

Survey: Bleak view of Iraq by journalists

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- A survey of war correspondents working in Iraq suggests conditions are far worse than public perceptions among Americans indicate. The survey by the Project for Excellence in Journalism, a division of the Pew Research Center in Washington, says perilous conditions in Iraq affect their reporting more than any other factor. The majority of journalists surveyed said much of Iraq is unsafe, with 90 percent saying that includes half of Baghdad. U.S. journalists said they have to use local staffers to report on happenings in the country, and many of them are unable to carry even notebooks for fear of being killed for working with Westerners. Local staffers face the greatest peril and are dying in the greatest numbers, the New York Times said Wednesday. Of the 124 journalists killed in Iraq since 2003, 102 of them were Iraqis. "The grimness of the results surprised me," said Tom Rosenstiel, director of the project. "It shows how difficult and extraordinarily dangerous telling this story is." "The dangers can't be overstated," one print journalist wrote. The Project for Excellence conducted the survey from Sept. 28 through Nov. 7 of 111 journalists who have, or currently are, working in Iraq.

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