

OMNI NEWSLETTER #2, CIVILIAN VICTIMS OF US TROOPS
IN AFGHANISTAN, IRAQ, AND PAKISTAN, JANUARY 14,
2011. Compiled by Dick Bennett (#1 Sept. 6, 2007). (If the
slaughter of civilians in illegal US wars--or any wars--particularly
concerns you, consider becoming the editor of this newsletter. We
resist militarism and wars by the truth.)

See OMNI's Special Collection on VICTIMS in Mullins Library, UofA.

For Newsletter #3 maybe there'll be studies on the civilians killed
in Pakistan and Yemen. We might think IRAN too, since the Bush
Admin. threaten to bomb and kill the people of Iran, and we are not
sure right now what could happen.

Two ways to read "texts" of all kinds: what is represented and what
is omitted. An immense report could be compiled of the textual and
cultural omissions of the killing of civilians. That is the norm.
Consider the Vietnam "Wall" Memorial. Fewer than 100,000 US soldiers
are listed. But an est. 3 million Vietnamese were killed during that
illegal and unnecessary war, as though US combatants possess greater
inherent worth and dignity than Vietnamese civilians. In the
following note the prodigious attention to combatants killed and
wounded compared to the civilian casualties, whose numbers are
reduced and treated as asides or footnotes. But some information
does creep through of the killings and woundings, and I will give
some of it here, not already reported in my 2007 newsletter.

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USA Today False Reporting

Newscasters and a Million civilians killed

Google and Body Count

Wikipedia Search

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Geneva Conventions

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AFGHANISTAN 2010

1. Casualties in **Afghanistan** & Iraq - Unknown News | Helen & Harry's ...

And the people behind Iraq **Body Count** acknowledge that their count leaves ... outside Iraq and **Afghanistan**, included in the count of military casualties. ... www.unknownnews.org/casualties.html - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)



2. The **Afghan Body Count**

Jul 25, 2007 ... Washington DC (UPI) Jul 25, 2007 - Almost six years ago U.S. and allied forces toppled the Taliban regime in **Afghanistan**, paving the way for ... www.spacedaily.com/.../The_Afghan_Body_Count_999.html - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

3. Casualties in Iraq - Antiwar.com

Other Military Deaths - **Afghanistan** ... Numbers from the Iraq **Body Count** site and the study published in the Lancet are compared at OpenDemocracy.net. ... The list - Contact - Casualty Counter antiwar.com/casualties/ - [Cached](#)

4. The unknown **Afghan body count** | James Denselow | Comment is free ...

Jul 4, 2010 ... James Denselow: An unwillingness to track the number of **Afghan** civilians killed undermines attempts to gauge progress in the country. www.guardian.co.uk/.../jul/.../afghanistan-body-count-civilian-deaths - [Cached](#)

5. Civilian Casualties in **Afghanistan**: Beyond the **Body Count**

Aug 11, 2010 ... Civilian Casualties in **Afghanistan**: Beyond the **Body Count** Medical staff at Role 3 Multinational Medical Unit (R3 MMU) in **Afghanistan** ... www.truth-out.org/civilian-casualties-afghanistan-reach-all-time-high62222 - [Cached](#)

6. Civilian Victims of United States' Aerial Bombing of **Afghanistan**

The Muslim practice of immediate burial by nightfall makes **body** counting difficult Appendix 4: Daily Casualty **Count** of **Afghan** Civilians Killed in U.S ... cursor.org/stories/civilian_deaths.htm - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

7. Army chief admits **Afghanistan bodycount** made him question war ...

Jul 14, 2009 ... General Sir Richard Dannatt, the head of the Army, said the **bodycount** in **Afghanistan** had made him question if the war was being conducted ... www.telegraph.co.uk/.../Army-chief-admits-Afghanistan-bodycount-made-him-question-war.html - [Similar](#) - [Add to iGoogle](#)

8. Outta the Cornfield: FYI - **Afghanistan Body Count**

Sep 28, 2009 ... FYI - **Afghanistan Body Count**. Paid close attention to the deaths in Iraq for a long time. Now that Afghanistan is the hot bed for US troop ... oakcreekforum.blogspot.com/.../fyi-afghanistan-body-count.html - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

9. AP Stressing 'Body Count' In Afghan War | Sweetness & Light

Jul 30, 2010 ... From the media activists at the Associated Press: Firefighters extinguish a burning SUV in Kabul, **Afghanistan**, Friday, July 30, 2010.

sweetness-light.com/archive/ap-stressing-body-count-in-afghan-war - [Cached](#)

10. Army Revives **Body Count** Of Enemy Dead In **Afghanistan**

May 31, 2009 ... BAGRAM AIRFIELD, **Afghanistan** -- **Body** counts are back, reigniting the decades-old debate about whether victory in war can be judged by ...

www.huffingtonpost.com/.../army-revives-enemy-body-c_n_209548.html - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

2007

Chris Brummitt, "Taliban Attacks Kill Soldiers, Officers." *TMN* 9-6-07. Article on the "surge of violence" by Taliban mentions by the way that "a number of [unnamed] civilians were wounded" in a clash in Ghazni province.

Noor Khan (AP). "Airstrikes Target Taliban Militants." *TMN* (8-4-07). Civilians were killed also. "Villagers had come out from their homes to watch the hanging organized by the Taliban when the bombs fell...20 wounded people were brought to the hospital in Helmand's capital," including "an 8-year-old boy."

Rahim Faiez (AP). "Afghan Soldier Fires on Base, Killing Four." *ADG* (7-10-07). Also in the article: "a U.S.-led coalition raid in the east killed a Taliban leader and two children, officials said."

Noor Khan (AP). "More Deaths of Civilians Reported in Afghanistan." *ADG* (7-1-07). "Local government officials said up to 60 civilians... had been killed," but a Western military official said "about eight." "Mohammad Khan...said seven members of his family...were killed by airstrikes" and several wounded. "A U.N. tall shows that of 673 civilian deaths this year, 314 were caused by international or Afghan security forces, and 279 by insurgents." An AP count shows "213 killed by the U.S. or NATO and 180 by the Taliban." The "AP counts more than 2,800 killed this year" [by July 1].

Alisa Tang. "Group: Botched Raids Hurt Efforts." *TMN* (6-20-07). "Goodwill toward foreign forces is eroding across Afghanistan because airstrikes and botched raids...have killed at least 230 civilians [so far]this year..." (Dick: Seems a significant article regarding the future of the occupation.)

QUESTIONING IN 2002

Published on Tuesday, July 23, 2002 in the [Sarasota \(Florida\) Herald-Tribune](#)

Civilian Deaths in Afghanistan: Will Truth Again Be a Casualty of War?

Editorial

The lasting legacy of the Vietnam War, it is often said, is Americans' demolished tolerance for body bags filled with U.S. men and women.

True enough. But Vietnam also demolished faith in the top brass, who misled the American people about the mayhem happening half a world away. In the end, it was the acid of deception, not defeat, that dissolved the public's trust.

Today the battleground is Afghanistan, not Vietnam, and the motives are nothing like those that led millions of U.S. soldiers into Southeast Asia. Today's is a different cause, a different enemy, a different military, a different time, a different public. Yet America is still America -- a democracy -- and thus the need for truth is the same today as it was 30 years ago.

So let's have the truth about U.S. military actions that have killed hundreds of Afghan civilians in the war against terrorists.

A [New York Times report](#) Sunday raised questions about the targeting intelligence and methods used in U.S. air attacks in Afghanistan, suggesting that flaws in military policy are contributing to the civilian deaths.

What's troubling about the report is not simply the occurrence of civilian fatalities; they are a fact of war. What's disturbing is the sense, from the report, that innocent Afghan villagers, alive or dead, have been insufficiently acknowledged by the U.S. military.

"American commanders say they have not kept track of civilian deaths in Afghanistan," the Times noted. Worse, the report said, military commanders have often denied the civilian casualties "despite evidence on the ground."

The humanitarian conventions of the civilized world insist that warring nations at least try to distinguish the innocent from the enemy. It is not always possible to do so, but the attempt must be made.

Is the U.S. military making an adequate attempt? Are the fatalities in the Afghan villages unavoidable? Are they militarily necessary? Have the deadly attacks achieved any headway against Osama bin Laden or his minions?

The American public deserves the truth, because in a democracy it is ultimately the people who direct military policy. As a nation, we cannot divorce ourselves from our military's successes or failures, because in the end they are our own. That's another lesson from the Vietnam experience -- gone but not, we hope, forgotten.

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Newspaper Articles cont'd. 2007

"100 Afghan and Western aid agencies charged that at least 1,500 civilians had been killed by U.S. attacks in the last 17 months. The actual number of civilian deaths is probably higher..." "The repeated and indiscriminate attacks have shocked and angered Afghans who have taken to rioting and flag burning in response to the massacres."

Ref.: John LaForge, "Afghanistan Chronicle: U.S. Military 'Causing Most Civilian Deaths & Injuries.'" *Nukewatch Quarterly* (Fall 2007), p. 6. LaForge cites *New York Times* articles for details.

1. 2009
2. [Civilian casualties of the War in Afghanistan \(2001–present ...](#)

The UN Assistance Mission *Afghanistan* (UNAMA) estimated that 700 Afghan civilians were killed by anti-government elements in 2007, accounting for 46% of

the ...

[Estimates - Afghan protestation of ... - Civilian casualties by ... en.wikipedia.org/.../Civilian_casualties_of_the_War_in_Afghanistan_\(2001-present\) - Cached - Similar -](#)

3. [Casualties in Afghanistan & Iraq - Unknown News | Helen & Harry's ...](#)

About 283 times as many people have been *killed in Afghanistan* and Iraq than ... [3] Afghan *civilians* killed: Based on estimate and tracking by Dr. Herold ... [www.unknownnews.net/casualties.html - Cached - Similar -](#)

4. [abcnews.go.com/WN/Afghanistan/american-civilians-killed.../story?id... - 'Dozens of Civilians' Killed in Afghanistan Air Raid \(Updated ...](#)
May 6, 2009 ... Coalition airstrikes *killed* dozens of *civilians* taking shelter from fighting between Taliban militants and international troops Afghan ... [www.wired.com/.../dozens-of-civilians-killed-in-afghanistan-air-raid-report/ - Cached - Similar -](#)

5. [Up to 150 Afghan Civilians Killed in US Attack on Western Province](#)
May 6, 2009 ... Dozens of Afghan *civilians* have been *killed* in what may be one of the deadliest US bombings of *Afghanistan* to date. [www.democracynow.org/2009/5/6/afghan - Cached - Similar -](#)

6. [Civilian Victims of United States' Aerial Bombing of Afghanistan](#)
More Than 3500 *Civilians Killed* by U.S. Bombs University of New Hampshire Economics professor releases study of *civilian* casualties in *Afghanistan* ... [cursor.org/stories/civilian_deaths.htm - Cached - Similar -](#)

7. [Professor Marc Herold, Phd](#)
A Dossier on *Civilian* Victims of United States' Aerial Bombing of *Afghanistan* ... My interest in *civilian* casualties explores how modern wars results in a ... [pubpages.unh.edu/~mwherold/ - Cached - Similar -](#)

Searches related to *civilians killed in afghanistan*

[iraqi civilian deaths number civilian deaths afghanistan](#)

[afghanistan war civilian casualties](#)

1. [US: 13 Civilians Killed In Afghanistan Strike](#)
Feb 21, 2009 ... A U.S. military operation in western *Afghanistan* *killed* 13 Afghan *civilians* along with three militants, the U.S. said Saturday. ... [www.huffingtonpost.com/.../us-13-civilians-killed-in_n_168826.html - Cached - Similar -](#)

2. [Report: 76 Civilians Killed In Afghanistan Airstrike](#)
Aug 22, 2008 ... US-led coalition forces *killed* 76 Afghan *civilians* in western *Afghanistan* today, most of them children, the country's Interior Ministry said ...

www.huffingtonpost.com/.../report-76-civilians-killed_n_120722.html - [Cached](#)
- [Similar](#) -

3. [UN Says 2100 *Civilians Killed In Afghanistan* In 2008 - Radio Free ...](#)
Feb 3, 2009 ... More than 2100 *civilians* were *killed* last year in *Afghanistan* because of escalating fighting that spread to new areas, the top UN aid ...
www.rferl.org/.../Civilians_Killed_In_Afghanistan.../1378540.html - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#) -
4. [U.S. denies 147 *civilians killed in Afghanistan* violence ...](#)
May 8, 2009 ... The US military called extremely over-exaggerated a report that as many as 147 *civilians* died in an incident involving American forces and ...
www.usatoday.com/.../2009-05-08-us-afghanistan-violence_N.htm - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#) -
5. [Civilians Feared Killed In NATO Strike In *Afghanistan* : NPR](#)
Sep 4, 2009 ... The aerial attack on two fuel tankers hijacked by Taliban militants sparked a huge blast, killing at least 60 people and wounding 30 others ...
www.npr.org > [News](#) > [World](#) > [Afghanistan](#) -
www.stripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=66953 - [Cached](#) -
6. [IRIN Asia | *AFGHANISTAN*: Over 2000 *civilians killed* in first 10 ...](#)
Nov 12, 2009 ... "Thousands of *civilians* have been *killed* by warring parties over the past few years but not a single individual has been convicted of crimes ...
www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=87003 - [Cached](#) -

Searches related to *civilians killed in afghanistan*

[iraqi civilian deaths number civilian deaths afghanistan](#)

[afghanistan war civilian casualties](#)

IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN 2007

“**Anti-war veterans' group: War crimes are 'encouraged'** “

At an event in Watertown, New York on Saturday, members of Iraq Veterans Against War charged that war crimes against civilians were encouraged by unit commanders.

"The killing of innocent civilians is policy," said veteran **Mike Blake**. "It's unit policy and it's Army policy. It's not official policy, but it's what's happens on the ground everyday. It's what unit commanders individually encourage."

Veteran **Matt Howard** concurred: "These decisions are coming from the top down," Howard said. "The tactics that we use, the policies that the military engages, will create situations, create

dynamics, create -- ultimately -- atrocity."

Blake and Howard were among four veterans speaking at Watertown's Different Drummer Cafe, in a preliminary event to the '**Winter Soldier**' gathering scheduled in Washington, D.C. in March. Named after the 1971 event in which John Kerry read testimony from soldiers on atrocities they had committed, this year's Winter Soldier will feature Iraq War veterans speaking about war crimes they committed or witnessed.

In Watertown, veteran **Jon Turner** blamed himself as well as the orders he was given. "It was my decision," Turner said. "I made it. Now I have to live with the fact I see someone's eyes screaming at me after I shot them."

Others have previously questioned US attacks that have killed civilians, though not as sharply.

In 2006, a Berlin attorney [filed](#) a war crimes lawsuit against erstwhile Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld on behalf of the Center for Constitutional Rights, the International Federation for Human Rights, the Republican Attorneys' Association and more than 40 other national and international human rights groups.

Germany's federal prosecutor [announced](#) in April of the following year that she would not take on the suit.

'Collateral' deaths in Afghanistan surpassed Taliban killings in 2007

In July 2007, independent tallied show US and NATO troops were responsible for more civilian deaths in the first half of the year than the Taliban militants they were fighting.

The United Nations counted 314 civilian deaths at the hands of Western-led forces by the end of June of 2007, compared with 279 people killed by the Taliban and other militants.

The rate of Western-caused civilian deaths between January and June exceeded the same measure for all of 2006. Human Rights Watch found US and NATO troops killed 230 civilians in Afghanistan last year. In that same year, the group found at least

669 Afghan civilians were killed as a result of Taliban attacks.

Military leaders said the comparison is fundamentally unfair because civilian deaths caused by Western forces are inadvertent collateral damage whereas the Taliban militants deliberately target innocent people.

To read the full News 10 Now story on the Iraq allegations, [click here](#).

Geneva Conventions - Council on Foreign Relations

The **Geneva Conventions** do not require the U.S. to install a democratic regime ... A significant source of **civilian casualties** in the Afghan theater that is ...

www.cfr.org/publication.html?id=5313 - 41k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

IRAQ

--Al-Arian, Laila and Chris Hedges. *Collateral Damage: America's War Against Iraqi Civilians*. Nation Books, 2008. See Al-Arian's article on the Iraqi Winter Soldiers testimonies in *The Nation* (April 7, 2008).

USA Today Edits the Count of the Dead in Iraq (from FAIR)

01/13/2011 by Jim Naureckas

USA Today ([1/12/11](#)) continues the [tradition](#) of [dishonest reporting](#) on the number of civilian casualties in Iraq. In a front-page article, reporter Tom Vanden Brook writes:

Estimates vary among organizations that have tried to count civilian dead, according to a review last year by the Congressional Research Service. The Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights reported that 85,694 Iraqi civilians died from insurgent attacks from 2004 through 2008. The Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank, estimated that more than 111,000 Iraqis died from war-related incidents from 2003 through 2010.

So estimates vary between about 85,000 and 111,000, right? Wrong. As the Congressional Research Service report ([10/7/10](#)) that **USA Today** cites makes clear, the highest estimate from a credible source is *over 1 million*--that's the number from ORB ([9/07](#)), a respected British polling firm. That number is in line with the Johns Hopkins researchers (**Lancet**, [10/11/06](#)) whose epidemiological survey came up with a likely total of 600,000 violent deaths for an earlier phase of the war.

Different groups, using different approaches to the complicated task of estimating loss of life in a war zone, have come up with a broad range of numbers for the death toll in Iraq. **USA Today**, however, seems to be using a simple guideline for whether to include such numbers in its reporting: Do they make the U.S. look good?

That's the only reportorial approach that could justify the story's inclusion of this bit of self-serving, evidence-free handwaving:

Despite the imprecision, [Pentagon spokesperson Col. Dave] Lapan said the military believes insurgents killed far more civilians than U.S. and allied forces have in Iraq. However, the military is unable to quantify the claim, he said.

YEAR 2007 STATS

Iraq: Why do newscasters only talk about the number of Americans who have died?

Why do we never discuss *this* aspect of the war? From:

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/>

Number Of Iraqis Slaughtered In U.S. War On Iraq - 1,189,173

It seems as though newscasters are loathe to discuss the actual number of Iraqis killed since the beginning of our glorious military adventure. It isn't just the almost 4,000 officially acknowledged American dead that we should remember, but the over one million men, women and children who have lost their lives since this senseless war began.

How nice it would be to see Charlie Gibson talk about that number one night. Any night at all, Charlie.

Accounts of at least 193 Iraqi civilian casualties caused by US found with this google search. Click on this shortened link.

<http://tinyurl.com/28td8f>

Results 1 - 10 of about 193 from www.iraqbodycount.org/database/incidents for " us ". (0.36 seconds)

k8868 :: Dec 13: Contractor working for US forces shot dead in ...

Targeted or hit, Firas Saadi Hussein, contractor working for US forces. Place, Mansour, Baghdad. Date and time, 13 December 2007, 8:00 AM ...

www.iraqbodycount.org/database/incidents/k8868 - 5k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#) - [Note this](#)

k9059 :: Dec 25: 0-2 men shot dead by US soldiers, Sab'aa Nisan ...

Type, US gunfire, possibly in return for gunfire from Hameed. Deaths recorded, 0-2. Targeted or hit, Uday Hassan Hameed and Hadi Jasim Rasheed ...

www.iraqbodycount.org/database/incidents/k9059 - 5k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#) - [Note this](#)

k9060 :: Dec 25: Man and son shot dead by US soldiers in Mithaq ...

Type, US gunfire. Deaths recorded, 2. Targeted or hit, man and son in raid on house. Place, Mithaq, southeast Mosul. Date and time, 25 December 2007, AM ...

www.iraqbodycount.org/database/incidents/k9060 - 6k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#) - [Note this](#)

[j002 :: Mar 22: 57-100 by US missile strikes in Khormal :: Iraq ...](#)

j002. 57-100 by **US** missile strikes in Khormal. IBC Incident, j002. Type, missile strikes.

Deaths recorded, 57-100. Targeted or hit, - ...

www.iraqbodycount.org/database/incidents/j002 - 5k - Cached - Similar pages - Note this

[k7704 :: Oct 11: Sixteen women and children in US airstrikes at ...](#)

Type, **US** airstrikes. Deaths recorded, 16. Targeted or hit, suspected Al Qaeda leaders, civilians including pregnant woman hit ...

www.iraqbodycount.org/database/incidents/k7704 - 5k - Cached - Similar pages - Note this

[d3353 :: Apr 11: One man shot dead by US forces in Samarra :: Iraq ...](#)

Deaths recorded, 1. Targeted or hit, man near the Samarra museum. Place, Al Matasan Street, Samarra. Date, 11 April 2005. Sources, **US** DoD via ACLU 12 Apr ...

www.iraqbodycount.org/database/incidents/d3353 - 5k - Cached - Similar pages - Note this

[d3348 :: May 27: Ambulance driver shot dead by US forces in Tikrit ...](#)

Ambulance driver shot dead by **US** forces in Tikrit. IBC Incident, d3348. Type, **US** gunfire.

Deaths recorded, 1 ... Sources, **US** DoD via ACLU 12 Apr REU 28 May ...

www.iraqbodycount.org/database/incidents/d3348 - 5k - Cached - Similar pages - Note this

[d1908 :: Feb 18: Woman in taxi shot dead by US forces, east of ...](#)

Woman in taxi shot dead by **US** forces, east of Baqubah ... Type, **US** gunfire. Deaths recorded, 1 ... Sources, **US** DoD via ACLU 12 Apr WP 07 Jan (MoH) ...

www.iraqbodycount.org/database/incidents/d1908 - 5k - Cached - Similar pages - Note this

[d1905 :: Jan 01: Father shot dead in family car by US forces ...](#)

Type, **US** gunfire. Deaths recorded, 1. Targeted or hit, family car, father killed. Place, Kirkuk ... Sources, **US** DoD via ACLU 12 Apr WP 07 Jan (MoH) ...

www.iraqbodycount.org/database/incidents/d1905 - 5k - Cached - Similar pages - Note this

[d1904 :: Jan 01: One bystander shot by US forces during a raid in ...](#)

One bystander shot by **US** forces during a raid in Ishaki ... Type, **US** gunfire. Deaths recorded, 1 ... Sources, **US** DoD via ACLU 12 Apr WP 07 Jan (MoH) ...

www.iraqbodycount.org/database/incidents/d1904 - 5k - Cached - Similar pages - Note this

Dear Dick [from Chris D],

See the attached article and the following 2 websites

<http://www.iraqbodycount.org/>

This wikipedia link has links to the original articles and source websites.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq_casualties

● [1 Overview](#)

- [1.1 Iraqi deaths](#)
- [1.2 Iraqi Security Forces \(aligned with Coalition\)](#)
- [1.3 Media and aid workers](#)
- [1.4 U.S. armed forces](#)
- [1.5 Coalition deaths by hostile fire](#)
- [1.6 Armed forces of other coalition countries](#)
- [1.7 Contractors](#)

● [2 Additional statistics](#)

● [3 Contractor casualties](#)

- [4 Iraqi invasion casualties](#)
- [5 Iraqi Healthcare deterioration](#)
- [6 Most Iraqi children suffering from psychological symptoms](#)
- [7 Total Iraqi casualties](#)
 - [7.1 Various estimates](#)
 - [7.2 Iraqi Health Ministry/WHO survey](#)
 - [7.3 ORB survey of Iraqi war deaths in August 2007](#)
 - [7.4 D3 Systems poll in early 2007](#)
 - [7.5 Iraq Health Minister estimate in November 2006](#)
 - [7.6 2006 Excess Mortality Study](#)
 - [7.7 2004 Excess Mortality Study](#)
- [8 Iraqi civilian casualties](#)
 - [8.1 People's Kifah](#)
 - [8.2 Iraq Body Count project](#)
- [9 Iraqi refugees crisis](#)
- [10 Iraqi insurgent casualties](#)
- [11 Iraqi Security Forces](#)
- [12 Undercounting](#)
 - [12.1 Systematic underreporting by U.S.](#)
 - [12.2 Casualties caused by criminal and political violence](#)
- [13 Non-Iraqi civilian casualties](#)
- [14 Coalition military casualties](#)
 - [14.1 Troops fallen ill, injured, or wounded](#)
 - [14.2 Nightline controversy](#)
 - [14.3 Dec. 25, 2006. U.S. military death total surpasses 9/11 death toll.](#)
 - [14.4 Amputees](#)
 - [14.5 Traumatic brain injuries \(TBI\)](#)
 - [14.6 Mental Illness](#)
- [15 See also](#)
- [16 References](#)
- [17 External links and references](#)

CONTRACTORS KILLING CIVILIANS
FIND THE FULL INVESTIGATION

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/27/AR2007092702498.html>

(from Mike T)

“First Blush' Report Raises New Questions on Shooting”

By Steve Fainaru and Sudarsan Raghavan

Washington Post Foreign Service

Friday, September 28, 2007

The initial U.S. Embassy report on a Sept. 16 shooting incident in [Baghdad](#) involving [Blackwater USA](#), a private security firm, depicts an afternoon of mayhem that included a car bomb, a shootout in a

crowded traffic circle and an armed standoff between Blackwater guards and Iraqi security forces before the [U.S. military](#) intervened.

The two-page report, described by a [State Department](#) official as a "first blush" account from the scene, raises new questions about what transpired in the intersection. According to the report, the events that led to the shooting involved three Blackwater units. One of them was ambushed near the traffic circle and returned fire before fleeing the scene, the report said. Another unit that went to the intersection was then surrounded by Iraqis and had to be extricated by the U.S. military, it added.

The report, by the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security, details the events as described by Blackwater guards -- details that are now at the center of an intense debate in [Iraq](#) and in Congress over the larger role of private security firms in Iraq. Tens of thousands of armed, private guards operate in Iraq, protecting everything from U.S. and Iraqi officials to supply convoys. The shooting incident is being scrutinized in at least three separate investigations.

Witnesses and the Iraqi government have insisted that the shooting by the private guards was unprovoked. Blackwater has claimed that its guards returned fire only after they were shot at. The document makes no reference to civilian casualties. Eleven Iraqi civilians were killed and 12 wounded in the incident. The report said Blackwater sustained no casualties.

According to the report, which was obtained by [The Washington Post](#), the incident occurred shortly after noon as three Blackwater teams moved to escort one "principal" back to [Baghdad's Green Zone](#). The official had been visiting a "financial compound" when a car bomb detonated about 25 yards outside the entrance, the report said.

Two of the Blackwater teams returned to the Green Zone with the official, who was apparently unharmed. But the third team came under fire from "8-10 persons" who "fired from multiple nearby locations, with some aggressors dressed in civilian apparel and others in [Iraqi police](#) uniforms," the report said.

A State Department official cautioned that the "spot report" is only an initial account. "They're not intended to be authoritative reports of what occurred in any given incident." The report was drafted by the watch officer for the embassy's regional security office and approved by the deputy regional security officer in Baghdad.

The official, who declined to be identified because of the ongoing investigations into the shooting, said the report, which was dated the same day as the attack, reflected only what embassy officers were told by the Blackwater guards immediately after the incident. He said details could change as the investigations move forward.

According to the document, Blackwater's guards were completing written statements and the embassy's regional security officer had launched an investigation. Previous press accounts have alluded to the spot report's existence, but the full report had not been made public.

The report, which is designated sensitive but unclassified, differs significantly from the account of the Iraqi Interior Ministry and several witnesses interviewed at the scene. According to those accounts, the Blackwater guards moved into the traffic circle in a convoy of armored vehicles, halting traffic and then firing on a white sedan that had failed to slow down as it entered the area. The car burst into flames, killing the driver, a woman, according to these accounts. The Blackwater team then unleashed a barrage of fire into the surrounding area as people tried to flee in the pandemonium.

Sarhan Thiab, a traffic policeman who was in the circle at the time, said Iraqi police did not fire on Blackwater. "Not a single bullet. They were the only ones shooting," said Thiab, who said he and other traffic officers fled to nearby bushes once the shooting began.

"All the vehicles were shooting. They were shooting in every direction," said a senior Iraqi police official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the ongoing investigations. "They used a rocket launcher or grenade launcher to hit the car. They were supported by two helicopters who were shooting from the air."

After about 15 minutes, the guards sped away under cover of the smoke, eyewitnesses said.

A joint U.S.-Iraqi government investigation is expected to examine the incident, along with at least a half-dozen other shooting incidents involving Blackwater.

According to the report, the sequence of events leading up to the shooting began at 11:53 a.m., when a car bomb exploded 25 yards outside of the Izdihar financial compound, just over a mile northwest of the Green Zone. One principal was inside, accompanied by a Blackwater personal security detail identified as Team 4. A Blackwater team normally consists of three or four armored vehicles manned by multiple security contractors armed with assault rifles and pistols.

A Blackwater tactical support team, identified as TST 22, drove to the location to help Team 4 extract the principal. The two teams escorted the official back to the Green Zone "without incident," according to the report. "It is unknown who was the target of the" car bomb.

According to the report, a third Blackwater team, identified as TST 23, was dispatched from the Green Zone to assist after the car bomb detonated. Upon arriving at Nisoor Square, in Baghdad's affluent Mansour neighborhood, the report said, TST 23 was "engaged with small arms fire" from "multiple nearby locations."

The report said TST 23 returned fire and tried to drive out of the ambush site. However, one of the company's tactical armored vehicles, a BearCat, became disabled during the shooting. In the middle of the firefight, according to the report, the other tactical support team, TST 22, was ordered back out of the Green Zone to assist TST 23 in Nisoor Square, identified in the document as Gray 87.

Before TST 22 could arrive, according to the report, TST 23 had towed the Bearcat and returned to the Green Zone. TST 22 found itself alone in the congested traffic circle and confronted by an Iraqi quick-reaction force. "Over the next several minutes, additional Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police units arrived and began to encircle TST 22 with vehicles," according to the report. "The Iraqis had large caliber machine guns pointed at TST 22."

The Blackwater team contacted the tactical operations center for the U.S. Embassy's regional security office, which oversees private security movements, according to the report. The report said the embassy's regional security office deployed the embassy's air assets, believed to be Blackwater's armed "Little Bird" helicopters, for "route reconnaissance and additional coverage."

The Army team "arrived on scene at 12:39 hours and mediated the situation," the report said. "They escorted TST 22 out of the area and successfully back to the [Green Zone] without further incident."

The report said Blackwater's armored vehicles incurred superficial damage from small-arms fire.

Although the report made no mention of civilian casualties, the document added, "The nature of the Bearcat malfunction is under investigation."

Fainaru reported from El Cerrito, Calif., and Raghavan from Baghdad. Staff researcher Julie Tate contributed to this report.

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6. **Pakistan Body Count | Pakistan Media Watch**

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pakistanmediawatch.com/tag/pakistan-body-count/ - [Cached](#)

7. **Sources used by IBC :: Iraq Body Count**

Sources used by Iraq **Body Count**. Last update: Aug 31 2007 ... PDN, **Pakistan** Daily News. PDT, **Pakistan** Daily Times. Pen, Peninsular, Qatar ...

www.iraqbodycount.org/analysis/reference/sources/ - [Cached](#)

8. **Pakistan Body Count - Drone Attacks | Elance Job**

May 15, 2009 ... Hi I have a very simply project. I need the data in excel sheet of Total no of drone attacks in **Pakistan** by US.

www.elance.com/j/pakistan-body-count-drone-attacks/17008626/ - [Cached](#)

9. **Pakistan Forum , Pakistan body count website been down**

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CONTACT YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Meredith Oakley in *ADG* (8-26-07) writes encouragingly of citizen engagement, "Government: What We Make It." She quotes Ben Franklin among others on our system of government: Asked what kind of government we had, he replied: "A republic, if you can keep it." We, the People!

--Senator Mark Pryor: Web Site (see contact link): www.pryor.senate.gov ;
<http://pryor.senate.gov/contact/> Pryor has no office in NWA, so call or write him and his staff in DC: **Washington Office: 217 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510-0403. Phone: (202) 224-2353 Fax: (202) 228-0908**
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