

Islamic State: A year of death and destruction

One year after the so-called Islamic State (IS) took control of Mosul, it remains a formidable force with little sign that a U.S.-led bombing campaign has significantly blunted its abilities or ambitions

■ **Jun 2014:** IS seizes Iraq's second city of Mosul and declares caliphate across Iraq and Syria

■ **Aug 2:** IS launches new northern offensive, targeting minority groups such as Yazidis with mass killings, enslavement and rape

■ **Aug 8:** U.S. launches first air strikes against IS in Iraq, halting advances into Kurdish region

■ **Aug 19:** U.S. journalist **James Foley** beheaded on video – first of seven beheadings of foreign hostages

■ **Sep:** Anti-IS air campaign by U.S. and Arab allies expands to Syria

■ **Dec:** Iraqi Kurdish peshmerga forces, backed by coalition strikes, push IS out of most of Sinjar region

■ **Jan 2015:** Syrian Kurdish militia, backed by coalition air strikes, recapture Kobane after more than four months of fierce fighting

■ **Feb:** IS video shows Jordanian pilot being burned alive in cage

■ **Mar:** IS destroys Assyrian archaeological sites of Nimrud and Hatra

■ **Apr:** Iraqi forces, Iranian-backed Shia militias and U.S.-led air strikes regain control of Tikrit

■ **May:** IS captures Ramadi, capital of Anbar province, and ancient Syrian city of Palmyra

■ **Jun:** Iraqi forces advance against IS in town of Baiji, seen as crucial target in plan to retake Mosul

