
THE NETHERLANDS TO SEND NEW TROOPS TO IRAQ AS COALITION SHIFTS TO ADVISORY ROLE

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The Netherlands is preparing to bolster its mission in Iraq by sending up to 150 additional troops to Iraqi Kurdistan, according to a vote by the Dutch Council of Ministers on Friday. The troops will be responsible for security at the Erbil airport alongside US forces. The airport is an important base for the US-led anti-Islamic State (IS) coalition.

The deployment comes as Washington continues to reduce its troops in the country and as Iraq's Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi has pledged to push back against foreign influence. International support is more welcome in the north, as the coalition largely operates out of Erbil. The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) has celebrated a new phase of assistance from foreign governments across joint projects and beefed up military infrastructure, including a 30-point reform project in collaboration with Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States.

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