

Iraq Situation Report: September 1 - 3, 2015

1 **ISIS persists in attacks in western Anbar without substantial gains.** ISIS persisted in attacking Barwana, south of Haditha, and Baghdadi. However, IA and Sunni tribal fighters supported by Coalition airstrikes have so far prevented ISIS from breaking through their defenses.














2 **Federal Police (FP) maintain their positions east of Ramadi but make no notable progress.** FP commander stated that forces from the FP's 1st and 2nd Rapid Reaction Brigades clashed with ISIS and prevented the organization from enforcing its defenses east of Ramadi.



3 **Sunni Tribal fighters reportedly receive weapons from the Coalition.** A local security official in Khalidiya district, east of Ramadi, stated that two battalions of 500 Anbar tribal fighters each began receiving Coalition weapons and equipment to intended to reinforce the Ramadi fight. Meanwhile, there are unconfirmed reports from local Anbari officials that the Coalition delivered more weapons and equipment to Coalition forces in Habaniya base. Coalition, Tribal Fighters.



-  Major Cities
-  Kidnapping
-  Airstrikes
-  Coalition
-  Major Clash
-  ISF
-  Failed S/VBIED
-  Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
-  Unknown Gunmen
-  Iraqi Shi'a militias
-  ISIS



4 **Gunmen kidnap Turkish workers.** On September 2, gunmen kidnapped 16 Turkish workers in Habibiya, eastern Baghdad. Iraq's foreign minister alleged that the attack was intended to undermine Iraqi-Turkish relations. Baghdad Operations Command formed an investigative committee.

5 **Judiciary head meets with Iranian proxy militia leaders, Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis and Hadi al-Amiri on September 2.** The Judiciary website painted the visit as in support of Higher Judicial Council Chairman Medhat Mahmud. However, follow on statements from Badr Organization rejected this notion and stated that the visit was to discuss legal matters that pertain to the Popular Mobilization. However, the Popular Mobilization Commission issued a statement in support of the judiciary and rejected motions to initiate major changes to the current judiciary.

Content: Jessica Lewis McFate, Kimberly Kagan, Sinan Adnan, and ISW Iraq Team
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The powerbrokers leading the most lethal Iranian-backed Shi'a militias are taking actions to undermine PM Abadi's reforms. Leader of Kata'ib Hezbollah, Abu Mahdi Muhandis and leader of the Badr Organization, Hadi al-Ameri, visited to the head of Iraq's Judiciary, Medhat al-Mahmud. They likely aimed to ensure that Medhat cooperates with their political agenda, and their personal visit in itself – a first for Muhandis – is in itself a threat. While in office, Mahmud can be one of the strongest obstacles to PM Abadi's reforms. The Iranian-backed militias, including Kata'ib Hezbollah, the Badr Organization, and Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq, all have a vested interest in thwarting PM Abadi's reforms, especially the attempt to eliminate the vice presidential positions and thereby expel VP Nouri al-Maliki, who has been aligning himself with the militias for months. Together they represent an enduring threat to PM Abadi and his reforms. Meanwhile, ISIS continues to be major source of security threat as the ISF face challenges in their ongoing operation against Ramadi. The organization has persisted in its attack against the ISF-held Haditha and Baghdadi areas of Anbar in a likely effort to shift ISF resources. ISIS's ability to conduct military maneuver in the area indicates the presence of an uncommitted and unrestrained ISIS force in western Anbar as the ISF and militias besiege ISIS forces in Ramadi and Fallujah.