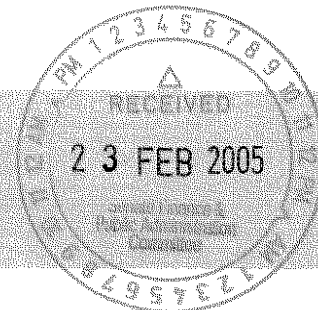




Australian Government
Office of National Assessments
Director General



18 February 2005

Mr Alastair Sands
Secretary
Finance and Public Administration
Legislative Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT

Dear Mr Sands

At the hearing on 14 February, I undertook to see whether there was more information I could provide to the Committee on casualties suffered by the Iraqi Security Forces.

I can confirm that there is only limited information available on the numbers of Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) that have been killed and wounded. Neither the Iraqi Ministry of Defence nor the Pentagon publish regular figures. However, since my appearance before the Committee, Secretary Rumsfeld presented information to the Senate Armed Services Committee on 17 February. Commenting on the development of the ISF since 2003, he said that 1,392 members of the ISF have been killed in action.

Further to my comment on the estimate of 100,000 Iraqi civilian deaths published in the medical journal 'Lancet' in November 2004, I would draw to the Committee's attention that a US based NGO, Iraq Body Count, has monitored media-reported civilian deaths since March 2003. It estimates that between 15,941 and 18,200 civilians have been killed.

Finally, in relation to the question asked by Senator Allison, we have not been able to find any figures on Iraqi civilian casualties compiled by the Red Cross.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Varghese". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Peter N. Varghese