Human Cost of Post-9/11 Wars:
Direct War Deaths in Major War Zones, Afghanistan and Pakistan (October 2001 – October 2019)
Iraq (March 2003 – October 2019); Syria (September 2014-October 2019);
Yemen (October 2002-October 2019); and Other 1
Neta C. Crawford and Catherine Lutz2
November 13, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Afghanistan</th>
<th>Pakistan</th>
<th>Iraq</th>
<th>Syria/ISIS</th>
<th>Yemen</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US Military6</td>
<td>2,2987</td>
<td>—8</td>
<td>4,5729</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>7,014</td>
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<tr>
<td>US DOD Civilian12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Contractors13</td>
<td>3,814</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>3,588</td>
<td>1714</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>43915</td>
<td>7,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Military and Police16</td>
<td>64,12417</td>
<td>9,12918</td>
<td>48,337-52,33719</td>
<td>51,48320</td>
<td>—21</td>
<td>173,073-177,073</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Allied Troops22</td>
<td>1,145</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>11,00023</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>12,468</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civilians</td>
<td>43,07424</td>
<td>23,92425</td>
<td>184,382-207,15626</td>
<td>49,59127</td>
<td>12,00028</td>
<td>312,971-335,745</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opposition Fighters</td>
<td>42,10029</td>
<td>32,73730</td>
<td>34,806-39,88131</td>
<td>67,06532</td>
<td>78,00033</td>
<td>254,708-259,783</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journalists and Media Workers34</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>536</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanitarian/NGO workers35</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>807</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>157,052</td>
<td>66,064</td>
<td>276,363-308,212</td>
<td>179,424</td>
<td>90,072</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>769,549-801,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL (rounded to nearest 1,000)</td>
<td>157,000</td>
<td>66,000</td>
<td>276,000-308,000</td>
<td>179,000</td>
<td>90,000</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>770,000-801,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This chart tallies direct deaths caused by war violence. It does not include indirect deaths, namely those caused by loss of access to food, water, and/or infrastructure, war-related disease, etc. The numbers included here are approximations based on the reporting of several original data sources. Most though not all original data sources are updated through late-October 2019; dates are noted in the footnotes. Some original data sources are incomplete, inconsistent and/or data is inaccessible.  

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2 Neta C. Crawford is Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science at Boston University and a Co-Director of Costs of War Project. Catherine Lutz is Professor of Anthropology and Co-Director of the Costs of War Project at Brown University’s Watson Institute.  


4 The US began drone strikes in Yemen in 2002 but the major fighting began when Saudi Arabia intervened in March 2015.  

5 Killed as part of Operation Enduring Freedom in Guantánamo Bay (Cuba), Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan and Yemen from 7 October 2001-31 December 2014.  


7 In Operations Enduring Freedom and Freedom’s Sentinel.  

8 Included in Afghanistan figures.  

9 In Operations Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn, and Inherent Resolve. The Department of Defense includes those who die in Iraq and Syria in the same category but Costs of War puts the deaths in Syria in their own column. Figures for US military deaths in Operation Iraqi Freedom include casualties that occurred between March 19, 2003 and Aug. 31, 2010 in the Arabian Sea, Bahrain, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Persian Gulf, Qatar, Red Sea, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Operation New Dawn includes casualties that occurred between Sept. 1, 2010 and Dec. 31, 2011, in the Arabian Sea, Bahrain, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Persian Gulf, Qatar, Red Sea, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Operation Inherent Resolve includes deaths that occurred in Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the Mediterranean Sea east of 25° longitude, the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea.  

Operations after August 2014 (in Operation Inherent Resolve) include deaths in other operational locations, including Syria.  


13 Estimate based on United States Department of Labor (DOL) (2019). Defense Base Act Case Summary by Nation. Retrieved from https://www.dol.gov/owcp/dlhwc/dbaallnation.htm (data through September 30, 2019). The figure given here is an estimate of total contractor deaths based on DOL numbers, namely the additional number of unreported contractor deaths by comparing the percentage of foreign contractors working for the US military in the warzone with the much lower percentage of foreign contractors among the reported contractor dead. The multiplier reflecting this disparity is 2.15 times the DOL number. DOL data for contractor deaths: Afghanistan, 1,774; Pakistan, 42; Iraq, 1,669; Syria, 8; Yemen, 1.  

14 This does not include the estimated 150-200 Russian security contractors who have been killed between October 2015 and December 2017; Nemtsova, Anna (2018, January 2), “A Russian Blackwater? Putin’s Secret Soldiers in Ukraine and Syria.” The Daily Beast.
An estimate of total contractor deaths outside the listed war zones but likely connected to the named military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the Philippines based on DOL numbers, namely the additional number of unreported contractor deaths. DOL-reported, including contractor deaths: Kuwait (104), Jordan (36), Qatar (21), Saudi Arabia (24), United Arab Emirates (13) Libya (2) and the Philippines (4).

16 Includes National Military Forces and National and Local Police Forces.


Agence Presse France gives a total from August 2012 of 816 army and policy deaths, using Iraqi government figures. See AFP, retrieved from https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0Aia6y6NymliRdEZESktB5WqNM1dksYSGNIVmtFZEE#gid=4. This estimate is consistent with the 8,825 deaths recorded by iCasualties, http://icasualties.org/, for January 2005 to July 2011. Moreover, this is an amorphous category — in various periods of the fighting, some local militias work with the Iraqi police and military.

21 Included in opposition fighters total, below.
23 There are troops from about 20 different state and non-state actors engaged in this war. About 11,000 Kurdish allies of the US have been killed since 2015. 175 Russian soldiers have died in Syria since September 2015 through 2018 according to BBC Russia (2019, January 9), "Russia Covered up Soldier’s Death in Syria, Media Reports," The Moscow Times.
24 For 2001-2007, see Crawford, Neta C. (2015, May 22). "War Related Death, Injury and Displacement in Afghanistan and Pakistan 2001-2014," Costs of War, retrieved from https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/files/cow/imce/papers/2015/War%20Related%20Casualties%20in%20Afghanistan%20and%20Pakistan%202001 -2014%20FIN.pdf; for 2008-2019, see the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) annual Reports on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, retrieved from https://unama.unmissions.org/protection-of-civilians-reports. These civilian death numbers include the recorded direct violent deaths. Additional direct violent deaths may not have been recorded and significant numbers of indirect deaths due to displacement or destruction of infrastructure have not been included.
25 Through June 2019, Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS) annual Pakistan Security Reports. Retrieved from http://pakpips.com/. This data is mostly consistent with South Asia Terrorism Portal, "Fatalities in Terrorist Violence in Pakistan 2003-2018," retrieved from www.satp.org.satporgtp/counties/pakistan/database/casualties.htm. The counts of the dead (and wounded) are complicated not only by the difficulty of access to war zones for investigators, but also because some actors have incentives to either exaggerate or to minimize the number of civilians killed, or to identify civilians as militants.
26 Iraq Body Count (IBC) tally through October 2019. IBC has verified their count through January 2017 and has provisionally verified their count through September 2019. IBC says that a complete analysis of Wikileaks data may add as many as 10,000 deaths. Source: Iraq Body Count, https://www.iraqbodycount.org/.
a8558671.html. Worse, there are potentially thousands of bodies buried in rubble from bombardment in Iraq and those deaths may never be recorded. See Cockburn, Patrick (2017, July 19), "The Massacre of Mosul: 40,000 Feared Dead in Battle to Take Back City from ISIS as Scale of Civilian Casualties Revealed," *Independent*, retrieved from https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/mosul-massacre-battle-isis-iraq-city-civilian-casualties-killed-deaths-fighting-forces-islamic-state-a7848781.html. Some of the most consistent reporting of casualties caused by Coalition and Russian air strikes is at: https://airwars.org/news/coalition-civcas-jan-2018/.


32 From Reports by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, http://www.syriahr.com/en/, not including the estimated 11,000 Kurds killed fighting alliance with the US.


34 Journalist and media worker deaths for war years through October 2019. See Committee to Protect Journalists, retrieved from https://cpj.org/data/killed/?status=Killed&motiveConfirmed%5B%5D=Confirmed&type%5B%5D=Journalist&start_year=1992&end_year=2018&group_by=year (Journalist Motive Confirmed and Media Workers Motive Confirmed and Unconfirmed).