

Iraq Situation Report: July 15, 2014

1 The Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) published photos of its members distributing food supplies to families, presumably in Mosul. The supplies are provided in bags stamped with "Relief Department-Islamic State" labels. Notably, ISIS members do not have their faces covered or pixelated in the photos as is normally ISIS procedure. The photos emerged as ISIS has reportedly instructed food ration agents not to distribute food to Iraqi Christians, Yazidis, or Shabak.

2 ISF launched a clearing operation in Tikrit, reportedly involving counter-terrorism, IA, and IP forces. The operation was named "al-Saif al-Batar" ["The Severing Sword"] and was launched from the southern and northern parts of the city. There are reports that the ISF were able to secure important locations in the city including the Tikrit hospital and police academy. However, other security sources indicate that ISF push into the city was hampered by ISIS snipers.

3 Two VBIEDs targeted an Iraqi Army and a volunteers' convoy near a restaurant in southern Samarra. The attack resulted in the death of five people and injury of 23 others.

4 Unidentified gunmen destroyed the Albu Ghaib Bridge in the Saqlawiyah area in Anbar province. The bridge connects the Saqlawiyah with Ramadi.

5 An IED attack targeted an IA patrol in the village of Arab Jassim in Yusufiyah, resulting in the death of one IA member and the injury of four. A mortar attack targeted Yusufiyah as well resulting in the death of a civilian and the injury of two children.

6 Three attacks took place in the southern parts of Kirkuk city. An explosion targeted a police patrol in the Wasiti neighborhood in Kirkuk resulting in the injury of one person. In the Aruba neighborhood, a "primitive" bomb targeted the house of a member of the anti-crime department in the city and also resulted in the injury of his son who is a member of the Peshmerga. In the Sikak neighborhood, an IED attack targeted the house of the head of the Iraqi Turkmen Front's office in Diyala.

7 The Mujahidin Army, an Iraqi Sunni insurgent group founded after 2003, reportedly distributed leaflets in the northern neighborhoods of Diyala in which it rejected pledging allegiance to ISIS head Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Reportedly, the leaflets also criticized the establishment of the ISIS "Caliphate."

8 Two VBIEDs detonated near the Hay market in Sadr city that resulted in the death of 7 people and injury of 34 people.



- ISF
- ISIS
- Mujahidin Army
- Peshmerga
- ISF and Militias
- V Volunteers
- Major Cities
- ★ Major Clash
- VBIED
- ✈ Armed Drones



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ISIS is likely seeking to establish a presence in Kirkuk city. The pattern of attacks in the city indicates an early replication of previous ISIS efforts in other parts of Iraq where ISIS was seeking to soften defenses and establish control. In Mosul, photos of the distribution of food aid represent an attempt by ISIS to project a sense of normalcy and a functioning state while avoiding blame in light of reported difficult living conditions in the city. Furthermore, ISIS is exhibiting signs of confidence by not protecting the identities of its members in published photos. The Mujahidin Army, an Iraqi Sunni insurgent group founded after 2003, rejected ISIS's attempt to establish a state. It will be important to watch how ISIS reacts to smaller groups that reject its authority in areas it seeks to control.