

# NO WAR ON IRAN! RECALL AUSTRALIAN NAVY SHIP AND TROOPS!

## Gather Parliament Steps, 1 pm Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January – join global protests

US President Trump has said a number of times that he wants no more Middle eastern war – but his actions in ordering the drone assassination in Iraq of leading Iranian General Quassem Soleimani completely contradict this. Australia has some 200+ troops in Iraq, and has sent RAN Frigate HMAS Toowoomba to join the US gunboat diplomacy in the Persian Gulf. This makes these Australians not only a further provocation but a target of Iran's significant military forces.

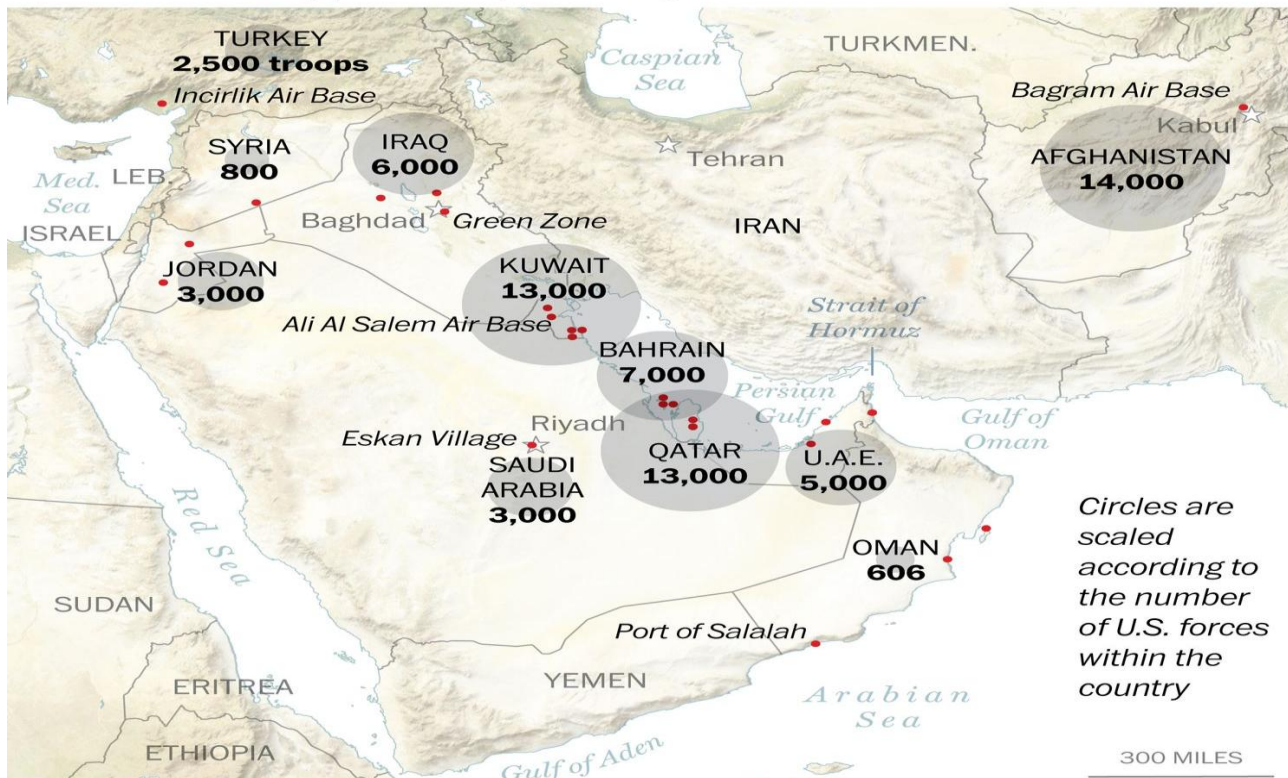
Soleimani led resistance to ISIS/DAESH in Iraq and was very popular not only in Iran but in Iranian allied states and groups across the region – from Yemen to Syria and Lebanon to Iraq. For evidence, there is a video on YouTube of the millions who attended his funeral. Some commentators consider that the US has already effectively declared war on Iran, with this action and the long-running sanctions against the Iranian people. Ironically (or perhaps not?), it seems Soleimani was in Iraq to respond to Saudi peace feelers – undoubtedly set back if not sabotaged now.

US allies are distancing themselves from the assassination – even Israel. Meanwhile the US patrols of the Straits of Hormuz are still on track, though the 60 nations the US asked to take part have been reduced to six – the Saudis, UAE and Bahrain (as “hosts”), plus the UK, Albania and.....Australia! Once again as with climate change Australia has followed the US out onto a shaky limb and is increasingly isolated - far more so in fact than during the illegal Iraq invasion of 2003. Now Iraq's parliament wants all foreign troops out.

*IPAN (SA) – ph 73298542 or email ipansouthaustralia@yahoo.com*

## The U.S. military footprint in the Middle East

- Bases, ports and other installations where U.S. troops are stationed or where U.S. military personnel pass through



Note: Troop numbers are approximate. They do not reflect deployments in recent days and may fluctuate.

Sources: Federation of American Scientists, International Crisis Group

AARON STECKELBERG/THE WASHINGTON POST