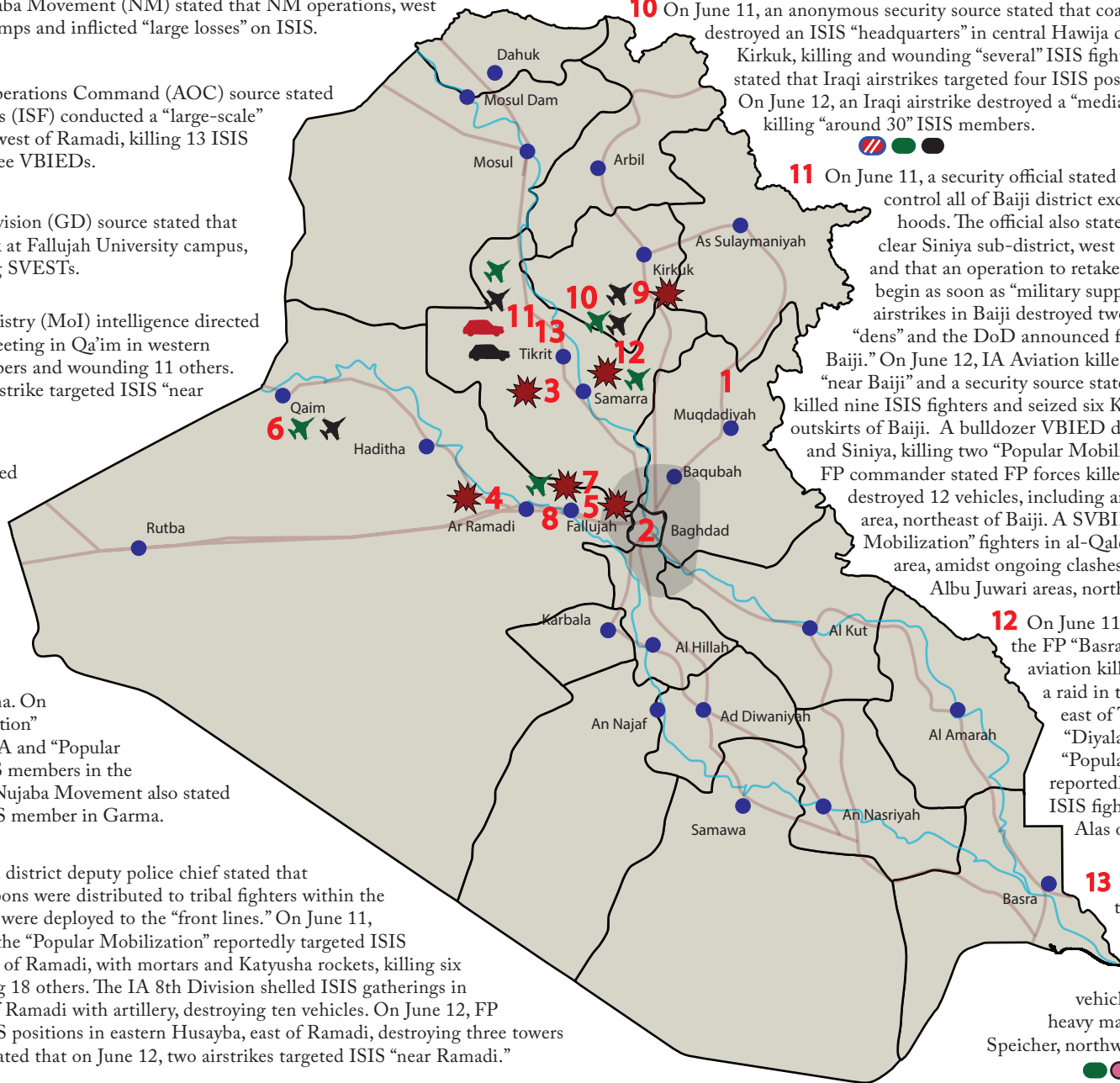
9 On June 11, a “Counter Terrorism (CT) Forces” killed “dozens” of ISIS fighters attempting to establish a camp near Wistana village, south of Kirkuk. Peshmerga and CT forces with coalition air support reportedly recaptured Wistana and Mujamaa al-Nour villages, south of Kirkuk, during which two CT force members and 15 ISIS fighters were killed. “Unknown aircraft” reportedly conducted “intense” airstrikes on the center of Bashir village, south of Kirkuk, for the “first time,” killing “dozens” of ISIS fighters. On June 11 and 12, the DoD stated that four airstrikes targeted ISIS “near Kirkuk.”

10 On June 11, an anonymous security source stated that coalition airstrikes destroyed an ISIS “headquarters” in central Hawija district, southwest of Kirkuk, killing and wounding “several” ISIS fighters. A separate report stated that Iraqi airstrikes targeted four ISIS positions in central Hawija. On June 12, an Iraqi airstrike destroyed a “media building” in Hawija, killing “around 30” ISIS members.

11 On June 11, a security official stated that “Iraqi forces” control all of Baiji district except for three neighborhoods. The official also stated that an operation to clear Siniya sub-district, west of Baiji, was underway and that an operation to retake Baiji Refinery would begin as soon as “military supplies” arrive. IA aviation airstrikes in Baiji destroyed two vehicles and ISIS “dens” and the DoD announced four airstrikes “near Baiji.” On June 12, IA Aviation killed 10 ISIS members “near Baiji” and a security source stated that FP commandos killed nine ISIS fighters and seized six Katyusha rockets on the outskirts of Baiji. A bulldozer VBIED detonated between Baiji and Siniya, killing two “Popular Mobilization” fighters. The FP commander stated FP forces killed 38 ISIS fighters and destroyed 12 vehicles, including an “excavator” in Fatha area, northeast of Baiji. A SVBIED killed six “Popular Mobilization” fighters in al-Qalq village in the Fatha area, amidst ongoing clashes in Hanshi area and Albu Juwari areas, north of Baiji.

12 On June 11, FP “commandos” and the FP “Basra Battalion” with IA aviation killed 13 ISIS fighters in a raid in the Hamrin Mountains, east of Tikrit. On June 12, “Diyala forces” and the “Popular Mobilization” reportedly killed “more than 30” ISIS fighters in the Ajil and Alas oil fields, east of Tikrit.

13 On June 12, FP and the “Popular Mobilization” killed 10 ISIS fighters and destroyed two vehicles mounted with heavy machine guns near Camp Speicher, northwest of Tikrit.



- Major Cities
- Iraqi Airstrikes
- ISF
- VBIED
- Airstrikes
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- SVBIED
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Content: Theodore Bell, Patrick Martin, and ISW Iraq Team
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The Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and the “Popular Mobilization” have strengthened their hold on Baiji district but clashes persist in the area amidst talk of upcoming operations against Baiji Refinery. There has also been an uptick in clashes southwest of Kirkuk, indicating that ISIS militants may be repositioning following ISF advances in Baiji. ISIS also has an established presence in the Zab, west of Kirkuk, and in Kirkuk, and may be seeking to surge operations following setbacks in Baiji, accounting for an uptick in Iraqi and U.S.-led Coalition airstrikes south and southwest of Kirkuk. Heavy clashes also continue north of Fallujah amid “Popular Mobilization” forces’s seizure of infrastructure along the ‘Tigris Arm’ canal on June 6-8. Badr Organization commander Hadi al-Amiri previously identified the ‘Tigris Arm’ as a priority. Building on recent southward momentum from Samarra toward Fallujah, “Popular Mobilization” forces appear to be setting conditions in preparation for an eventual attack on Fallujah. In a departure from previous rhetoric, Amiri stated on June 11 that “upcoming military operations” will focus on Fallujah and stated that “Operation Labayk ya Hussein has nothing to do with Ramadi.” The May 26-announced operation, initially named “Operation Labayk ya Hussein,” was quickly renamed “Labayk ya Iraq” to cast the operation as a national and not a sectarian endeavor. In referring to the operation as “Labayk ya Hussein” and by publicly declaring operational priorities, Amiri seeks to position the “Popular Mobilization” at the forefront of anti-ISIS operations by building on current “Popular Mobilization” momentum. In doing so, Amiri seeks to cast the “Popular Mobilization” as a national force and to downplay the significance of the expanding U.S. role in Iraq.