

**1** **ISIS attacks northeast of Mosul; U.S. serviceman killed.** ISIS attacked Peshmerga forces with 75 fighters on May 3 on four axes in the towns of Bashiqa and Tel Asqaf, north of Mosul, on May 3, detonating at least three Suicide Vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Devices (SVBIEDs). ISIS launched a second attack and captured a village on the same day before the area was recaptured by Peshmerga and Coalition airstrikes. A U.S. serviceman was killed in the attacks.

**13** **The ISF recapture areas between Hit and al-Baghdadi.** Joint Operations Command announced on May 3 that security forces recaptured "all areas between Hit and al-Baghdadi," west of Ramadi. The 7th IA Division also found a large chemical weapons factory in 4 Kilo Area in Hit on May 9.

**12** **Joint forces begin operations to recapture southern Fallujah environs.** The 8th and 9th Iraqi Army (IA) Divisions, Anbar Emergency Police Battalions, and Popular Mobilization tribal fighters supported by Iraqi and Coalition airstrikes conducted clearing operations starting on May 3 between Amiriyat al-Fallujah and Habaniya, south of Fallujah. Security forces recaptured several villages and a major intersection as of May 7, repelling an unverifiable number of VBIEDs.

**11** **ISIS targets Shi'a pilgrims in Baghdad amid demonstrations and heavy security.** ISIS spectacular attacks in a two-week period killed at least 46 people and wounded at least 128 others. ISIS detonated a VBIED in Rashidiyah north of Baghdad on April 23; a Suicide Vest (SVEST) in Baghdad al-Jadida in southeastern Baghdad on April 25; a VBIED in Latifiyah south of Baghdad on April 25; a VBIED in Nahrawan southeast of Baghdad on April 30; and a VBIED in Sayidiyah south of Baghdad on May 2. The next week, a SVEST attacker detonated near an army checkpoint west of Baghdad on May 6 between al-Radhwanayah and Abu Ghraib, killing three IA soldiers and wounding five others. Another SVEST attacker on May 8 attempted to target a funeral near Abu Ghraib, west of Baghdad. The attack was foiled but two Iraqi Police (IP) members were killed.

**10** **IED attack strikes funeral in northern Babil.** An IED exploded at a funeral in the cemetery in al-Hasawa, north of Hilla, on May 5, killing five people and wounding 12 others. The attack comes amid accusations of kidnappings and increased insecurity in northern Babil Province.

**9** **ISIS SVBIED attacks in southern provinces.** ISIS detonated two Suicide Vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Devices (SVBIEDs) on May 1 in Samawah in Muthanna Province, killing 25 people and injuring 77 others. Security forces in Diwaniyah Province interdicted two SVBIEDs on May 2 trying to enter the province.

**2** **Security forces recommence operations south of Mosul.** Security forces recaptured the village of al-Mihana on April 27 and Kabarok on May 9, repelling with Coalition airstrikes and tribal fighter support up to twelve ISIS suicide attackers during this time frame.

**3** **ISIS IED attacks damage oil wells in Kirkuk Province.** A source at the North Oil Company stated that two wells at the Khabaz Oilfield, west of Kirkuk were sabotaged on May 4 by IEDs and were still burning as of May 5. Security forces removed IEDs from two other wells without detonation. The source stated that the fires would burn for another three weeks.

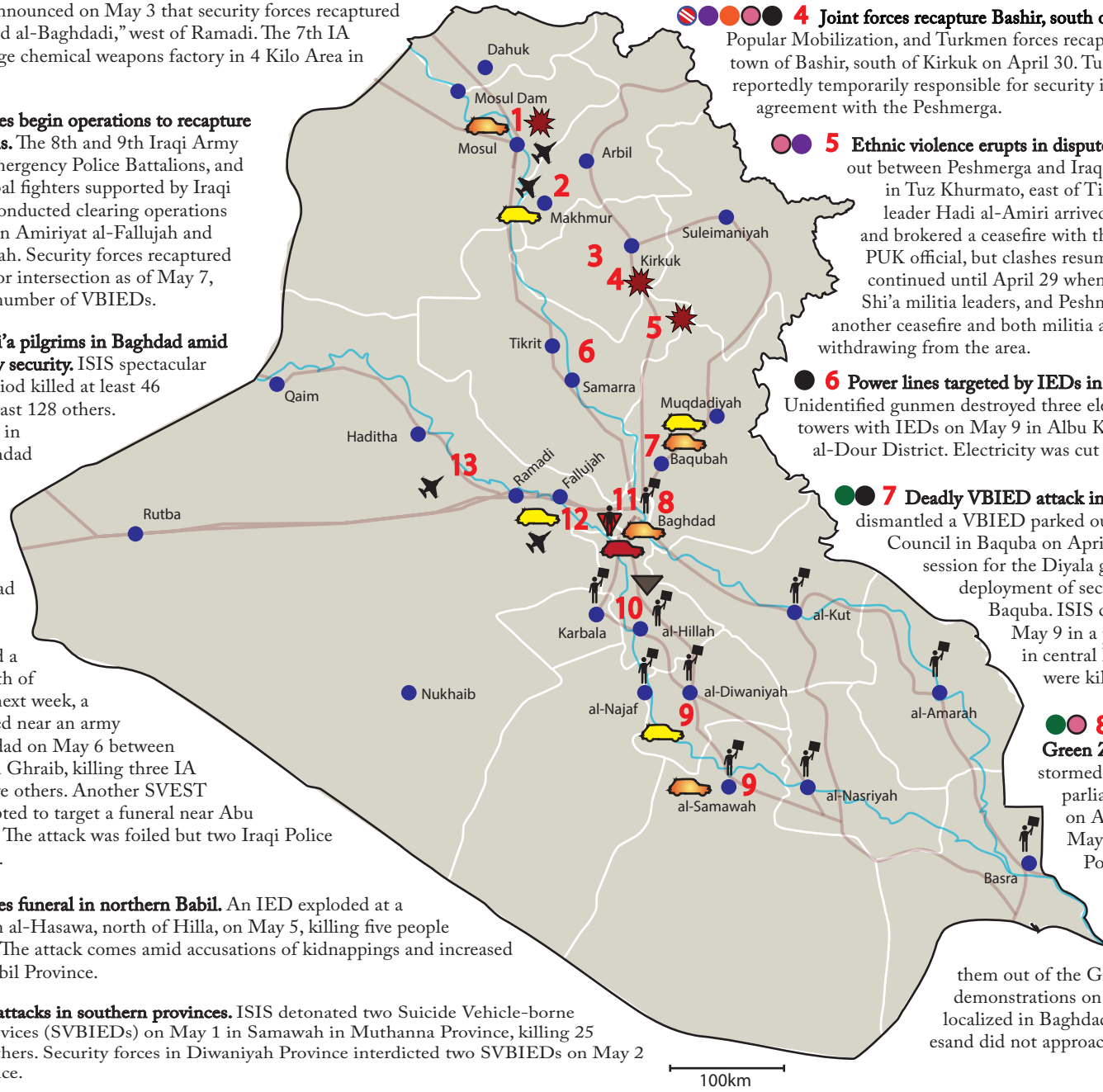
**4** **Joint forces recapture Bashir, south of Kirkuk.** Peshmerga, Popular Mobilization, and Turkmen forces recaptured the Shi'a Turkmen town of Bashir, south of Kirkuk on April 30. Turkmen militias were reportedly temporarily responsible for security in Bashir as part of an agreement with the Peshmerga.

**5** **Ethnic violence erupts in disputed town.** A major clash broke out between Peshmerga and Iraqi Shi'a militias on April 24 in Tuz Khurmato, east of Tikrit. Badr Organization leader Hadi al-Amiri arrived in Kirkuk on the same day and brokered a ceasefire with the Kirkuk governor, a senior PUK official, but clashes resumed shortly after. Violence continued until April 29 when local officials, Turkmen and Shi'a militia leaders, and Peshmerga officials brokered another ceasefire and both militia and Peshmerga forces began withdrawing from the area.

**6** **Power lines targeted by IEDs in central Salah al-Din.** Unidentified gunmen destroyed three electrical power transmissions towers with IEDs on May 9 in Albu Khadu between Samarra and al-Dour District. Electricity was cut off in areas east of Tikrit.

**7** **Deadly VBIED attack in Baquba.** Security forces dismantled a VBIED parked outside the Diyala Provincial Council in Baquba on April 28 ahead of a questioning session for the Diyala governor and a heavy deployment of security forces in and north of Baquba. ISIS detonated a SVBIED on May 9 in a popular market in Shafteh in central Baquba. At least 16 people were killed and 54 others wounded.

**8** **Demonstrators flood the Green Zone.** Sadrists demonstrators stormed the Green Zone and the parliament building in Baghdad on April 30 before leaving on May 1. Security forces and the Popular Mobilization increased presence around the Green Zone and Baghdad following the demonstrations to keep them out of the Green Zone. Follow-up demonstrations on April 6 were smaller and localized in Baghdad and the southern provinces and did not approach the Green Zone.



● Major Cities	☒ Coalition	● Peshmerga	🚗 SVBIED	👤 SVEST
🔥 Major Clash	● ISF	● Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes	🚗 VBIED	☒ IED
● Volunteers	● ISIS	● Iraqi Shi'a Militias	🚗 Failed S/VBIED	✈️ Airstrikes
				👤 Demonstration

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Iraq's political crisis has degenerated further as a majority of Iraqi parties, including the Kurdish parties and the Sunni Etihad bloc, have boycotted parliament sessions following the April 30 breach of the Green Zone by Sadrists demonstrators. Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi's cabinet reshuffle process has not only resulted in a major disruption of government, but the Kurdish parties' boycott has increased the stakes. A quorum is not attainable without the Kurds, who are leveraging the crisis by increasing their rhetoric regarding independence. The political crisis comes amid a series of ISIS spectacular attacks, particularly in Baghdad, during the Kadhimiyah pilgrimage. ISIS is also resurgent in the south, where it launched several spectacular attacks far from the front lines. The Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) have, however, made significant gains in Anbar, recapturing the southern bank of the Euphrates River between Ramadi and Haditha and beginning clearing operations south of Fallujah. However, explosive attacks in Diyala, central Salah al-Din, and Baghdad – areas that are suffering from political crises or public instability – demonstrate that ISIS will attempt to use its attack capabilities to exacerbate the political situation. ISIS can also increase instability and provoke further political backlash by boosting its attack capabilities in southern Iraq, where the security forces are not present in large numbers. The political situation bodes ill for the stability of the country, especially as ISIS sees opportunities to further divide Iraq along sectarian lines through targeted violence and as it ramps up its capabilities in Iraq in preparation for a likely Ramadan campaign for June 2016.