

**1 ISF pushes towards central Mosul, Tigris River.** The Counter Terrorism Service (CTS) conducted a night raid on January 6 in order to cross into north central Mosul. The units made contact with Iraqi Army units pushing in from the northern city limits and began operations to clear northern neighborhoods and isolate the University of Mosul. Meanwhile, CTS units operating on the eastern axis punched through remaining neighborhoods to reach the Tigris River on January 8. Since then, the CTS has expanded control over the surrounding neighborhoods on the eastern bank, including those with government infrastructure. The Iraqi Army and Federal Police continue to consolidate holdings in the southeast, making significant gains after the introduction of the Federal Police reinforcements in late December.

**10 Iranian proxy militia blocks CTS, U.S. advisers from training site in Makhoul Mountains.** Harakat al-Nujaba, an Iranian proxy militia, stated that it blocked the entry of "American forces" into the Makhoul Mountains in northern Salah al-Din on January 8, and that they will not allow "American forces into unstable places and liberated places as that is against Iraq's sovereignty." The War Media Cell, the official ISF news outlet, clarified that there were Coalition trainers with a CTS unit that wanted to conduct live fire training in the Makhoul Mountains but turned back when Nujaba blocked them, citing a lack of prior coordination.

**9 ISIS attacks police station east of Tikrit.** ISIS launched an attack on January 6 against the Albu Dalaf police station, east of al-Dawr District, east of Tikrit, used by the East Dijla Operations Command as a headquarters. The attackers tried to storm the headquarters, killing three Iraqi Army officers and injuring nine others from the army and Popular Mobilization. Security forces killed two ISIS militants wearing Suicide Vests (SVESTs). ISIS burned a number of police cars in the area while the Iraqi Army Aviation (IAA) destroyed four vehicles belonging to ISIS.

**8 ISF, tribal fighters announces progress in clearing operations in western Anbar.** The 7th Iraqi Army Division reported on January 6 that units from the 7th Division, the 19th Brigade of Anbar emergency police, and tribal fighters, operating under Jazeera and Badia Operations Command (JBOC), recaptured seven villages between Haditha and Anah as part of initial clearing operations to retake al-Qaim. The Ministry of Defense announced on January 9 that the units recaptured the towns of Sukhra and Zawayah, moving towards Anah.

**7 ISIS attacker intercepted east of Ramadi.** Anbar police headquarters stated that Anbar police intercepted a SVBIED in Juwaibah al-Nisaf, east of Ramadi, on January 10, and arrested the driver.

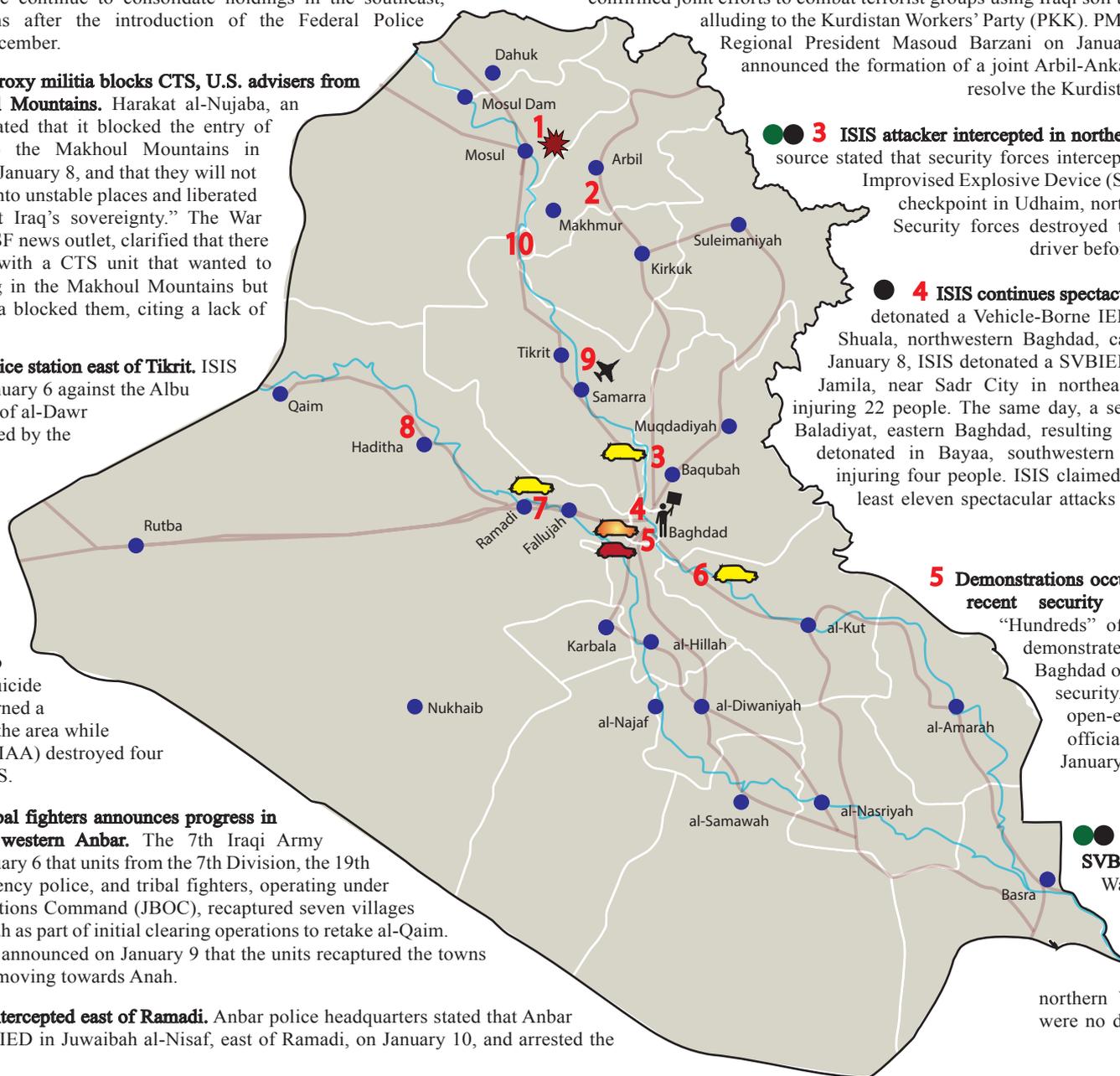
**2 Turkish PM visits Iraq easing recent tensions, discusses Bashiqa and PKK.** Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim met with PM Haidar al-Abadi in Baghdad on January 7, the first visit by a senior Turkish official since December 2015 when tensions heightened over the presence of Turkish troops near Mosul. PMs Abadi and Yildirim stressed that the Bashiqa Camp, where the Turkish soldiers are based, was an Iraqi base. PM Abadi stated that a deal had been reached over Turkey's withdrawal from Bashiqa, but PM Yildirim only stated that Turkish troops would withdraw when peace and normality was restored, giving no concrete timeline. The two also confirmed joint efforts to combat terrorist groups using Iraqi soil to launch attacks into Turkey, alluding to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). PM Yildirim met with Kurdistan Regional President Masoud Barzani on January 8 in Arbil, where they announced the formation of a joint Arbil-Ankara economic commission to resolve the Kurdistan Region's economic crisis.

**3 ISIS attacker intercepted in northern Diyala.** A Diyala security source stated that security forces intercepted a Suicide Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (SVBIED) as it tried to target a checkpoint in Udham, north of Baquba, on January 10. Security forces destroyed the SVBIED and killed the driver before they could reach its target.

**4 ISIS continues spectacular attacks in Baghdad.** ISIS detonated a Vehicle-Borne IED (VBIED) on January 6 in Shuala, northwestern Baghdad, causing seven casualties. On January 8, ISIS detonated a SVBIED at a security checkpoint in Jamila, near Sadr City in northeastern Baghdad, killing and injuring 22 people. The same day, a second SVBIED detonated in Baladiyah, eastern Baghdad, resulting in 20 casualties. A VBIED detonated in Bayaa, southwestern Baghdad, on January 11, injuring four people. ISIS claimed all attacks, which follow at least eleven spectacular attacks in Baghdad from December 21 to January 5.

**5 Demonstrations occur in Baghdad over string of recent security breaches in Sadr City.** "Hundreds" of protesters from Sadr City demonstrated in Tahrir Square in central Baghdad on January 9 calling for better security. The protest turned into an open-ended sit-in until security officials disbanded the sit-in on January 10, citing lack of proper licensing.

**6 Security forces interdict SVBIED in northern Wasit.** A Wasit Provincial Council member stated that security forces in Wasit Province thwarted a SVBIED in Taj al-Din Sub-District in northern Wasit on January 9. There were no details on the intended target of the attack.



- Major Cities
- Coalition
- Iraqi Shi'a Militias
- Major Clash
- ISF
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- Airstrikes
- ISIS
- Demonstration
- VBIED
- SVBIED
- Failed S/VBIED

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ISIS continued to demonstrate its ability to carry out spectacular attacks inside Baghdad from January 6 to 11, following weeks of increasing activity in the capital in response to its losses in Mosul. These attacks indicate that ISIS retains the freedom to maneuver in and around the capital. Residents from Sadr City, which witnessed several major attacks in the past weeks, staged a protest in central Baghdad on January 9 and 10 demanding better security. Meanwhile, foiled attacks in northern Wasit, Diyala, and Ramadi, and an attack near Tikrit, underscore that ISIS is capable of reviving networks in historical support zones which have been recaptured by the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF).

ISIS historically uses its attacks in Baghdad to drive doubts in the Iraqi Government, in particular the Abadi administration, over its ability to protect the capital. In May 2016, major ISIS attacks in Sadr City led to a local but organized demonstration storming the Green Zone. The protest revealed the degree of frustration with Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi and his administration and undermined its legitimacy. ISIS carried out similar attacks in Sadr City this week that also provoked a local but organized protest, a possible indication that recent ISIS attacks in the capital are accomplishing the group's intent to undermine the Abadi government. ISIS is likely also trying to draw the security forces away from or prevent them from going to Mosul in order to protect the capital, limiting the possible reinforcements for the Mosul operation. Meanwhile, the political situation remains uneasy as the Council of Representatives resumed this week and will return to contentious issues, such as appointments for vacant ministries, which put PM Abadi's premiership in the crosshairs in early 2016 when he attempted a Cabinet reshuffle. If ISIS continues to successfully attack Baghdad, and if those attacks coincide with political upheaval as they did in 2016, mass protests and discontent could further weaken PM Abadi's authority or, in the most dangerous scenario, lead to his dismissal.