



# OIR IN BRIEF

The 41st 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.

## Executive Order Pauses U.S. Foreign Assistance

pp. 6–9

- State and USAID **paused foreign assistance** programs in Syria and Iraq, though some lifesaving programs continued.
- It remains **unclear** how many assistance programs in Syria and Iraq had been **terminated**.
- Some State and USAID **bureaus said they could not provide the status** of all individual programs, pending the final report of the foreign assistance review.

## U.S. and Iraqi Forces Kill the ISIS Chief of Global Operations

pp. 9–10

- The death of Abdullah al-Rifa'i probably will **hinder** ISIS's **ability** to plan and conduct **attacks** in Iraq and Syria in the coming **1–3 months**.
- Coalition forces conducted counter-ISIS operations with the SDF **despite Turkish attacks** and ongoing tension with Arab tribes.

## Syria's Interim Authorities Consolidate Power

pp. 15, 18

- U.S. partner forces, the **SDF** and the **SFA**, agreed to **join the interim authorities forces** and hand over civilian and military institutions.
- The United States has **not recognized** a new **government** in Damascus.

## Advising of ISF Continues Amid Regional Uncertainty

pp. 42–51

- The Iraqi government expressed concerns about **border security** with Syria and the possibility of a **resurgent ISIS** threat.
- Some **Iran-aligned militias** from Syria have **moved to Iraq**, where they face a more restrictive operating environment.
- **Security threats** and **political uncertainty** complicated Peshmerga reform efforts.

## Assistance Pause Impacts the al-Hol Displacement Camp

p. 25

- The U.S.-funded implementer managing Syrian displacement camps **temporarily suspended** activities due to the foreign assistance pause.
- Programs to identify, prepare, and receive **Syrian returnees** from al-Hol were **halted**.
- SDF patrols at al-Hol continued; the **Coalition** continued to provide **ISR** to support SDF patrols.
- Iraq **accelerated** the pace of **repatriations** from northeastern Syria, bringing **1,500 Iraqi families** to the Jeddah 1 camp in Iraq.
- **Life-saving assistance** at Jeddah 1 continued during the pause; some **social services** and **education** programs were terminated.

## Iraq Faces New Economic Challenges

pp. 53–55

- As part of the U.S. “maximum pressure” policy toward Iran, the U.S. **did not extend** the waiver for Iraq to purchase **electricity from Iran**.
- The Central Bank of Iraq began **selling \$2.3B in treasury bonds** to increase cash reserves, finance capital projects, and cover government salaries.
- Iraq prepared for **national elections** in the fall while leaders in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region continued efforts to **form a new government**.

## Lead IG Oversight

pp. 60–61

The Lead IG and partner agencies issued **1 oversight report** related to OIR:

- A USAID OIG audit found that USAID failed to monitor some required performance indicators in its Business Competitiveness and Job Creation Initiative in Iraq.