

# US-Led Coalition Civilian Killings Tripled in Iraq and Syria in 2017. NGO

Says US Escalation Led to 'Steep Increase' in Killings

By [Jason Ditz](#)

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*UK-based NGO Airwars has offered a reckoning of the 2017 air operations of the US-led coalition against ISIS, involving attacks in both Iraq and Syria. The [number of civilians killed increased dramatically, with estimates suggesting that they roughly tripled](#) from 2016.*

In 2016, they documented an estimated death toll of between 1,243 and 1,904 non-combatants, but in 2017, the estimate was a minimum of 3,923, and potentially as many as 6,102 non-combatants killed.

That's a huge increase, and a troubling one, in no small part because the US doesn't admit it's even happening, with Pentagon assessments putting deaths at no more than a few hundred annually, and [around 800 over the entire past four years](#).

Airwars attributed the escalating toll in part to the fact that 2017 saw an increase in strikes, and an increased focus on densely populated cities. They also suggested the Trump Administration's relaxing of restrictions on airstrikes, and view of the ISIS war as a "war of annihilation" are factors.

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*Jason Ditz is news editor of [Antiwar.com](#).*

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