

# U.S. Commits Serious Crimes of Violating Human Rights in the Middle East and Beyond

## 美国在中东等地犯下严重侵犯人权罪行

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The United States has committed a series of crimes that seriously violate international law, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, arbitrary detention, abuse of torture, torture of prisoners, and indiscriminate unilateral sanctions in the Middle East and surrounding areas, constituting systematic violations of human rights with lasting and far-reaching harm.

The U.S. crimes have not only led to frequent and repeated wars in the Middle East and other places, plunging them into the quagmire of conflicts and security dilemmas and seriously undermining local people's rights to life, health, personal dignity, freedom of religious belief, survival and development.

### 1. Launching wars, massacring civilians, and damaging the right to life and survival

American historian Paul Atwood, in his book titled *War and Empire: The American Way of Life* that came out in 2010, pointed out that “war is the American way of life.” Since the founding of the United States, there were less than 20 years in which it has not participated in a war, making it a veritable “war empire.”

Since the end of the Cold War, the United States has been involved in almost all major conflicts and wars in the Middle East and surrounding regions, which have become the area hardest hit by the external wars launched by the United States.

Statistics from the U.S. *Smithsonian Institution Magazine* has shown that since 2001, wars and military operations launched by the United States in the name of “anti-terrorism” covered “about 40% of the countries on the planet.”

The United States not only rallied its allies to launch the Gulf War (1990-1991), the Afghanistan War (2001-2021), the Iraq War (2003-2011), and so on, but also was deeply involved in the Libyan War and the Syrian War, creating a humanitarian disaster rarely seen throughout the world. The warmongering United States has caused direct, serious and lasting damage to local people's right to life and survival.

First, wantonly waging wars in violation of international law. The Afghanistan War and the Iraq War are the two largest wars launched by the United States in the Middle East and surrounding

美国在中东及其周边地区犯下包括战争罪、危害人类罪、任意拘押、滥用酷刑、虐囚和滥施单边制裁等一系列严重违背国际法的罪行，构成对人权的系统性侵犯，危害持久而深远。美国的罪行不仅导致中东等地战火连连，战乱频仍，深陷冲突泥潭和安全困境，而且导致当地人民的生命权、健康权、人格尊严和宗教信仰自由以及生存权、发展权等遭受严重损害。

### 一、发动战争，屠杀平民，损害生命权和生存权

美国历史学家保罗·阿特伍德在2010年出版的《战争与帝国：美国的生活方式》一书中指出：“战争是美国人的生活方式。”美国自建国以来，没有参加过战争的时间不足20年，是一个名副其实的“战争帝国”。冷战结束后，中东及其周边地区所有重大冲突和战争中几乎总有美国的身影，沦为美国对外战争的重灾区。据美国《史密森学会杂志》统计，2001年以来，美国以“反恐”之名发动的战争和开展的军事行动足足覆盖了“这个星球上约40%的国家”。美国不仅纠集盟友发动海湾战争（1990-1991年）、阿富汗战争（2001-2021年）、伊拉克战争（2003-2011年）等，还深度参与利比亚战争和叙利亚战争，制造了世所罕见的人道主义灾难。穷兵黩武的美国对地区民众的生命权和生存权造成直接、严重和持久的伤害。

第一，违反国际法肆意发动战争。阿富汗战争

regions, spelling dreadful disasters to the lives and living condition of the people of the two countries.

The Brown University's Costs of War Project pointed out that more than 174,000 people died directly in the war in Afghanistan, of whom more than 47,000 were civilians.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the nearly 20-year war in Afghanistan forced 2.6 million Afghans to flee abroad and displaced 3.5 million others.

In 2003, the United States bypassed the United Nations and violated the basic international law principle of the prohibition of the use of force to launch the Iraq War with excuses fabricated out of thin air, constituting aggression against Iraq.

According to Statista, a global statistical database, from 2003 to 2021, about 209,000 Iraqi civilians died in wars and violent conflicts, and about 9.2 million Iraqis became refugees or were forced to leave their homeland. The United States launched wars in the Middle East and other places, seriously undermining the right to life and survival of the people in the region.

Second, trampling on international law and killing innocent civilians indiscriminately. In order to achieve its own military goals, the United States disregards the lives of civilians in other countries.

Firstly, the United States has repeatedly and indiscriminately attacked civilians in the Middle East and other places.

On Aug. 12, 2005, a U.S. armored patrol vehicle shot at people coming out of a mosque in the suburban town of Ramadi, Iraq, killing 15 Iraqis, including eight children, and injuring 17 others.

On Nov. 21 of the same year, the U.S. troops stationed in Iraq opened fire on a civilian vehicle in northern Baghdad, killing a family of five, including three children. The United Nations Commission of Inquiry accused the U.S. military of launching indiscriminate attacks in Syria, causing civilian casualties and showing a reckless disregard for consequences, which constituted war crimes.

A United Nations report released in September 2019 noted that many of the airstrikes carried out by the U.S.-led coalition in places like Syria "did not take the necessary precautions to distinguish between military targets and civilians."

Secondly, the United States has widely used air strikes to carry out so-called "anti-terrorism" operations, which often killed civilians "by mistake," injured innocent people, and arbitrarily deprived them of the right to life.

*The New York Times* reported that based on an investigation of classified Pentagon documents, frequent U.S. airstrikes in Syria caused a large number of civilian casualties due to "serious intelligence deficiencies" and "mistargeting," which the Pentagon usually chooses to cover up or not to penalize.

In 2017, the U.S. military launched what it called "the most precise airstrike" on the Syrian city of Raqqa. The RAND Corporation, a U.S. think tank, pointed out in a released report that the U.S. military operation resulted in 38 incidents inflicting civilian casualties, killing 178 civilians and wounding dozens of others. Some human rights groups have estimated the number of civilian casualties could be as high as 1,600.

On March 18, 2019, U.S. drones killed at least 64 civilian women and children as they searched for "extremist groups" in the town of Baghouz on the Syrian-Iraqi border.

In February 2022, the U.S. military launched a raid in Syria's

和伊拉克战争是美国在中东及其周边发动的两场最大规模的战争，对两国民众的生命安全和生存状态造成深重灾难。美国布朗大学“战争代价”项目研究指出，有超过17.4万人直接死于阿富汗战争，其中4.7万多是平民。联合国难民署称，持续近20年的阿富汗战争造成260万阿富汗人逃往国外，350万人流离失所。2003年，美国绕开联合国，违反禁止使用武力的国际法基本原则，以凭空捏造的理由发动伊拉克战争，构成对伊拉克的侵略。根据全球统计数据库的资料，2003年至2021年，约有20.9万伊拉克平民死于战争和暴力冲突之中，约有920万伊拉克民众沦为难民或被迫离开故土。美国在中东等地发动战争严重损害地区民众的生命权和生存权。

第二，践踏国际法滥杀无辜平民。美国为达到自己的军事目的，视他国平民生命为无物。一是美国多次无差别攻击中东等地平民。2005年8月12日，美军一辆装甲巡逻车在伊拉克拉马迪郊区城镇向清真寺出来的人们射击，造成包括8名儿童在内的15名伊拉克人丧生，另有17人受伤。同年11月21日，驻伊美军在巴格达北部朝一辆民用车开枪，造成一家5口死亡，其中包括3名儿童。联合国调查委员会指责美军在叙利亚地区“发动不加区别的袭击，导致平民伤亡，并且不顾后果，构成了战争罪”。联合国2019年9月发布的报告指出，以美国为首的联军在叙利亚等地实施的许多空袭“没有采取必要的预防措施来区分军事目标和平民”。二是美国广泛采取空袭行动进行所谓的“反恐”，经常“误杀”平民，伤及无辜，任意剥夺生命权。《纽约时报》报道称，基于对五角大楼机密文件的调查，美国在叙利亚频繁发动的空袭，因“严重情报缺陷”和“错误瞄准”，造成大量平民伤亡，而五角大楼通常对此选择掩盖或有罪不罚。2017年，美军对叙利亚城市拉卡发动所谓“最精准的空袭”。美国智库兰德公司发布报告指出，美军这一军事行动共造成38起平民伤亡事件，导致178名平民丧生，数十人受伤。一些人权组织估计，平民伤亡数量可能多达1600名。2019年3月18日，美军出动无人机在位于叙利亚-伊拉克边境的巴古兹镇寻找“极端组织”目标时，炸死至少64名平民妇女和儿童。2022

Idlib province, killing at least 13 people, including six children and three women.

On Aug. 29, 2021, a drone attack by the U.S. military in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, killed 10 local civilians, including seven children.

Thirdly, U.S. military contractors killed civilians for no reason.

The United States is given to using military contractors to exercise hegemonic repression in the Middle East, and they often escape accountability for their illegal and criminal acts there.

In 2007, employees of the American Blackwater Company carried out a massacre in Nisour Square in Baghdad, killing 14 civilians, including two children, and injuring at least 17 others.

In 2020, then-President Donald Trump even pardoned Blackwater employees who committed war crimes in Iraq.

The United Nations Human Rights Council's Working Group on Mercenaries said in a statement that this act by the U.S. government has breached international humanitarian law and human rights and was an affront to justice and the victims and their families, calling on all States parties to the Geneva Conventions to jointly condemn it. The U.S. military troops' wanton massacre of civilians abroad undoubtedly constitutes a crime against humanity.

Third, indirect participation in wars resulted in a large number of civilian casualties.

The United States has extensively cultivated proxies in the Middle East and other places, and sold weapons in large quantities, causing large-scale humanitarian disasters.

The United States has been deeply involved in the war in Syria and the domestic conflict in Libya by fostering multiple proxies, causing the local wars and conflicts to drag on till today and the situation to become increasingly complex, which makes political reconciliation and social stability a faraway prospect.

Mustafa Abdul Jalil, former chairman of the Libyan National Transitional Council, said that the persistent civil unrest has led to the death of many Libyans, "and the United States does not care about the consequences of military operations and wars."

According to data released by the United Nations, U.S. military intervention has claimed at least 350,000 lives in Syria, displaced more than 12 million people, and left 14 million civilians in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. The Syrian refugee issue has been called by the United Nations "the biggest refugee crisis of our time."

While Afghanistan and Iraq were still mired in wars, the U.S. government, which recklessly launched the wars, repeatedly decided to pull out its forces, with total disregard for the most basic humanitarianism, perpetuating the conflicts in those countries and further worsening their chaotic situation.

By destroying the original state apparatus of Iraq by force, the United States has weakened the Iraqi government's ability of control and provided space and conditions for terrorism to expand.

In 2011, the United States irresponsibly withdrew its troops from Iraq. Extremist groups such as "the Islamic State" took advantage of the situation and grew increasingly powerful. The ensuing frequent violent terrorist attacks become the biggest challenge threatening the security of Iraq and the region.

In August 2021, the United States also irresponsibly withdrew its troops from Afghanistan, and again turned a blind eye to the

年2月，美军在叙利亚伊德利卜省发动突袭，造成至少13人死亡，其中包括6名儿童和3名妇女。2021年8月29日，美军在阿富汗首都喀布尔实施的无人机袭击，造成当地10名平民死亡，其中包括7名儿童。三是美国军事承包商无端杀害平民。美国惯于利用军事承包商在中东地区实行霸权压制，他们在当地实施的违法犯罪行为往往逃脱问责。2007年，美国黑水公司雇员在巴格达尼苏尔广场实施屠杀，造成包括2名儿童在内的14名平民死亡，至少17人受伤。2020年，时任美国总统特朗普竟然赦免了在伊拉克犯下战争罪的黑水公司雇员。联合国人权理事会雇佣军问题工作组发表声明指出，美国政府这一行为对国际人道主义法和人权造成冲击，是对正义和受害者及其家人的侮辱，呼吁《日内瓦公约》所有缔约国共同谴责这一行径。美军在海外肆意频频屠杀平民的行为毫无疑问构成了危害人类罪。

第三，间接参与战争导致大量平民伤亡。美国在中东等地广泛扶植代理人，大量出售武器，造成大规模人道主义灾难。美国通过扶植多个代理人深度参与叙利亚战争和利比亚国内冲突，造成当地战乱和冲突延宕至今，局势日趋复杂，政治和解与社会稳定遥遥无期。利比亚全国过渡委员会前主席贾利勒称，持续的内乱导致众多利比亚人死亡，“而美国对军事行动和战争造成的这一后果并不关心”。根据联合国公布的数据，美国的军事介入已造成叙利亚至少35万人失去生命，1200多万人流离失所，1400万平民急需人道主义援助。叙利亚难民问题被联合国称为“我们这个时代的最大的难民危机”。

面对阿富汗和伊拉克战争泥潭，肆意发动战争的美国政府却为了一己私利，一再选择不负责任的撤离，罔顾最基本的人道主义，导致有关国家长期的冲突与混乱局势更趋恶化。美国以武力手段摧毁了伊拉克原有的国家机器，导致伊拉克政府控制能力下降，为恐怖主义扩张提供了空间和条件。2011年，美国不负责任地从伊拉克撤军，致使“伊斯兰国”等极端组织趁势坐大，暴恐袭击频发，成为危及伊拉克和地区安全的最大挑战。2021年8月，美国同样不负责任地从阿富汗撤军，并在