

More than Million Iraqis Reported Dead Under Sanctions

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More than one and a half million Iraqis had died because of the unjust sanctions imposed on Iraq since August 1990.

Health Minister Omeid Midhat Mubarak who was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the 2nd Iraqi-Jordanian medical conference, said new born deaths had risen up to 108 per 1000 births, compared to pre-sanctions figures, put at 43 per 1000 births.

Mubarak cited the recent UNICEF report that confirmed the direct effect of sanctions on Iraqi under-five and newborn children. He noted that for all age groups, a total of 1,394,883 people had died in Iraq since the imposition of sanctions up to February 2000, of whom, 523,204 were under five years of age.

The Minister spoke of a sharp decline of 70.6% in major surgeries performed in Iraq, down to 4442 operations a month in 1999, far below 1989 monthly average, estimated at 151,525 surgeries. He also reported a 25.9% increase in underweight births in 1999, compared to 4.5% in 1990.

The Health Minister warned that the unjust blanket sanctions were still in place, claiming thousands of lives from different age groups and adversely affecting the nutritional status in terms of food shortages and malnutrition.