

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

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1 Turkish forces continue to deploy to Turkey-Iraq border. A Turkish military source stated that Turkish armored vehicles from the 28th Motorized Brigade arrived in Silopi on November 11, bolstering forces already deployed to the Turkish-Iraqi border.

11 Contradicting statements from Baghdad and Arbil over Peshmerga role in holding terrain. Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi met with parliamentary members from Ninewa Province, the Ninewa Governor, and members of the Ninewa Provincial Council to discuss the ongoing Mosul operation on November 10 during which PM Abadi announced an agreement with the KRG that all armed forces would return to the position which they held before the start of the Mosul operation that launched on October 17. Kurdistan Regional President Masoud Barzani later announced on November 16 that there was an agreement brokered by the U.S. that the Peshmerga would not withdraw from recaptured Kurdish areas outside of the borders of the Kurdistan Region. PM Abadi responded on November 17 that the original agreement was still in play and that the Peshmerga will withdraw to pre-October 17 positions.

10 Popular Mobilization Units advance towards Tel Afar, seize nearby airbase. Popular Mobilization Units (PMUs) advanced towards Tel Afar, west of Mosul, recapturing the nearby airbase on November 16 following reports of clashes and numerous VBIEDs. The PMUs reported that they will use the airport as a hub for further operations in western Ninewa province and into Syria.

9 ISIS attempts to launch suicide attacks in Samarra and Baghdad. Iraqi airstrikes killed two attackers wearing SVESTs in al-Hweish, west of Samarra, on November 11, while security forces intercepted and destroyed a VBIED on the highway between Baghdad and Samarra.

8 ISIS strikes Fallujah in first attacks since recapture in June. Two consecutive Suicide Vehicle-Borne IED (SVBIED) attacks targeted security checkpoints in central Fallujah on November 14, killing four police officers and two civilians and injuring 18 others. These were the first major attacks in Fallujah since it was recaptured in June 2016. ISIS detonated a third SVBIED targeting local officials at a wedding in Amiriyat al-Fallujah on November 17, killing 21 people and injuring 42 others.

7 ISIS targets Karbala Province during religious holiday. Six ISIS members armed with Suicide Vests (SVESTs) disguised as religious pilgrims attempted to attack the village of Ain al-Tamer, northwest of Karbala City, on November 14. Five attackers were killed in clashes with security forces while the sixth was able to detonate his SVEST, killing eight and wounding several others. Iranian proxy militias assisted in securing the area after the clashes. ISIS launched a similar attack in Ain al-Tamer in August 29, 2016.

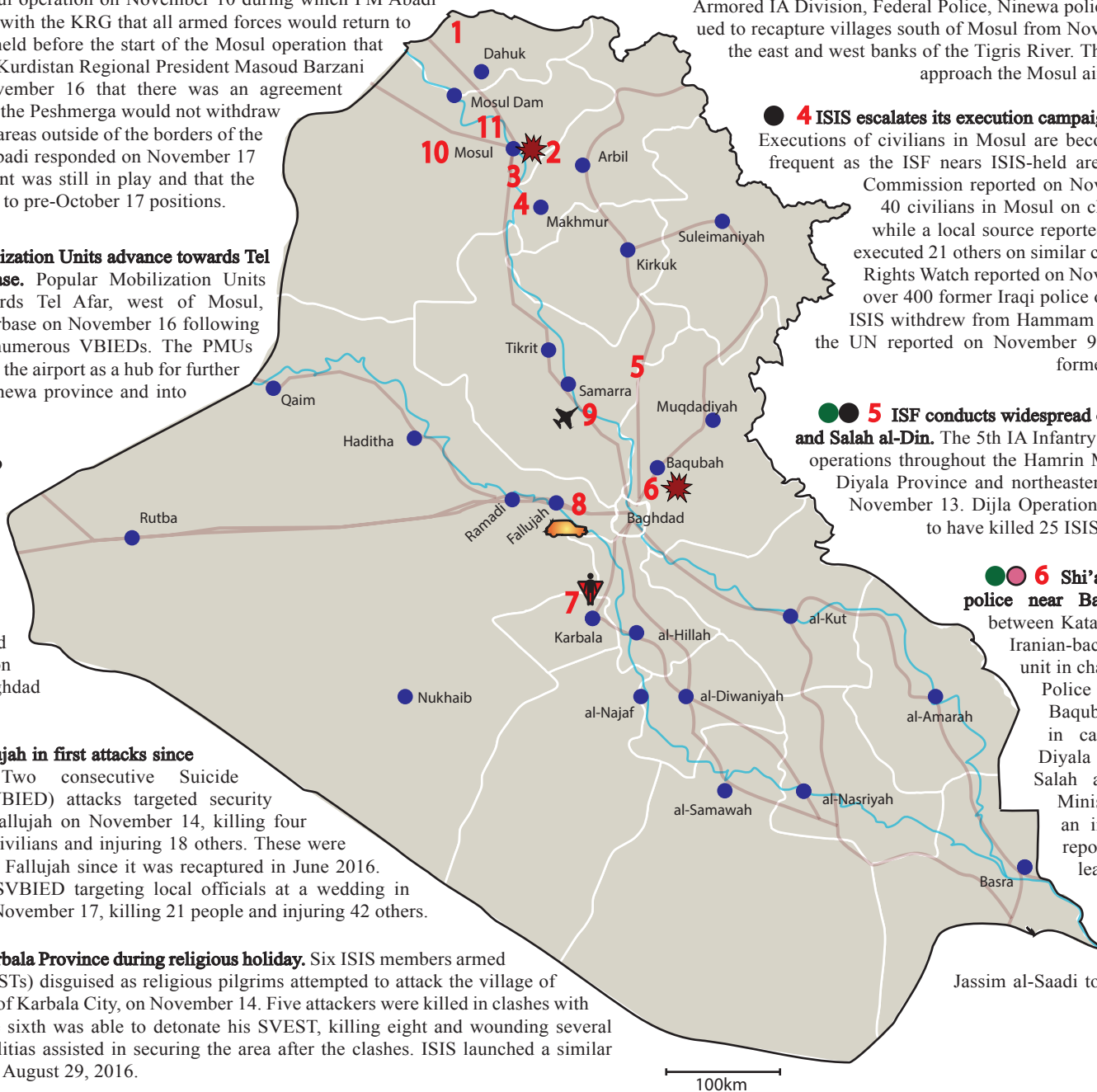
2 ISF expands clearing operations in new neighborhoods in eastern Mosul. The Counter Terrorism Service (CTS) and Iraqi Army (IA) expanded operations further into the eastern portion of Mosul from November 9 - November 16. The ISF reported facing increased resistance since entering Mosul on November 1 and encountered ISIS using civilians as human shields and hiding among fleeing displaced persons.

3 ISF forces close to entering Mosul from southern axis. The 9th Armored IA Division, Federal Police, Ninewa police, and tribal fighters continued to recapture villages south of Mosul from November 10 - November 16 on the east and west banks of the Tigris River. The Federal Police continue to approach the Mosul airport in southwestern Mosul.

4 ISIS escalates its execution campaign in Mosul as ISF closes in. Executions of civilians in Mosul are becoming more widespread and frequent as the ISF nears ISIS-held areas. The UN Human Rights Commission reported on November 8 that ISIS executed 40 civilians in Mosul on charges of using a cell phone while a local source reported on November 15 that ISIS executed 21 others on similar charges. Additionally, Human Rights Watch reported on November 17 that ISIS executed over 400 former Iraqi police officers several weeks ago as ISIS withdrew from Hammam al-Alil, south of Mosul, and the UN reported on November 9 that ISIS disappeared 295 former ISF officers from Tel Afar.

5 ISF conducts widespread clearing operations in Diyala and Salah al-Din. The 5th IA Infantry Division conducted clearing operations throughout the Hamrin Mountain system in northern Diyala Province and northeastern Salah al-Din Province on November 13. Dijla Operations Command (DOC) claimed to have killed 25 ISIS members during operations.

6 Shi'a militia clashes with Diyala police near Baquba. Clashes broke out between Kata'ib al-Imam Ali (KAIA), an Iranian-backed militia, and the police unit in charge of protecting the Diyala Police Chief in al-Bawiya, south of Baquba on November 15, resulting in casualties. President of the Diyala is Our Identity Alliance Salah al-Juburi called on Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi to open an investigation. Other sources reported that Badr Organization leader Hadi al-Amiri had intervened to resolve the issue and that KAIA leader Abu Asrael called for Diyala Police Chief Jassim al-Saadi to resign from his position in 48 hours.



● Major Cities	● Coalition	● Peshmerga	● ISIS
★ Major Clash	● ISF	● Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes	● SVBIED
✈ Airstrikes	● Turkey	● Iraqi Shi'a Militias	● SVEST
			● Demonstration

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ISIS escalated its execution campaign in and around Mosul, targeting former Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) officers and civilians accused of collaborating with the ISF in order to maintain control and inflict fear as the ISF closes in. The UN, Human Rights Watch (HRW), and local sources reported that ISIS has executed hundreds of civilians on charges of collaborating with the ISF and has executed or kidnapped over 600 former ISF officers when it withdrew from terrain, including Hammam al-Alil and near Tel Afar. ISIS is using the execution campaign to demonstrate control over its population, deter the ISF from advancing lest ISIS retaliates with executions, and tamp down on possible internal resistance. It will likely increase this tactic as the ISF closes in on Mosul where the majority of the estimated 1.5 million civilians still remain, raising the likelihood of high human casualties during the operation to retake the city.

ISIS reactivated networks in Anbar, allowing it to carry out suicide attacks in secured locations near Fallujah and Karbala. ISIS carried out successful suicide attacks near Karbala and at a checkpoint in Fallujah on November 14 and in Amiriyat al-Fallujah on November 17, targeting Shi'a pilgrims, security forces, and civilians. The attack in Fallujah marks the first attacks since the city's recapture in June. The locations of the attacks suggest that ISIS has reestablished or consolidated networks in the area or found residents that remain either tolerant of ISIS's ideology or opposed to the government enough to allow ISIS to infiltrate. ISIS will continue to exploit the gaps left in local security due to the large deployment of ISF and Popular Mobilization units away from Fallujah to northern Iraq in order to carry out attacks.