
FRANCE TO REMAIN IN SYRIA AND IRAQ DESPITE US WITHDRAWAL: MACRON

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BEIRUT, LEBANON (11:20 P.M.) □ France will remain inside both Syria and Iraq despite the withdrawal of the U.S. Armed Forces from the former, French President Emmanuel Macron said in a new statement on Thursday.

According to Macron, the recent terror attack in the Syrian city of Manbij is proof that the Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL/IS/Daesh) has not been defeated in Iraq and Syria.

Macron also stressed that France will continue being militarily engaged in the Middle East in the international coalition throughout 2019.

The announced withdrawal of our American ally should not deflect us from our strategic objective to eradicate Daesh, Macron said on Thursday addressing the armed forces in the French city of Toulouse.

France currently has a large military presence inside the provinces of Deir Ezzor and Homs; they maintain a small air base near the Euphrates River Valley town of Hajin.

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