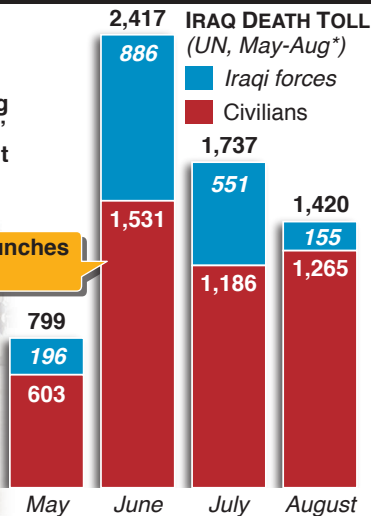


Islamic State accused of ethnic cleansing

Islamic State militants are committing ethnic cleansing on a “historic scale” and threatening to wipe Iraq’s ancient minorities off the map forever, according to Amnesty International



Jun 2014: IS launches major offensive



ISLAMIC STATE ON THE MARCH

■ **Jun 10:** Militants of *Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS)* launch major offensive in northern Iraq, overrunning Mosul and advancing southwards before being stopped near Baghdad

■ **Jun 29:** ISIS renames itself *Islamic State (IS)* and declares Islamic caliphate covering much of Syria and Iraq

■ **Jul 19:** Iraqi Christians leave Mosul en masse after IS threatens to kill them unless they convert to Islam

■ **Aug 2:** IS fighters push further into northern Iraq, overwhelming Kurdish Peshmerga forces. Around 50,000 people from Yazidi minority become trapped on Mount Sinjar, prompting international aid operation

■ **Aug 8:** U.S. launches air strikes against IS militants near Irbil and around Mount Sinjar – its first direct military intervention in Iraq since withdrawal of U.S. troops in 2011

■ **Aug 18:** Supported by U.S. air strikes, Iraqi troops and Peshmerga fighters retake strategic Mosul Dam

■ **Aug 20:** IS publishes online video showing beheading of captured American journalist **James Foley**

■ **Aug 31:** Iraqi and Kurdish forces break two-month siege of town of Amerli and seize militant stronghold of Suleiman Beg

■ **Sep 1:** UN says it will send investigators to Iraq to examine “acts of inhumanity on an unimaginable scale”