



Fact Sheet: Major Progress in the Fight against ISIL

In the past year, the U.S. led coalition created to degrade and destroy ISIL – Operation Inherent Resolve – has achieved major successes. The U.S. led campaign has decimated ISIL’s leadership, reduced ISIL’s territory by over 50% in Iraq, and crippled ISIL’s finances and oil infrastructure. The bottom line is that ISIL is on the run, and U.S. air strikes are proving to be increasingly effective. Below are a set of key facts outlining the progress in the fight against ISIL abroad.

- **U.S. air strikes have destroyed over 26,000 ISIL targets:** As of September 7, the U.S. and coalition have conducted a total of 14,870 strikes against ISIL (9,776 in Iraq and 5,094 in Syria). These strikes have destroyed over 26,000 ISIL targets including ISIL fighters, tanks, staging areas, buildings, oil infrastructure and other targets. [Department of Defense, [9/7/16](#)]
- **ISIL has lost over 50% of the territory it once held in Iraq:** The U.S. led campaign has caused ISIL to lose over 50% of the territory it once held in Iraq and 20% in Syria. This includes retaking key cities such as Fallujah, Ramadi, and a large swath of northern Syria. The liberation of Ramadi, Tikirit and Fallujah have critical strategic significance because they make up the Sunni Triangle in Iraq—the heartland of Sunni Islam in Iraq. The liberation of these 3 cities has both symbolic and strategic importance. [AP, [9/14/16](#), Reuters, [4/18/16](#)]
- **ISIL has been forced to cut fighter salaries by over 50%, hurting morale and crippling recruitment of fighters from abroad:** The U.S. led campaign to destroy ISIL’s finances has been extremely effective. Loss of territory and the destruction of cash storage sites and revenue generating oil infrastructure have caused ISIL to cut fighter salaries by 50%. This has hurt morale and contributed to a significant reduction in the influx of foreign fighters from abroad. [CNN, [1/9/16](#)]
- **ISIL’s oil revenues have been cut in half by 50% and U.S. air strikes have destroyed over \$800 million in cash reserves.** Within the past year, ISIL’s oil revenues have been cut in half - from \$500 million a year to less than \$250 million. U.S. air strikes and raids on ISIL cash storage sites have also destroyed over \$800 million in cash reserves [Reuters, [5/11/16](#); U.S. DoD, [4/26/16](#)]
- **ISIL’s defeats have led to a dramatic reduction in the number of foreign fighters going to Iraq and Syria.** From a peak of 2,000 foreign recruits crossing the

Turkish-Syrian border each month, the Islamic State and other extremist groups operating in Syria are down to as few as 50, according to U.S. intelligence assessments. [Washington Post, [9/9/16](#)]

- **ISIL's leadership has been systematically decimated by U.S. air strikes.** Over 120 important Islamic State leaders been killed, including a dozen of the group's top leaders. These include the ISIL second in-command Hajji Mutaz, the chief of ISIL's cell for carrying out terrorist attacks against the West Abu Muhammad Al-Adnani, ISIL finance minister Hajji Imam, ISIL Oil Minister Abu Sayyaf and ISIL Minister of War Omar the Chechen. [NYT, [9/1/16](#)]
- **Even ISIL is acknowledging that it is losing ground and things are going terribly.** In July, the Washington Post reported that "ISIS is quietly preparing for the loss of the 'caliphate,'" because ISIS is losing its claim to legitimacy and relevance along with the territory it once controlled. ISIL's plans in Libya have been dramatically impacted by U.S. military support to partners on the ground in that country. [Washington Post, [7/15/16](#); U.S. News and World Report, [9/1/16](#)]