

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

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1 PM Abadi announces launch of Mosul operation. Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi announced at dawn on October 17 the launch of the operation to retake Mosul and Ninewa Province from ISIS. PM Abadi stated that the Iraqi Army and Federal Police would lead the operation. PM Abadi named Deputy Army Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Abdul al-Amir Jarallah as commander of the operation. The ISF quickly launched an offensive north of Qayyarah airbase and on the Khazar-Gwer axis, southeast of Mosul.

12 Iraqi Shi'a militias deploying with intent to participate in Mosul operations area. A Popular Mobilization Twitter account stated on October 9 that Saraya Ashura, a militia affiliated with the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq (ISCI), entered Ninewa's "administrative borders" for operations to recapture Mosul. The Associated Press reported that anonymous commanders from Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq (AAH) and Kata'ib Hezbollah (KH), both Iranian-backed Iraqi Shi'a militias, stated that "more than 2,000" of their fighters have withdrawn from Syria in order to redeploy to areas around Mosul and Hawija.

11 ISF clears Haditha-Baiji highway in western Anbar. The Ministry of Defense announced that Jazeera and Badia Operations Command (JBOC) cleared the road between Haditha and Baiji in the western Anbar desert on October 16 with Coalition and Iraqi air support.

10 ISIS attacks ISF positions southeast of Samarra. A security source in Salah al-Din Province stated that ISIS attacked ISF forces in Mutabija, southeast of Samarra, on October 15, killing eight Federal Police officers and injuring 11 others. Security forces repelled the attacks following the arrival of reinforcements.

9 PM Abadi meets with militia leaders to discuss Mosul. PM Abadi met with leaders of the Popular Mobilization, including Badr Organization leader Hadi al-Amiri, Harakat Nujaba leader Akram al-Kaabi, Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq (AAH) leader Qais al-Khazali, and Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada leader Abu Alaa on October 15 to discuss plans for operations in Mosul and Hawija.

8 ISIS attacks target Shi'a pilgrims in Baghdad. ISIS claimed a Suicide Vest (SVEST) on October 15 in Shaab in northeast Baghdad which targeted a Shi'a funeral service, killing 27 people and injuring 65 others. ISIS also claimed an SVEST attack on October 16 targeting a Shi'a pilgrimage convoy in Jadariyah in central Baghdad which killed two people and injured four others. A SVEST attacker also detonated at a checkpoint in Yusufiya, south of Baghdad, on October 17, with unknown casualties.

2 Turkey increases forces near Iraqi border. Turkish Dogan News Agency reported on October 12 that the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) deployed additional units, including tanks, armored vehicles, and heavy weaponry, close to the Iraqi border to both boost ongoing operations against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and to increase border security. Reports stated that military vehicles from Mardin in southern Turkey deployed to military compounds near the Habur Border Gate, near Dohuk Province, while others moved to posts in the mountains near the Turkish-Iraqi border. A report on October 17 added that Turkey sent additional forces to the towns of Sirnak and Silopi, near the Iraqi border, as reinforcements.

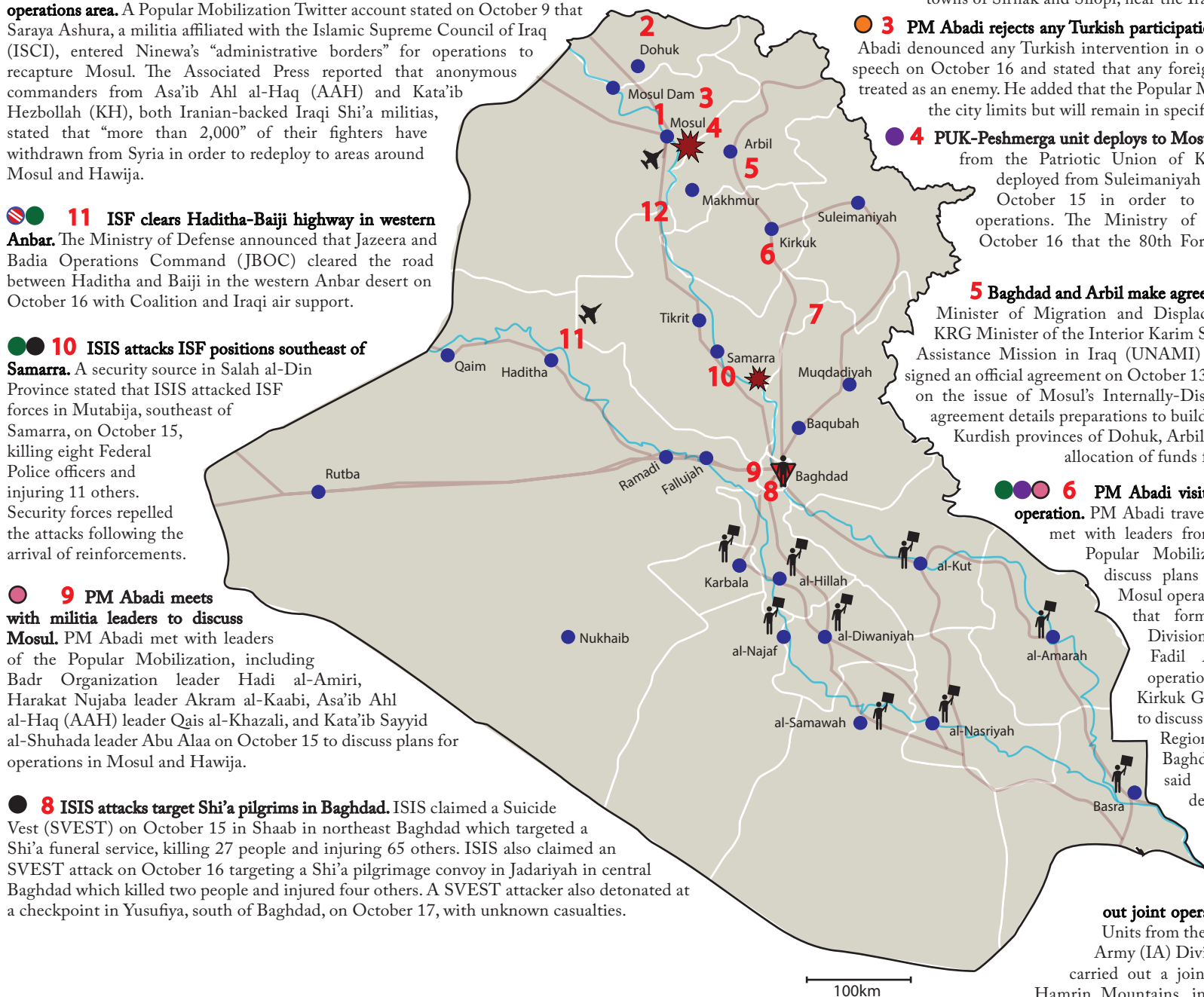
3 PM Abadi rejects any Turkish participation in Mosul operations. PM Abadi denounced any Turkish intervention in operations in Mosul during a speech on October 16 and stated that any foreign forces in the area will be treated as an enemy. He added that the Popular Mobilization will not move in the city limits but will remain in specific areas on Mosul's outskirts.

4 PUK-Peshmerga unit deploys to Mosul's outskirts. The 70th Force from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK)-Peshmerga deployed from Suleimaniyah to the outskirts of Mosul on October 15 in order to participate in the Mosul operations. The Ministry of Peshmerga announced on October 16 that the 80th Force, a PUK Peshmerga unit, would participate as well.

5 Baghdad and Arbil make agreement on Mosul's IDPs. Iraqi Minister of Migration and Displacement Jassim Mohammad, KRG Minister of the Interior Karim Shenkari, and United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) representative Lise Grande signed an official agreement on October 13 between Arbil and Baghdad on the issue of Mosul's Internally-Displaced Persons (IDPs). The agreement details preparations to build new camps, primarily in the Kurdish provinces of Dohuk, Arbil, and Suleimaniyah, and the allocation of funds from the KRG and Baghdad.

6 PM Abadi visits Kirkuk to discuss Hawija operation. PM Abadi traveled to Kirkuk City where he met with leaders from the ISF, Peshmerga, and Popular Mobilization on October 14 to discuss plans to retake Hawija and the Mosul operation. PM Abadi also asserted that former 5th Iraqi Army (IA) Division commander Maj. Gen. Ali Fadil Amran will lead Hawija operations. PM Abadi also met with Kirkuk Governor Najm al-Din Karim to discuss a deal between the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and Baghdad over Mosul. PM Abadi said that the deal ensures no demographic change in the region after Mosul is recaptured.

7 Diyala Police, 5th Division, Badr carry out joint operation in Hamrin Mountains. Units from the Diyala local police, 5th Iraqi Army (IA) Division, and Badr Organization carried out a joint clearing operation in the Hamrin Mountains, in northern Diyala Province. Diyala Police Chief Maj. Gen. Jassim al-Saadi reported that the joint force had destroyed two ISIS camps and carried out inspections in several villages.



- Major Cities
- Iraqi Security Forces (ISF)
- Peshmerga
- ★ Major Clash
- ✈ Airstrikes
- Iraqi Shi'a Militias
- ISIS
- ▲ SVEST
- ✈ Coalition
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- Turkey
- 🚩 Demonstration

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Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi announced the launch of operations to retake Ninewa Province and Mosul from ISIS at dawn on October 17. PM Abadi named Deputy Army Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Abdul al-Amir Jarallah as commander of the operation. The Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and Peshmerga began offensives on the Khazar-Gwer axis, southeast of Mosul, and moved north from the Qayyarah airbase, retaking several villages. ISIS offered minimal resistance to the joint forces' advance and may elect to withdraw the bulk of its forces to Mosul to await the city offensive.

Security forces over the past several weeks have moved into position to begin a multi-axis offensive to encircle the city. Units from Counter Terrorism Service (CTS) and Iraqi Army moved to locations in Kurdish-held territory north and northeast of the city, where they have begun to work in parallel with Peshmerga forces around Khazar and Gwer. Units from the Peshmerga affiliated with the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) also moved into primarily Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) terrain around Khazar. Coordination between the KDP and PUK Peshmerga is rare and was likely the result of a still undisclosed agreement. Shi'a militias, including Iranian-backed groups, have deployed into the vicinity, primarily around Qayyarah and Shirqat, where they will likely shadow militia-friendly ISF units northwards. Turkey also responded to the launch of the Mosul operation, moving military forces along the Iraqi border as Turkish President Recep Erdogan maintained Turkey's right to intervene in Iraq. Coordination between forces in Iraq remains high, although complications may ensue as these forces near the city itself and prospects for Mosul's post-ISIS administration become more immediate.