

## Iraqi Academics and Doctors: Innocent Victims of a Wider Geopolitical Struggle

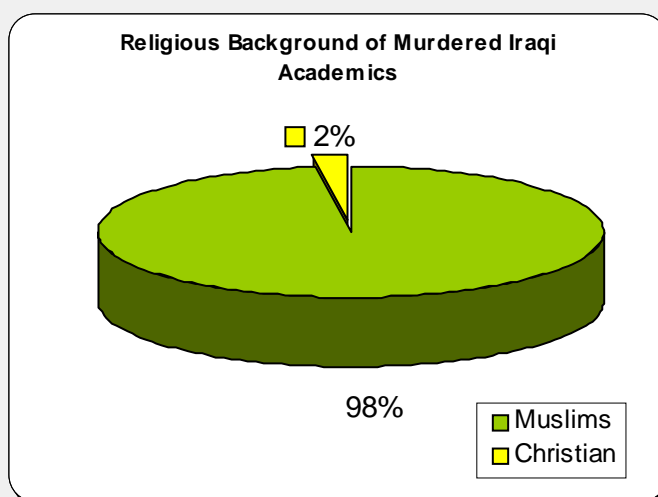
**By Dr Ismail Jalili**

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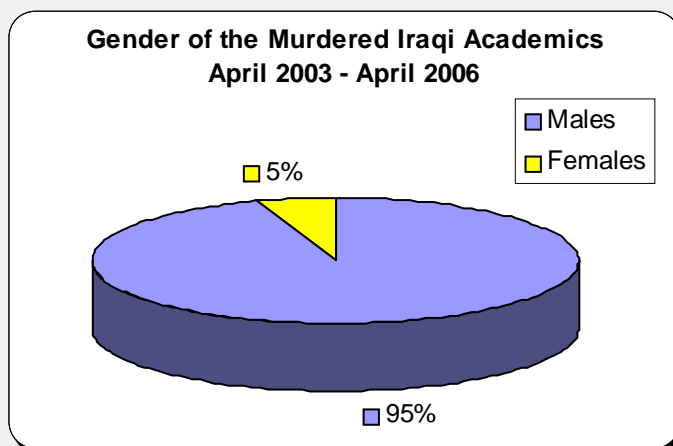
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The following is an account of the available reported data on the assassinations of academics and high professionals including medical professionals in Iraq. The reported incidents are only the tip of an iceberg of the systematic killing and assassination of Iraqi professionals and experts. By the end of April 2006, 307 cases of attacks on academics and doctors have been documented. Many others go unreported because of the fear of the families to announce them and the state of chaos prevailing in Iraq.<sup>1-10</sup> Victims are from both gender and from all religious and sectarian background

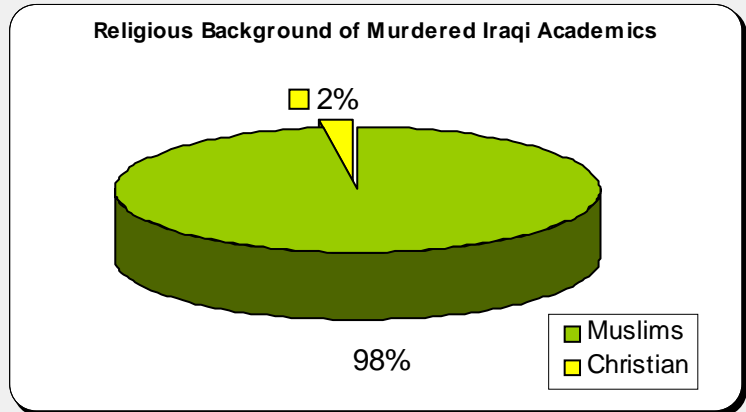
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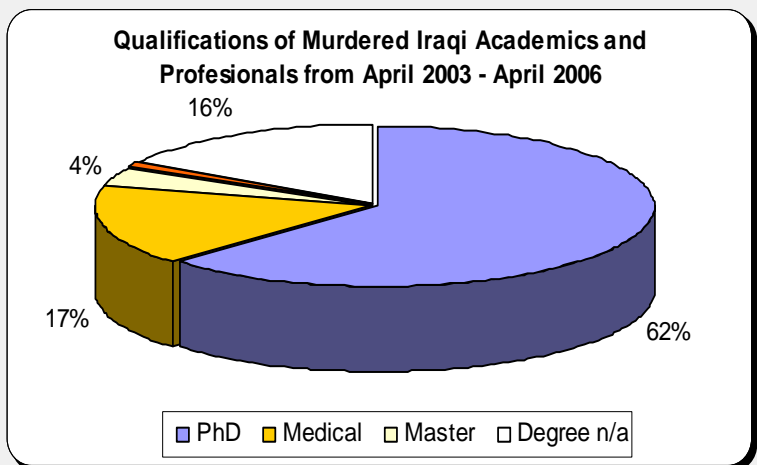
Murders targeted both males and females.



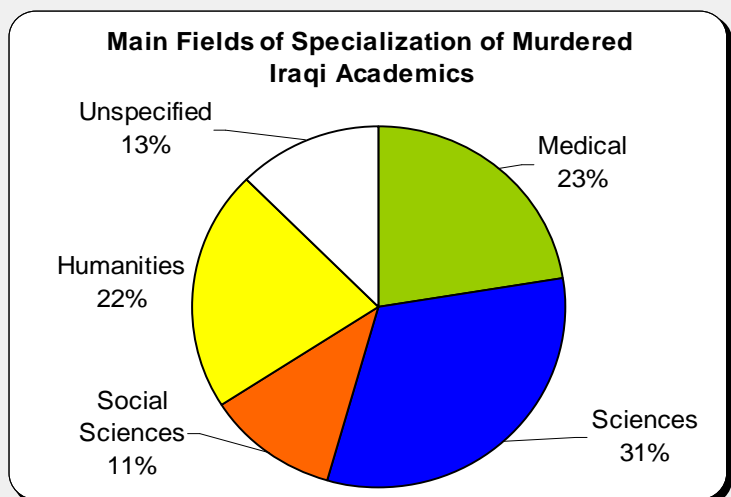
Professionals from all religious and sects were attacked or killed. The proportions reflect the structure of the population with the majority of those from Muslim background in Iraq.



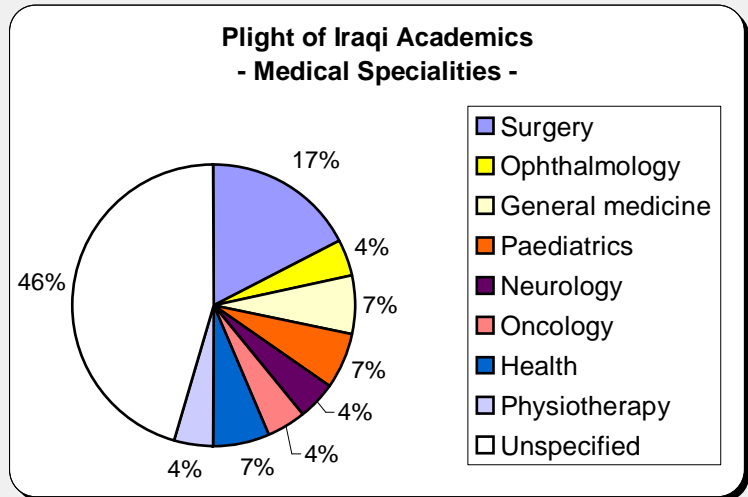
Those of the highest qualifications were the prime targets with 79% with doctorate or specialist medical qualification.



Those specialities are most needed to build Iraq have the lion share of the assassinations.

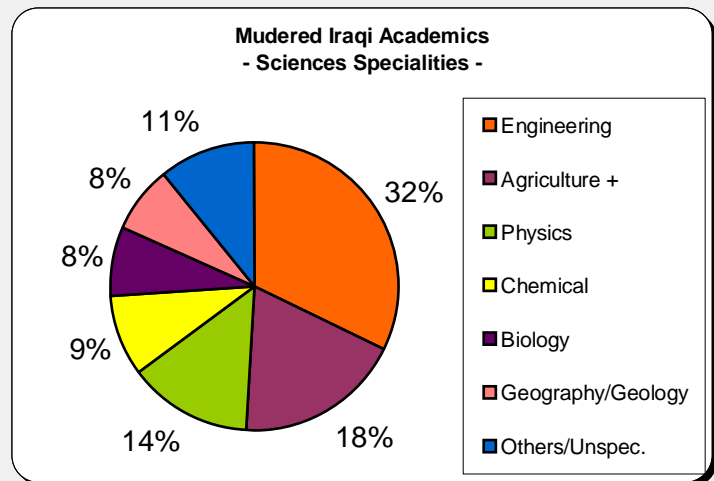


All medical and surgical specialities had its share of the killing, especially the rarest and most needed by the Iraqis and their children.

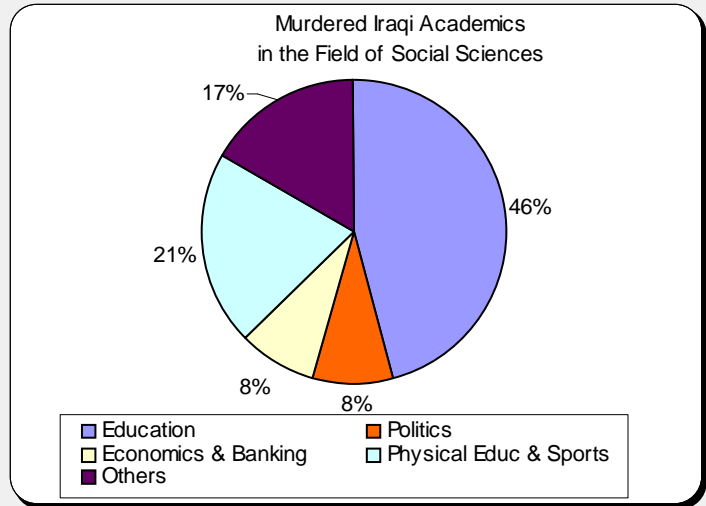


According to the Deputy Minister of health that over 220 doctors have been killed in Iraq between 2003 and February 2006. Over 1000 others have fled the country after they have had threats on their life to flee the country, kidnapped, assaulted etc.

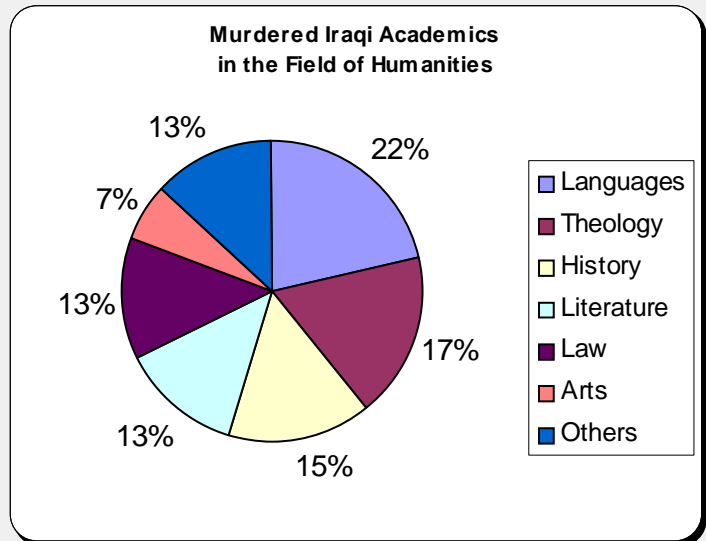
The most vital science specialities such as engineering, agriculture are those affected in this slaughter.



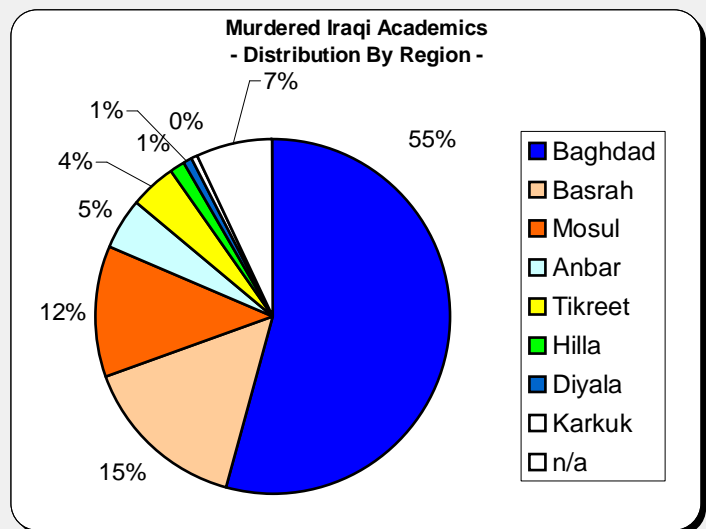
History has shown that educationist always score badly, they are the tools to train the trainer and teach nation building.



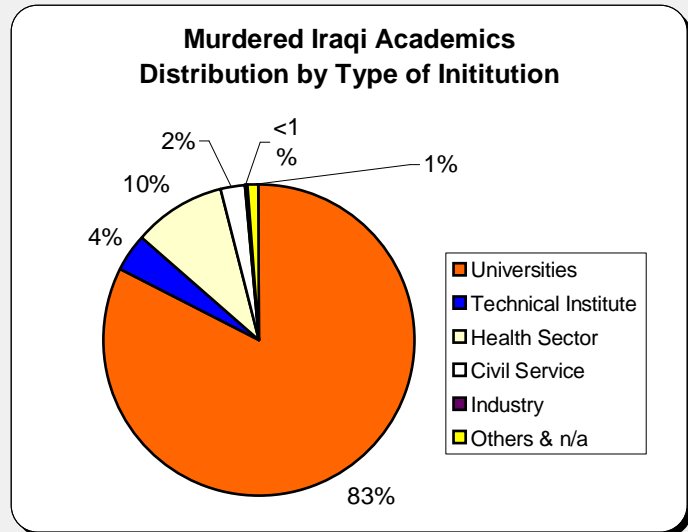
Humanities have not escaped this slaughter. Languages, theology, history, literature and law are part of the spectrum of this tragedy.



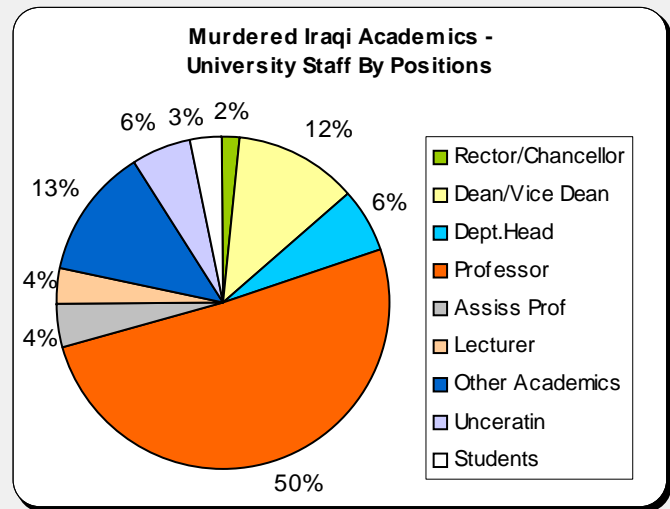
All the Arabic regions have been hit in proportion of their population although Baghdad, Mosul and Basrah score highest in the genocide.



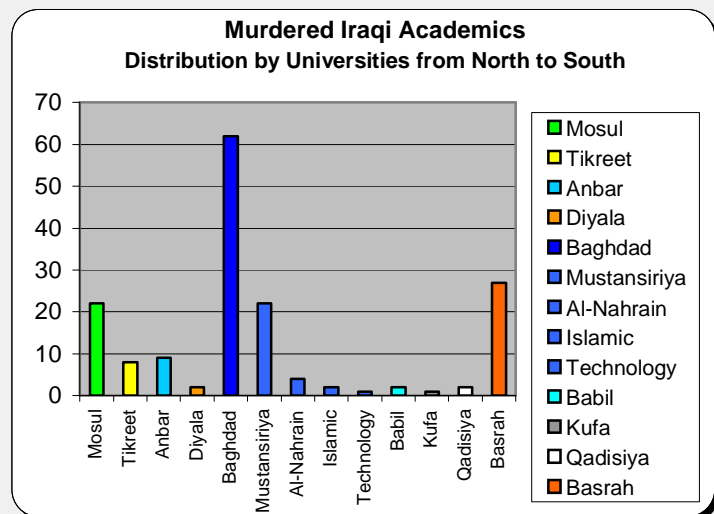
The universities are the hardest hit.



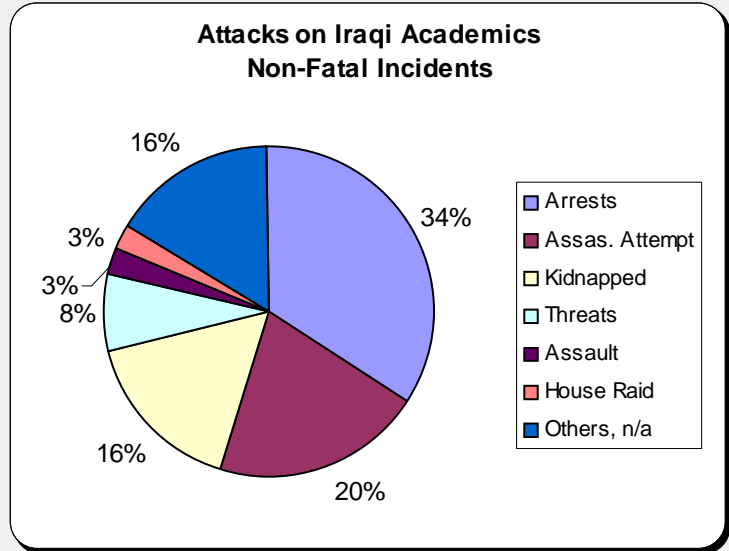
The highest grades and position are the most affected by murders.



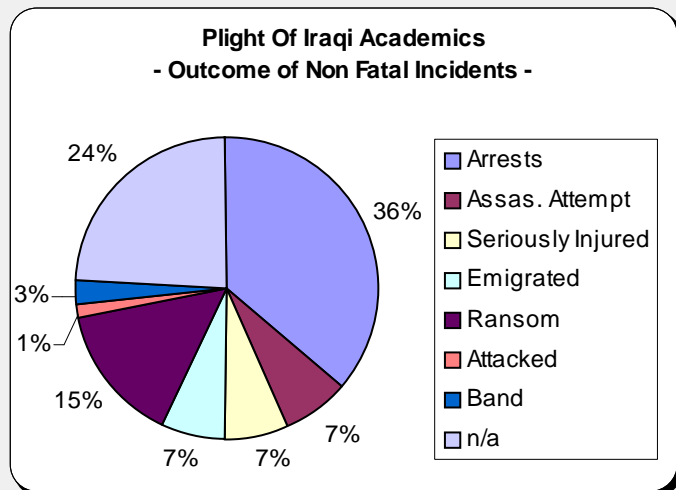
All universities in the Arabic regions from Mosul in the north to Basrah in the south have their share in the killing. Baghdad universities are the worst hit.



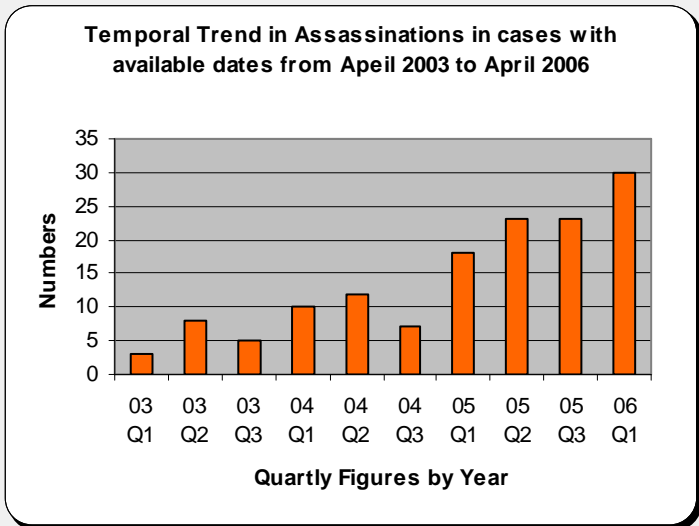
In addition to assassination, large numbers of academics and professionals are facing arrests, assassinations attempts, frequently repeated in they remain in their posts. Kidnaps with ransom have become a daily event. Many of the kidnapped are nor releases even after paying the ransom and many of the are found killed and their bodies disbanded.



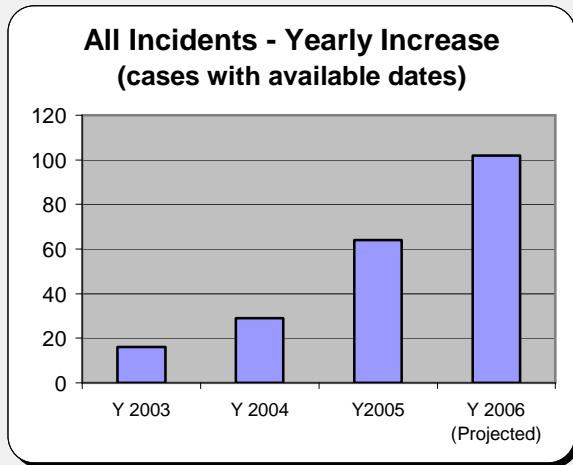
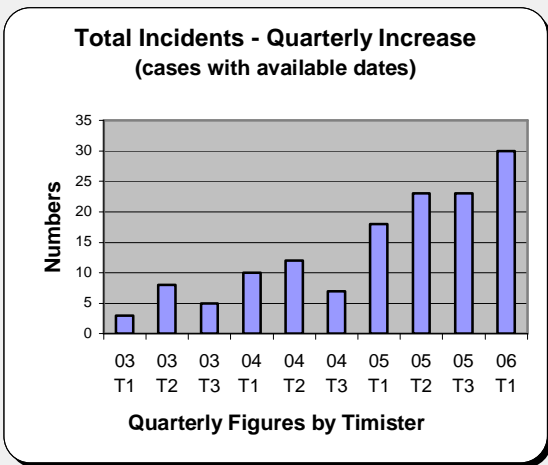
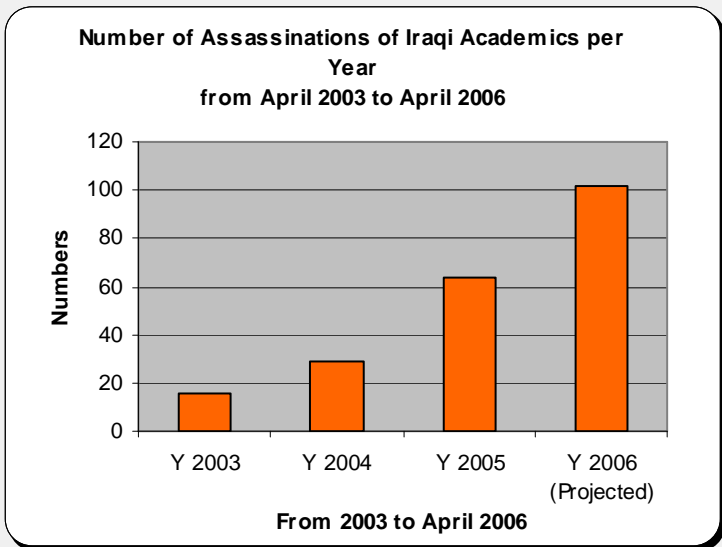
The exodus from Iraq is very serious and will have very grave consequences for Iraq.



There is a temporal increase in the assassinations and killing that is still on the increase by the time of writing this article.



2006 has been the worst so far and the projected figures are very grim.



The total incidents are also climbing up.

- Targeting high professional from all religious backgrounds and sects.
- The only pattern elicited is that the victims are predominantly of Arab ethnic background. Are recent report suggest an increasing sectarian element.<sup>27</sup>
- The attacks and assassinations have accompanied the occupation of Iraq by US forces.
- This is a new phenomenon never previously witnessed throughout Iraq's entire history. It commenced after the American invasion in 2003 which has been accompanied by a continuum of actions aimed at the destruction of Iraq's infrastructure and the eradication of Iraq's history and civilization.
- The methodical looting and theft from Iraqi museums, libraries, universities and the dismantling of the infrastructure of the Iraqi nation, both its civil and military establishments, have been systematic and orchestrated.
- The pattern of killings, whether academics or doctors, is highly indicative of a sinister plan to drain Iraq of its intellectuals and experts. Newsweek reported the Pantagon's plan to use the 'El-Salvador Option' in January 2005 which has been demonstrated that it had been implemented.<sup>7-8</sup>

### **Comment**

The invasion of Iraq has amply demonstrated the geopolitical dimension of this war. A developed and truly democratic Iraq, with its projected population of 50 millions in the next 25 years, could be a major geopolitical force in the region, one that has to be taken seriously; this is not in the interests of international and regional geopolitics. The obvious solution is for a weakened nation divided along ethnic and sectarian lines. The declared ideology and philosophy of the current American administration, with their supporting lobbies and its British counterpart, support this argument. This was well depicted by Goldberg in 2004; 'The core of his neoevangelical crowd is about as intolerant as any group in America. As a Jewish American you ought to be embarrassed to be defending these medieval lunatics'.<sup>9-15</sup>

The history of the region and its geopolitical rivalry give us a good insight into the current political struggle, allegiances and alliances.<sup>16-24</sup>

The killing of academics and doctors, together with the destruction of Iraq's infrastructure and its social fabric, appears to be part of a wider process, cited by Professor Pedro Martinez Montávez, Emiratus Chair in Arabic at the Autonomous University of Madrid, as a process of de-Arabization of the whole Middle East.<sup>25</sup>

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