



COMBINED JOINT TASK FORCE OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE

Public Affairs Office

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Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve Quarterly Civilian Harm Report SEPT 2024 – DEC 2024

SOUTHWEST ASIA – Since the beginning of operations in 2014 at the invitation of the Government of Iraq, the Coalition and partner forces have liberated nearly 110,000 square kilometers from ISIS, eliminating their self-proclaimed territorial caliphate and freeing almost eight million people from the terrorist group's oppression.

In 2021, CJTF-OIR shifted to an Advise, Assist, and Enable mission to support our partner forces in developing their operational and strategic military capabilities. In addition, the Coalition works closely with local, regional, and international actors in Iraq and designated areas of Syria to help bring stability to conflict-affected areas and to enable an enduring defeat of ISIS.

The Coalition follows a specific process for all operations to ensure strict adherence to the Law of Armed Conflict, while minimizing collateral damage. Every loss of civilian life is tragic, and the Coalition continues to take all possible precautions to keep civilians out of harm's way as it pursues a ruthless enemy. Under the guidance of the December 2023 release of DoD Instruction 3000.17 for Civilian Harm Mitigation and Response (CHMR), CJTF-OIR further establishes stringent standard operating procedures for commanders in the area of operations to reduce the risk of harm to civilians and civilian objects during military operations. "CHMR" is now the official policy of the DoD.

The DoD's approach to CHMR is based on strategic, moral, policy, operational, legal, and other considerations. CHMR efforts reflect U.S. and professional military values, including the importance of protecting and respecting human life and treating civilians with dignity and respect.

The protection of civilians and civilian objects is fundamentally consistent with the effective, efficient, and decisive use of force. CHMR supports U.S. national security interests, including by furthering strategic objectives to achieve long-term strategic success, enhancing the effectiveness and legitimacy of military operations, and demonstrating moral leadership.

We welcome any information from any source which will enable us to accurately determine facts and bring closure regarding possible CIVHARM incidents. Further, closed investigations

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are reopened as new information becomes available that may help us attain the most accurate results. Descriptions of CIVHARM incidents follow the guidelines listed below. Subject to operational considerations, we shall:

- (1) Report incidents, newly identified in the preceding quarter, in which civilian casualties may have resulted from U.S. military operations, including based on information received from or through U.S. military, other USG, or external sources. Each incident that is publicly reported will be associated with a unique Combatant Command (CCMD) specific tracking number.
- (2) List and indicate the status of any reviews, assessments, or investigations that are pending completion. This should include status updates for any reviews, assessments, or investigations re-opened based on the identification or receipt of new information.
- (3) List and state the results of civilian harm reviews, assessments, or investigations that have been completed since the latest report, including:
 - (a) Publicly releasable information about the operation(s) in question, including the date, location, and type of operation, and its general purpose.
 - (b) Acknowledgement of whether civilian casualties were assessed to have more likely than not resulted from the operation(s).
 - (c) The assessed number of civilian casualties “more likely than not” resulted from the operation(s), including a differentiation between those injured, killed and damage to civilian objects. The “more likely than not” standard reflects the importance of assessing the facts as objectively as possible. An assessment of “more likely than not” reflects the command’s best understanding based on the information available at the time of the assessment.

Since the last Civilian Harm (CIVHARM) Report, which covered through the end of August 2024, CJTF-OIR closed four cases, while two more remain under active assessment as of the close of this reporting period. As part of our commitment to increasing transparency and accountability, CJTF-OIR will continue to release periodic CIVHARM reports.

Cases closed during this reporting period are listed in the paragraphs below. At the end of each paragraph, a numeric key conveys the following identifying information for each allegation: CJTF-OIR Incident Number / NGO Control Number (if available) / Grid Coordinate (if available). The Military Grid Reference System (MGRS) coordinates specified in these reports are derived from the general location of the incident.

Of the four cases closed during the reporting period, in three cases it was “more likely than not,” Coalition or U.S. action actions caused civilian harm and/or the infrastructure damage of



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civilian property. The available information showed the Coalition took all reasonable precautions. Coalition forces continue to work diligently in the planning and execution of strikes and operations to reduce the risk of harm to civilians.

1. December 26, 2023, in Babylon Province, Iraq, via AIRWARS report. Unfortunately, based on a thorough review of all available information, one civilian death and two civilian injuries more likely than not occurred due to a U.S. strike. Report 3343 / CI882 / 38SMB2460832034, 38SMB8555654331, 38SMA4711395659.
2. February 2, 2024, near Al-Qaim, Iraq and al-Mayadeen, Syria via AIRWARS report. Unfortunately, based on a thorough review of all available information, two civilian deaths more likely than not occurred due to a U.S. strike. Report 3344 / CI883 and CS1997 / 37SFU8140407174 and 37SFV0499408511.
3. February 22, 2024, near Al-Hasaka, Syria via Syrian Democratic Forces report. Unfortunately, based on a thorough review of all available information, one civilian death and two civilian injuries more likely than not occurred due to U.S. operations. Report 3346 / 37SFA38546604.

Zero other CIVHARM cases were closed with assessment of “not likely to have,” resulted from US or Coalition action.

Duplicate Reports: Zero incidents were determined to be duplicates of other reports which have previously been assessed.

Partner Forces: CJTF-OIR thoroughly reviews all CIVHARM incidents attributed to the Coalition. One report appears to correspond with operations conducted by CJTF-OIR partner forces.

1. August 9, 2024, near Idlib Province, Syria via Syrian Democratic Forces report. Unfortunately, based on a thorough review of all available information, 11 civilians deaths and 5 civilian injuries more likely than not occurred due to indirect fire exchange between Syrian regime/government forces and Syrian Democratic Forces. This incident was not attributable to U.S. and/or Coalition Forces. Report 3352 / 37SFU2629898799. Closed on October 30, 2024.



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Open Reports: The below reports of CIVHARM incidents are currently under assessment or review as of December 31, 2024.

1. January 27, 2018, in Al Baghdadi, Iraq via civilian report. Report 1994 / 38SKC7074651695. CIVHARM incident # 1994 was reopened due to new information. The incident is currently being assessed to determine if it was “more likely than not,” Coalition or U.S. contributed to civilian injuries or death.

2. December 23, 2024, near Az Zebara, Syria, via OSINT report. Report 3354. CIVHARM incident #3354 is currently being assessed to determine if civilian harm “more likely than not,” occurred due to U.S. operations following a strike.