



[Iraqi Parliament Votes to Expel Foreign Troops, Including American Forces](#)

Earlier this week, the Iraqi parliament passed a resolution calling for its government to expel foreign troops from the country, including American forces. The resolution is non-binding on the government, but Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi had urged the legislative body to take measures regarding ending the foreign troop presence as soon as possible. Many contend that the resolution was largely passed in an effort to quell public anger following last week's American airstrike on a Baghdad airport which killed Iranian General Qassem Soleimani. In response to the passing of the resolution, U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to impose strong sanctions on Iraq if they in fact move forward with expelling American troops.

The resolution asks Iraq's government to cancel the request for assistance from the American-led coalition against ISIS, raising some concerns about the future of this allied mission which has successfully fought the group in recent years. In part, it reads: "the government commits to revoke its request for assistance from the international coalition fighting Islamic State due to the end of military operations in Iraq and the achievement of victory. The Iraqi government must work to end the presence of any foreign troops on Iraqi soil and prohibit them from using its land, airspace, or water for any reason."

The U.S. State Department responded that it was disappointed in the Iraqi parliament's actions. Spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus released a statement saying that "We strongly urge Iraqi leaders to reconsider the importance of the ongoing economic and security relationship between the two countries and the continued presence of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS." Additionally, President Trump threatened to sanction Baghdad "like they've never seen before ever" if it was to expel American troops from the country and added that these would "make Iranian sanctions look somewhat tame" in comparison. Trump also stated that if Iraq was to follow through on this resolution, then they should repay the United States for its financial burden of maintaining a military presence in the country over the recent years.

Other foreign leaders also chimed in regarding the recent developments leading up to this resolution being passed in the Iraqi parliament, namely last week's American airstrike in Baghdad which killed Iranian General Soleimani. French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson called on all parties involved to "exercise the utmost restraint" and stated that there is "an urgent need for de-escalation" concerning rising tensions in the region. They emphasized their support for the sovereignty and security of Iraq and pointed out that another crisis would risk jeopardizing years of efforts to stabilize the country.

It is unclear what will happen next given the caretaker status of Iraq's current government, with its powers being restricted to conducting the day-to-day affairs of the country. Prime Minister Abdul Mahdi resigned in December after the outbreak of nationwide anti-government protests, so the implementation of the resolution is in question, as no timetable was laid out and there is uncertainty regarding whether or not it is legally binding. In addition to this, the resolution does not have the support of a large section of Iraqi society, since most Sunni and Kurdish lawmakers sat out the session in which it was passed.