

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

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1 IRGC commander killed near Tel Afar Airbase, west of Mosul. Ranking Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Ground Forces member Kheirollah Ahmadi, who operated as a commander in the Kermanshah-based Hunayn Battalion, was killed by an ISIS booby trap near Tel Afar Airbase on February 3.

12 Salah al-Din warns of “collapse of security” in river valley between Tikrit and Samarra. Salah al-Din Governor Ahmed Abdullah al-Juburi warned on February 6 of “the seriousness of the security situation in the eastern axis of the province” especially around Dour District, southeast of Tikrit, and called on Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi to “take urgent measures to remedy the situation.” A Council of Representatives member stated that Dour District and surrounding areas suffered a “collapse of security since more than a month ago.” He added that there has been an exodus of families from the area because of the situation, including “terrorist gangs” burning their homes and giving death threats.

11 Militant activity spikes between Tikrit and Samarra. The Ministry of Electricity announced that IEDs attacks on February 5 destroyed ten power transmission towers and two lines north of Samarra at Mulla Abdullah and al-Dour District, leading to power outages. On February 8, security forces killed a militant, likely ISIS, wearing an SVEST targeting the headquarters of the former 9th Iraqi Army Brigade in Dour District, southeast of Tikrit, without casualty. A security source in Salah al-Din announced on February 9 the imposition of a curfew in Tikrit after security forces discovered and disarmed a VBIED on 40th Street in central Tikrit. ISIS claimed the attack on the army headquarters was successful. The attacks follow an increase of activity over the last week around Dour District.

10 SVBIED detonated at Fallujah security checkpoint. A security source in Anbar reported that a SVBIED detonated on February 9 at a security checkpoint on the Fallujah-Amiriyah road south of Fallujah, killing two members of the security forces and injuring two others. At time of publication, ISIS has not claimed the attack.

9 IEDs target civilian homes in Basra city. A security source in Basra reported that three IEDs targeting civilian homes in Basra city detonated on February 9. The reasons for targeting those homes is unclear and the IEDs caused no casualties.

2 CTS reportedly clash with local security forces in eastern Mosul. A military source stated that “violent armed clashes” broke out in Hayy al-Nour in eastern Mosul on February 6 between the Counter Terrorism Service (CTS) and local security forces. The source stated that the cause of the clashes was the CTS forbidding the security forces from conducting door-to-door raids for fear of sectarian persecutions.

3 Three spectacular attacks target ISF base, civilians in recaptured eastern Mosul. A Suicide Vehicle Borne IED (SVBIED) targeting the headquarters of the 35th Iraqi Army Brigade in Hayy al-Nour, eastern Mosul, detonated on February 10, killing a lieutenant and injuring nine others. Earlier that day, a Suicide Vest (SVEST) attacker and VBIED detonated in front of a restaurant in Hayy al-Zuhour, killing and injuring twenty people. At time of publication, ISIS has not claimed the attacks.

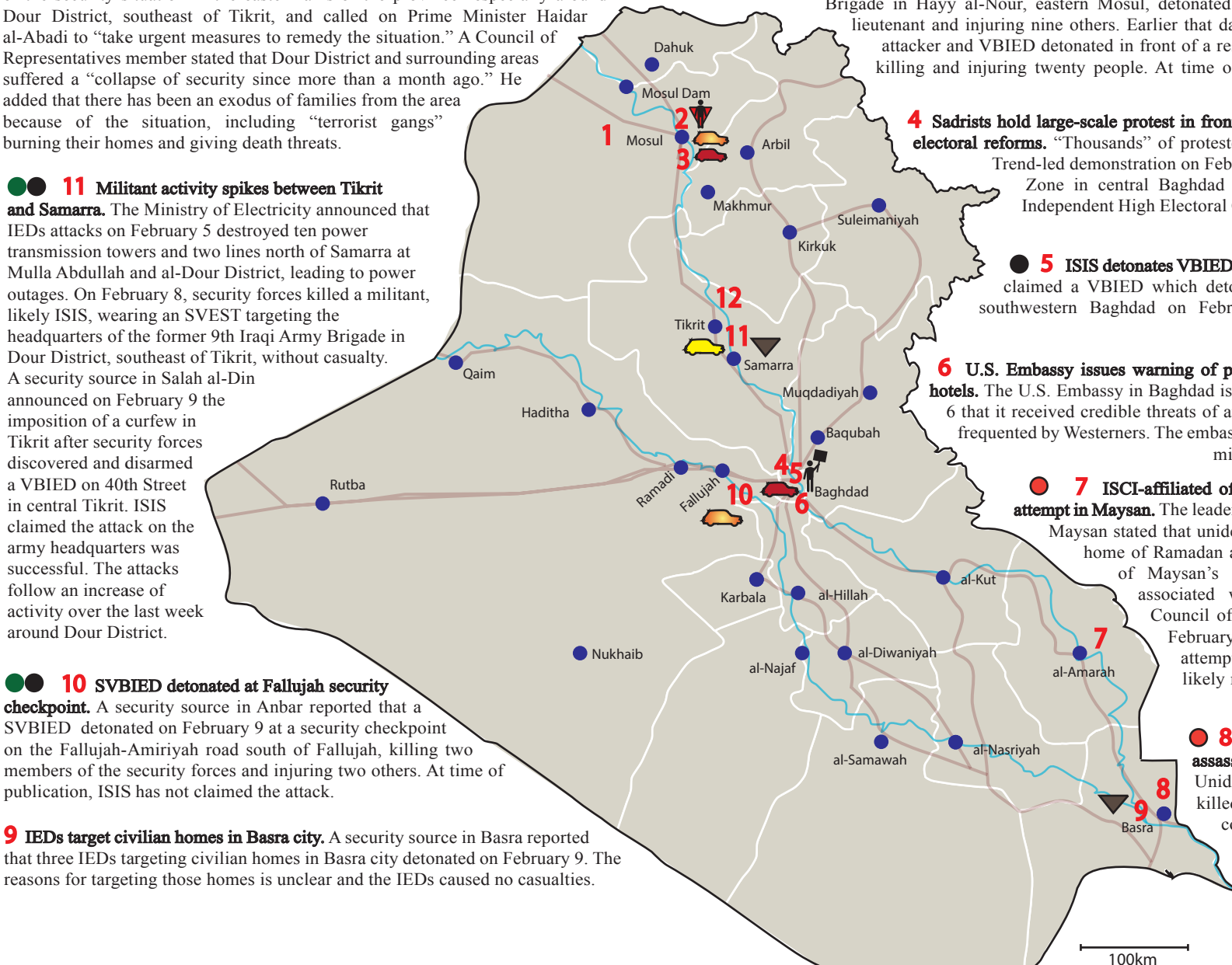
4 Sadrists hold large-scale protest in front of Green Zone demanding electoral reforms. “Thousands” of protesters participated in a Sadrist Trend-led demonstration on February 8 in front of the Green Zone in central Baghdad demanding changes to the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) and the electoral law.

5 ISIS detonates VBIED in southwest Baghdad. ISIS claimed a VBIED which detonated in Hayy al-Alam in southwestern Baghdad on February 10, killing five and injuring fourteen people.

6 U.S. Embassy issues warning of possible attacks on Baghdad hotels. The U.S. Embassy in Baghdad issued a warning on February 6 that it received credible threats of attacks on hotels in Baghdad frequented by Westerners. The embassy reduced the movement of mission personnel in response.

7 ISCI-affiliated official survives assassination attempt in Maysan. The leader of the security committee in Maysan stated that unidentified gunmen fired on the home of Ramadan al-Musawi, Director General of Maysan’s Mihrab Trend Foundation, associated with the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq (ISCI), in Amarah, on February 8. Musawi survived the attempt, which officials stated was likely related to tribal tensions, not political violence.

8 Shi’a militia commander assassinated in Basra. Unidentified gunmen shot and killed Bassim al-Musawi, a senior commander of Hezbollah in Iraq, a pro-Iranian militia affiliated with ISCI, in al-Hayani area of Basra on February 9.



● Major Cities ● Coalition ● Iraqi Shi'a Militias ● VBIED ● SVEST
 ★ Major Clash ● ISF ● Unknown Gunmen ● SVBIED ● Demonstration
 ★ Airstrikes ● ISIS ● IED ● Failed S/VBIED

By Emily Anagnostos and the ISW Iraq Team
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Security conditions have decreased in Mosul and Salah al-Din and in the southern provinces due to revived militant attacks and election-related violence, respectively, from February 2 to 10. The Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) is struggling to find a suitable force that can secure recaptured areas in eastern Mosul and free up elite units like the Counter Terrorism Service (CTS) to launch operations in western Mosul. A February 6 report stated that the CTS “violently” prevented a hold force from carrying out door-to-door raids for fear of sectarian persecution. The inability to find a suitable hold force is also creating openings for ISIS to re-infiltrate, as shown by several attacks in eastern Mosul on February 8. The recent attacks also suggest that the neighborhoods were not fully cleared in initial operations. Continued poor security in eastern Mosul as the ISF begins operations in the west could allow ISIS to re-infiltrate the east and attack the ISF from the rear, forcing the ISF to fight on two fronts to recapture the city.

Security in northern Salah al-Din is deteriorating after an increase of militant activity around Tikrit and Dour District from February 2 to 10. The Salah al-Din Governor appealed to Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi on February 6 to intervene after a spike in activity around Dour District, southeast of Tikrit, led to a reported “exodus” of residents from the area. ISIS claimed responsibility for some of the attacks, however burning homes and issuing death threats may be indicators that ISIS is competing in the area with other insurgent groups, likely Baathist, as they indicated in Diyala in 2014. The activity indicates that a post-ISIS insurgency may be forming in the area. The January 31 arrest of two al Qaeda (AQ) operatives in Samarra suggests that AQ may be looking to gain traction within it.

Meanwhile, recent attacks against members of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq (ISCI) in Basra and Maysan Provinces on February 8 and 9, respectively, are hints of political violence and intimidation tactics in the lead up to local elections, likely scheduled for April 2018. These attacks are common in every election cycle and will likely increase as Shi’a parties use their affiliated militias to vie for dominance in the majority-Shi’a southern provinces. If violence increases to an untenable level, the ISF may need to deploy forces to southern Iraq to contain militia and tribal violence at a time when the ISF is stretched thin.