
**IRAQI FORCES CAPTURE HISTORIC MOSUL MOSQUE WHERE ISLAMIC STATE DECLARED
'CALIPHATE': MILITARY**

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Iraqi forces captured on Thursday the wrecked historic mosque of Mosul in which Islamic State proclaimed its self-styled caliphate three years ago, an Iraqi military statement said.

Taking the Grand al-Nuri Mosque hands a symbolic victory to the Iraqi forces which have been battling for more than eight month to capture Mosul, the northern city that served as Islamic States de facto capital in Iraq.

The insurgents blew up the medieval mosque and its landmark leaning minaret a week ago, as U.S.-backed Iraqi forces started a push in its direction. Their black flag had been floating on al-Hadba, the hunchback minaret, since June 2014.

Kaynak/Source: