

Iraq Situation Report: June 18, 2014

June 18: ISIS reportedly repealed the June 13 Madina decree which imposed harsh Sharia law in Mosul. If confirmed, the decree was likely negated either due to popular opposition or to coordination between ISIS and other armed groups. Most foreign fighters reportedly departed from Mosul and a small number of ISIS members from rural Ninewa now control parts of the city.

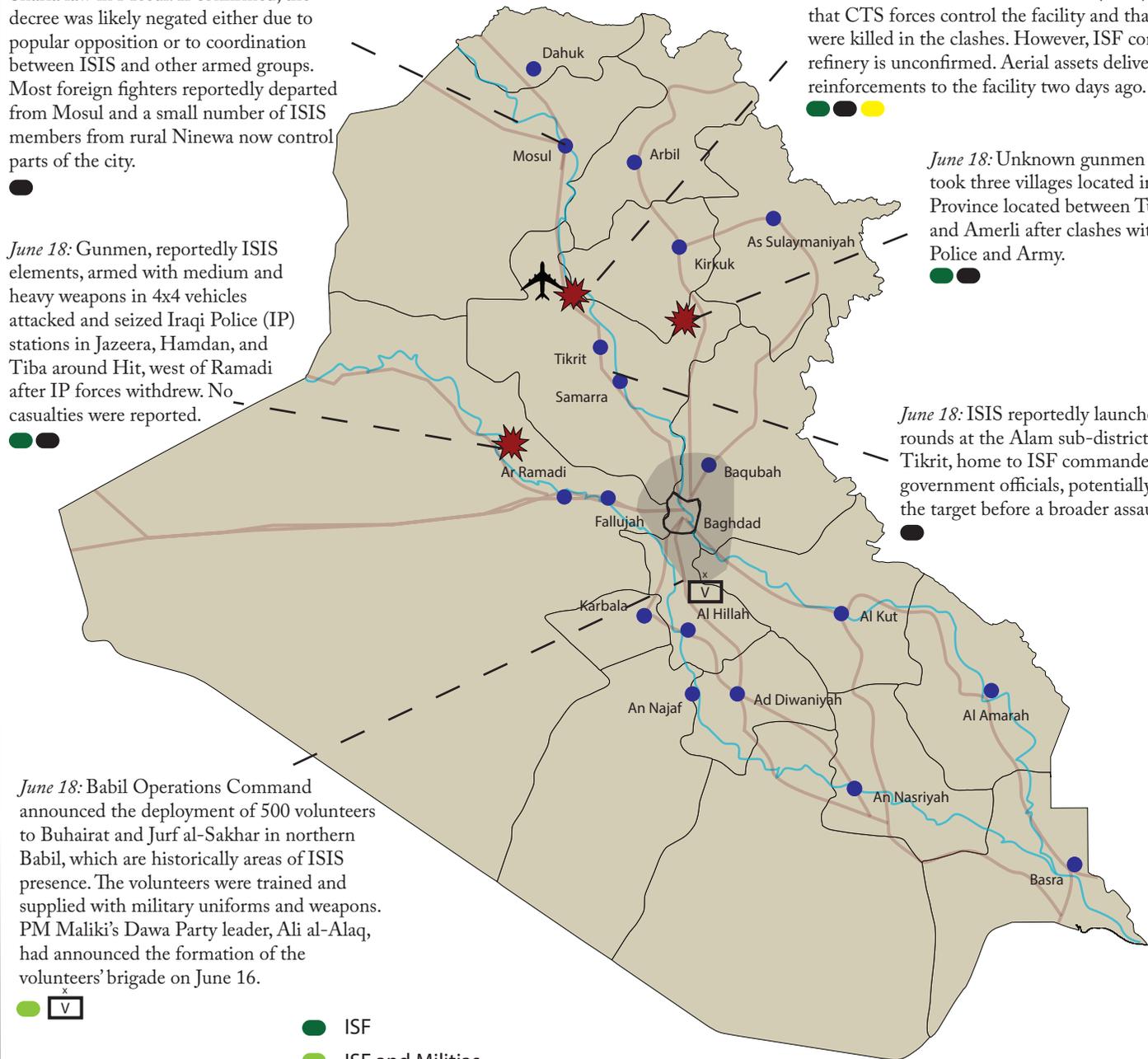
June 18: Gunmen, reportedly ISIS elements, armed with medium and heavy weapons in 4x4 vehicles attacked and seized Iraqi Police (IP) stations in Jazeera, Hamdan, and Tiba around Hit, west of Ramadi after IP forces withdrew. No casualties were reported.

June 18: Babil Operations Command announced the deployment of 500 volunteers to Buhairat and Jurf al-Sakhar in northern Babil, which are historically areas of ISIS presence. The volunteers were trained and supplied with military uniforms and weapons. PM Maliki's Dawa Party leader, Ali al-Alaq, had announced the formation of the volunteers' brigade on June 16.

June 18: Unidentified gunmen attacked the Baiji refinery with mortars and direct fire. PM Maliki's spokesperson and the Counter Terrorism Services (CTS) have stated that CTS forces control the facility and that 40 gunmen were killed in the clashes. However, ISF control of the refinery is unconfirmed. Aerial assets delivered ISF reinforcements to the facility two days ago.

June 18: Unknown gunmen reportedly took three villages located in Salah ad-din Province located between Tuz Khurmatu and Amerli after clashes with the Iraqi Police and Army.

June 18: ISIS reportedly launched 20 mortar rounds at the Alam sub-district east of Tikrit, home to ISF commanders and government officials, potentially softening the target before a broader assault.



- ISF
- Major Cities
- ★ Major Clash
- ISF and Militias
- ISIS
- JRTN
- ✈ Airlifted Reinforcements
- V Volunteer Brigade



by Heather L. Pickerell, Ahmed Ali and the ISW Iraq Team

Today's developments are important for the short term and long-term. The elite Counter Terrorism Service of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) have continued to try to protect the Baiji oil refinery as gunmen, likely a combination of ISIS, JRTN and local tribes, attempt to take control of it. ISIS is still engaged in fostering a governance structure in Mosul, but has reportedly repealed its decree of harsh Shari'a law likely because it recognizes that the local population is not going to tolerate harsh measures. The Iraqi government reinforced northern Babil indicating that it aims ultimately to establish the southern belt as a buffer zone if it can expel ISIS.