

Department of Defense

Report on Steps and Protocols Related to the Rescue, Care, and Treatment of Captives of the Islamic State

Submitted pursuant to Title X of the Conference Report accompanying H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018

The estimated cost of this report or study for the Department of Defense is approximately \$2,860 for the 2018 Fiscal Year. This includes \$10 in expenses and \$2,850 in DoD labor.
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Title X of the Conference Report accompanying the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 requests the following:

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“The conferees direct the Secretary of Defense not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act to submit to Congress a report that describes any steps the Department of Defense is taking to ensure coordination between the Armed Forces of the United States and local forces operating in areas controlled by the Islamic State related to the rescue, care, and treatment of religious or minority groups known or thought to be held captive by the Islamic State, to include relocating such groups of captives to safe locations. Additionally, the report shall provide a description of any protocols that will be put in place by the Department of Defense, including protocols developed in coordination with the Government of Iraq, for the care and treatment of religious or minority groups rescued from captivity under the Islamic State, including any protocol for relocating such groups of captives to safe locations. The required report shall be delivered in unclassified form, but it may include a classified annex.”

The Department of Defense (DoD) does not currently rescue, care for, or treat current captives of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

U.S. forces do advise, train, and assist indigenous partner forces in areas controlled and formerly controlled by ISIS. These indigenous partner forces on occasion interact with former ISIS captives who, when identified, may be directed and transported to the nearest internally displaced persons (IDP) collection point for relocation to the nearest available IDP camp. Former ISIS captives are primarily assisted by non-government organizations and international organizations and may receive various forms of support, including protection, humanitarian aid (water, food, shelter), and assistance in reunification with their families and returning to their places of origin.

As a general matter, DoD does not treat former ISIS captives, including those from religious or minority groups, differently than other non-combatants.

The care, treatment, and reintegration of religious or other minority groups and other non-combatants held captive by ISIS includes navigating a very complex set of protocols operated by the Government of Iraq, the United Nations, and other international partners such as the International Committee of the Red Cross. There are currently no plans to implement new DoD protocols for coordinating with the Government of Iraq or other partners with respect to the care, treatment, or relocation of religious or minority groups or others rescued from ISIS.