

# Wikileaks Iraq reports reveal death toll of the war

JOSHUA PHILIPP  
EPOCH TIMES STAFF

WIKILEAKS released a collection of 391,832 classified reports from the Iraq War, dating from January 2004 to December 2009. The whistleblowing website was overloaded, with the document search section inaccessible not long following the release on October 22nd.

The documents, dubbed "The Iraq War Logs", consist primarily of short field reports, many of which are only about a paragraph in length. The leak follows Wikileaks' July 2010 release

of the Afghan War Diary, consisting of 76,908 field reports. Among the information revealed by the Iraq War reports are the numbers of killed and wounded in the war, abuse of detainees in Iraqi prisons, the role of Iran in training Iraqi militants, and the links between Syrian intelligence agents and al Qaeda.

Information compiled by The Bureau of Investigative Journalism regarding the deaths of 109,032 people outlined in the reports, reveals that the overwhelming majority of civilian deaths were caused by murders and improvised explosive device (IED) explosions. The leading cause

of US troop deaths was IEDs.

An estimated 32,563 Iraqi civilians were killed in "sectarian murders", while 20,228 were killed by IEDs, according to The Bureau of Investigative Journalism. A total of 4,766 civilians were killed by direct fire, with the combined total of the remaining categories adding up to roughly the same amount.

The *New York Times* noted that "[t]he reports make it clear that most civilians, by far, were killed by other Iraqis".

A Department of Defence (DOD) task force was established to comb through the reports prior to their release to assess whether they pose

a threat to the US military, allies or operations, according to the American Forces Press Service (AFPS).

Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell condemned the "unauthorised disclosure" of the classified documents and said that the "significant activities" reports are only "initial, raw observations by tactical units", AFPS reported.

The documents "are essentially snapshots of events, both tragic and mundane, and do not tell the whole story", Morrell said.

Pentagon spokesman Marine Corps Colonel Dave Lapan stated that "[t]he information remains classified even if it is released publicly",

and that DOD personnel accessing the reports on government computers will be regarded as a security breach, AFPS reported.

"We deplore Wikileaks for inducing individuals to break the law, leak classified documents and then cavalierly share that secret information with the world, including our enemies," Lapan said. "We know terrorist organisations have been mining the leaked Afghan documents for information to use against us, and this Iraq leak is more than four times as large."

Much like Wikileaks' Afghan War Diary, many of the more scathing Iraq War reports tell information that

was already known, including some of the more violent incidents such as the 2005 stampede that killed more than 950 people in Baghdad following rumours of a suicide bomber. The incident was covered by major media including the *New York Times*.

The reports also shine light on some of the known, yet less reported, atrocities at the hands of al-Qaeda, including their use of individuals with Down's Syndrome as suicide bombers. A similar case was outlined in the book *Revolt Against Al-Qa'ida* by senior counter-radicalisation government consultant Howard Gambriell Clark.

## GLOBAL STREET INTERVIEWS

### 'What is the most memorable thing you have done to help another person?'

Listening to a troubled friend, giving advice, and guiding a daughter are some of the ways people support other people. Epoch Times reporters from Romania to Spain discovered people who did these good deeds when they asked locals: "What is the most memorable thing you have done to help another person?"

moment with his agreement, I decided to devote my time to him and listen to him talk about his difficulties. Not that I gave him advice, I devoted my time to listen; this was a great help to him.

**Lima, Perú**  
Trucios Karina Milagros Saldarriaga, 34, Surgeon Dentist  
As a student of stomatology (dentistry), I had the opportunity to meet a community away from the city of Lima, which had many shortcomings: they had no electricity, water, or health centres. Laden with my field dental equipment ... I could serve them without pay and only for the satisfaction of helping others.

**Trebic, Czech Republic**  
Lila Hloucova, 81, Pensioner  
I saved my unborn son, but still wanted a baby. So I was pregnant again and there came complications after six weeks. The doctor said it must go. I asked my husband to gather a group of Christians to pray for the baby for three days. ... At the end of the third day, the complications disappeared.

**Gura-Humorului, Romania**  
Cristina Pupaza, 53, English Teacher  
"Children, watch out for the baobabs!" is the piece of advice I keep saying to my students. Encouraging them to meet "The Little Prince" as early as possible either at school or at home is the most memorable thing I have done and still do to help them discover the way to themselves, to their dreams, and to confidence, harmony, and success. *Note: The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry is a children's book.*

**Wellington, New Zealand**  
Kane O'Connell, 31, Teacher  
On a daily basis I help children all the time, but that's just part and parcel of the job. I did have a friend who got into a spot of bother financially, his relationship broke up and he needed somewhere to stay. I just helped him with accommodation until he was able to find another flat. ... I remember doing what I could to help.

**Barcelona, Spain**  
Elisa Cuenca Fernandez, 38, Catering Manager  
Well, what I remember the most right now is the way I advised and guided my daughter when she wanted to start a relationship at 14 years old: speaking a lot, sharing different kinds of negative and positive experiences, trying to give her some tools and tips, so that she could face the difficult, but beautiful experience of falling in love.

**Bratislava, Slovakia**  
Alojzia Dubovska, 36, Registered Homeopath  
I do not keep such things in my memory. I try to help anybody who requests at any time. That's why I studied and practise homeopathy; it became the mission of my life. And such a mission can't be made because of money. ... It's not important to remember what exactly we did well; it's important that we did it honestly always when needed.

**Persignano di Terranova Bni, Italy**  
Oliver Turquet, 56, Teacher  
A while ago a friend of mine was in serious trouble. At that time, I saw that and in that

**São Paulo, Brazil**  
Anapaula de Jesus, 31, Business Student  
Once I made a promise, and I needed a hand from God. I promised that if He helped me, I was going to donate a sum of money. Well! I did manage to solve my problem, but instead of donating the money, I went to the supermarket and bought a lot of food and gave it to my neighbour who was going through difficult times.

# Rights abuses fuel Burma's health crisis

Researchers find over 40% of children under 5 are acutely malnourished

JAMES BURKE  
EPOCH TIMES STAFF

THE health of civilians in the conflict-affected zones of eastern Burma, particularly women and children, is among the worst in the world, says a report released in Bangkok last week.

Having surveyed 21 townships in conflict zones, researchers discovered that over 40 per cent of children below 5 years of age are acutely malnourished and one in seven of them will die before reaching this age.

Conducted by a network of community organisations, the report *Diagnosis: Critical* says the chronic health crisis witnessed in eastern Burma is the result of official disinvestment in health, a protracted conflict, and widespread human rights abuses.

"In eastern Burma the mortality rate for under 5-year-old children is comparable

to conflict zones of the DR Congo and Sudan," said Nai Aye Lwin from the Backpack Health Worker Team, which assists communities inside Burma.

"We found that 60 per cent of these deaths of children under 5 were due to preventable diseases," he said.

"Our survey shows a clear link between human rights violations and poor health indicators in families who suffer forced labour: children will be two and half times more likely to die," said Nai.

The report also found that one in three people had experienced some form of human rights abuse at the hands of the military in the previous year.

"Community groups are constrained by a lack of resources and ongoing human rights abuses by the military regime. ... In order to properly address the needs of eastern Burma's health crisis, the human rights abuses must end," said Nai.



**HEALTH CRISIS:** Karen children at a refugee camp on the Thai-Burma border. In nearby eastern Burma, a new report says 60 per cent of deaths of children under 5 are due to preventable diseases

Burma last year had a £1.6 billion trade surplus, said Nai, but the military junta only spends 1.8 per cent of its total budget on health and 40 per cent goes to the military.

**Targeting civilians**  
Since Burma gained independence from Britain in 1948, various ethnic groups in the east of the country have sought greater autonomy, resulting in cases of armed rebellions. Currently, a number of armed groups in eastern Burma, such as the Karen National Liberation Army and the Shan Army-

South, continue to oppose the military junta that has ruled the ethnically diverse country since 1962.

In dealing with these groups, part of the Burmese military's strategy includes the targeting of the civilian population, which has resulted in ongoing human rights abuses.

Dr Cynthia Muang, who has a health clinic on the Thai-Burma border and is chairwoman of the Burma Medical Association, said the health crisis over the past decade has gradually been getting worse.

"There remain widespread human rights abuses that force people to flee their homes, or [the military] blocks access to whatever health services there are," said Muang.

"There are restrictions on humanitarian assistance, particularly international humanitarian assistance to some of these worst-hit communities."

At her clinic at the border town of Mae Tao, Muang said

that despite the border being closed, sick Burmese would cross over at night to seek aid. "People still find a way, they take the risk to come to Thailand at night time," she said.

Community health workers, she said, are doing their best to provide health care but they are finding it difficult owing to the ongoing conflict and the large number of displaced people.

There are an estimated 140,000 Burmese now living in Thai refugee camps while a further 2 million toil in the kingdom as migrant workers (most of whom do so illegally).

**Destabilising**  
Dr Voravit Suwanvanichkij, a research associate from John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, said the health crisis in eastern Burma has destabilising consequences for the Southeast Asian region, and for Thailand in particular.

"We are talking about a 2,000-kilometre-long border

of which under 5 per cent is well demarcated ... so it is no barrier to infectious diseases," said Voravit.

Over the past decade, Voravit said that ninety per cent of Thailand's cases of malaria are found on the Thai-Burma border, along with other diseases that have been under control in Thailand, such as elephantiasis.

"If this situation continues and a resistant [form of] malaria were to spread in this region and beyond, it would be a catastrophe," he said while adding that if a major SARS-like epidemic was to occur, it would be difficult to contain in this area.

"If these issues are not addressed, Thailand and the region will have to bear the brunt of Burma's health failures," Voravit said.

Next month the military junta is holding a set of national elections panned by critics who say they are nothing but a farce designed to further entrench military rule.

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## Mob attacks TV station after slur on Kuwaiti royals

STEPHEN JONES  
EPOCH TIMES STAFF

AN angry mob attacked and stormed a private TV station after a broadcast that was critical of the royal family.

The assailants, numbering up to 150 people and allegedly armed with pistols and knives, ransacked the studios of Scope TV on the evening of Sunday, October 17th. They exacted over £600,000 in damages.

The country's public prosecution has issued an arrest warrant for Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud and his brother Sheikh Abdullah Al-Humoud. The pair denied they took part in the attacks.

"We will not accept an attack against anybody," said Interior Minister Sheikh Jabir al-Khalid al-Sabah, in comments to the *Arab Times* newspaper on October 18th.

"This is an offensive act and it is not in line with our customs. We are on top of the situation to forestall further degeneration."

Scope has come under pressure for its satirical TV show *Sawtak Wasal* ("Your



Broken glass and damaged equipment at a studio of the SCOPE television station in Kuwait City following a mob attack

Voice Has Been Heard"). Officials have accused the show of fomenting revolution.

The spark was ignited, however, when a presenter on a talk show accused a member of the royal family of being behind the accusations.

Following the attack, a lawyer for the defendants said that the royal family was planning on suing the channel over its allegations.

"We have warned a number of times before about the dangerous sedition created by some channels and corrupt media," MP Mohammed Hayef told local media.

"The station that fomented sedition has reaped the thorns of what it planted."

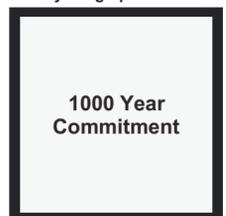
Although Kuwait is a democracy, it has a highly entrenched royal family who are quick to sue for defamation.

However, other lawmakers in the country have condemned the use of violence. Fajir al-Said, the owner of Scope, also hit out against the methods employed by those

acting to defend the royal family.

"Even if they didn't agree with something we had aired, there is no reason to use force to make their point," she said.

**4 PUZZLES FOR PEACE**  
Guess the hidden saying, phrase or word(s) suggested by the graphic below



Presented By  
**FREE THE CHILDREN**  
children helping children through education  
Answer on p4

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Our editorial mission is to strive for truly morally responsible journalism, to adhere to the highest standards, and to appeal to the best of human nature. With an international network of news bureaus run by local journalists, The Epoch Times provides a unique perspective.

The Epoch Times (Da Ji Yuan) was founded out of concern for human rights in China, created to report the facts for overseas Chinese - independently of the state controlled media. Founded at the beginning of this century, Da Ji Yuan literally means Great Epoch, hence our name.

With its unique and unprecedented network inside China, Da Ji Yuan observed that the western media failed to report accurately and fully understand the situation. This was the motivation for establishing the English edition in 2004 - to bring the unreported facts on China to the rest of the world.

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ISSN 1749-5997

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