OIR IN BRIEF

The 22nd 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 to improve regional stability.

COVID-19 Leads to Pause in Partner Training; D-ISIS Campaign Continues

- CJTF-OIR: Coalition, ISF, and SDF take precautions; continue D-ISIS campaigns, including raids and captures.
- CJTF-OIR briefly pauses then resumes partner force development in Iraq due to pandemic; sustains pause in Syria.
- DoS and USAID modify stabilization and humanitarian assistance awards to address COVID-19.

ISIS Increases Attacks During Ramadan, Conducts Few Complex Attacks

- CJTF-OIR: ISIS is not resurging; surge occurs annually, attacks are opportunistic.
- Analysts: ISIS could resurge without continued counter-terrorism pressure and improvements to governance, economy, and political inclusion.
- In Syria, ISIS attacks spike during Ramadan (4/24-5/23), but escalation not sustained.
- In Iraq, ISIS exploits security gaps due to COVID-19, but conducts few complex attacks.

Iraq Forms New Government, Moves to Stop Attacks on Coalition Forces

- Iraqi parliament approves new government under Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi after months of political turmoil.
- In June, Prime Minister al-Kadhimi orders an increased effort by the ISF to thwart attacks on Coalition forces and diplomats, provoking a stand-off with Iranian-backed militias.

United States, Iraq Open Strategic Dialogue

- June 11: United States and Iraq hold first round of strategic talks, present their visions for future ties.
- Talks come amidst strained bilateral ties following attacks by Iranian-aligned groups and calls for U.S. forces to withdraw.
- Countries reach no agreement on size of U.S.-led Coalition moving forward, but assess ISIS an ongoing threat and Coalition role important.

Coalition Continues Facility Transfers, Force Repositioning, and Reduction Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

- Coalition transfers its facilities at sixth Iraqi base to ISF as part of planned restructuring of troops.
- Withdrawals from bases are part of the planned restructuring of the Coalition footprint in Iraq.

ISIS Detainees in Syria Riot, Pose “Threat to Mission”

- Detainees riot repeatedly at SDF detention facility, demand improvements, trials, and visitation by family members.
- CJTF-OIR: Detainee situation deteriorating; ISIS detainees, along with ISIS families in separate displacement camps, pose “ever-increasing threat to mission.”
- SDF conducts biometric registration at annex in the al-Hol displacement camp.

U.S. Imposes Sanctions on Syrian Leader

- Self-Administration of Northeast Syria expresses concern that sanctions could further weaken local economy.

Oversight and Investigations

- Lead IG and partner agencies complete 12 reports related to OIR; 26 projects are ongoing; 13 planned.
- Lead IG and partner agencies complete 13 investigations, initiate 2, and coordinate on 112.