

1 Security forces progress on Ninewa operations front. The 15th Iraqi Army (IA) Division, tribal Popular Mobilization, local and federal police, and the Golden Division continued clearing operations west of Makhmur, in coordination with the Peshmerga in a support role. The Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) resumed operations on March 31 after a two-day pause stemming from inclement weather and launched operations to clear the village of al-Nasr, west of Makhmur. The 15th IA Division reportedly recaptured al-Nasr on April 4.

8 ISIS reportedly targets security forces west of Hit District. The Hit District council chairman claimed that ISIS attacked security forces on April 4 in Baghdadi sub-district, west of Hit, using at least three VBIEDs and rockets, but that security forces repelled the attacks. Another source stated that ISIS used at least five VBIEDs and SVESTs in the attack, and that at least 11 soldiers were killed.

7 The ISF begin clearing Hit District. Joint Operations Command (JOC) announced on March 31 that start of operations to retake the town of Hit, west of Ramadi, from the north and west. The 16th IA Division recaptured the village of Mamoura, west of Hit, on April 2, facing some resistance from ISIS fighters, and the Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS) and 16th IA Division recaptured Camp Hit, north of Hit, on April 3 before CTS entered Hit itself on April 3. Security forces received "thousands" of civilians fleeing Hit, but the area CTS commander noted that ISIS had rigged "all" of the houses in Hit with explosives.

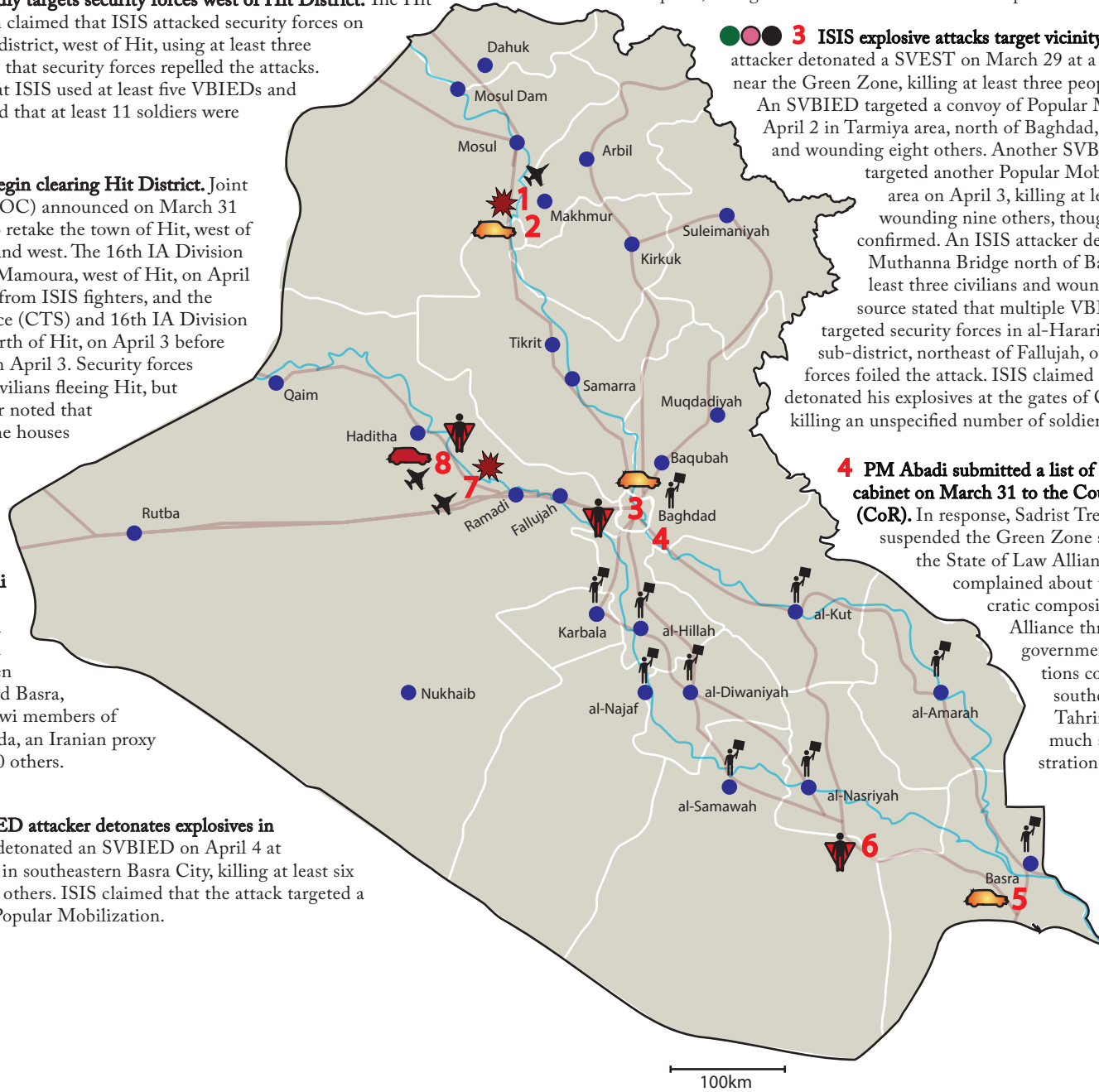
6 ISIS SVEST attacker targets Shi'a militia gathering in southern province of Dhi Qar. An ISIS attacker detonated an SVEST on April 4 at a restaurant in Umm Ayouj area between Nasiriyah in Dhi Qar and Basra, killing at least five Basrawi members of Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada, an Iranian proxy militia, and wounding 20 others.

5 ISIS SVBIED attacker detonates explosives in Basra. An ISIS attacker detonated an SVBIED on April 4 at al-Khawrah Intersection in southeastern Basra City, killing at least six people and wounding 12 others. ISIS claimed that the attack targeted a gathering of police and Popular Mobilization.

2 ISIS suicide attacks target security forces west of Makhmur. An ISIS attacker detonated a Suicide Vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device (SVBIED) on March 31 at a police station near Makhmur, southwest of Arbil, killing two policemen and wounding two others. ISIS later claimed that six SVBIED attackers launched a coordinated attack on a Peshmerga barracks and a reinforcement convoy. On April 1, the 15th IA Division killed 27 ISIS members, including three Suicide Vest (SVEST) attackers near the village of Khabirdan, west of Makhmur. ISIS claimed that an SVBIED detonated at a gathering of security forces near al-Nasr on April 4, killing 10 soldiers and a senior tribal Popular Mobilization leader.

3 ISIS explosive attacks target vicinity of Baghdad. An ISIS attacker detonated a SVEST on March 29 at a gathering in Aviation Square, near the Green Zone, killing at least three people and wounding 27 others. An SVBIED targeted a convoy of Popular Mobilization members on April 2 in Tarmiya area, north of Baghdad, killing at least three fighters and wounding eight others. Another SVBIED attack reportedly targeted another Popular Mobilization convoy in the same area on April 3, killing at least three fighters and wounding nine others, though this attack has not been confirmed. An ISIS attacker detonated an SVEST near the Muthanna Bridge north of Baghdad on April 4, killing at least three civilians and wounding 12 others. A security source stated that multiple VBIEDs and SVEST attackers targeted security forces in al-Harariyat area of Garma sub-district, northeast of Fallujah, on April 4, but that security forces foiled the attack. ISIS claimed that an SVBIED attacker detonated his explosives at the gates of Camp Tariq, east of Fallujah, killing an unspecified number of soldiers.

4 PM Abadi submitted a list of nominations for the new cabinet on March 31 to the Council of Representatives (CoR). In response, Sadrist Trend leader Muqtada al-Sadr suspended the Green Zone sit-in. However, members of the State of Law Alliance and Etihad have complained about the new cabinet's technocratic composition, while the Kurdistan Alliance threatened to withdraw from government. Meanwhile, demonstrations continued on April 1 across southern Iraq and in Baghdad's Tahrir Square, though they were much smaller than past demonstrations.



- Major Cities
- ✈ Airstrikes
- ⚔ Major Clash
- ⚔ Coalition
- ISF
- ISIS
- Peshmerga
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- Iraqi Shi'a Militias
- 🚗 SVBIED
- 🚗 VBIED
- 🚗 SVEST
- 👤 Demonstration

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ISIS conducted a wave of explosive attacks across Iraq aimed at disrupting the forward operations of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). Coalition-trained elements of the ISF, supported by local forces, converged on Hit District in western Anbar and the village of al-Nasr, west of Makhmur, conducting operations aimed at recapturing areas on key ground lines of communication. ISIS launched a responsive wave of suicide attacks in both Hit and Makhmur, as well as in the vicinity of Baghdad, primarily aimed at hard targets in order to arrest the ISF's forward progress and to force a contraction of security forces towards Baghdad and central Iraq. The attacks included suicide attacks on April 4 in Basra and Dhi Qar Provinces, areas that have not seen spectacular attacks since October 2015 and June 2014, respectively. The attacks, combined with the spectacular attacks in Babil Province on March 6 and 25, indicate that ISIS is reconstituting capabilities in southern Iraq. Continued spectacular attacks and instability in the southern provinces would have the potential to seriously restrict the ability of the ISF and Popular Mobilization to conduct operations in northern and western Iraq, as forces would need to re-deploy to southern Iraq, an area where few ISF formations are present, to re-establish security.