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news BY KATE ROGERS GESSERT

In Memoriam

Undercovered #32: The civilian casualties of war.

Before we get swept away by Bush/Rumsfeld's next military adventure and our own need to figure out what to do, let us mourn Iraqi civilian casualties of the war, estimated so far from 1,252 to 2,325 dead and 5,100 wounded. Here are a few of the people:

March 24: Nada Abdallah was 16 and newly married. She and her husband were spending their honeymoon at a friend's farmhouse near Diyala Bridge, away from Baghdad and the bombs. After prayers on March 24, everyone was drinking tea in the living room when a bomb landed, killing Nada, another young woman, and 8-year-old Fateha. Eight others were injured by shrapnel, glass and flying debris. Nada's husband could not stop crying.

March 26: Faris El Baur made cushions for car seats, working in his shop in Al Shaab market in north Baghdad. Because schools were closed for the war, his 11-year-old son Saif was helping him. When two rockets struck the market, father and son were crushed and burned. More than 20 other people died, including a mother and three small children, incinerated in their flipped-over car, and a young man named Tajir, decapitated in a water-heater shop.

March 28: Twelve-year-old Duha was buying pencils in Baghdad's Al Nasser market when a missile exploded, driving pieces of metal through crowds and house walls, amputating limbs and heads. Duha has a head injury and may lose his leg. Fifty-eight people were killed and 47 wounded, including many children.

March 29: Failing to realize that their village was inside a "kill box," a free-fire zone designated by U.S. military, cousins 12-year-old Ibrahim and 17-year-old Jala walked to their neighbor's house for lunch. A U.S. pilot bombed and killed them.

March 30: With two friends, 14-year-old Arkan Daif was digging a trench in front of his Baghdad house to protect his family from bombing. A bomb tore off the back of his head. He was a boy "like a flower," his father said.

March 31-April 1: Azor Waled, 20, sat in Babylon Hospital with a wounded leg, holding her baby daughter, whose head was injured. Her other two daughters were dead, bombed near Hillah.

Five-year-old Nader stepped on a cluster bomblet that blew out his left eye. Showers of cluster bombs killed 60 Hillah civilians and wounded 460.

April 1: Razek al-Khataj was driving north with 15 members of his family to escape fierce fighting in Nasiriyah. A rocket from an Apache helicopter blew their truck apart. Razek lost his wife, six children, his father and mother, his three brothers, and their wives.

April 2: Eight-year-old Aisha Ahmed was playing in the garden when a missile struck her family's farm in Radwaniyeh, near Bagdad airport. Her 4-year-old brother died. Her mother, father, older brother and sisters were critically injured. Aisha lost an eye; her face and body were peppered with shrapnel. She kept asking, "Mommy! Where is my mommy?"

April 5: Abid Hamoodi invited his three grown children and their families to stay with him in his strong concrete house in Basra. Anglo-American forces bombed and the walls collapsed, killing Abid's wife and nine other family members. He saved a daughter and two of her children.

April 6: Nadia Khalaf, 33, had just finished her psychology Ph.D. She and her sister were at home in Baghdad, talking and laughing, when a missile came through their window and drove Nadia's heart out through her chest.

April 7: Sena Hassad, 36, and her daughters Rana, 10, and 7-year-old Maria, lived in Mansour neighborhood, Baghdad. Neighbors tried in vain to help Sena's husband, Abdil, dig his family out of the rubble created by four 2,000-pound precision-guided bombs.

April 8: In Baladiyat, Baghdad's eastern edge, a U.S. plane fired at the home of Wael Sabah, her 12-year-old daughter Noor, and her 4-year-old son Abdel. They died in Kindi hospital while another son, stunned, sat on the floor beside his mother in a puddle of her blood. Nearby, 2-year-old Ali Najour lay soaked in blood with a tube in his nose. Both his parents had been killed. Eleven-year-old Safa Karim died slowly, bleeding internally from a bomb fragment in her stomach and writhing in pain.

April 9: Children were playing in an olive tree grove near the remote northern village of Fathlia. When bombs fell, 6-year-old Hansa Omar was decapitated, her sister Jasim also died, and their friend, 10-year-old Ali Ramzi, was crushed against a tree. Abu Salam Gafur, a 16-year-old shepherd, was killed with his sheep. **EW**

SOURCES: Robert Fisk of the Independent, iraqbodycount.org, antiwar.com, cmep.org, Iraq Peace Team, Guardian, Washington Post, Sydney Morning Herald, Counterpunch, Agence France Presse, Alnet, Asia Times, Reuters, Mirror, Associated Press, BBC.



Muhammad Adman was wounded by shrapnel and hospitalized in Baghdad.

PHOTO BY IRAQ PEACE TEAM

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