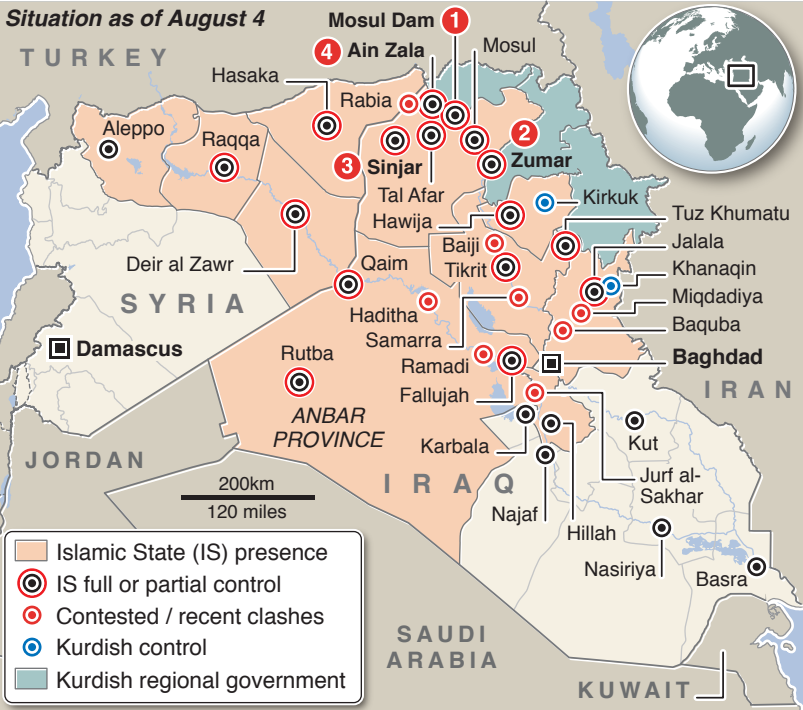


# Sunni insurgents push back Kurdish forces

Militants with the Islamic State extremist group have made several key gains in northern Iraq after driving out Kurdish security forces, further expanding the territories under their control

*Situation as of August 4*



**1 Mosul Dam:** Insurgents reportedly in control of Iraq's largest dam after withdrawal of Kurdish "peshmerga" fighters. Capture of dam could allow militants to flood Iraqi cities or withhold water from farms

**2 Zumar:** Kurdish forces defeated after Islamic State fighters attack town from three directions

**3 Sinjar:** Insurgents advance against Kurdish forces, forcing thousands of residents – mostly from Yazidi religious minority – to flee town. Yazidi shrines reportedly destroyed

**4 Ain Zala:** Oilfield and refinery in rebel hands. Militants already control four other Iraqi oilfields and are selling production to finance operations