



## Middle East, Italy redeploys troops: withdrawal from Erbil and new military setup further west

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The growing instability in the Middle East is pushing Italy to **reassess the positioning of its military contingents in the region**. According to *Il Sole 24 Ore*, political-military circles are considering a **redeployment of forces towards more western areas considered less exposed to operational risks**, while maintaining participation in international missions.

At the same time, **the withdrawal of some Italian soldiers from Iraqi Kurdistan has already begun**, following a drone attack on a base hosting the Italian contingent. During the incident, about **120 soldiers took refuge in bunkers**, without sustaining injuries.

### The attack on the Italian base in Iraq

The incident that accelerated government assessments concerns the base in **Erbil**, in Iraqi Kurdistan, where Italian soldiers are engaged in the international mission against the Islamic

State.

A drone attack hit the area of the Italian military base causing **damage to some vehicles and structures**, but without causing casualties among the soldiers, who managed to take shelter in the bunkers of the facility.

The incident is part of an increasingly unstable regional framework, characterized by **attacks on Western bases and tensions between Iran, Israel, and the United States**, with the risk of the conflict spreading to several countries in the region.

## The gradual withdrawal from Iraqi Kurdistan

After the attack, Italy initiated a **gradual reduction of the contingent present in Erbil**.

In recent days:

- over **100 soldiers have returned to Italy**,
- about **70 have been transferred to Jordan**,
- while **about 140 remain at the Iraqi base**, awaiting any further operational decisions.

The complete withdrawal will not happen immediately, as the operation is logistically complex and requires **land transfers to other countries in the region before returning home**.

## The plan for repositioning westward

Alongside the withdrawal from Iraqi Kurdistan, the Italian government is considering a **new setup of the military device in the Middle East**.

The hypothesis under study involves:

- **moving part of the troops to safer areas**,
- maintaining the Italian presence in international missions,
- ensuring greater protection for bases and military personnel.

The repositioning westward would not mean **abandoning the region**, but rather adapting the military presence to new strategic conditions.

## Italy will not enter the conflict

The government has reiterated that **Italy will not participate in the ongoing war in the region**, but will continue to support international missions already authorized by Parliament, especially those dedicated to training local forces and stabilizing the area.

The priority, at this stage, remains **the safety of Italian soldiers deployed abroad**, in an increasingly unstable geopolitical context characterized by a rapid deterioration of regional security.

The repositioning of contingents thus represents **a precautionary measure**, designed to maintain Italy's international commitments while reducing the direct exposure of soldiers in the most at-risk areas of the Middle East.

*Sources:*

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