Assessing AQI's Resilience after April's Leadership Decapitations

Jun 25, 2010

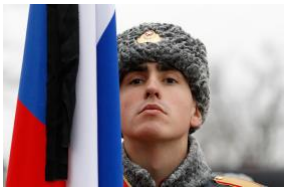
Articles & Testimony

In April 2010, the leaders of al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) and the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) were killed in a joint U.S.-Iraqi raid. In June, U.S. Admiral Michael Mullen declared that AQI had been "devastated" by the killings, while Gen. Ray Odierno described the development as "the most significant blow to Al-Qaeda in Iraq since the beginning of the insurgency." Yet despite its recent setbacks, AQI will remain a viable organization for the foreseeable future, having become increasingly indigenous and thus more able to incorporate and exploit local grievances. Myriam Benraad's article addresses the factors behind AQI's ability to renew its ranks despite important human losses and key operational setbacks, suggesting policy actions that could more effectively counter the group.

Myriam Benraad is a Paris-based Keston Family scholar with **Project Fikra: Defeating Extremism through the Power of Ideas (/templateI02.php?SID=24&newActiveSubNav=Project%20Fikra%3A%20Defeating%20Extremism%20through%20the%20Power%20of%20Ideas&activeSubNavLink=templateI02.php%3FSID%3D24&n**, focusing on radical Islamism and Iraq.

CTC Sentinel

RECOMMENDED



ARTICLES & TESTIMONY

The Ukraine Crisis Isn't Over: Russia Has Lied About Troop Withdrawals Before

Feb 16, 2022
Anna Borshchevskaya
(/policy-analysis/ukraine-crisis-isnt-over-russia-has-lied-about-troop-withdrawals)

ARTICLES & TESTIMONY

As China Thrives in the Post-9/11 Middle East, the US Must Counter

Feb 16, 2022
Jay Solomon
(/policy-analysis/china-thrives-post-911-middle-east-us-must-counter)

BRIEF ANALYSIS

Unpacking the UAE F-35 Negotiations

Feb 15, 2022
Grant Rumley
(/policy-analysis/unpacking-uae-f-35-negotiations)

TOPICS

Terrorism (/policy-analysis/terrorism)

REGIONS & COUNTRIES

Iraq (/policy-analysis/iraq)