



1 Sunni National Mobilization forces recapture villages north of Mosul. An “informed source” stated that Sunni Arab forces loyal to former Ninewa governor Atheel al-Nujaifi, in coordination with the Peshmerga and Coalition, recaptured the villages of Barima and al-Nawaran, northeast of Mosul, on April 18. Nujaifi stated on April 19 that Peshmerga and Turkish forces are helping in the fight against ISIS, while other sources indicate that Turkey assisted with recapturing the two villages.

2 U.S. raid kills senior ISIS official near Mosul. U.S. and Kurdish commandos launched a helicopter raid on April 18, most likely in Hamam al-Alil area south of Mosul, killing an ISIS war council leader and two aides. The raid followed a similar raid on April 17, capturing an ISIS member in Badush area, northwest of Mosul.

11 ISIS attempts to target ISF in western Anbar. Coalition air strikes and the 7th IA Division destroyed three ISIS SVBIEDs on April 19 targeting the residential complex in al-Baghdadi sub-district, west of Ramadi, before they were able to attack.

3 Security forces repel attack south of Mosul. The 15th Iraqi Army (IA) Division reportedly killed three Suicide Vest (SVEST) attackers on April 22 targeting units in Makhmur before they were able to detonate their explosives.

10 Iraqi forces fully clear Hit District. The Counter-Terrorism Service fully cleared Hit District, west of Ramadi, on April 14 of ISIS fighters.

4 Ethnic violence erupts in disputed town. Clashes broke out on April 24 in Tuz Khurmato, east of Tikrit, when gunmen from the Popular Mobilization attacked the home of a Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) Peshmerga commander with a grenade. Clashes killed at least 12 people on both sides as well as civilians. Badr Organization leader Hadi al-Amiri arrived in Kirkuk on the same day and brokered a ceasefire with Kirkuk governor and senior PUK official Najm al-Din Karim. However, clashes resumed shortly after and continued into April 25, with Popular Mobilization fighters firing mortars and the Peshmerga deploying armored vehicles in downtown Tuz.

9 ISIS spectacular attacks target Baghdad. Federal Police reportedly arrested a “terrorist” possessing an SVEST in Baghdad on April 15 in al-Zafaraniya, southeast of Baghdad. Two SVEST attacked the Imam Ali Husseiniyah in al-Radwaniyah in southern Baghdad on April 22. One attacker successfully detonated his explosives, killing at least 33 people and wounding at least eight others. A Suicide VBIED (SVBIED) targeted a checkpoint in al-Rashidiyah area north of Baghdad on April 23, killing eight people and wounding 27 others.

5 Security forces launch clearing operations in Diyala. Security forces began operations on April 20 in the area from al-Zur to al-Muqdadiah, northeast of Baquba, to eliminate ISIS cells in the area. ISIS also fired mortars on April 21 at al-Ibara and Abi Saida, northeast of Baquba, causing casualties.

8 ISIS spectacular attacks intensify as preparations commence for Shi'a pilgrimage day. On April 25, seven battalions from the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) began monitoring Kadhimiyah neighborhood in northwestern Baghdad to secure pilgrims visiting the Imam al-Kadhim Shrine. An SVEST attacker detonated his explosives on April 25 near al-Bayadha Cinema in Baghdad al-Jadida in eastern Baghdad, killing at least seven people and wounding at least 31 others. A parked Vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) also exploded near an army convoy and killed 6 people in Latifiyah, south of Baghdad.

6 Security forces clash with resurgent ISIS north of Baghdad. Security forces in al-Dhuluiya in southeastern Salah al-Din killed two ISIS suicide bombers on April 12. Federal Police and Iraqi Shi'a militias clashed with ISIS on April 18 in the village of Mutaibijah northeast of al-Dhuluiya. The violence followed the transfer of police and militia forces from the area towards Samarra for the Commemoration of Imam Ali al-Hadi on April 10-12.

7 Sadrists sit-ins and demonstrations resume in downtown Baghdad. Sadrists Trend followers resumed an open-ended sit-in in Tahrir Square in Baghdad on April 16 demanding implementation of technocratic reforms. The sit-in also resumed in front of the Green Zone as security forces cut off major roads to secure the area while protesters encircled several ministry buildings outside of the Green Zone, preventing ministries from working. Demonstrations continued in Baghdad and across southern Iraq on April 22 to demand reforms.

- Major Cities
- Coalition
- Peshmerga
- SVBIED
- Major Clash
- ISF
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- VBIED
- Turkey
- ISIS
- Iraqi Shi'a Militias
- Failed S/VBIED
- Raid
- SVEST
- Demonstration

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The U.S. announced additional “accelerants” in the fight against ISIS, reporting on April 18 that it would deploy 217 additional train-and-advise personnel to embed at the brigade and battalion levels with attack helicopters and an additional High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS). The limited increase in U.S. military support came in conjunction with an increased number of high-level U.S. military and diplomatic visits between April 8 and April 21 with Iraqi officials during its major political crisis. The Council of Representatives (CoR) split into two parallel parliaments on April 12 over a disagreement regarding Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi’s cabinet reshuffle. Rebelling CoR members in the illegal rump parliament have attempted to oust CoR Speaker Salim al-Juburi as well as PM Abadi and President Fuad Masoum in a series of illegal CoR sessions over the past two weeks, unsuccessfully courting the Shi’a religious authorities to back them in effectively collapsing the government. However, the illegitimate parliament, which at its height reached around 150 CoR members, has suffered from defections, notably from members of the Sadrists Trend, and the rebelling CoR members have failed to reach quorum of 165 CoR members. The larger legitimate CoR, which will attempt to meet on April 26 without the members of the rump parliament, will struggle to accomplish much beyond renewing confidence in Speaker Juburi. The CoR remains divided on numerous political issues, including the cabinet reshuffle that sparked the crisis in the first place.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) recaptured Hit District, marking an important victory and clearing a major urban center of ISIS fighters, though the town likely remains laced with a large number of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). The success was dampened by a spike in ISIS spectacular attacks both north of and in Baghdad during the lead-up to the commemoration of the death of Imam Musa al-Kadhim, the 7th Shi’a Imam, during which thousands of Shi’a pilgrims visit his shrine in Kadhimiyah in northwestern Baghdad. The attacks indicate that ISIS will likely continue targeting hard and soft targets in the vicinity of Baghdad with explosive attacks during religious holidays, likely foreshadowing its intentions to spike up attacks before and during Ramadan, which begins in June 2016.