

# *Iraq Urges Coalition Air Support in Battle to Free Tikrit*

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Tikrit, March 16 (Xinhua) -- A top Iraqi army officer said on Monday that Iraqi troops need U.S.-led coalition air support to recapture the city of Tikrit, after two weeks of a major offensive stalled against Islamic State (IS) militants.

Lt. Gen. Abdul-Wahab al-Saadi, head of the Operations Command of Salahudin province, said a request had been made to the Defense Ministry to demand intervention of coalition air support.

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