

Report: Air Raid Sirens Sound Near Jordan's Azraq Area

TEHRAN -- Warning sirens were activated in the Azraq area of Jordan and surrounding districts on Wednesday evening, according to social media users and news reports cited by IRAN. Some users said the sirens originated from a U.S. military base in the area. There was no immediate confirmation of the cause. The reports could not be independently verified. Jordan's government and U.S. military officials did not immediately comment.

Kayhan International

Hezbollah Fighters Pledge Allegiance to Leader Sheikh Qassem

BEIRUT -- Hezbollah fighters reaffirmed their commitment to armed resistance and pledged allegiance to the movement's leader, Sheikh Naim Qassem, in a message published on Wednesday. "We are obedient to your command and ready in all arenas; we will not lay down our weapons, and we will not," the fighters stated in the message, declaring their readiness to obey Qassem's orders without hesitation.

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Viewpoint

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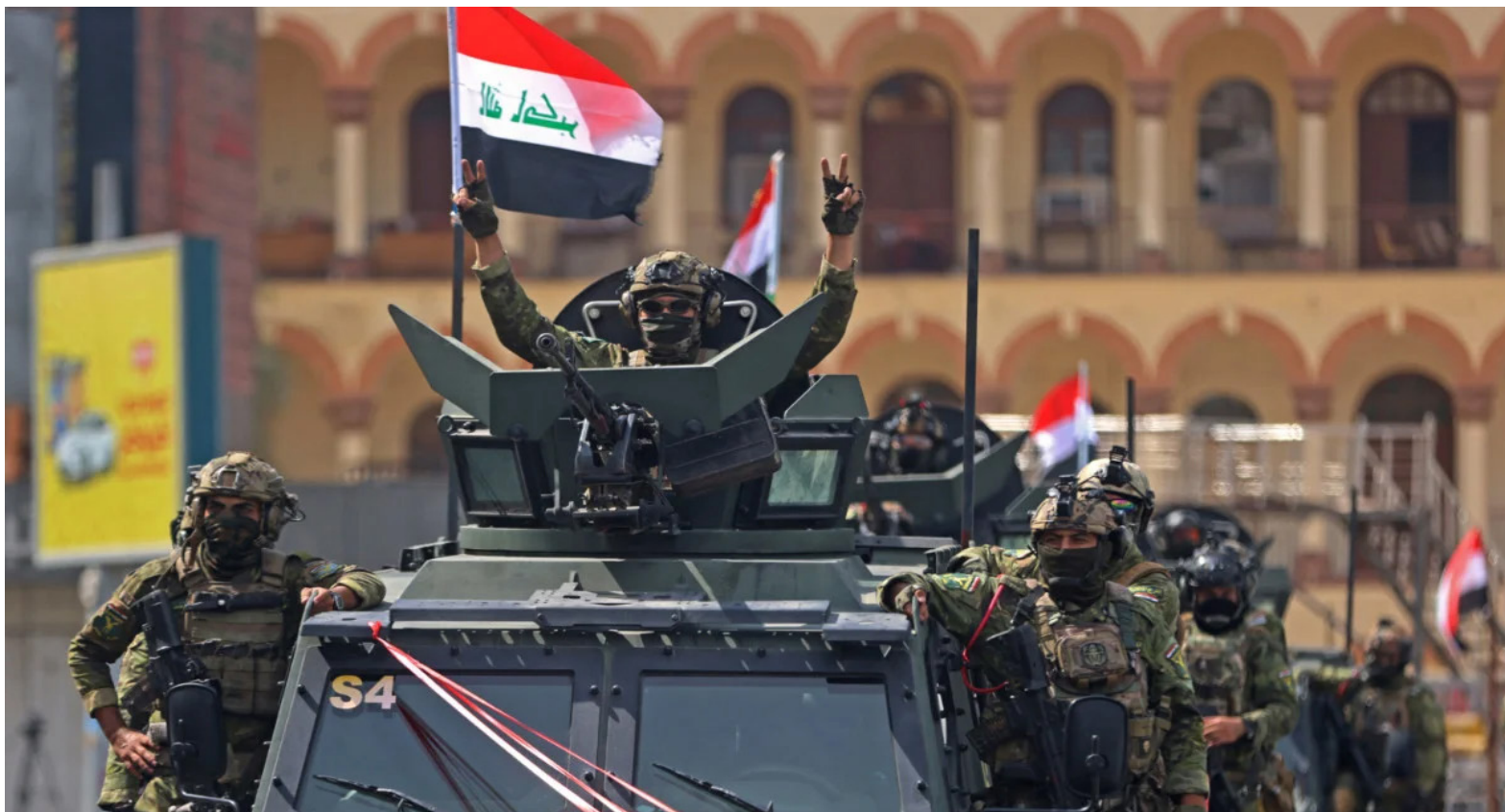
Yemen Downs Drone as Saudi Strikes Hit Civilian Infrastructure



BEGINNING OF 'A NEW PHASE'

Iraqis Celebrate as U.S. Ends 12 Years of Occupation

The departure of U.S. troops closes a chapter of military occupation, but Washington's influence over Iraq's finances, political affairs and military capabilities remains a contentious issue.



A member of the Iraqi security forces flashes the victory sign during a military parade marking the withdrawal of the U.S. occupation from Iraq, in Baghdad, on September 30, 2026.

BAGHDAD -- Iraqis took to the streets of Baghdad on Wednesday to celebrate the withdrawal of U.S. troops after more than two decades of invasion and occupation, even as questions mounted over whether Washington's grip on the country has truly loosened.

Thousands gathered along Palestine Street in the capital for a popular festival, while Iraqi security forces held military parades in Baghdad and Najaf to mark what the government declared National Sovereignty Day.

The U.S. military confirmed earlier in the day that the last troops had left Erbil Air Base, formally ending the so-called Operation Inherent Resolve mission after 12 years.

Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi, who presided over the handover ceremony, described the withdrawal as the beginning of "a new phase, one defined by Iraq's sovereignty, the strength of its institutions, the readiness of its forces, the unity of its decision-making, and balanced partnerships with its friends".

The United States invaded Iraq in March 2003 to overthrow Saddam Hussein, falsely claiming Baghdad possessed weapons of mass destruction. The war left the country's infrastructure in tatters, killed hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, and displaced millions.

U.S.-led coalition forces withdrew in December 2011 but returned in 2014, using the seizure of large swathes of territory by the Daesh terrorist group as a pretext for a renewed military presence.

Yet they did not return when the macabre terrorists were at the gates of Baghdad; rather, they returned after the menace had been removed, thanks to Iran's rush of military aid and advisors and the mobilization of Iraqis following the jihad fatwa of Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Ali al-Sistani.

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U.S. UNABLE TO RESPOND TO IRAN'S OPERATIONS

Iran's Missile Arsenal Can Sustain Years of Confrontation

IRGC officials say American forces have suffered attrition in the region and warn that Iran can sustain missile operations even if confrontation lasts for years.

TEHRAN -- The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps said on Wednesday that military clashes are ongoing in the Strait of Hormuz every 24 hours, with Iranian forces targeting and blocking vessels attempting passage, but that the United States has not responded to these operations for some time.

"We are currently at war," Brigadier General Hussein Mohebbi, spokesman and deputy head of the IRGC's Public Relations Department, said in an interview with national television, adding that "clashes in the Strait of Hormuz are ongoing every 24 hours, and our armed forces have confronted some vessels during this period".

He said that in recent days, ships intending illegally to pass through the Strait of Hormuz have been targeted, and some small vessels have been prevented from crossing.

"Despite the continuation of these operations in the Strait of Hormuz, the Americans have not shown any reaction for some time," Mohebbi said.

Mohebbi said the United States no longer enjoys the conditions it had during previous confrontations,

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Iraqi Resistance Warns: All Possibilities on Table Over Suspension of Iran Flights

BAGHDAD -- Iraq's Harakat Hezbollah al-Nujaba on Wednesday condemned Baghdad's decision to suspend Iranian flights as submission to U.S. bullying, as the Iraqi government scrambled to secure a one-month U.S. Treasury exemption just to allow its national carrier to operate civilian passenger flights to Iran.

Sheikh Ali al-Asadi, head of the political bureau of the Iraqi resistance group, said the decision by Iraqi officials to prevent Iranian aircraft from landing in Iraq is "regrettable" and demanded it be reversed.

"Iraq should not submit to an irresponsible U.S. decision," al-Asadi said, stressing that the issue goes beyond airports given the close ties between Iraq and Iran.

He warned that "all possibilities are on the table," calling on the government to retract the decision. "Otherwise, popular mobilization and pressure will emerge to change this decision."

Al-Asadi urged Iraqi officials to follow the example of other countries that refuse to implement every U.S. decision, linking the ban to weakness in Iraq's domestic political scene

that has allowed Washington to impose its will on Baghdad.

The remarks came as Iraqi Airways prepares to resume flights to Iran in October after obtaining a special exemption. The waiver, provided by the U.S. Treasury, will run for just one month, with the number of allowed flights not yet determined, according to a source in the Iraqi transport ministry.

Iraq suspended Iranian flights following new U.S. sanctions targeting Iran's aviation sector, with Washington threatening measures against companies providing services to Iranian airlines.

The decision has sparked widespread protests across Iraq. Demonstrators in the southern city of Basra gathered along the Shatt al-Arab river, waving Iranian flags and chanting: "We must not be subservient to the United States. If Iranian flights do not resume, no other aircraft should be allowed to land either."

Protests also spread to Baghdad, Najaf, Karbala, and Nasiriyah, where dozens gathered on the cornice to reject the airport closures.

In Najaf, religious scholars and residents issued a

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