

# FACT SHEET: The Human and Economic Costs of the War

## The Human Costs

Numbers of U.S. service people killed: nearly 4,000

Numbers of U.S. maimed and wounded: 25,000 maimed.

Numbers of Iraqi people killed since March 2003 (estimates vary greatly):

\* 150,000 (World Health Organization, January 2008)

\* 650,000 (School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University and leading medical journal *The Lancet*, October 2006); includes untimely deaths due to such things as war-caused infrastructure destruction resulting in unsafe water; lack of adequate medical care, medications, etc.)

Numbers of Iraqi deaths attributed to the 1991-2003 U.S.-led United Nations economic sanctions: 1 million, half of this number were children under age 5 (UNESCO estimate)

Number of war refugees and internally displaced persons: 4.5 million, more than 15 percent of the estimated 27 million Iraqi population. Three-fourths of the internally displaced are either women (28%) or children (48%).

Numbers of Iraqis in need of humanitarian aid: 8 million.

Portion of Iraqi population with access to a functional sanitary system: one fifth.

Portion of Iraqi population with access to safe drinking water: one third.

Undernourished children: 4.5 million; one child in 10 is underweight  
(UNICEF; *The Toronto Star*, 11-1-07)

## The Economic Costs

U.S. Spending on the war (to date):

Cost: over \$1 trillion (Congressional Budget Office)

This includes cost for long-term care of soldiers wounded in action, and military and economic aid for the Iraqi government

Cost per day = \$720 million per day on the war = \$1 million every two minutes

One day's equivalent of the war spending would finance:

- healthcare for 423,529 children, or
- provide homes for 6,482 families (American Friends Service Committee)

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