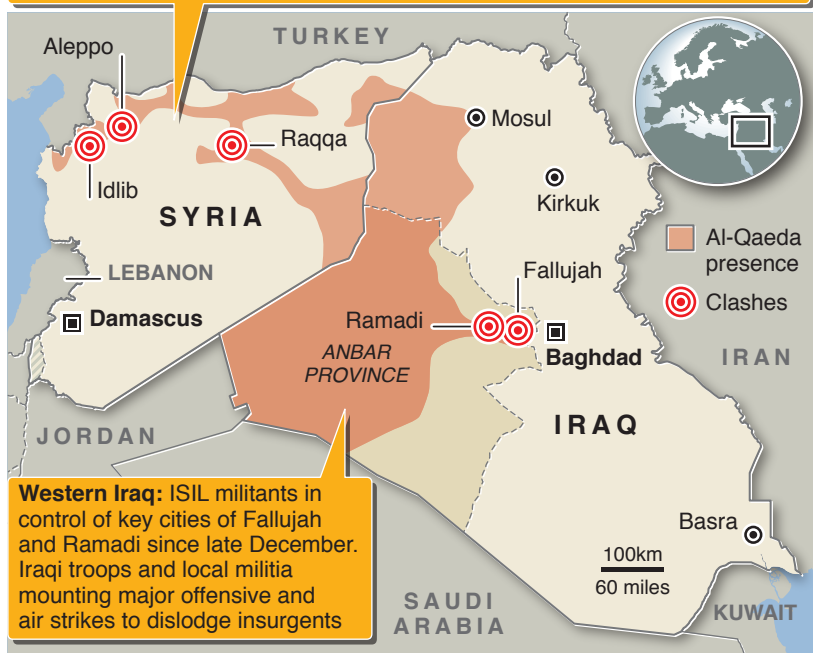


# The fight against al-Qaeda in Syria and Iraq

Syria's civil war continues to fuel conflict in the Middle East, with a widening struggle emerging in both Syria and neighbouring Iraq against radical extremists linked to al-Qaeda

**Jan 6, northern Syria:** Clashes spreading between Syrian rebels and rivals from al-Qaeda-linked **Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)**. At least 100 fighters on both sides estimated killed since January 3



**Western Iraq:** ISIL militants in control of key cities of Fallujah and Ramadi since late December. Iraqi troops and local militia mounting major offensive and air strikes to dislodge insurgents

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ



**Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant:** Jihadist group mainly composed of foreign fighters. Moved into Syria from Iraq in March 2013, taking over areas previously controlled by forces loyal to Syrian President **Bashar al-Assad** and imposing strict version of Islamic law