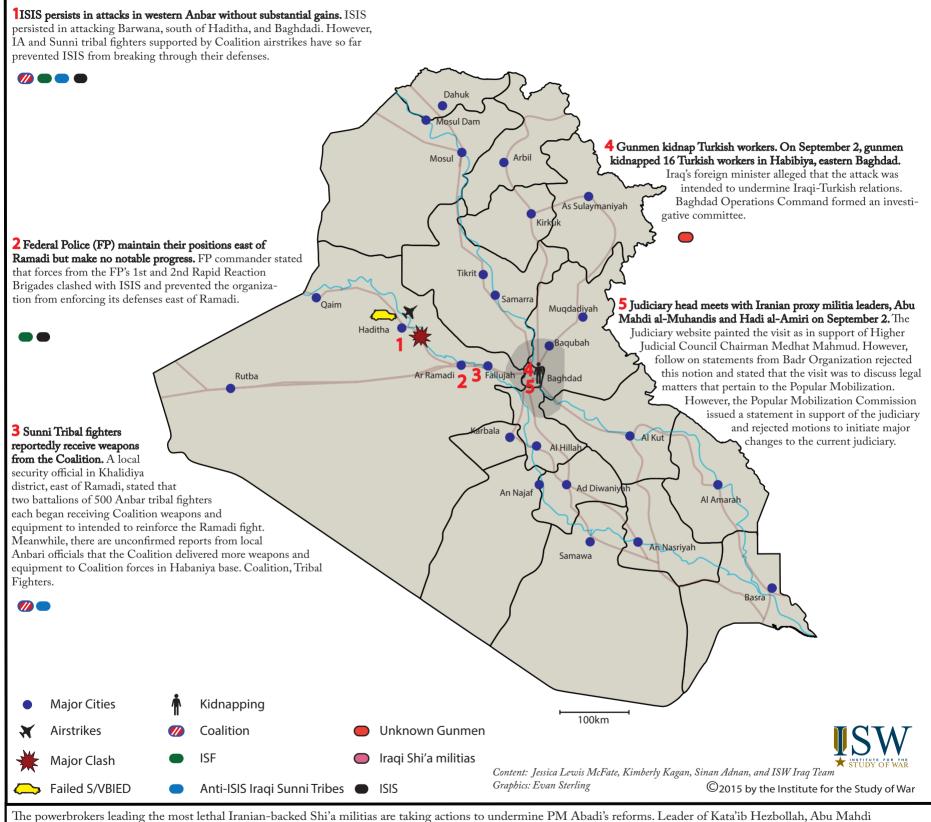
Iraq Situation Report: September 1 - 3, 2015



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.