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Peshmerga recaptures Bashiqa, northeast of Mosul. Peshmerga forces

recaptured the ISIS-held town of Bashiqa, northeast of Mosul, on November 7 after

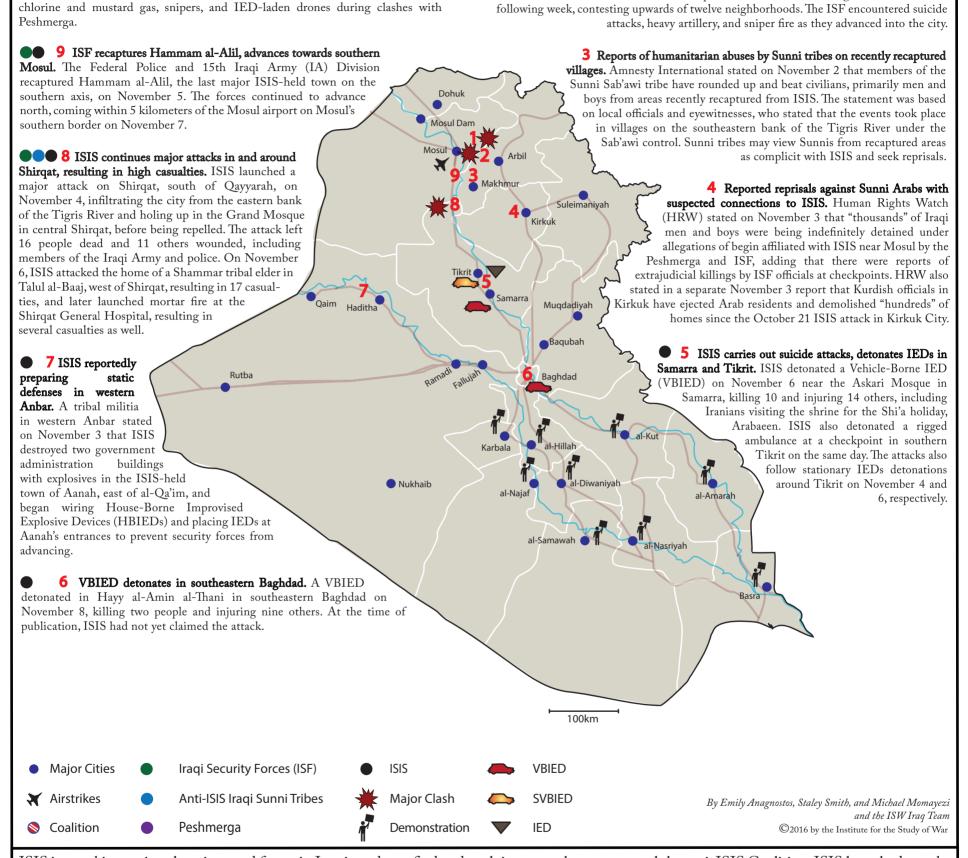
encircling the town since October 23. ISIS used long-range artillery filled with

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2 ISF expands clearing operations in neighborhoods in eastern Mosul. The Coun-

ter Terrorism Service (CTS) and 9th Iraqi Army (IA) Division breached Mosul's eastern

border on November 1 and advanced deeper into Mosul's eastern neighborhoods over the



ISIS is attacking various locations and forces in Iraq in order to find and exploit a seam that can unravel the anti-ISIS Coalition. ISIS launched attacks in Tikrit and Samarra on November 6, targeting Shi'a civilians, including Iranians visiting for a Shi'a holiday. The attacks likely aim to provoke Shi'a militias to carry out reprisals on Sunni populations in order to marginalize Sunnis from the Iraqi Government. ISIS also detonated a Vehicle-Borne IED (VBIED) in Baghdad on November 8. ISIS may hope to unravel political seams that could undermine the legitimacy of the Abadi administration, like it did with the July 3 VBIED which led to the resignations of senior security officials. Some recent ISIS attacks have had success in exploiting these seams: ISIS's attack on Kirkuk City on October 21 resulted in Kurdish security officials demolishing the homes of Sunni Arabs in response to the attacks, according to November 3 Human Rights Watch report. Although ISIS has hit on the Kurdish-Arab seam in Kirkuk, it has not been able to fracture the anti-ISIS alliance between the Peshmerga and the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), which continue to make significant gains in eastern Mosul and north and south of the city from November 2 to 8. ISIS will continue to try to exploit seams that can affect the progress of the anti-ISIS alliance in the short-term while hitting seams which keep Iraq's Sunni population sufficiently disillusioned and victimized by the Iraqi Government in the long-term. Therefore, if ISIS needs to go to ground after it loses Mosul, there are conditions set for a renewed Sunni insurgency, off of which ISIS can rebound.