

Thousands of Daesh (ISIS) detainees in Syria a 'ticking time-bomb'



Around 10,000 Daesh detainees and their families in nearby camps in northeastern Syria present a big security risk, a senior State Department official said on Tuesday, even though the US-allied Syrian Kurdish militia was fully capable of keeping them secure, reports *Reuters*.

"It's not a particularly secure situation," the official told reporters in a conference call. "It's a ticking time bomb to simply have the better part of 10,000 detainees, many of them foreign fighters," he said and repeated Washington's stance that they should be repatriated to their countries.



Daesh leader Abu Bakr Baghdadi killed himself during a US military operation in Syria – Cartoon [Sabaaneh/MiddleEastMonitor]

Daesh has lost almost all of its territory in Iraq and Syria. Its former leader Abu

Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed in a US raid last month. World leaders welcomed his death, but they and security experts warned that the group, which carried out atrocities against religious minorities and horrified most Muslims, remained a security threat in Syria and beyond.

OPINION: Baghdadi is dead, but what about Daesh?

Allies have been worried that Daesh militants could escape as a result of Turkey's assault against Syrian Kurdish militia who have been holding thousands of the group's fighters and tens of thousands of their family members.

"We are very confident about the ability of SDF to secure all of the detention facilities that they are holding people in and to manage al-Hol camp, but again, we don't want to put any of this under any risk for any kind of humanitarian, counter-terrorism and other reasons," the official said.

READ: Turkey starts repatriation of foreign Daesh fighters in Syria

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