

The ISIS attack in Haditha demonstrates the continuation of its urban offensive to control cities in the middle Euphrates. The attack is also likely intended to either control the city before the deployment of recently-arrived reinforcement to Anbar, or to divert those resources to Haditha in order to weaken defenses around Ramadi and eventually control it. Either way, ISF defenses in Anbar and northern Diyala will demonstrate how effectively the ISF can hold terrain against ISIS and other armed groups. The interdiction of an ISIS fuel tanker convoy by the Iraqi Air Force demonstrates the intent of the ISF to disrupt ISIS logistics and finance. Meanwhile, ISIS low-level activity near Baghdad continues. The presence of a weapons cache in Arab Jabour indicates that ISIS has established a presence in southeast Baghdad in addition to the north and west. The visible activity of Iraqi Shi'a militia extra-judicial killings is indicative of their freedom of movement and that their role in the defense of Baghdad affects security for citizens. The report of an ISIS police force in Mosul is consistent with their measures of social control in ar-Raqqa, Syria.