With over 1 million killed in five years, campaigners call on UK to expand focus of remembrance

Friday 6 November, 2026

With 2025 the third-deadliest year for conflict deaths since 1989, and the number of armed conflicts at a record high, Every Casualty Counts brings together war experts and survivors in London on Friday 6 November – and unveils
Memorial 2026*: the personal stories of more than 130 people killed across 20 conflicts in the previous year.*

Two days before Remembrance Sunday, leading war researchers, campaigners, and reporters will gather at Friends House, Euston, to challenge what it means to remember the war dead, and ask who is missing from Britain's traditions of remembrance. They will call on the British government to do more to ensure all victims of war are identified and acknowledged.

More than a million people have been killed in armed conflict around the world in the past five years. Many have never been named, identified or officially acknowledged, leaving an accountability vacuum and hundreds of thousands of families still searching for loved ones.

War Memorialised: Casualty Recording, Remembrance, and Why It Matters, hosted by the charity Every Casualty Counts, comes as conflict deaths rise for the second year running. More than 245,600 people were killed in armed conflict in 2025, making it the third-deadliest year since 1989. Only 1994 - the year of the Rwandan genocide - and 2022 were worse.

Campaigners say that the UK Government has both moral and legal obligations to ensure victims of armed conflict are properly identified. This includes not only conflicts where UK military forces are active on the ground, but also where the UK is supplying arms or other forms of military support. Wherever the UK is engaged politically or through humanitarian assistance it should also be supporting independent documentation of casualties, they say.

‘More than a century after the UK began commemorating the human cost of war each year on 11 November, it urgently needs to do more to ensure fatalities of modern warfare are properly recorded and acknowledged. Remembering the dead of the nation’s past without taking steps to recognise those suffering and dying today betrays the spirit of Remembrance Day’, said Rachel Taylor, Executive Director of Every Casualty Counts.

At today’s event, Every Casualty Counts will share a preview of *Memorial 2026*, a new project giving names, faces and life stories to some of the people behind these numbers. Gathered by independent casualty recorders across 20 conflicts worldwide, it tells the personal stories of more than 130 people killed last year, on all sides of the political divides. The youngest victim included is a baby of just two months. *Memorial 2026* will be launched publicly on Remembrance Sunday, 8 November, at https://memorial.everycasualty.org.

The day’s event features researchers and survivors from Afghanistan, Israel and Palestine, and Northern Ireland, discussing the practical and political challenges of accounting for every death, and why it matters for building peace. Speakers joining remotely include the directors of *Lost Lives*, the award-winning film of the book that recorded every death in the Northern Ireland Troubles; one of the authors of the Kosovo Memory book, which documents every person killed in the conflict from 1998 to 2000; and representatives of the *Parents Circle-Families Forum*, organisers of the joint Palestinian-Israeli Alternative Memorial Day. Journalists and academics will also participate to discuss the ethics and challenges of reporting on victims of war.

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