

# Iraq: A Six-Month Status Report

The following summary of the situation in Iraq is drawn mainly from U.S. military and government sources and a major investigative report by an ABC News/Time magazine team.

## HEALTH



Once the envy of the Arab world, the Iraqi Ministry of Health recently found that 65 percent of hospital equipment across the country was not working.<sup>1</sup> "In the '80s, Jordanians and Syrians came here for treatment, but now they wouldn't dream of sending patients here."<sup>2</sup>

## WATER AND SEWAGE



Water is in shorter supply than before the war. Only 60 percent of Baghdad residents receive adequate water. The three major sewage treatment plants in Baghdad are not working; untreated sewage is flowing into the Tigris River.<sup>1</sup>

## ECONOMY



Iraq's once powerful economy now ranks 162nd out of 200 countries in the world in per capita production. Unemployment stands at 70 percent. Some goods are flowing, many of them illegally. Previously the price of food and housing was subsidized: now prices are soaring.<sup>2</sup> Fewer than one in five Baghdad residents rate the economic conditions as either fairly or very good.<sup>5</sup>

## POWER



Baghdad had power almost 24 hours a day before the war, but it was somewhat less available in the north and south. The occupying powers now report the following power distribution<sup>1</sup>:

REGION	HOURS EACH DAY
Baghdad	over 12
Mosul and Kirkuk (north)	18
Hilla (central)	24
Najaf and Qadisiya (south)	12

## VIOLENCE



Attacks against U.S. soldiers and occupation targets are escalating, and Iraqi civilian deaths are also growing.

Iraqi civilians killed by U.S. military	7,863–9,708 <sup>4</sup>
Iraqi soldiers killed by U.S. military	unknown
(100,000 in first Gulf War) (1)	
Iraqi civilians wounded by U.S. soldiers	20,000 <sup>4</sup>
U.S. soldiers that have died in Iraq	413 <sup>3</sup>
U.S. soldiers that have died in Iraq since the end of major combat	274 <sup>3</sup>
Number of U.S. soldiers evacuated from Iraq for medical treatment	10,854 <sup>2</sup>

## PUBLIC OPINION

A landmark Gallup poll released on Oct. 28 found that Baghdad residents think the top reason for the U.S. invasion of Iraq was to "rob Iraq's oil." Respondents could give more than one answer, but only 5% believed one purpose of the war was "to assist Iraqi people"; 4% said "to destroy weapons of mass destruction"; and 1% thought it was motivated by a "desire to establish democracy." A majority disagreed that, "The U.S. will allow Iraqis to fashion their own political future as they see fit."



—Compiled by  
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## SOURCES

- U.S. military; Defense Intelligence Agency; U.S. Central Command; Coalition Provisional Authority
- ABC News/Time magazine report of Nov. 10, 2003
- Department of Defense as of Nov. 16, 2003
- International Scholars Team, [www.iraqbodycount.org](http://www.iraqbodycount.org), Nov. 17, 2003
- 2003 Gallup Poll of Baghdad, Oct. 28, 2003