

The cruelest month

This month marks the fifth year of the war in Iraq. The toll of the war on Iraqis has been routinely ignored and minimized in the public debate here at home.

A scientific demographic survey conducted between May and July 2006 by Johns Hopkins and The Lancet, the premier British medical journal, found an estimated 655,000 Iraqis died as a result of the U.S. invasion and occupation. Most of these Iraqis — some 601,000 — succumbed to a violent death.

Unfortunately, the death toll has continued to climb since then. According to an updated estimate from the organization Just Foreign Policy, it is likely that more than one million Iraqis have been killed.

That is more than were killed in the Rwandan genocide of the 1990s and far more than were killed under Saddam.

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Every source counts