

Civilian Casualty Accountability

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3 **WHEREAS** the US-led invasion of Iraq caused an estimated 100,000 Iraqi deaths
4 during just the first eighteen months of the war ("Mortality Before and After the
5 2003 Invasion of Iraq: Cluster Sample Survey," Lancet, 2004);

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7 **WHEREAS** a Human Rights Watch report found that the U.S. military was not
8 "doing enough to minimize harm to civilians" and that the failure to investigate Iraqi
9 complaints allowed the US military to "operate with virtual impunity in Iraq"
10 ("Hearts and Minds: Post-war Civilian Deaths in Baghdad Caused by U.S. Forces,"
11 2003);

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13 **WHEREAS** under international humanitarian law the prohibition against firing on
14 civilians remains absolute; the combatants must at all times distinguish between
15 military and civilian targets; and indiscriminate or disproportionate military actions
16 are strictly prohibited; and

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18 **WHEREAS** the Fourth Geneva Convention states in Article 27 that protected
19 persons "shall be at all times humanely treated, and shall be protected especially
20 against acts of violence";

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22 **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the Washington State Democratic Central
23 Committee exhort our elected representatives to sponsor or cosponsor bills in
24 Congress that require the US military (1) to track all nonmilitary casualties in Iraq;
25 (2) to keep records, observe and analyze trends related to specific units and
26 commanders; (3) to investigate all credible allegations of unlawful killings by
27 coalition soldiers; and (4) to take administrative or criminal action against
28 individuals within the chain of command who have been found to have used or
29 tolerated the use of excessive or indiscriminate force.
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32 Submitted to the WSDCC for consideration at its September 17, 2005 meeting in
33 Everett by the 36th District Democrats (6/7/2005)

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35 Referred to the WSDCC with a recommendation of "Pass" by the Resolutions
36 Committee at its September 17, 2005 meeting in Everett.

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38 Passed by the WSDCC at its September 17, 2005 meeting in Everett.