

Physicians' Report: Bush Wars Were Near-Genocidal

April 4—A report compiled meticulously over years has shown that George W. Bush's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, continued by Barack Obama, killed at least 1.3 million people in those nations, and perhaps as many as 2 million.

This report was issued March 26 by the Physicians for Social Responsibility on behalf of several groups which participated over years. It "comes to the conclusion that the war has, directly or indirectly, killed around 1 million people in Iraq, 220,000 in Afghanistan and 80,000 in Pakistan, i.e., a total of around 1.3 million. Not included in this figure are further war zones such as Yemen. The figure is approximately 10 times greater than that of which the public, experts and decision makers are aware and [is] propagated by the media and major NGOs.

"And this is only a conservative estimate. The total number of deaths in the three countries named above could also be in excess of 2 million, whereas a figure below 1 million is extremely unlikely."

Only one previous study has been as exhaustive, and that was published by the British medical jour-

nal *The Lancet* in 2006. It "found that 655,000 people had been killed by that time."

Considering the combined population of Iraq and Afghanistan is 65 million, the report concludes: "The figure of 655,000 deaths in the first three war years alone, however, clearly points to a crime against humanity approaching genocide. Had this been understood and recognized by the public at large, the Iraq policy of the U.S. and its European allies would not have been tenable for long." These "first three years" refer to 2001-04 in Afghanistan and 2003-06 in Iraq.

The authors note that "A poll carried out by the Associated Press two years ago found that, on average, U.S. citizens believe that only 9,900 Iraqis were killed during the occupation." Many Americans also refused, for years, to believe the extraordinary prevalence of PTSD, related psychological ailments, and suicides among returning Gulf War-era military personnel. This is testimony to the fierce, Cheneyac propagandistic control and intimidation of media practiced by the "W" Bush Administration, and continued by the Obama White House.

It also points to the moral omissions of most Americans which led them to tolerate, if not support, the Bushes' wars, and led then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi to take impeachment of George W. Bush or Dick Cheney "off the table" in 2006.

—Paul Gallagher