



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
COMBINED JOINT TASK FORCE - OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE
CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT
APO AE 09306

IRCS

29 March 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: CIVCAS Allegation Closure Report, Allegation No. 382

1. (U) **BLUF**. Based on the below findings, this allegation is **NOT CREDIBLE**. CJTF-OIR CIVCAS Cell shall close this allegation and make available for immediate public release.

2. (U) **Background**. I considered the following information in making my findings:

a. (U) On 12 March 2017, WebOps Iraq-Syria reported news via Twitter and Facebook that, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, in the early hours of Sunday, Coalition airstrikes "committed a new massacre in Maskanah village, in the countryside south of Homs." The news explained that the Coalition aircrafts bombed the neighborhood of Rihaniyya, IVO Maskanah, SY resulting in the killing and wounding dozens of civilians, including women and children. This topic trended and resonated at a high level in the Arabic IE.

b. (U) Following the receipt of this allegation, CJTF-OIR CIVCAS Cell conducted an initial assessment of the allegation and decided to close this allegation at the First Impression Report (FIR).

3. (U) **CJTF-OIR CIVCAS Cell's Findings**

a. (U) Coalition Strike Activity.

(1) (~~S//REL TO USA, FVEY~~) According to the allegation, in the early hours of 12 MAR 17, strikes hit the Maskanah village in the countryside south of Homs, SY, and in Rihaniyya neighborhood IVO Maskanah. Although there are multiple Maskanah villages, the allegation narrows the alleged strike to a Maskanah south of Homs. No strikes occurred south of Homs on the 11-13th March 2017. The nearest strike is approximately 300 km away.

b. (U) Credibility Assessment

(1) (~~S//REL TO USA, FVEY~~) Based on a thorough assessment of all reasonably available evidence, this CIVCAS allegation is deemed **NOT CREDIBLE**. That is, it is more likely than not that no civilians were killed or seriously injured as a

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consequence of Coalition airstrikes in the neighborhood of Rihaniyya, IVO Maskanah, SY on or around 12 March 2017.

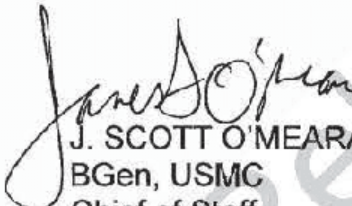
4. (U) Action.

(U) I direct closure of this CIVCAS incident and that CJTF-OIR PAO publish the CIVCAS finding in a press release as soon as practicable.

5. (U) Point of contact is (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) at DSN (b)(6).

2 Encls

- 1. FIR
- 2. Screen Shot


J. SCOTT O'MEARA
BGen, USMC
Chief of Staff

Approved for Release