

CRS Report for Congress

Received through the CRS Web

Iraqi Police and Security Forces Casualty Estimates

Hannah Fischer
Information Research Specialist
Knowledge Services Group

Summary

This report presents various estimates of Iraqi police and security forces fatalities. The Department of Defense (DOD) regularly updates total U.S. military deaths and wounded statistics from Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), as reflected in CRS Report RS21578, *Iraq: Summary of U.S. Casualties*. However, no Iraqi or U.S. government office regularly releases statistics on Iraqi police or security forces deaths. Statistics on these topics are sometimes available through alternative sources, such as nonprofit organizations, or through statements made by officials to the press. Readers may also consult CRS Report RS22441, *Iraqi Civilian Deaths Estimates*.

Many of the estimates included in this report are incomplete or have been released by non-governmental sources. Because these estimates are based on varying time periods and have been created using differing methodologies, readers should exercise caution when using these statistics and should look on them as guideposts rather than as statements of historical fact. This report will be updated as needed.

Iraqi Police and Security Forces Casualty Statistics

Neither the Iraqi or the U.S. government has yet released authoritative numbers concerning the total number of Iraqi police and security forces deaths during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The following selected statistics represent estimates from nonprofits and senior U.S. officials on Iraqi police and security forces casualty numbers. In addition to these numbers, in a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld remarked that Iraqi security forces (possibly excluding police) are taking casualties, both in terms of deaths and wounded, at “roughly twice the rate of all coalition forces.”¹ This estimate may imply that, from May 1, 2003, to November 8, 2006, over 6,100 Iraqi security forces have died and over 40,000 have been wounded.

¹ Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, “Donald H. Rumsfeld Delivers Remarks to the Council on Foreign Relations,” Feb. 17, 2006, as released by the Department of Defense.

Report Documentation Page

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to a penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

1. REPORT DATE 17 NOV 2006		2. REPORT TYPE		3. DATES COVERED 17-11-2006 to 08-12-2006		
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Iraqi Police and Security Forces Casualty Estimates				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER		
				5b. GRANT NUMBER		
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER		
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER		
				5e. TASK NUMBER		
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER		
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Congressional Research Service, The Library of Congress,101 Independence Ave, SE, Washington,DC,20540-7500				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER		
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)		
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)		
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited						
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES						
14. ABSTRACT						
15. SUBJECT TERMS						
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:				17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 2	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified				

Iraqi Security Forces Personnel and Police Officers Killed

Iraq Coalition Casualty Count estimate of Security Forces and Police killed, June 2003 - November 14, 2006	5,736 ^a
Iraq Interior Ministry, Police killed and wounded in October 2006	119 killed 185 wounded ^b
General George Casey, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, estimate of Police and Security Forces killed, September 24, 2006 - October 24, 2006 (the month of Ramadan)	300 ^c
Major General Joseph Peterson, U.S. commander in charge of Iraqi Police training, estimate of Police killed and wounded, September 2004 - October 5, 2006	4,000 killed 8,000 wounded ^d
Brookings Institution, <i>Iraq Index</i> , estimate of Security Forces and Police killed, June 2003 - November 5, 2006	5,715 ^e
Associated Press, estimate of Security Forces and Police killed, January 2006 - June 2006	805 ^f
Major General Peterson's spokesperson, estimate of Iraqi Police Officers killed and wounded in 2005	1,497 killed 3,256 wounded ^g

Notes:

- a. Iraq Coalition Casualty Count, "Iraqi Police/Military," [<http://icasualties.org>].
- b. Sameer N. Yacoub, "Iraqi Interior Ministry says 119 policemen killed, 185 wounded in October," *Associated Press*, November 2, 2006.
- c. States News Service, "Transcript Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad and General George Casey During Joint Press Conference," October 24, 2006.
- d. CNN.com, "More than 12,000 Iraqi police casualties in 2 years," October 6, 2006.
- e. Brookings Institution, *Iraq Index: Tracking Reconstruction and Security in Post-Saddam Iraq*, at [<http://www.brookings.edu/fp/saban/iraq/index.pdf>], p. 8.
- f. Nick Wadhams, "Iraq civilian toll spikes to nearly 6,000," *Associated Press*, July 19, 2006.
- g. Eric Schmitt, "2,000 more M.P.'s will help train the Iraqi police," *New York Times*, Jan. 16, 2006, p. A1.

For regular updates of U.S. military casualties, see CRS Report RS21578, *Iraq: Summary of U.S. Casualties*, by JoAnne O'Bryant.