



OIR IN BRIEF

The 32nd 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 Attacks Continue Downward Trend

pp. 10–11, 61–63

- ISIS was unable to maintain a steady tempo of operations in Iraq and Syria due to **degraded capabilities** and **leadership losses**.
- Despite a decline in momentum, ISIS fighters continued to conduct **lethal, moderately complex attacks**, targeting security forces and civilians.
- ISIS continued efforts to **regenerate forces** by recruiting in displacement camps in northeastern Syria.
- **ISIS-related violence** in al-Hol displacement camp **decreased sharply**, but ISIS activity and security measures risked impeding humanitarian assistance.

ISF Conduct Operation Without Coalition Support

pp. 18–24

- The ISF completed the 8th phase of **Operation Willing Resolve** to clear ISIS from provinces north and west of Baghdad.
- The ISF independently executed an **airstrike on an ISIS target** with Iraqi artillery support.
- The Coalition **supported most Iraqi strikes** with ISR, directing pilots to targets.
- The KSF **remained dependent** on Coalition forces for counter-ISIS operations.

Iraq, Syria Face Complex Humanitarian Challenges

pp. 47, 65–75

- **Drought conditions** and **cholera outbreak** continued in Syria, while **delayed funding** and conflict hindered U.S.-funded stabilization and humanitarian assistance.
- Humanitarian implementers in Iraq continue to report **access challenges** due to inconsistent Iraqi government NGO requirements.
- As the UN **transitions humanitarian coordination functions** to the Iraqi government and the KRG, gaps in coordination and funding of humanitarian activities are expected.

Türkiye and Other Actors Complicate OIR Mission

pp. 53–58

- The SDF **paused counter-ISIS operations** and training with the Coalition but maintained security at detention centers and al-Hol.
- Syrian regime, and probably its Russian backers, **reinforced northern Syria positions**, anticipating Turkish activity.
- Iran-aligned militias conducted **small-scale, indirect fire attacks against Coalition personnel** in Syria.
- The SDF resumed counterterrorism operations and training on **December 8**, carrying out major counter-ISIS operations near al-Hol camp and in Qamishli city on December 29.
- **Coalition forces** conducted multiple unilateral **raids** in Syria in December targeting ISIS operatives.

New Iraqi Government Formed

pp. 33–36

- A new Iraqi government under Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani includes **prominent Iran-aligned officials**.
- The new government **removed senior security officials**, including some close to the United States, but Prime Minister al-Sudani **defended the U.S. presence** in Iraq.
- Prime Minister al-Sudani **announced an ambitious reform agenda** but will likely face many challenges in implementing his plans.
- In November, the new Iraqi government **temporarily suspended repatriations** from al-Hol camp but **resumed them in January**.

Lead IG Oversight

- State OIG reported on relating to its inspection of programs and operations of the **U.S. Embassy in Kuwait**.
- As of December 31, 2022, the Lead IG agencies had **11 projects ongoing** and **1 project planned**.
- Lead IG agencies' investigative branches **initiated 7 investigations** and coordinated on **77 open probes**.