

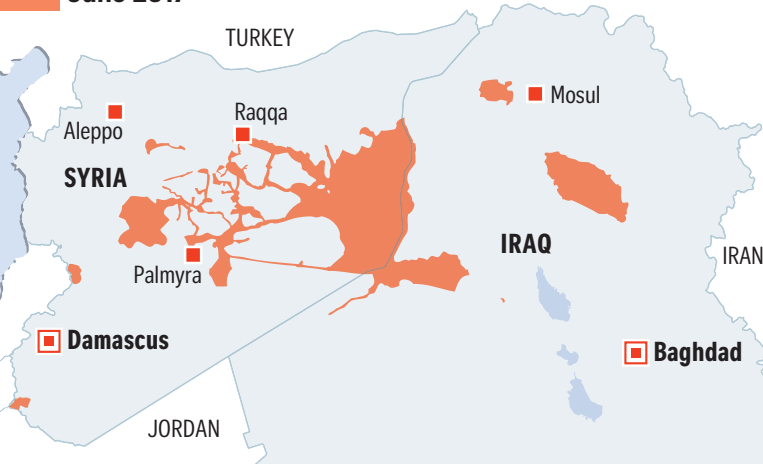
ISIS control in Syria and Iraq

The extremist group has lost almost a quarter of the territory it controlled over the past year, according to analysts.

Jan 2016 (78,000 sq km)



June 2017



Key dates concerning the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) seizure of Mosul and Raqqa, and the subsequent battle to liberate them.

- **Jan 14, 2014:** Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) conquers Raqqa in northern Syria, after fierce fighting with rival rebels. The city becomes infamous as the scene of some of the group's worst atrocities.
 - **June 10, 2014:** ISIL starts an offensive in north-western Iraq in which it seizes Mosul.
 - **June 29, 2014:** ISIL declares a "caliphate" across the territory it has seized in Iraq and Syria. It rebrands itself the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and declares its chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi "caliph".
 - **August 8, 2014:** US warplanes strike ISIS positions in northern Iraq.
 - **Sept 23, 2014:** US, which has formed an international coalition, launches air strikes on ISIS in Syria.
 - **Oct 17, 2016:** Some 30,000 Iraqi forces backed by US-led air support launch an operation to retake Mosul.
 - **Nov 5, 2016:** The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) launches an operation to capture Raqqa.
 - **June 6, 2017:** SDF enters Raqqa.
 - **June 29:** SDF cuts off the last ISIS escape route from Raqqa – two villages on the Euphrates River.
- Iraq announces it has recaptured the iconic Mosul Nuri mosque.

Sources: AFP, IHS CONFLICT MONITOR
STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS