



OIR IN BRIEF

The 25th 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, support local partners, and improve stability in Iraq and Syria.

Territorially Defeated, ISIS Continues to Pose a Threat

pp. 14–19

- ISIS suicide bombers conducted a **twin bombing in Baghdad, killing 32 people**.
- Coalition forces responded by **killing the top ISIS leader in Iraq** and two others thought to be involved in the bombing.
- ISIS **attacked** Syrian regime forces in the central Syrian Desert, where ISIS is **attempting to rebuild** following the killing of many of its leaders in 2020.
- In Syria, **violence increased significantly** in the al-Hol **displaced persons camp**. In response, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) conducted a security sweep of the al-Hol camp, **detaining 123 people**, including **20 ISIS leaders**.

Iran-aligned Militias Increase Attacks Against the Coalition in Iraq

pp. 12–13

- On February 15, an Iran-aligned militia fired rockets against Coalition forces in Erbil, **killing one civilian contractor**.
- The attack was one of an increasing number conducted by Iran-aligned militias after they **ended their ceasefire** with Coalition forces.

Iraqi Security Forces Increasingly Able to Conduct Independent Operations

pp. 28–37

- Coalition forces conducted **133 airstrikes** in support of a **15-day ISF ground offensive** against ISIS near Erbil, **destroying 127 ISIS hideouts**.
- The ISF conducted more **night operations** but continued to **rely on Coalition air support**.

Lead IG Oversight

pp. 84–100

- Lead IG and partner agencies completed 16 reports related to OIR, including reports on USCENTCOM's response to the **COVID-19 pandemic** and the DoS's funding of **public international organizations**.

U.S. Supports Syrian Partner Forces in a “Complex Operating Environment”

pp. 20–24

- The SDF **increased its pace of operations** against ISIS during the quarter, as Coalition forces continued to enable and advise.
- The Coalition provided support to SDF **detention facilities**, which hold approximately **10,000 ISIS fighters**.
- Syrian regime, Russian, Turkish-supported opposition, and Iran-aligned forces **fought ISIS** but also **interfered** with Coalition and SDF operations.

Poor Economy, COVID-19 Pose Stabilization and Humanitarian Challenges

pp. 42–48

- In Iraq and Syria, **poor economic conditions** and COVID-19-related restrictions limited opportunities for local residents to earn income.
- In Iraq, demonstrators staged **rallies** to protest poor public services, government corruption, and unemployment.
- In Syria, **food insecurity** worsened and fighting **disrupted water services**.
- **COVID-19 infections increased dramatically** in both countries.

Personnel, Funding for OIR in Flux

pp. 20–24

- The DoD is **evaluating its force posture** in support of OIR, including the status of approximately **2,500 U.S. military personnel** in Iraq and **900** in Syria.
- COVID-19- and security-related **staffing reductions constrained DoS and USAID efforts** to deliver stabilization and humanitarian assistance in Iraq.
- Ongoing **funding constraints** and **insecurity** limited the reach of U.S. stabilization and humanitarian programs in Syria.
- **NATO** announced plans to **increase** the size of its **mission in Iraq**, from 500 to as many as 4,000, but this is unlikely to affect the OIR mission.