

1 Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff visits Iraq. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joe Dunford arrived in Baghdad on July 30, where he met with Coalition leaders including Commander Lt. Gen. Sean MacFarland. Dunford met with Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi and Defense Minister Khalid al-Obeidi on July 31 to discuss operations in Mosul and continued Coalition support for the ISF. Dunford later traveled to Arbil to meet with Kurdistan Regional President Masoud Barzani on August 1, where both stressed the need for Peshmerga participation in Mosul operations.

7 SVBIED detonates at border guard headquarters west of Ramadi. A Suicide Vehicle Borne-IED (SVBIED) detonated at the headquarters of the 2nd Battalion of the Border Guards in 70 Kilo, west of Ramadi, on July 31. The attack killed two border police and injured five others. The attack was unclaimed, though ISIS claimed that they had burned Iraqi Army barracks in 160 Kilo, west of Ramadi.

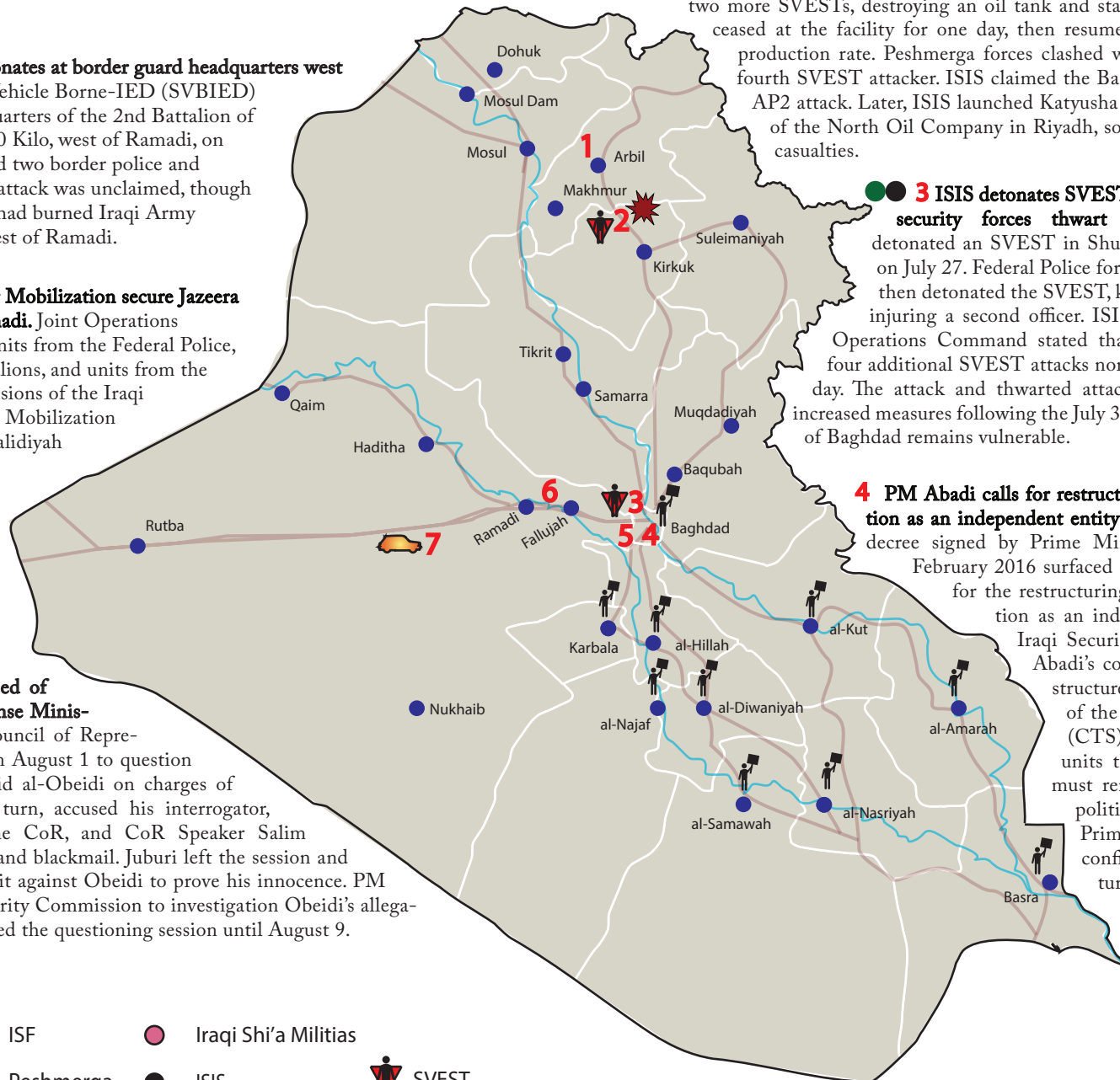
6 ISF, Popular Mobilization secure Jazeera Khalidiya, north of Ramadi. Joint Operations Command stated that units from the Federal Police, Anbar Emergency Battalions, and units from the 8th, 10th, and 14th Divisions of the Iraqi Army alongside Popular Mobilization units recaptured the Khalidiyah desert, north of Ramadi between Abu Obeid to Abu Shajal, on July 31. Security forces also cleared a secondary highway between Ramadi and Fallujah.

5 CoR Speaker accused of corruption during Defense Minister questioning. The Council of Representatives (CoR) met on August 1 to question Defense Minister Khalid al-Obeidi on charges of corruption. Obeidi, in turn, accused his interrogator, several members of the CoR, and CoR Speaker Salim al-Juburi of corruption and blackmail. Juburi left the session and promised to file a lawsuit against Obeidi to prove his innocence. PM Abadi ordered the Integrity Commission to investigate Obeidi's allegations. The CoR postponed the questioning session until August 9.

2 ISIS targets three oil facilities in Kirkuk. Militants stormed the AP2 gas compressor station northwest of Kirkuk on July 31 and opened fire, killing four employees. The militants planted IEDs in the station, which detonated, then fled. Counter Terrorism Service (CTS) stormed the facility and regained control soon after. ISIS militants, believed to be those who fled the AP2 facility, then stormed the Bai Hassan Oil Field northwest of Kirkuk. One militant detonated a Suicide Vest (SVEST) at the gate, allowing others to enter the facility where militants detonated two more SVESTs, destroying an oil tank and starting a fire. Oil production ceased at the facility for one day, then resumed on August 1 at a lower production rate. Peshmerga forces clashed with ISIS fighters, killing a fourth SVEST attacker. ISIS claimed the Bai Hassan attack but not the AP2 attack. Later, ISIS launched Katyusha rockets at the headquarters of the North Oil Company in Riyadh, southwest of Kirkuk, without casualties.

3 ISIS detonates SVEST in northwestern Baghdad, security forces thwart additional attacks. ISIS detonated an SVEST in Shuala, northwestern Baghdad, on July 27. Federal Police forces chased the attacker who then detonated the SVEST, killing one police officer and injuring a second officer. ISIS claimed the attack. Joint Operations Command stated that security forces thwarted four additional SVEST attacks north of Baghdad on the same day. The attack and thwarted attack underscore that, despite increased measures following the July 3 Karrada attack, the security of Baghdad remains vulnerable.

4 PM Abadi calls for restructuring of Popular Mobilization as an independent entity within the ISF. An official decree signed by Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi in February 2016 surfaced on July 26. The decree calls for the restructuring of the Popular Mobilization as an independent formation of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) under PM Abadi's control and military law. The structure will be comparable to that of the Counter Terrorism Service (CTS). Any Popular Mobilization units that join the new structure must renounce all affiliations with political factions. The Office of Prime Minister Abadi confirmed the intent to restructure the Popular Mobilization on July 31.



- Major Cities
- ISF
- Iraqi Shi'a Militias
- ✈ Airstrikes
- Peshmerga
- ISIS
- ✳ Major Clash
- Coalition
- 🚗 SVBIED
- 🚒 SVEST
- 👤 Demonstration

100km

By Emily Anagnostos and the ISW Iraq Team
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U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford arrived in Iraq on July 30 to discuss upcoming operations in Mosul with Coalition, Iraqi, and Kurdish officials. Dunford met with Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi and Defense Minister Khalid al-Obeidi on July 31 and Kurdistan Regional President Masoud Barzani on August 1. The visit comes as the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) continue to make headway around Shirqat and Qayyarah as part of condition setting for Mosul. The question of force composition for the Mosul operation continues to arise as the ISF makes progress towards Mosul. The Coalition can currently enforce which forces participate in operations in northern Iraq by leveraging Coalition airstrikes, as they did in Ramadi to ensure that Popular Mobilization did not participate. Both Barzani and Gen Dunford stressed that the Peshmerga participation was necessary for a successful operation in Mosul, however it is still unclear if the Peshmerga will operate within the city of Mosul itself, rather than its environs. If the Peshmerga fights in the city and remains there after the end of the operation, they may be unwilling to withdraw in an effort to claim Mosul as a Kurdish city rather than cede it back to the Iraqi Government. The Popular Mobilization are also angling for the right to participate in Mosul. They tried to justify this right by surfacing a four-month old decree from PM Abadi which calls for the restructuring of the Popular Mobilization under the ISF. The decree was signed on February 22 in the midst of PM Abadi's attempts to reshuffle the Cabinet, but remained undisclosed until July 26 when several Popular Mobilization units circulated the document. The decree, however, would not alter the way the Popular Mobilization is organized or operates. It calls for the organization of the Popular Mobilization under the command of PM Abadi and in a brigade-centric structure similar to the Counter Terrorism Service (CTS). Both of these structures already exist, however PM Abadi lacks leverage over the Iranian-backed proxy militias in the Popular Mobilization. The Popular Mobilization likely surfaced the decree now to legitimize their presence in northern Iraq as part of the ISF. However, Coalition, Kurdish, and Ninewa officials will continue to reject militia participation in northern operations.