

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	1101
Land:	Irak
Kilde:	UNAMI
Titel:	UN Casualty Figures for Iraq for the Month of September 2017
Udgivet:	1. oktober 2017
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	30. oktober 2017

English



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UN Casualty Figures for Iraq for the Month of September 2017; SRSG Kubiš urges Iraqis to unite in fighting the terrorist Daesh without any distractions

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Baghdad, 01 October 2017 – A total of 203 Iraqi civilians were killed and another 389 injured in acts of terrorism, violence and armed conflict in Iraq in September 2017*, according to casualty figures recorded by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI).

The number of civilians killed in September (not including police) was 196, while the number of injured (not including police) was 381. The fatalities included 10 foreign nationals.

Of those figures, Baghdad was the worst affected Governorate, with 194 civilian casualties (37 killed, 157 injured). Dhi Qar Governorate followed, with 82 killed and 93 injured, and Anbar had 20 killed and 46 injured. The figures for Anbar were obtained by UNAMI from the Health Directorate in the Governorate and were updated until 29 September, inclusive.

The United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Iraq, Mr. Ján Kubiš, said the continuing suffering of civilians is a stark reminder of the terrorist Daesh's ability to strike despite defeats on the battlefield.

"In a single attack on 14 September, Daesh terrorists managed to kill or injure close to 200 civilians, including foreign pilgrims, at Nasiriya in Dhi Qar Governorate in the south. This only proves that the terrorist Daesh remains a potent force, if not resolutely countered throughout the whole country as a matter of priority, without any distractions that divert attention elsewhere," Mr. Kubiš said.

Summary

Month	Killed
September 2017	203
August 2017	125
July 2017	241
June 2017	415
May 2017	354
April 2017	317
March 2017	548
February 2017	392
January 2017	403
December 2016*	386
November 2016	926
October 2016	1120
September 2016	609
August 2016*	473
July 2016 *	629
June 2016	382
May 2016 *	468
April 2016	410
March 2016	575
February 2016	410
January 2016	490
December 2015	506
November 2015 *	489
October 2015 *	559
September 2015	537
August 2015	585
July 2015	844
June 2015	665
May 2015	665
April 2015	535
March 2015	729
February 2015	611
January 2015	790
December 2014	680
November 2014	936
October 2014	1089
September 2014	1084
August 2014	1533
July 2014	1384
June 2014	1775
May 2014	798
April 2014	745
March 2014	640
February 2014	862

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"Attacks like this serve as a call for all Iraqis to set aside their differences, no matter how significant and how deep-rooted, and to continue working together in fighting Daesh. The terrorist Daesh, on the verge of being wiped out from the soil of Iraq by the combined efforts of all components of the Iraqi security forces, Peshmerga and local and tribal volunteers seeks to exploit and benefit from every opportunity, every dispute and discord to prolong its lease of life here and in the region, to pursue its global terrorist objectives. Fighting and defeating Daesh remains a priority and requires that all Iraqis remain united behind their security forces, focusing on the elimination of this enemy that does not differentiate between a region or a sect and which is lurking around with the aim of undermining the country."

*CAVEATS: In general, UNAMI has been hindered in effectively verifying casualties in conflict areas. Figures for casualties from Anbar Governorate are provided by the Health Directorate and are noted below. Casualty figures obtained from the Anbar Health Directorate might not fully reflect the real number of casualties in those areas due to the increased volatility of the situation on the ground and the disruption of services. In some cases, UNAMI could only partially verify certain incidents. UNAMI has also received, without being able to verify, reports of large numbers of casualties along with unknown numbers of persons who have died from secondary effects of violence after having fled their homes due to exposure to the elements, lack of water, food, medicines and health care. For these reasons, the figures reported have to be considered as the absolute minimum.

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Additional Info

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Last modified on Sunday, 01 October 2017 15:01

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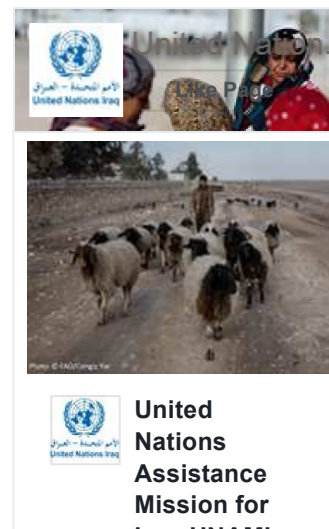
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January 2014	756
December 2013	661
November 2013	565
October 2013	852
September 2013	887
August 2013	716
July 2013	928
June 2013	685
May 2013	963
April 2013	595
March 2013	229
February 2013	418
January 2013	319
December 2012	230
November 2012	445

Please note that all figures remain estimates until full investigation and analysis has been carried out.

All casualty figures in the table include Anbar casualty figures, apart from the months marked with an asterisk ().



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Note on methodology

In analyzing civilian casualties, UNAMI utilizes as wide a range of sources and types of information as possible, which are analyzed for reliability and credibility. Attempts are made to crosscheck and verify such information from other sources before conclusions are drawn and published. Sources include, for example, testimony of victims, victims' relatives, witnesses, and evidence provided from health personnel, community elders, religious and civil leaders, local, governorate and central Government departments and officials, UN and other International Organizations, the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and UNAMI Security Section (SSI), media reports, members of the international community, civil society, and NGOs. Where security does not permit direct access to the location of an incident, UNAMI relies on a range of techniques to gain information through reliable networks.

Every effort is made to ensure that data contained in UNAMI reports is as comprehensive as possible; however, the data presented is not exhaustive. Where UNAMI is not satisfied with the evidence concerning a particular incident it will not be reported. In some instances, investigations may take several weeks before conclusions can be made. This also means that conclusions concerning particular incidents or alleged violations may be adjusted as more information comes to hand and is analyzed. However, if information is equivocal, then conclusions will not be drawn until more satisfactory evidence is obtained, or the case will be closed without conclusion and it will not be included in statistical reporting or analysis. As information is updated, and conclusions and statistics are modified, this can result in slight differences in reporting of the same incident or variations in statistics reported by UNAMI over time.

In some incidents where civilian casualties are alleged, the status of the reported victim(s) as civilian is disputed or is equivocal. In such cases UNAMI is guided by all the information to hand, as well as the applicable standards of international humanitarian and human rights law in determining whether the victim should be classified as a civilian, as a person actively participating in hostilities, or as status unknown.

In light of the above-noted limitations in methodology, UNAMI does not claim that the information it provides is complete, and it may well be that UNAMI is under-reporting the extent, nature or seriousness of the effect of armed violence and acts of terrorism on the civilian population.

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