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**IRAQ: US TROOPS LEAVING SYRIA HAVE NO APPROVAL TO STAY**

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Al Jazeera (22 October 2019)

US forces that crossed into Iraq as part of a pullout from northeastern Syria do not have permission to stay and can only be there in transit, Iraq's military has said.

An Iraqi statement on Tuesday contradicted the Pentagon's announcement that all of the nearly 1,000 troops withdrawing from northern Syria are expected to move to western Iraq to continue the campaign against Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, or ISIS) and "to help defend Iraq".

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