

Senior Islamic State Leader Eliminated in U.S. Strike in Syria

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A precision U.S. military operation has resulted in the death of a high-ranking Islamic State figure and his two adult sons in Aleppo, Syria, amid an ongoing drawdown of American troops in the region. The strike, conducted by the United States Central Command (CENTCOM), underscores continued American resolve to dismantle terrorist networks threatening stability in the Middle East and beyond.

According to CENTCOM officials, the operation targeted Dhiya' Zawba Muslih al-Hardani, a senior leader within the Islamic State (ISIS), along with his two sons, who were also affiliated with the terrorist group. The strike was carried out on Friday morning and aimed at neutralizing individuals identified as active threats to both U.S. and Coalition forces, as well as the newly established Syrian government.

Although specific details regarding the personnel or equipment used in the operation were not disclosed, CENTCOM stated that precautions were taken to avoid civilian casualties. Reports confirmed that three women and three children were in the vicinity at the time but were not harmed. The careful planning of the mission reflects a continued adherence to the rules of engagement that prioritize the safety of non-combatants.

General Michael Kurilla, Commander of U.S. Central Command, issued a firm statement following the strike, reaffirming the United States' commitment to combating Islamic State terrorism. "We will continue to relentlessly pursue ISIS terrorists wherever they operate," he said. "ISIS terrorists are not safe where they sleep, where they operate, and where they hide."

The military presence in Syria, though recently reduced from approximately 2,000 troops, remains focused on counterterrorism objectives. Over the past decade, U.S. forces have played a crucial role in training and supporting regional partners in their fight against ISIS remnants, efforts that continue despite shifting geopolitical circumstances.

In a parallel development, Syria's Foreign Ministry reported a meeting with American and French officials aimed at reinforcing collaboration in the ongoing fight against terrorism. The discussions also addressed strengthening Syrian state institutions to meet emerging security challenges.

The strike marks a significant blow to ISIS leadership and serves as a reminder that, despite changes in deployment numbers, American military strategy remains firmly committed to ensuring that global terrorist threats are confronted with resolve and precision.