

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

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1 ISF clears east Mosul. The Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) cleared the eastern half of Mosul completely on January 24 after the Coalition and ISF launched a major effort to revive and reinforce operations on December 29. The ISF, backed by Coalition advisors, recaptured the University of Mosul on January 15, the ancient ruins on January 18, and the remaining ISIS-held two bridges on January 19. The ISF also announced the complete recapture of the southeastern quarter on January 14. The Federal Police units operating in the area reported that they would soon return to the southern axis to advance efforts there. Meanwhile, armored army units deployed from southeast Mosul to north of the city to Tel Kayyaf, retaking the district on January 19 three months after army units besieged it in late October 2016.

10 Popular Mobilization launches operation to secure Baghdad-Mosul road. The Popular Mobilization Commission (PMC) announced on January 24 an operation to clear the Baghdad-Mosul highway in the area around Shirqat District. The PMC reported that three Popular Mobilization brigades and Federal Police forces were participating in the operation. Popular Mobilization units have been present in and around Shirqat since its recapture in September 2016, but are now looking to extend a buffer zone along the highway.

9 ISIS attacks security checkpoint in western Anbar. A source in Anbar Operations Command (AOC) stated that ISIS attacked a police checkpoint in 150 Kilo, west of Ramadi, with light and medium weaponry on January 13, killing one policeman and injuring three others.

8 Thousands gather in Baghdad to protest recent breaches in security and arrests of protesters. "Thousands" of residents protested and staged a sit-in in Tahrir Square in Baghdad on January 13 to demand reforms and denounce corruption and recent security breaches in Baghdad. The protestors also condemned the arrests of protesters who were demanding accountability for recent ISIS attacks during a local demonstration on January 10, and called on PM Haidar al-Abadi to provide an explanation as to why those protests were suppressed. The Iraqi Human Rights Office condemned security forces' "repeated assaults" on demonstrators and vowed to submit a report on the abuse to the appropriate officials. The protests, which occurred across southern Iraq as well, called for greater security and renewed demands for reforms against corruption.

2 ISF assembles pontoon bridges in Mosul operation. An official military source reported that five pontoon bridges, provided by the International Coalition, arrived at the Qarrayah airbase south of Mosul on January 18. The source stated that the five pontoon bridges will replace the five main Mosul bridges destroyed by coalition airstrikes and ISIS. ISF engineering units began assembling the bridges in Mosul on January 22.

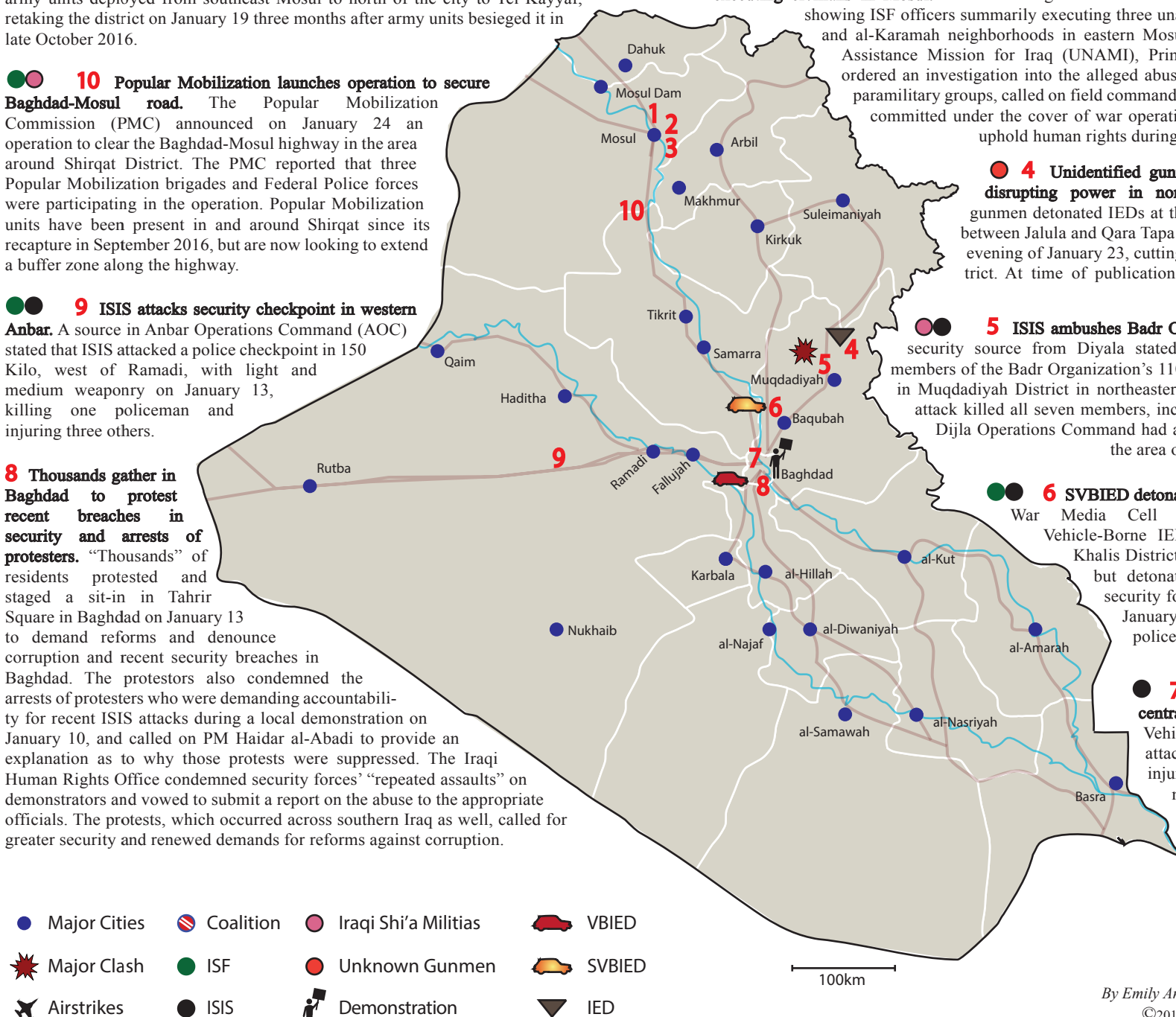
3 PM Abadi orders investigation into abuses after video circulates of ISF officers summarily executing civilians in Mosul. A video emerged on social media on January 20 allegedly showing ISF officers summarily executing three unarmed individuals near Intisar and al-Karamah neighborhoods in eastern Mosul. Urged by United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi ordered an investigation into the alleged abuses committed by the ISF and paramilitary groups, called on field commanders to make sure no abuses are committed under the cover of war operations, and stressed the need to uphold human rights during and after military operations.

4 Unidentified gunmen bomb electrical towers, disrupting power in northeast Diyala. Unidentified gunmen detonated IEDs at three electrical towers running between Jalula and Qara Tapa in northeast Diyala in the late evening of January 23, cutting power to Qara Tapa sub-district. At time of publication, engineers were working to restore power to the area.

5 ISIS ambushes Badr Organization unit in Diyala. A security source from Diyala stated that ISIS ambushed seven members of the Badr Organization's 110th Brigade near Imam Ways in Muqdadiah District in northeastern Diyala on January 14. The attack killed all seven members, including the unit's commander. Diyala Operations Command had announced operations to clear the area of ISIS militants the same day.

6 SVBIED detonates at Diyala checkpoint. The War Media Cell reported that a Suicide Vehicle-Borne IED (SVBIED) tried to enter Khalis District in northern Diyala Province, but detonated at the checkpoint when security forces confronted the driver on January 14. The blast killed one policeman and a civilian and injured four others.

7 ISIS detonates VBIED in central Baghdad. ISIS claimed a Vehicle-Borne IED (VBIED) attack that killed two people and injured six others in the Nahda neighborhood in central Baghdad on January 24.



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The Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) pushed ISIS out of eastern Mosul on January 24, but will need to continue efforts to expel ISIS from historic support zones in Diyala and Anbar. With the support of Coalition advisors, the ISF recaptured the last ISIS-held neighborhood in eastern Mosul on January 24 and is preparing to launch operations into western Mosul. ISIS continues to demonstrate, however, that it has set conditions to retain its capabilities and networks in order to survive the loss of Mosul in Iraq. The group remains active in recaptured areas in which it, and its predecessor al Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), had extensive networks. Ongoing low-level attacks in the Euphrates River Valley and in Diyala Province underscore that ISIS is reconstituting its abilities and returning to traditional style terror tactics outside of its efforts to govern and hold cities. The ISF and Coalition will need to continue anti-ISIS operations beyond the recapture of Mosul and may need to reopen clearing operations in previously recaptured areas in order to eliminate ISIS in Iraq.