

# US-Iran tensions

# CURRENT AFFAIR

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- The Iraqi parliamentarians recently voted in favour of a resolution seeking to expel American troops from Iraq.

# BACKGROUND STORY

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- This was the first blowback the US faced after it assassinated Iranian General Qassem Soleimani inside Iraq.
- The U.S. troops are in Iraq on an invitation from the Iraqi government to fight the Islamic State.

# Killing of General Qassem Soleimani of Iran

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Iran's top security and intelligence commander, Major General Qassem Soleimani, was killed in a US drone attack in Baghdad.

General Soleimani was killed in an airstrike, for which the US later claimed responsibility.

The strike was carried out by a drone on a road near Baghdad's international airport.

# Iraqi reaction

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- This triggered public protests and led to the siege of the American Embassy.
- The anger among Iraqi lawmakers towards U.S. actions was on full display inside the Parliament hall before the voting.
- Iraqi Prime Minister Adil Abdul-Mahdi, who condemned the killing of Soleimani, has stated clearly that it is time for the Americans to go home.
- Government officials have already started working on a memorandum on the legal and procedural formalities to expel U.S. troops.

# US's reactions

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- U.S. has threatened Iraq with sanctions and a bill for billions of dollars if the US troops are forced to pull back.

# TRIGGER

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- U.S. decision to pull the U.S. out of a functioning Iran nuclear deal was the trigger.
- When the U.S. re-imposed sanctions on Iran, it was up to the other signatories of the deal - European countries, Russia and China - to save the agreement.

# WAY AHEAD

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- Europe, which has good ties with both the U.S. and Iran, should wake up at least now.



# Iran Nuclear Deal

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- The deal is officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) which aimed at curbing Iran's nuclear programme.
- It was signed between Iran and the P5 + Germany and the EU in 2015.

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