

20+ Iraqi soldiers killed, 30 injured after US airstrike – Iraqi MP to Sputnik

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“The 55th brigade [of the Iraqi Army] was hit by the US aviation. More than 20 soldiers were killed and over 30 servicemen were wounded as a result of the airstrike,” Zamili said.

The incident occurred near the town of Al-Naimiya in the Fallujah province after the Iraqi troops had freed “a strategically important area” from the Islamic State (IS, formerly ISIS/ISIL) militants, he added.

According to the official, who visited the site of the attack and personally talked to commanders and soldiers of the 55th brigade, the death toll may well rise, as many Iraqi soldiers were heavily injured.

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“The Americans carry out airstrikes with 100% precision... How could have they mistaken by kilometers?” he wondered.

Zamili said *“it’s very dangerous”* that the Iraqi forces are being hit by airstrikes and that the country *“won’t allow it”* to happen again.

The MP called upon the Iraqi Prime Minister, Haider Al-Abadi, to carry out an immediate investigation into the airstrike.

According to the official, Iraq is going to go to court over the incident as *“this crime mustn’t go unpunished.”*

RT contacted the Iraqi Defense Ministry, which declined to comment on the alleged US airstrike against its troops.

Earlier, the Russian Defense Ministry said four Western coalition warplanes had been spotted over the Deir ez-Zor area in Syria on December 6, when a Syrian Army camp came under attack.

An airstrike on a field camp of the 168th Brigade of the 7th Division of the Syrian Army left four servicemen dead and 12 injured. It also destroyed three APCs and four vehicles bearing 12.7mm heavy machine guns.

The information about two pairs of warplanes, members of the US-led international anti-ISIS coalition, which were operating in the Deir ez-Zor area on the day of the attack, was announced by Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov.

"If they were not involved in that airstrike, than why are the Pentagon's representatives, as leaders of the anti-ISIS coalition, hushing up the presence of their allies' aircraft in the Deir ez-Zor region on December 6? Isn't it because the [anti-ISIS] coalition air force gets all the information on Islamic State targets in Syria from the Pentagon?" he asked.

The US has been bombing IS positions in Iraq since August 2014. However, according to Iraq's former PM Nouri al-Maliki, this campaign has been *"unbelievably"* ineffective in fighting the terror group.

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"It's unbelievable and unacceptable that more than 60 nations comprising this coalition that have the most modern aircraft and weapons at their disposal have been conducting their campaign in Iraq for 14 months and IS still remains in the country," he told RT's Arabic-language sister-channel Rusiya Al-Yaum in November.
