

# Iraq Situation Report: December 6-7, 2014

**1** On December 6, Baghdad Operations Command (BOC) stated that it had begun implementing PM Abadi's orders by seizing vehicles without license plates in the capital. On December 6, an IED detonated near a commemoration of Imam Hussein's death in the Muhandisin neighborhood, in the Palestine Street area of eastern Baghdad, killing three individuals and injuring 10 others. Meanwhile, BOC reported that it uncovered an IED manufacturing plant inside a plant nursery in the same neighborhood after an IED detonated by mistake killing its manufacturer and injuring six others.

**5** On December 7, a tanker SVBIED targeted a headquarters of Popular Mobilization Units (PMUs), which include Iraqi Shi'a militias, in al-Mutasim sub-district southeast of Samarra. Following the explosion, gunmen from ISIS launched an assault on the area initiating heavy clashes. ISF sent reinforcements from Samarra headed by the commander of Samarra Operations Command, General Imad al-Zihairi. The source did not provide a casualty count, reporting that the clashes remained ongoing. An unconfirmed report indicated later that ISIS took control of the sub-district but withdrew "after hours."

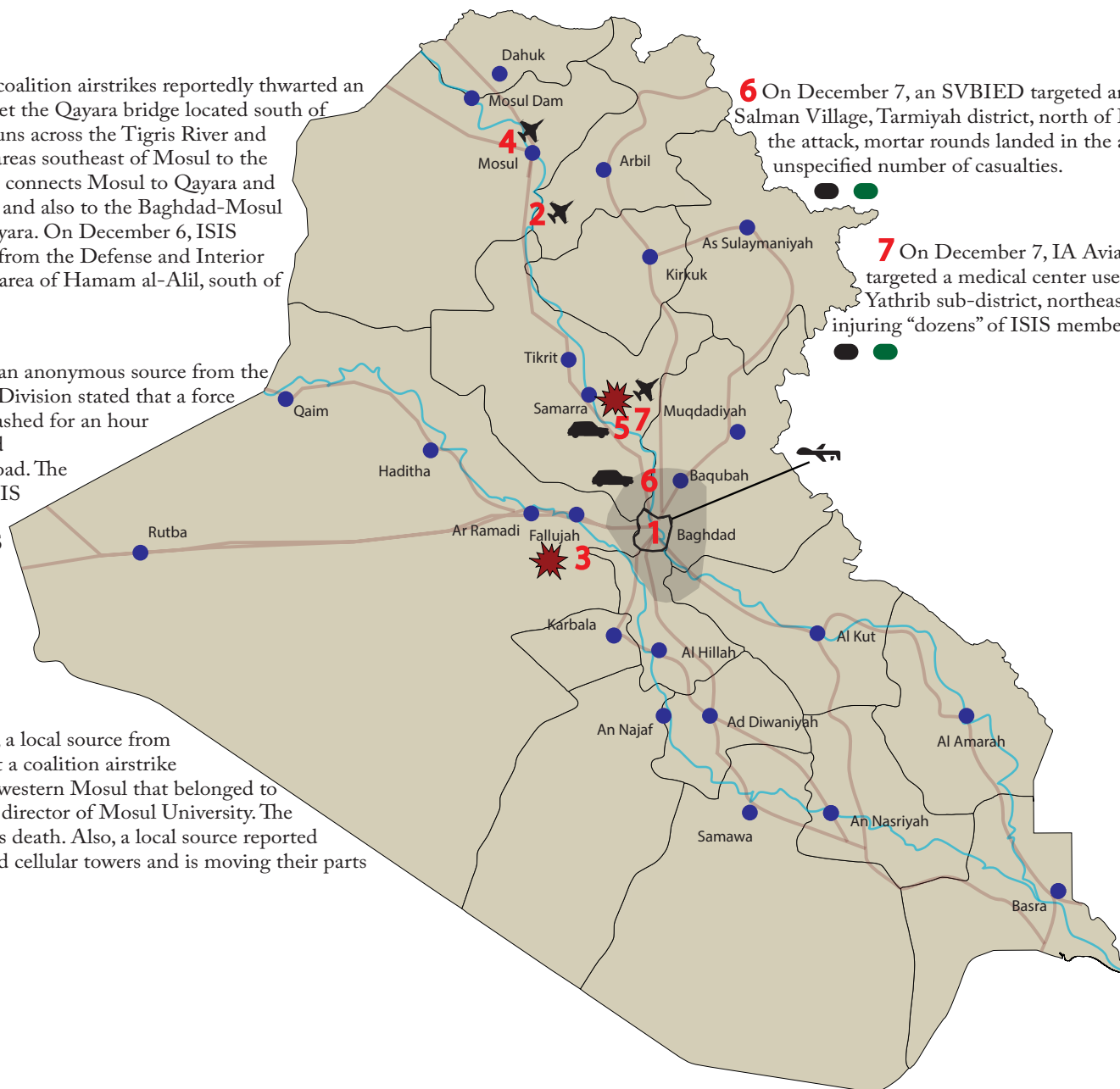
**2** On December 7, coalition airstrikes reportedly thwarted an ISIS attempt to target the Qayara bridge located south of Mosul. The bridge runs across the Tigris River and connects Arbil and areas southeast of Mosul to the east with a road that connects Mosul to Qayara and Sharqat to its south, and also to the Baghdad-Mosul highway, west of Qayara. On December 6, ISIS detained 10 officers from the Defense and Interior Ministries from the area of Hamam al-Alil, south of Mosul.

**6** On December 7, an SVBIED targeted an IA checkpoint in Salman Village, Tarmiyah district, north of Baghdad. Following the attack, mortar rounds landed in the area causing an unspecified number of casualties.

**7** On December 7, IA Aviation reportedly targeted a medical center used by ISIS in central Yathrib sub-district, northeast of Balad killing and injuring "dozens" of ISIS members.

**3** On December 7, an anonymous source from the 1st Rapid Reaction Division stated that a force from the division clashed for an hour with ISIS on the old Baghdad-Fallujah road. The clashes killed five ISIS members and destroyed three ISIS vehicles.

**4** On December 7, a local source from Mosul reported that a coalition airstrike targeted a house in western Mosul that belonged to the ISIS-appointed director of Mosul University. The attack resulted in his death. Also, a local source reported that ISIS dismantled cellular towers and is moving their parts to Syria.



- Major Cities
- SVBIED
- ✈ Airstrikes
- ✈ Armed Drones
- ★ Major Clash
- Iraqi Shi'a militias
- ▨ Coalition
- ISF
- ISIS



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The Iraqi Government of Prime Minister (PM) Haidar al-Abadi is taking measures to control an increasingly lawless situation in the capital caused by the wide freedom of movement enjoyed by Iraqi Shi'a militias and criminal networks. Perpetrators of kidnappings and robbery in the capital have been using unlicensed vehicles, portraying themselves as high-profile officials passing through security checkpoints manned by the ISF without undergoing searches. The orders of PM Abadi to the ISF to seize such vehicles aim to decrease kidnappings and robberies and restore the rule of law. The presence of criminal networks along with the concentrated presence of Iraqi Shi'a militias in the capital makes it hard to distinguish between activities of the militias, militias' members operating independently of their command, and purely criminal networks. It is important to watch for the reaction of the militias to such measures, specifically if these measures heighten tensions between the ISF and the militias. Meanwhile, ISIS's attempt to destroy the bridge toward Arbil, if confirmed, can be characterized as part of a defensive posture aimed at blocking an avenue of approach for the Peshmerga and ISF to attack the organization behind its lines.