



# OIR IN BRIEF

The 40th quarterly report submitted by the Lead Inspector General for Operation Inherent Resolve 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, Peshmerga Forces, and Syrian Democratic Forces—to improve regional stability.

## Assad Regime Falls Following Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)-led Rebel Advance

*pp. 10–11, 16–25*

- Russian and Iran-aligned militias retreated from position across Syria as internal and external factions **jockeyed to fill security vacuums**.
- CJTF-OIR **encouraged its partners** to seek agreements with the new interim authorities.
- U.S. diplomats **held talks** in Damascus with HTS-led interim authorities on December 20.

## ISIS Exploits Security Vacuum

*pp. 9–10*

- ISIS fighters obtained large amounts of **weapons and supplies** from abandoned supply depots.
- The United States targeted ISIS with dozens of **airstrikes in Syria** to reduce the group's ability to seize abandoned weapons.

## Fighting Intensifies Between Turkish-backed SNA Factions, SDF

*pp. 15–66*

- Fighting limited the SDF's ability to **conduct operations against ISIS** and **secure ISIS detainees**.
- The United States urged Türkiye and others in the region to **de-escalate** tensions.
- The SDF also faced **dissent** from some tribal factions in eastern Syria.

## SFA Expands Operating Zone Beyond At Tanf Garrison

*pp. 19–20*

- The SFA reached northwest to Palmyra and west toward Damascus, **securing weapons and equipment** left by retreating forces.
- SFA **tactical coordination** with interim authorities helped deconflict security force movements around Palmyra and At Tanf.

## Insecurity, Poor Conditions Persist at al-Hol

*pp. 32–36*

- The SDF led a CJTF-OIR-supported operation in al-Hol to remove **ISIS operatives and hideouts**.
- A **cholera outbreak** worsened challenges caused by overcrowding in camp.
- Iraq **repatriated** 706 individuals from al-Hol this quarter; no Syrians returned from al-Hol.

## Humanitarian Crisis in Syria Worsens

*pp. 40–43*

- Approximately 1 million Syrians were **displaced** since the rebel advance began in late November.
- Looting, disrupted supply chains, and border closures **strained limited food stocks**.
- Water stations **lost power** after the Tishreen Dam was damaged in December.

## Iraqi Kurdistan Region Holds Parliamentary Elections

*p. 43, 58*

- The **two largest Kurdish parties** won a majority of seats in the 100-member parliament.
- State said the IKR elections were carried out **freely and fairly**.
- Federal Iraq began planning for **national parliamentary elections** to be held before November 25, 2025; no date has been set.

## Lead IG Oversight

*pp. 74–79*

The Lead IG and partner agencies issued **1 oversight report** related to OIR. The report, issued by the USAID OIG, addressed compliance with safety standards at the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance warehouse in the United Arab Emirates.