Trump says airstrikes on ISIS in Somalia killed terrorists without 'harming civilians'

FEBRUARY 1, 2025 · 2:33 PM ET

Deepa Shivaram

This photo provided by U.S. Africa Command, the U.S. military conducts coordinated airstrikes against Islamic State operatives in Somalia on Saturday.

AP/U.S. Africa Command

President Trump said he ordered airstrikes against ISIS operatives in the Golis Mountains in Somalia this morning in a strike coordinated with the Somali government.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump announced the "precision" airstrikes, saying the attempt to target the "Senior ISIS Attack Planner" was successful.

"The strikes destroyed the caves they live in, and killed many terrorists without, in any way, harming civilians," Trump posted.

The White House declined to provide further information on the strike, like how many ISIS operatives were killed.

But Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said in a statement that the Pentagon's initial assessment is that multiple ISIS operatives were killed, and he reiterated no civilians

were harmed.

He said the strike, conducted by the US-Africa command, sends "a clear signal" that the U.S. is ready to find and eliminate terrorists who threaten the U.S. and its allies.

"This action further degrades [ISIS'] ability to plot and conduct terrorist attacks threatening U.S. citizens, our partners, and innocent civilians," Hegseth said in the statement.

Trump criticized former President Biden for not acting quickly enough to target this particular operative — though the Biden White House did conduct other airstrikes in Somalia during his term, targeting al-Qaida and ISIS positions.

isis   somalia   u.s. airstrikes   u.s. africa command   pete hegseth

READ & LISTEN

Home

News

Culture

Music

Podcasts & Shows

CONNECT

Newsletters

Facebook

Instagram

Press

Public Editor

ABOUT NPR

Overview

Diversity

NPR Network

Accessibility

Ethics

Finances

GET INVOLVED

Support Public Radio

Sponsor NPR

NPR Careers

NPR Shop

NPR Events

NPR Extra

terms of use

privacy

your privacy choices

text only