

# Iraq begins operation to recapture Tikrit

Iraqi security forces have begun a large-scale operation to retake Tikrit from the Islamic State group – a major step in a campaign to reclaim a vast swathe of territory in northern Iraq controlled by the militants

**AREAS OF CONTROL** (as of Feb 25, 2015)

- Islamic State (IS) militant group
- Kurdish peshmerga
- Iraqi security forces, including army and police and Shia militia
- Kurdistan regional government



**Tikrit:** Hometown of former Iraqi President **Saddam Hussein** was seized by IS forces in June 2014. Iraqi government forces said to be attacking city on three fronts, backed by airstrikes and thousands of Shia and Sunni militia