

# Counting the Uncountable

## The Human and Economic Costs of 5 Years of War and Occupation in Iraq



### **The Human Cost of War-Iraq**

The Iraq war and U.S. occupation has been a catastrophe for Iraqis. The violence has touched every corner of the country, killed hundreds of thousands, and displaced millions. Casualty numbers are difficult to calculate but using statistical methods tested in other

conflict zones, a Johns Hopkins study published last year estimated that there have been 655,000 war-related deaths since March 2003. Other estimates put the toll at more than one million. In addition, more than 4.5 million Iraqis have been displaced by war and occupation, making it the world's fastest growing refugee crisis.

Sources: [http://www.opinion.co.uk/Newsroom\\_details.aspx?NewsId=78](http://www.opinion.co.uk/Newsroom_details.aspx?NewsId=78), <http://www.thelancet.com/webfiles/images/journals/lancet/s0140673606694919.pdf>



### **The Human Cost of War-U.S.**

The cost of the war for U.S. servicepeople and their families has been high indeed. Four thousand U.S. military personnel have been killed in Iraq, leaving children, parents and spouses behind. But this tells just part of the picture. Iraq veterans who return home must

deal with the consequences of physical and emotional wounds for the rest of their lives. The Department of Defense reports that 28,000 servicepeople have been seriously wounded. And according to a CBS news report, 6,256 U.S. veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan committed suicide in 2005 - an average of 17 a day - with veterans overall more than twice as likely to take their own lives as the rest of the general population.

Sources: <http://www.icasualties.org>, [http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/11/13/cbsnews\\_investigates/main3496471.shtml](http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/11/13/cbsnews_investigates/main3496471.shtml)

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