



OIR IN BRIEF

The 26th 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. mission to defeat ISIS and train, advise, and assist local partners—including the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)—to improve regional stability.

ISIS Continues to Operate “Low-Level” and “Well-Entrenched” Insurgency *pp. 12–21*

- ISIS **attacks increased** as ISIS **continued to exploit** sectarian, political, and security divides in Iraq and Syria.
- In Iraq, ISIS sustained operations and exploited smuggling routes in the **disputed area** bordering the Iraqi **Kurdistan** Region.
- In Syria, ISIS found safe haven in and launched attacks from the **central Syrian desert**.

ISIS Retains Presence, Repatriations Continue, U.S. Special Envoy Visits *pp. 17–18, p. 59*

- ISIS-related **violence decreased** at al-Hol camp in northeast Syria following an SDF security sweep, though ISIS retains a presence.
- Iraq **repatriated** 93 families from al-Hol camp to Iraq.
- U.S. special envoy led meetings with humanitarian assistance groups and al-Hol camp administration to **improve assistance** and **advocacy**.

Iraqi Security Forces Sustain Pressure on ISIS *pp. 31–42*

- The ISF conducted multiple operations against ISIS during **daylight hours** while most ISIS activity occurs at **night**.
- The ISF displayed a **“limited ability”** to **secure its border** with Syria as ISIS fighters continued to slip across the border.
- The **SDF** and **Kurdish Peshmerga** conducted a **joint operation** along the Kurdistan Coordination Line, an area ISIS exploits due to a lack of security.

Foreign Ministers Reaffirm Fight Against ISIS *p. 31*

- U.S. and Iraq reaffirmed their **“strategic partnership”** during June session of the Strategic Dialogue.
- In late July, both sides confirmed that the OIR mission will transition to training and advising, allowing for the **U.S. combat mission** to end in 2021.

Coalition Supports Syrian Democratic Forces in Counter-ISIS Operations *pp. 68–72*

- The SDF slightly **reduced** its pace of **operations** but maintained pressure on ISIS.
- With Coalition support, the SDF updated and improved **security measures** at a key **detention facility** where it holds captured ISIS fighters.

Iran-Backed Militias Conduct Rare Attack on Coalition Forces in Syria *pp. 74–75*

- Militias fired **34 rockets** at Coalition forces; no casualties or injuries were reported.
- U.S. forces responded with **counter-battery artillery fire** and a **UAV-launched Hellfire missile**, which reportedly wounded one enemy combatant.

Pandemic, Drought, and Poor Economy Pose Ongoing Challenges *pp. 58–63 and 81–83*

- Persistent **economic decline** and **pandemic-related restrictions** impeded the distribution of humanitarian assistance during the quarter.
- **Water insecurity** in northeast Syria increased vulnerability to COVID-19 spread through water-borne illnesses, limited access to sanitation, and power blackouts.
- While most personnel at U.S. Mission Iraq are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, half of its U.S. **security contractors refused the vaccine**.

Lead IG Oversight *pp. 90–101*

- The Lead IG and partner agencies **completed 10 reports** related to OIR, discussing the effectiveness of USCENTCOM's civilian casualty assessments, DoS contract oversight personnel in Iraq, and USAID processes to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse allegations.
- The Lead IG and partner agencies have **17** ongoing and **9** planned OIR projects, and **81** open investigations.
- **51 hotline cases** referred to Lead IG agencies and other investigative organizations.