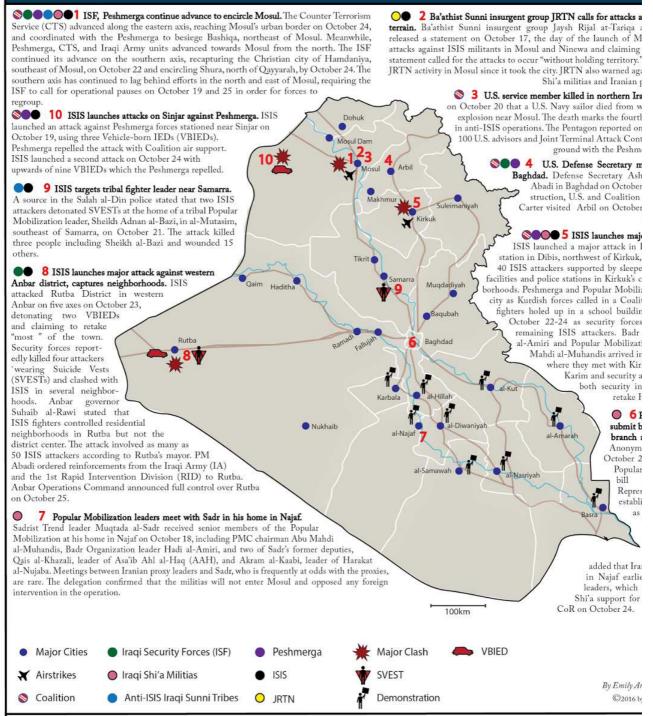
Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

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The operation to retake Mosul entered its second week with the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and Peshmerga advancing along the axes, nearing Mosul's city limits. ISF units in the southern axis advanced but lagged behind the other axes, resulting in operation 19 and October 25 in order for the southern units to regroup and catch up. Delays on the southern axis will challenge the op encircle Mosul if the axes cannot close in on the city in sync and there remains an opening for ISIS to escape to Syria or othe The southern axis is critical to closing that aperture as there is no offensive moving in from the west.

ISIS responded to gains made by the ISF and Peshmerga in Mosul by launching sophisticated counteroffensives in far-reachine effort to draw security forces away from frontlines and to prove that ISIS remains strong despite territorial losses. ISIS launche Iraq's northwest corner, on October 19 and 24, in Kirkuk City on October 21, and Rutba, in far western Iraq, on October edeployment of security forces to secure the areas. The attacks undermine the argument that ISIS's command and control leadership echelon and that knocking out that leadership damages its ability to attack. ISIS may further increase attacks in order strength, despite losses, including large-scale suicide attacks in Baghdad and southern Iraq.