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1 Turkish airstrikes on PKK kill five Peshmerga fighters. The Turkish Air Force struck Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) affiliate positions in Dri Kli Kurss, north of the Sinjar Mountains on April 25. The strikes also killed five Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) Peshmerga members.

12 Iran-backed PMU advance toward the Iraq-Syria border west of Mosul. Iran-backed PMU seized al-Hatra, southwest of Mosul, on April 26.

11 ISIS attacks ISF in western Anbar. The Iraqi Army (IA) repelled an ISIS attack on an Iraqi Army (IA) headquarters in al-Sakkar Bartaba, east of Rutba, on April 23. ISIS attacked an IA battalion near Akashat intersection, on the road between al-Qaim and Rutba, on April 30. ISIS militants again attacked an ISF convoy in al-Sakkar on May 2, killing 10 and wounding 20.

10 ISIS attacks near Ramadi, Haditha. ISF killed two militants wearing SVESTs near al-Malaab neighborhood in southeast Ramadi on May 3. Security forces repelled an ISIS attack on an Anbar police headquarters near Kilo 140, west of Ramadi, on the same day. An ISIS militant conducted an SVBIED attack in Haditha on May 5.

9 ISIS detonates SVBIED in central Baghdad. ISIS detonated a SVBIED near al-Kaharamana neighborhood police station in the al-Karrada district of central Baghdad on April 28. The explosion killed three and wounded at least eight. Iraq's Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi ordered increased security in Baghdad on May 3.

8 ISIS tests security north and south of Baghdad. ISIS militants detonated a Suicide Vehicle-Borne IED (SVBIED) at a security checkpoint at the entrance of Jurf al-Sakhr in Babil Province on April 29, injuring ten. ISF and PMU forces foiled an ISIS attack using a SVEST targeting Balad district on May 1. ISF also killed an ISIS militant wearing an SVEST in al-Tarmiyah on May 3.

2 ISF advance in northwest Mosul. Counter-Terrorism Services (CTS) seized two neighborhoods near Mosul's Old City in an attempt to encircle ISIS. Federal Police (FP) simultaneously attempted but failed to gain significant ground in its southern approach on the Old City.

3 FP foil ISIS attacks near Hamam al-Alil. FP repelled four ISIS Suicide-Vest (SVEST) attackers near a FP base in al-Arij village, near Hammam al-Alil south of Mosul, on April 23. FP forces disrupted four ISIS SVEST attackers in Qabr al-Abed, north of Hamam al-Alil, and one targeting a local Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp on April 26. ISIS also attacked an IDP camp on the Syrian side of the Iraq-Syria border on May 2, killing 32.

4 ISIS and unknown militants attack Kirkuk oil infrastructure and employees. ISIS militants detonated IEDs that set fire to Kirkuk's Bai Hassan pipeline in the al-Diblis district on April 26. Unknown gunmen assassinated the Deputy Director of Iraqi North Gas Company (NOC) and an employee in Kirkuk on May 2.

5 Kurdish security forces arrest ISIS militants in IDP camps. Asayish forces searched three Internally-Displaced Persons (IDP) camps in Laylan, south of Kirkuk, and arrested 63 on April 27. Asayish stated 59 of the arrested confessed to having ties to ISIS. Local police and Asayish additionally searched Sirklan, Mamat, and nearby villages, arresting three.

6 ISF and PMU deflect multiple ISIS attacks in Salah al-Din. Tribal fighters and local police killed an ISIS militant wearing an SVEST near Malha village, south of Baiji, on April 24. ISF supported by Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) reportedly destroyed three ISIS camps near Mtibijah, eastern Salah al-Din Province on April 27. PMU Brigades thwarted an ISIS attempt to infiltrate al-Zuwayyah, northern Salah al-Din, on May 2 and 3.

7 Security operations commence in Maysan and Basra. ISF began operations to tighten security and mitigate rising tribal violence in Maysan Province on May 1. ISF also intervened and investigated tribal clashes in Basra City that left two dead and injured others on April 21 and May 2. ISF implemented a defense plan to protect Basra oil facilities a few days prior.



Jessa Rose Dury-Agri and the ISW Iraq Team
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ISIS is setting conditions for its annual Ramadan campaign, anticipated to begin on May 26 with intent to exploit security vulnerabilities across the country. ISIS tested security in and around Baghdad by conducting a Suicide Vehicle-Borne IED (SVBIED) attack in central Baghdad and attempting additional attacks in Balad, Tarmiyah, and Jurf al-Sakhr. ISIS strained Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) resources by increasing the tempo of attacks in Ramadi and far west Anbar Province. ISIS attempted numerous attacks in Salah al-Din province, which the ISF foiled. The attacks indicate ISIS's continued attack capabilities in this zone. ISIS attacked Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) near Mosul in a potential bid to incite sectarian violence and detract from Mosul operations. Security forces must complete the campaign for Mosul while protecting Baghdad and repelling ISIS attacks across Anbar, Salah al-Din, Diyala, and Ninewa Provinces. ISF resources are further strained in Maysan and Basra Provinces, which mobilized two operations commands to address tribal violence. ISIS will continue to create and exploit weaknesses in Iraqi security prior to its Ramadan offensive.