



OIR IN BRIEF

The 18th 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 partner forces in Iraq and Syria to improve regional stability.

Iraqi and U.S.-backed Syrian Forces Struggle to Contain ISIS Insurgency

pp. 2-6, 14-16

- ISIS **consolidated** its insurgency in **Iraq** and **resurged** in **Syria**.
- The Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) **lacked the hold forces** necessary to maintain security in cleared territory as **ISIS regrouped** in provinces north and west of Baghdad.
- The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) initially **lacked personnel and equipment to confront** ISIS insurgency.

U.S. Troop Reductions Change Conditions in Syria

pp. 6-8, 16-19

- U.S. forces **withdrew from Syria** at a time when U.S. commanders said the SDF needed **more training and equipping** for counterinsurgency operations.
- The United States sought increased **Coalition support** to offset the drawdown of U.S. forces.
- With a residual U.S. force in place, the DoS announced plans to **resume stabilization** operations in northeastern Syria.

SDF Lacks Ability to Detain Thousands of ISIS Fighters Indefinitely

pp. 23-24

- The SDF detained **10,000 ISIS fighters**, including roughly **2,000 foreigners**, in "**pop-up prisons**" in northeast Syria.
- Many countries are reluctant to **repatriate** their citizens held in Syria as **ISIS detainees**.
- **Iraq accepted several hundred** Iraqi and foreign ISIS detainees from the SDF, but **due process and prison conditions** there were uncertain.

Coalition and ISF Lack Sufficient ISR Assets to Track Threats

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- Due to an increased need to monitor Iranian activity and other priorities, the Coalition **reduced** the number of **ISR assets** available for countering ISIS.
- Iraq experienced a **50% decrease** in the availability of its own ISR assets.

Increased Threat from Iran Prompts Evacuation of U.S. Personnel in Iraq

pp. 19, 47-48

- Citing "**imminent threats**" to U.S. interests from **Iran** and its surrogate **Shia militias**, Secretary of State Pompeo **ordered the departure** of non-emergency personnel from U.S. diplomatic posts in Baghdad and Erbil.
- The DoS said the departure of staff **hindered U.S. stabilization efforts** in Iraq.

Thousands of ISIS Supporters Reside in Syrian Camp with Minimal Security

pp. 24-25

- **Minimal security** at the al Hol IDP camp in northeastern Syria, where **45,000 ISIS supporters** and family members reside, created conditions for ISIS's **ideology to spread** uncontested.

Iraq's Government Fills Top Positions Amid Protests over Lack of Services

pp. 50-51

- **Ministers of defense, interior, and justice** named after Iraq's top Shia cleric criticized the delay in government formation.
- The appointments came amid **protests** in southern Iraq over a **lack of electricity** and other basic government services.

USAID Supports Humanitarian Aid to IDPs Coming from the Rukban Settlement

pp. 28, 40

- USAID **supported two shelters** in Homs province for IDPs coming from Rukban.
- Russia conducted a **disinformation** campaign **blaming the United States** for the dire humanitarian situation at the settlement.

Oversight and Investigations

pp. 10-11, 66-75

- Lead IG agencies and partners completed **10 reports**, including assessments on combatting trafficking in persons, and emergency preparedness and security at U.S. diplomatic facilities.
- Lead IG agencies **closed 12 investigations**, which resulted in **1 contractor debarment**, and initiated **18 new investigations**.