NATO will Help Turkey Against Russia if Needed: Stoltenberg

WAHINGTON - A coalition led by the United States conducted 38 air strikes against Islamic State in Iraq on Sunday, according to a military statement that did not add details to reports that the military group’s reclusive leader was killed in one of the bombardments.

Iraqi state television said on Sunday its air force had hit an Islamic State meeting in a town in western Iraq and also struck a convoy that was carrying Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who had been reported killed in an American raid on Saturday.

The coalition also conducted two air strikes against Islamic State in Syria on Sunday, according to a military statement that did not add details to reports that a senior Islamic State leader was killed in one of the bombardments.

The coalition said it had conducted 55 sorties in its escalation in the battle against the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq earlier this month.

The coalition had been criticized for not directly addressing the Islamic State’s “caliphate” that its leaders claim to have created, which is dominated by the Islamic State’s so-called “caliph” Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

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