



# OIR IN BRIEF

The 11th quarterly report submitted by the Lead Inspector General for Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) summarizes the quarter's key events and oversight of the U.S. operation to defeat ISIS.

## ISIS Loses Ground

pp. 14-15, 18-20

**RAQQAH:** Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) took more than 75% of ISIS's self-proclaimed capital city and most of the surrounding countryside.

**MOSUL:** Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) ousted ISIS from its primary stronghold in Iraq in July.

**TAL AFAR:** ISF liberated this city to the west of Mosul in just 8 days of fighting in August.

**DAYR AZ ZAWR:** After losing its base in Raqqah, ISIS defended territory here against advances by the Coalition, SDF, Russia, and pro-Syrian regime forces.

## Security

pp. 2-4, 21

- Coalition forces have trained over **100,000 ISF** and **8,500 SDF** since the start of OIR.
- SDF trainees this quarter included **200 women** volunteers and a new **1,600-strong Raqqah "hold" force** to restore order post-ISIS.
- In Syria, **500 U.S. military advisers** supported the SDF in counter-ISIS operations.

## Governance

pp. 33, 40-41

- The Kurdistan Regional Government held a non-binding **referendum** on an **independent Kurdistan**.
- Iraqi courts sentenced **26** former officials to jail for **corruption offenses**.

## Humanitarian Assistance

pp. 55, 59

### IRAQ

- The number of internally displaced persons (**IDPs**) in Iraq **fell by 100,000** this quarter.
- Over **800,000 Mosul residents** remain **displaced**.
- Challenges for Mosul returnees** include: damaged infrastructure, instability, explosive remnants of war, and a lack of economic opportunity.

### SYRIA

- 15,000 people** were trapped in ISIS-controlled parts of Raqqah without food, water, or medical supplies.
- Al Qaeda-affiliate**, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, **captured parts of Idlib province**, complicating and briefly halting assistance.

## Syrian Civil War

pp. 30-31

- Negotiations** to de-escalate Syria's 6-year-old civil war occurred on five separate tracks in **Astana, Geneva, Jordan, Egypt, and New York**.
- In northwestern Syria, **Turkish-backed forces clashed with Syrian Kurds**, drawing in increased Russian involvement.
- U.S. and Russian** officials communicate to **de-conflict** operations up to **15 times per day**.

## ISIS: Global Reach

pp. 26-29

- ISIS-affiliated and ISIS-inspired organizations conducted terrorist activity in the **Philippines, Egypt, Libya, Niger**, and other regions.
- U.S. and partner nations carried out operations to counter these groups, including the recently designated **Operation Pacific Eagle-Philippines**.

## Oversight

pp. 64-71, 79-80

### REPORTS

**4 Reports completed** by Lead IG and partner agencies, including an audit of conventional weapons destruction in Iraq, Lebanon, and Afghanistan.

**31** OIR oversight projects **ongoing**.

### INVESTIGATIONS

**2 Investigations initiated** related to OIR, involving procurement fraud and bribery allegations.

**6** OIR-related investigation **closed**.

**86** Investigations remained **open**.

## Lead IG Focus: Combating Trafficking in Persons

pp. 45-48

Federal policy aims to prevent U.S. Government contractors abroad from contributing to the **\$150 billion human trafficking industry**, but federal agency **oversight is limited**.

Local subcontracts in support of OIR present significant **trafficking risks** due to the failure of **Iraq and Kuwait** to meet minimal standards for the prosecution and prevention of human trafficking.