

July deadliest month in Iraq since 2008, government says

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July has been the deadliest month in Iraq since 2008, with terrorist attacks killing close to 1,000 people across the country, government figures show.

According to figures compiled by the Health, Interior and Defense Ministries, a total of 989 people were killed and 1,567 others were wounded in terrorist acts throughout Iraq in July, AFP reported on Wednesday.

The data showed that 778 of those killed and 1,356 of the injured were civilians.

In May, the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) released a report that said 712 people were killed and 1,633 others were wounded in the violence in the country in April. The dead comprised 595 civilians. 1,438 of those injured were also civilians.

The killing continued on Wednesday, taking the lives of nearly 30 people across the country.

Twelve people, including three security forces, lost their lives in attacks in and around the capital Baghdad. At least seven people were also killed after an improvised explosive device exploded outside a Shia mosque in Baghdad.

Another bomb attack near a Sunni mosque west of the city left four worshippers dead. Five off-duty soldiers and a police officer were also slain in separate attacks in Salahudin province and the city of Mosul.

Iraq is witnessing its worst bloodshed since 2008 and civilians are a prime target in the violence.

In an interview with Press TV on July 24, an international human rights lawyer said that foreign powers are attempting to fabricate and benefit from Shia-Sunni discord in Iraq and elsewhere, seeking to see the Muslim world weakened in the wake of such rifts.

"Who benefits is of course the key issue. It's really not the people of Iraq, it's not the Sunnis, it's not the Shia[s]. It is external powers that want to exploit and create division. Those are the parties that benefit," said Canada-based attorney Edward Corrigan.

"It's certainly not the people in the region [that benefit from sectarian conflicts]; it's not Iran; it's not Iraq; it's not the people of Syria, which are now witnessing the destruction of their state and where there has been attempts to provoke similar sectarian conflict in Lebanon," he added.