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News | Syria's War

ISIL kills two US soldiers, interpreter in Syria's Palmyra, Pentagon says

US Central Command says lone gunman was 'engaged and killed' after launching attack in central Syria.



Residents ride a motorcycle along a war-damaged street in Palmyra, Syria [File: Ghaith Alsayed/AP]



By Al Jazeera Staff and News Agencies

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The attack on US forces on Saturday was the first to inflict casualties since the fall of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad a year ago.

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CENTCOM said in a post on X that the lone ISIL gunman was “engaged and killed”.

It added that, as a matter of respect for the families and in accordance with Pentagon policy, the identities of the service members will be withheld until 24 hours after their next of kin have been notified.

US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth said on X that the perpetrator was “killed by partner forces”.

“Let it be known, if you target Americans — anywhere in the world — you will spend the rest of your brief, anxious life knowing the United States will hunt you, find you, and ruthlessly kill you,” he wrote.

On Saturday, three local officials told the Reuters news agency that the assailant was a member of the Syrian security forces.

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Palmyra in Syria's central Homs region.

Traffic on the Deir Az Zor–Damascus highway was temporarily halted as military aircraft conducted overflights in the area, the agency said.

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shots were fired “during a meeting between Syrian and American officers” at a Syrian base in Palmyra.



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A witness in the city, who asked to remain anonymous, told the agency that he heard the shots coming from inside the base.

The US has troops stationed in northeastern Syria as part of a decade-long effort to help a Kurdish-led force there combat ISIL (ISIS).

ISIL [captured Palmyra](#) in 2015, at the height of its military ascendancy in Syria, before losing the city 10 months later. During that time, it destroyed several ancient sites and artefacts while using others to stage mass executions.

ISIL was vanquished in Syria in 2018, but still carries out sporadic attacks without controlling any territory inside Syria.

The war-ravaged nation has just [marked one year since the ouster of longtime leader Bashar al-Assad](#), but continues to face stiff security and economic challenges as it seeks to rebuild and recover after 14 years of ruinous civil war.

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time later, Bashar al-Assad.

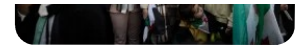
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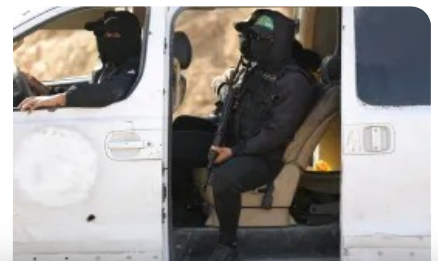
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