



COMBINED JOINT TASK FORCE OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE

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Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve Civilian Harm and Mitigation Response Report December 2023 – May 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 Da'esh, 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 the enduring defeat of Da'esh.

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.

Since the last Civilian Harm (CIVHARM) Report, which covered through November 2023, CJTF-OIR closed four cases, with four more remaining under active assessment at the close of this reporting period. As part of our commitment to promote transparency and accountability, CJTF-OIR will continue to release periodic CHMR reports.

We welcome any information or report from any source that will enable us to accurately determine facts and bring closure regarding possible CHMR incidents. Further, closed investigations are reopened as new information becomes available that may help us attain the most accurate results.

After reviewing all available information, incidents are deemed as (1) "more likely than not" that a Coalition or U.S. action caused a civilian death or injury or (2) if there is a lack of available



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information such as an absence of Coalition strikes or operations at the alleged time and location of the incident, information that an actor other than the Coalition was responsible for a CHMR incident, or a lack of details to support the facts underlying a CHMR incident the incident may be deemed “more likely than not to not have” resulted from a Coalition or U.S. action.

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 coordinates specified in these reports are derived from the general location of the incident.

Of the four cases closed during the reporting period, in two cases it was “more likely than not” that Coalition or U.S. action actions caused the death or injuries of civilians. In all cases that corresponded with an operation or strike, the available information showed that the Coalition took feasible precautions, and the relevant strikes or operations complied with the required existing Rules of Engagement and Law of Armed Conflict. Coalition forces continue to work diligently in the planning and execution of strikes and operations to reduce the risk of harm to civilians.

1. September 4, 2023, near NLZ, Syria, via open source report. Regrettably, based on a thorough review of all available information, one civilian was unintentionally harmed following a live fire exercise. 3342 / 37SFU3809074760. Closed on December 19, 2023.
2. May 3, 2023, near Qurqanya, Syria, via White Helmets report. Through a comprehensive analysis and re-evaluation of all available information, one civilian was misidentified as a legitimate military target, resulting in his death. Report 3334 / CS1992 / 37SBA8612801283. Closed on December 11, 2023.

Of the four cases closed during the reporting period, in two CHMR cases it was “more likely than not to not have” resulted from US or Coalition action. After a thorough review of the facts and circumstances of each CHMR report, there was insufficient information to assess that a Coalition action resulted in a CHMR.

1. August 4, 2023, near Matab Al Burashid, Syria, via Airwars report. Available details from the reports and relevant operations contradicts the allegation of harm and shows that no civilian harm incidents occurred as a result of Coalition action. Report 3341 / CS 1996 / 37SEV6054861697. Closed on January 8, 2024.
2. August 1-27, 2017, near Mizrah, Iraq via anonymous Inspector General complaint. Available information and reports do not support the information provided in the



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anonymous report. Therefore, the alleged harm could not be contributed to the actions of U.S. or Coalition forces in the area. Report 3345 / Unknown. Closed on March 13, 2024.

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

Partner Forces: CJTF-OIR thoroughly reviews all CHMR incidents attributed to the Coalition. No reports appear to correspond with operations that have been conducted by CJTF-OIR partner forces.

Open Reports: The below reports of CHMR incidents are currently under review as of May 21, 2024.

1. December 26, 2023, in Babylon Province, Iraq, via Airwars report. 3343 / CI882 / 38S MB2460832034, 38SMB8555654331, 38SMA4711395659
2. February 2-3, 2024 near Al-Qaim, Iraq and al-Mayadeen, Syria via Airwars report. 3344 / CI883 and CS1997 / 37SFU8140407174 and 37SFV0499408511.
3. February 22, 2024 near Al-Hasaka, Syria via Syrian Democratic Forces report. 3346 / 37SFA38546604.
4. February 14, 2024 near Al-Hasaka, Syria via Syrian Democratic Forces report. 3348 / 37SFA9269427710.