



# IRAQ: IN FOCUS

## Hurting Our Country & Our Troops

Peace Action Education Fund contends continued American occupation is only fueling the insurgency and destabilizing Iraqi society. Ongoing military action in Iraq is causing mounting Iraqi casualties each day, alienating potential allies and spurring stronger resentment of the U.S.

**WE MUST END THE MILITARY OCCUPATION NOW.**

### THE COST OF OCCUPATION TO OUR TROOPS

#### American Deaths

Since war began: (3/19/03)	<b>3895</b>
Since "Mission Accomplished": (5/1/03)	<b>3755</b>
Since Capture of Saddam: (12/13/03)	<b>3434</b>
Since Handover: (6/29/04)	<b>3036</b>
Since Iraqi Election: (1/31/05)	<b>2457</b>

#### American Wounded

Official	Estimated
<b>28629</b>	<b>23,000~100,000</b>

20% of which are serious brain or spinal injuries (total excludes psychological injuries)

**1 IN 8** U.S. soldiers return home with post traumatic stress disorder leading, many times, to alcoholism, socialization issues, depression, intense anxiety and stress, as well as a propensity for dangerous behavior.

According to the Pentagon, there were **2,374** reported cases of sexual assault against women in uniform over the past year.

### This occupation costs over \$720 million in tax dollars per day.

From National Priorities Project

### SPENDING PRIORITIES

According to the National Priorities Project a median income family in the U.S. paid \$3,736 tax dollars in 2006. Here's a shortened version of where those tax dollars are spent.

<b>MILITARY</b>	<b>\$1,014</b>
Health	\$779
Education	\$169
Veterans' Benefits	\$125
Housing	\$70
Natural Resources	\$57

### SUPPORT OUR TROOPS NOT WAR PROFITEERS

Private Contractors in Iraq, Working in Support of US Army Troops - More than 180,000 in August 2007, per The Nation/LA Times.

Lost & Unaccounted for in Iraq - \$9 billion of US taxpayers' money and \$549.7 million in spare parts shipped in 2004 to US contractors.

Halliburton Overcharges Classified by the Pentagon as Unreasonable and Unsupported - \$1.4 billion.

Portion of the \$20 billion paid to contractor KBR that Pentagon auditors deem "questionable or supportable" - \$3.2 billion

Blackwater is currently being sued by the families of the four contractors killed in Fallujah in March, 2004. Blackwater has refused to supply details of the deaths, and has showed a callous disregard for the safety of its employees."

## VOLUNTEER MILITARY?

The newly instituted 'stop loss' policy of the Bush administration holds U.S. soldiers, long after their contract has expired, in Iraq and Afghanistan combat missions.

A "economic draft" has unfairly burdened many of our nation's most vulnerable youth with fighting this war. The vast majority of recruits come from households with a median income less than \$50,000.



# IRAQ: IN FOCUS

## Hurting Iraq & Its Citizens

### POLITICAL REALITY:

#### Holding provincial elections.

Council on Foreign Relations Adjunct Senior Fellow Vali R. Nasr warns that provincial elections alone will not solve Iraq's political woes. "The idea that elections will produce leaders you want to work with applies if you are working in a peaceful environment," he says. "Unless the insurgents are running for office and come to the polls, it doesn't matter."

#### Passage of oil revenue-sharing law.

An oil law drafted in February has left Iraq's leaders bitterly divided. Democratic presidential hopeful Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) says the benchmark as stated in the bill before Congress calls primarily for the privatization of Iraq's oil, not the equal redistribution of revenues.

#### Spending of reconstruction funds.

One benchmark is the fair distribution across the country's provinces and various ethnic groups of \$10 billion in Iraqi reconstruction funds, as allocated in the Iraqi government's budget. "It's hard for the central government to get out of Baghdad and out of the Green Zone and move things ahead," says Frederick D. Barton, co-director of the Center for Strategic and International Studies' post-conflict reconstruction project. He says the easiest way to distribute aid quickly across ethnic lines is to tie it to education or home-improvement funds but that hasn't been done in Iraq.

### SPEAK OUT!

#### Against the Occupation of Iraq Contact Your Congressional Representative

Call the congressional switchboard (202-224-3121) and ask to be connected to your Representative's and Senators' offices.

"There is no military solution to a problem like that in Iraq, to the insurgency of Iraq."

**GENERAL DAVID PETRAEUS,  
U.S. COMMANDER IN IRAQ**

### OCCUPATION TOLL ON IRAQI PEOPLE

#### INSIDE IRAQ

According to a study conducted by The Lancet the current estimate of civilian deaths since the invasion in 2003 is 1,138,528.

Iraqis Displaced Inside Iraq, by Iraq Occupation, as of May 2007 is estimated at 2,255,000

Iraqi Unemployment Rate - 27 to 60%, where curfew is not in effect

Iraqi Children Suffering from Chronic Malnutrition - 28% in June 2007 (Per CNN.com, July 30, 2007)

Average Daily Hours Iraqi Homes Have Electricity - 10.9 in May 2007

Number of Iraqi Homes Connected to Sewer Systems - 37%

Iraqis without access to adequate water supplies - 70% (Per CNN.com, July 30, 2007)

Water Treatment Plants Rehabilitated - 22%

#### OUTSIDE IRAQ

Iraqi Refugees in Syria & Jordan - 2.1 million to 2.25 million

Percent of professionals who have left Iraq since 2003 - 40%

Produced by Peace Action Education Fund, 1100 Wayne Avenue, Suite 1020 • Silver Spring, MD 20910

Phone: (301) 565-4050 • Fax: (301) 565-0850 • [www.peace-action.org](http://www.peace-action.org)

**For Media Inquires Contact:**

Barbra Bearden

Email: [bbearden@peace-action.org](mailto:bbearden@peace-action.org)  
(301) 565-4050, ext. 330