

-----Original Message-----

From: CENTCOM GLOBAL CJTF OIR Mailbox CJTF OIR Media Ops

[mailto: [REDACTED]]

Sent: 12 December 2017 15:02

To: Belkis Wille <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Response to Belkis Willie - Human Rights Watch - 10 Apr 2017 CIVCAS Allegation (UNCLASSIFIED)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Belkis,

While we do not discuss details of our internal processes and procedures, we can tell you that unlike ISIS, the Coalition works extensively to reduce the risk to civilians on the ground and we leverage our technology to ensure the strikes are as precise as possible. We take a broad range of measures throughout the targeting process to avoid civilian casualties and review all available information prior to executing air strikes. The Coalition has done, and continues to do, everything within its power to limit harm to non-combatants and civilian infrastructure.

CJTF-OIR is transparent in its process. We regularly issue strike and civilian casualty reports, including results of credible and non-credible allegations and those still pending assessment. A civilian casualty assessment includes a thorough consideration of all reasonably available evidence to determine if an allegation is credible or not credible. This case was no exception.

We would like to add that it would be fair to consider the extent to which the Coalition has genuinely attempted to mitigate civilian casualties, and compare that with the tens of thousands of innocent civilians who ISIS has intentionally murdered, or whose deaths they caused by intentionally denying health care and nutrition over the past three years in Iraq and Syria. Without the Coalition's air and ground campaign against ISIS, there would have inevitably been additional years, if not decades of suffering and needless death and mutilation in Syria and Iraq at the hands of terrorists who lack any ethical or moral standards. Another tragedy, a story that will probably never be told, lies west of the Euphrates, where the Russian-backed regime is unlikely to be as transparent about its counter-ISIS activities as the Coalition.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Belkis Wille [mailto:[REDACTED]]

Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 3:26 PM

To: CENTCOM GLOBAL CJTF OIR Mailbox CJTF OIR Media Ops <[REDACTED]>

[REDACTED]

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] HRW query on most recent coalition statement on civcas

To Whom It May Concern,

I wanted to write to you in relation to the following statement from your most recent civilian casualty report (Caution-<http://www.inherentresolve.mil/News/Article/1383586/cjtf-oir-monthly->

civilian-casualty-report/): "44. Apr. 10, 2017, near Sakkak, Mosul, Iraq, via Human Rights watch organization. After a review of available information and strike video it was assessed that there is insufficient evidence to find that civilians were harmed in this strike."

Here is our press release regarding the report, with our findings:

Caution-<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/06/iraq-civilian-casualties-mount-west-mosul>

Could you please share any details you can with me on how you came to that conclusion? I am happy to share with you the names of the civilians killed, and the contact for one of the witnesses to the strike.

Best,

Belkis