

# *Kurdish Forces Free 3 Villages in Northern Iraq*

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Kirkuk, March 16 (Xinhua) -- Kurdish fighters on Monday recaptured three villages near Kirkuk from Islamic State (IS) militants, a Kurdish security source told Xinhua.

About 20 IS militants and three Kurdish fighters were killed in the battles to seize the villages of Wihda, Saad and Khalid, near the town of Daquoq, some 40 km south of Kirkuk, capital city of the province with the same name, the source said on condition of anonymity.

U.S.-led coalition aircraft provided air support for the Kurdish fighters, also known as Peshmerga.

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