

Iraq Situation Report: August 8, 2014

1 A joint force from the IA and volunteers likely including Iraqi Shi'a militias have heavily clashed with ISIS in the vicinity of Amerli. While some forces are reported to be 4 km from Amerli, others have retreated to the Peshmerga controlled, Tuz Khurmatu. The Peshmerga activity is part of an operation announced on August 7 to clear villages around Amerli, which has been besieged by ISIS for more than 40 days and to clear ISIS from Salman Beg.



2 Heavy clashes reportedly took place between the Peshmerga and ISIS near a refugee camp that Kurds settled in the 1990s located 10 km from Makhmour, southeast of Mosul. Reports indicated that forces from the People's Defense Forces of the PKK deployed to the area and are fighting alongside the Peshmerga near Makhmour after they evacuated elders and children from the camp and set up fighting positions.



3 An SVBIED targeted an ISF position in the area known as "35 km", west of Ramadi. Casualty figures were not reported.



4 An IED detonated in the Bakir intersection in Hit killing one Sahwa member and injuring five others.



5 ISIS seized areas of al-Wayes, Khafajeya, an area known as "3 km", Barwana, and Khasfa, all proximate to the Haditha Dam. Meanwhile, Anbar's governor stated a mechanized IA brigade arrived to protect the district and the dam. Also, Haditha's mayor stated a joint force from the IA, IP, and tribes repelled an ISIS attack.



6 IA Aviation targeted ISIS gunmen near the villages of Kharab and Imdayna, south west of Kirkuk City killing 18 ISIS gunmen and injuring 22 others.



7 ISIS launched an attack against the IP in Dhuluiya, southeast Samarra, killing two ISIS members and injuring six IP members.



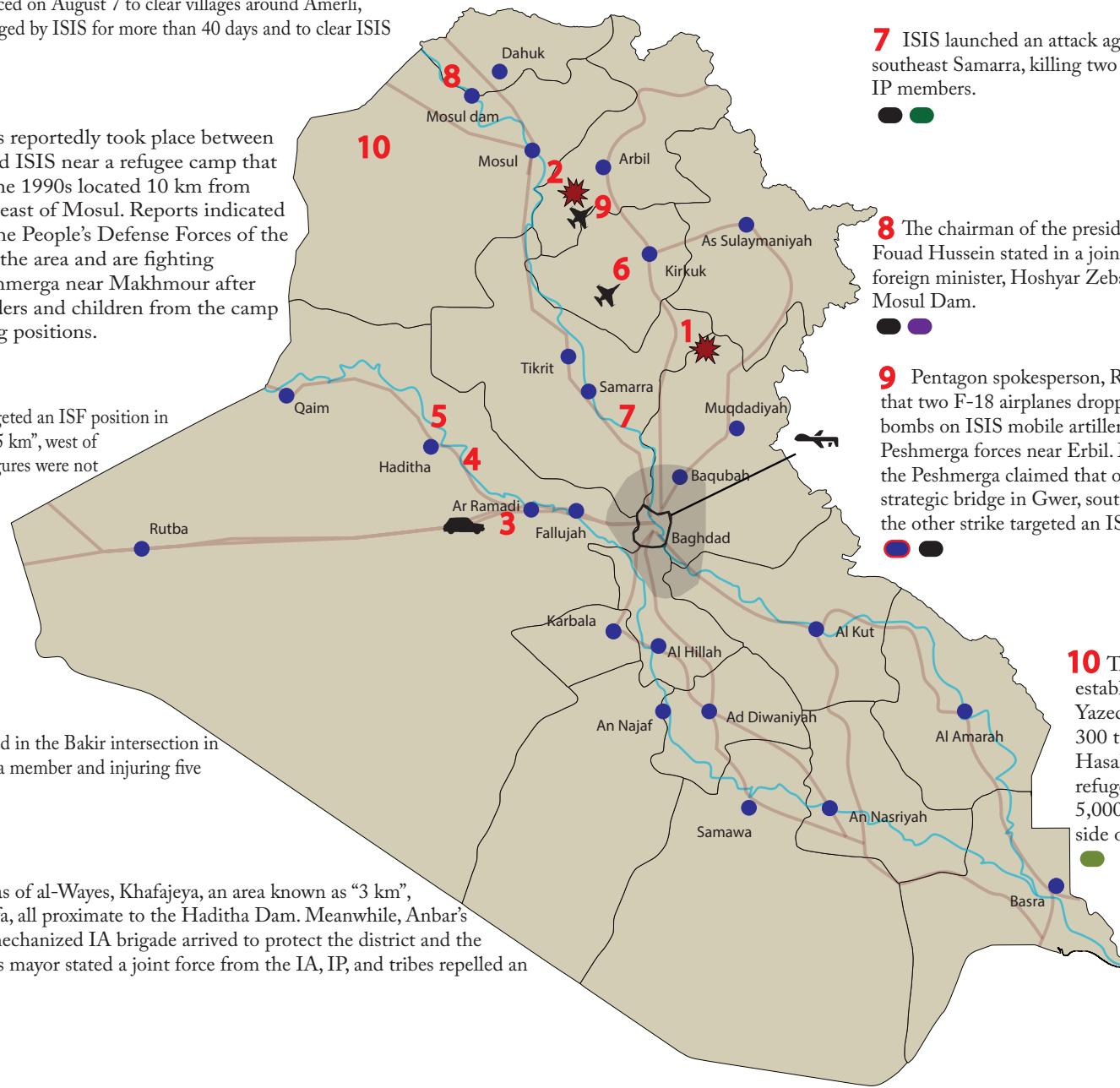
8 The chairman of the presidency council in Iraqi Kurdistan, Fouad Hussein stated in a joint press conference with former foreign minister, Hoshyar Zebari that ISIS took control of the Mosul Dam.



9 Pentagon spokesperson, Rear Admiral John Kirby, stated that two F-18 airplanes dropped 500-pound laser guided bombs on ISIS mobile artillery that was being used to attack Peshmerga forces near Erbil. Meanwhile, the spokesperson of the Peshmerga claimed that one of the strikes targeted a strategic bridge in Gwer, southeast of Mosul. He added that the other strike targeted an ISIS gathering in Sinjar.



10 The YPG have reportedly established a secure corridor for Iraqi Yazidis to flee into Syrian territories. 300 tents were reportedly erected in Hasaka in order to aid the Yazidi refugees. Reports indicated that 5,000 of them settled on the other side of the borders.



- Major Cities
- Volunteers
- Armed Drones
- Anti-ISI Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- Major Clash
- USA
- SVBIED
- Peshmerga
- Airstrikes
- YPG
- ISF
- Awakening



Content: ISW Iraq Team and Lauren Squires
Graphics: Jennifer Cafarella

Within the past 24 hours, ISIS seized Mosul Dam. This capture provides ISIS strategic advantage over the Iraqi state. The dam's collapse could severely damage vast areas of the country where ISIS seeks to achieve military victory but has encountered heavy resistance. Also, ISIS now controls electricity production to Mosul and the group extends its claimed territory farther north. ISIS continues to fight the Peshmerga in Makhmour, south of Mosul and the IA in Dhuluiya, north of Baghdad. ISIS victories over the Peshmerga have prompted other regional Kurdish players like the PKK and YPG to fight alongside one another to counter ISIS. Although, the United States conducted two rounds of targeted airstrikes against ISIS held territory outside of Arbil and Mosul, it remains too early to determine whether or not the group will adjust its military strategy. ISIS is likely hardening territorial boundaries for the Islamic Caliphate east of Mosul, but ISW assesses ISIS will not attempt to seize Arbil. Still, fear of an ISIS attack on Arbil has peaked.