

40,000 -60,000 or More Civilians “Liberated” to Death in Mosul, Civilians Die in Raqqa

The “liberation” of the beautiful Iraqi city of Mosul—until recently the second largest city in Iraq—turned much of it into rubble. 40,000 civilians or more were killed “as a result of massive firepower used against them, especially by the federal police, air strikes, and Isis, itself,” according to reports from Kurdish intelligence believed to be “extremely accurate and well informed” by the UK’s *The Independent*. (July 19, 2017. tinyurl.com/y7oaxp7m)

Amnesty International estimates the death toll could be close to 60,000 or more with bodies still remaining in the rubble. (tinyurl.com/y9ln24kg) The organization issued a report revealing a callous disregard for human life even before the heavy assaults of summer when it “documented a pattern of attacks in which US-led coalition and Iraqi forces appear not to have struck their intended military targets, instead killing and injuring civilians and destroying or damaging civilian objects” and “even in attacks that seem to have struck their intended military target, the use of what seem to be unnecessarily powerful weapons or failure to take necessary precautions resulted in needless loss of civilian lives.” (At Any Cost: The Civilian Catastrophe in West Mosul, Iraq. tinyurl.com/ya4l4khj).

The UN condemned the U.S.-led coalition for killing civilians in its escalating air strike campaign against ISIS in Raqqa On May 28, U.S. Secretary of Defense James (“Mad Dog”) Mattis had announced on the CBS program, *Face the Nation*, that the U.S. had shifted to “annihilation tactics” against ISIS and that “civilian casualties are a fact of life in this situation.” (tinyurl.com/y8q3eh56). The UK-based monitoring group Airwars estimated that more than 600 civilians were killed in more than 150 coalition or SDF [Syrian Defense Forces are the insurgents allied with the U.S. coalition and should not be confused with the Syrian Army] attacks on the city of Raqqa between March and May; hundreds have been killed since. (tinyurl.com/yb2cgug8)

A sense of outrage on behalf of humanity and justice for the victims means cataloguing the injuries done to them. ISIS is certainly responsible for some of the death and destruction but critical analysis asks to consider how ISIS established its “caliphate” in a large strategic swath of Iraq and Syria in the first place. Who recruited, trained, supplied, funded, and enabled them, then leveled whole cities and towns to get rid of them?

And on the ground—it’s alleged that it’s not only ISIS that committed war crimes, including torture. A June 5, 2017 well-researched article in *MintPress News* states that the Department of Defense is requesting \$1.3 billion to build up the Iraqi Counter Terrorism Service (CTS). The article expresses concern with the well-established fact that some special Iraqi forces were trained by the U.S. military in torture techniques that were used in El Salvador in the 1980s. (MintPress News Desk. Pentagon Requests \$1.8 Training Program to Combat Sectarianism It Fomented. mintpressnews.com tinyurl.com/y7n8hmku)