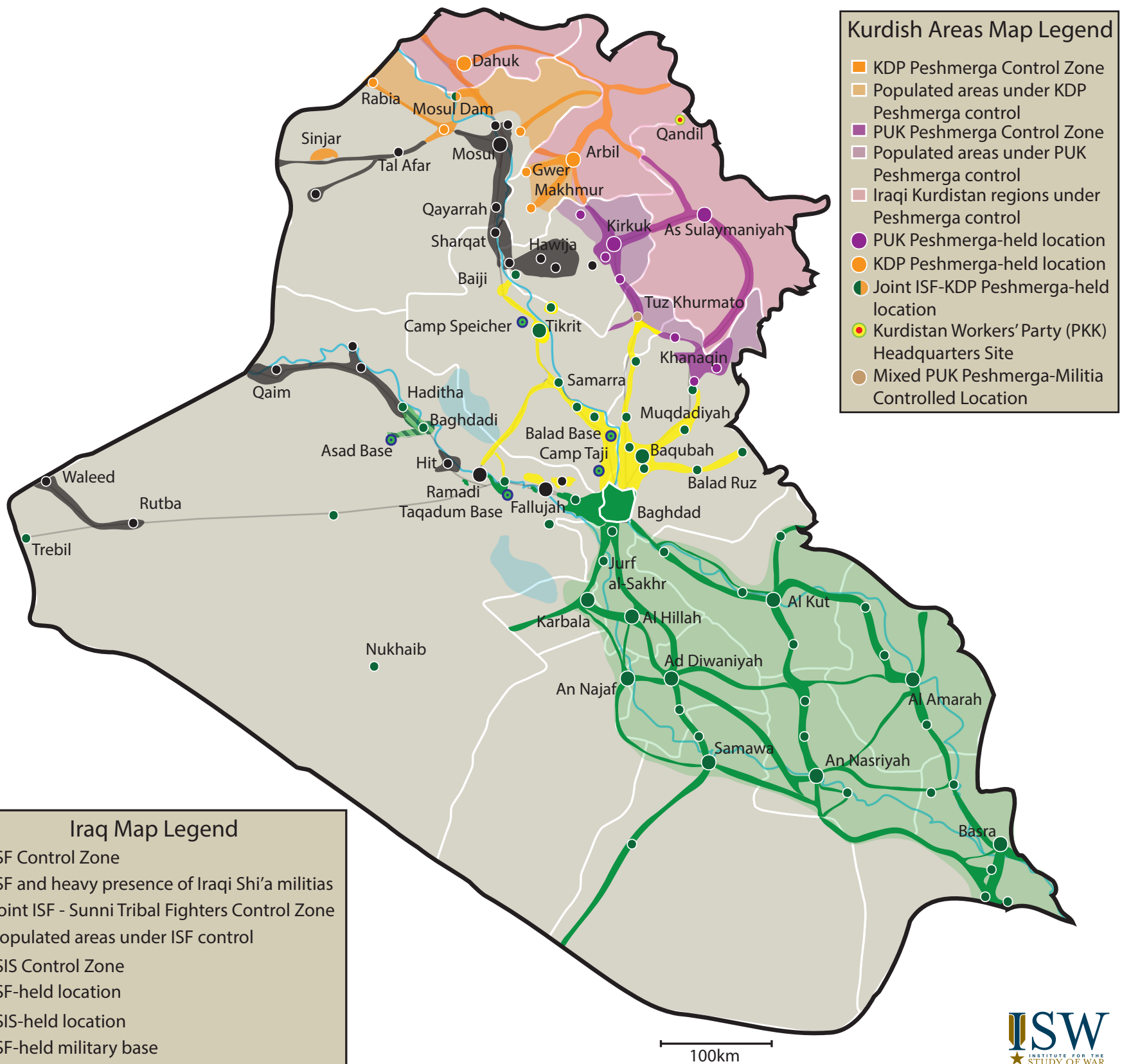


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Iraq Control of Terrain Map: September 11, 2015



The Iraq Control of Terrain map depicts the control exerted by armed actors in Iraq over urban and populated areas. “Control” is defined as “an area in which a military actor exerts physical/psychological pressure to assure that individuals or groups within the area respond as directed.” Control also requires a military command to maintain physical influence over a specified area in order to prevent its use by an enemy. The control zones depicted above demonstrate where groups in Iraq are capable of repelling enemy forces. This map distinguishes between control zones that are less or more populated because armed actors in Iraq are primarily contesting each others’ control of urban areas. Deserts where no armed actors are assessed to have control, and urban areas that are contested are marked as controlled by no one. Contested urban areas are depicted using neutral space to identify that no group has control over a specific area. As such, Baiji and Sinjar are represented as gaps because they are contested and not under the control of any actor. Ramadi, by contrast, is still under ISIS’s control, even though there is a major ISF campaign underway to reclaim the city.