

CRS Report for Congress

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Iraqi Police and Security Forces Casualty Estimates

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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.

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.