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Wednesday, September 03, 2003

Headlines

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Published on Tuesday, August 5, 2003 by the [San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

Officials Confirm Dropping Firebombs on Iraqi Troops

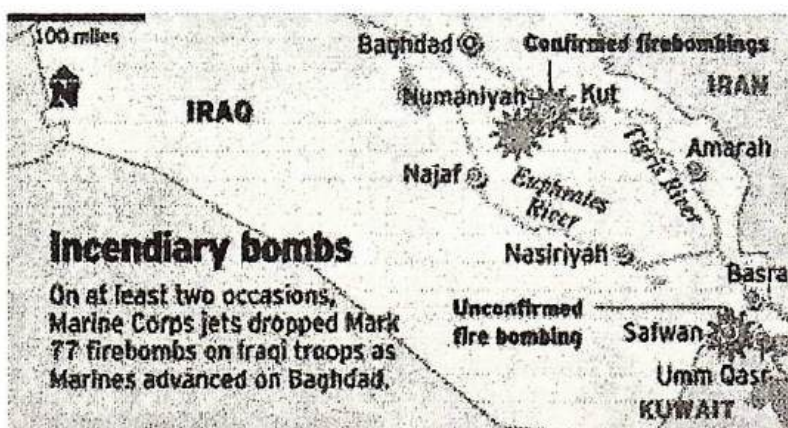
Results are 'remarkably similar' to using napalm

by James W. Crawley

American jets killed Iraqi troops with firebombs – similar to the controversial napalm used in the Vietnam War – in March and April as Marines battled toward Baghdad.

Marine Corps fighter pilots and commanders who have returned from the war zone have confirmed dropping dozens of incendiary bombs near bridges over the Saddam Canal and the Tigris River. The explosions created massive fireballs.

"We napalmed both those (bridge) approaches," said Col. James Alles in a recent interview. He commanded Marine Air Group 11, based at Miramar Marine Corps Air Station, during the war. "Unfortunately, there were people there because you could see them in the (cockpit) video."



MARK 77 FIREBOMB

- Similar in size and appearance to earlier napalm canisters.
- Loaded with 44 pounds of polystyrene-like gelling compound and 63 gallons of jet fuel.
- Can be carried by F/A-18 Hornet attack jets or AV-8 Harrier jump jets.
- Without fins, the blunt-nosed bombs tumble when dropped, which increases the spread of the flammable gel when the canisters strike the ground.
- Weighs 510 pounds



A firebomb is a thin-skinned container of fuel gel designed for use against dug-in troops.

SOURCES: U.S. Marine Corps; Dept. of Defense; GlobalSecurity.com; Associated Press

BRIAN CRAGIN / Union-Tribune

"They were Iraqi soldiers there. It's no great way to die," he added. How many Iraqis died, the military couldn't say. No accurate count has been made of Iraqi war casualties.

The bombing campaign helped clear the path for the Marines' race to Baghdad.

During the war, Pentagon spokesmen disputed reports that napalm was being used, saying the Pentagon's stockpile had been destroyed two years ago.

Apparently the spokesmen were drawing a distinction between the terms "firebomb" and "napalm." If reporters had asked about firebombs, officials said yesterday they would have confirmed their use.

What the Marines dropped, the spokesmen said yesterday, were "Mark 77 firebombs." They acknowledged those are incendiary devices with a function "remarkably similar" to napalm weapons.

Rather than using gasoline and benzene as the fuel, the firebombs use kerosene-based jet fuel, which has a smaller concentration of benzene.

Hundreds of partially loaded Mark 77 firebombs were stored on pre-positioned ammunition ships overseas, Marine Corps officials said. Those ships were unloaded in Kuwait during the weeks preceding the war.

"You can call it something other than napalm, but it's napalm," said John Pike, defense analyst with GlobalSecurity.com, a nonpartisan research group in Alexandria, Va.

Although many human rights groups consider incendiary bombs to be inhumane, international law does not prohibit their use against military forces. The United States has not agreed to a ban against possible civilian targets.

"Incendiaries create burns that are difficult to treat," said Robert Musil, executive director of Physicians for Social Responsibility, a Washington group that opposes the use of weapons of mass destruction.

Musil described the Pentagon's distinction between napalm and Mark 77 firebombs as "pretty outrageous."

"That's clearly Orwellian," he added.

Developed during World War II and dropped on troops and Japanese cities, incendiary bombs have been used by American forces in nearly every conflict since. Their use became controversial during the Vietnam War when U.S. and South Vietnamese aircraft dropped millions of pounds of napalm. Its effects were shown in a Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph of Vietnamese children running from their burned village.

Before March, the last time U.S. forces had used napalm in combat was the Persian Gulf War, again by Marines.

During a recent interview about the bombing campaign in Iraq, Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Jim Amos confirmed aircraft dropped what he and other Marines continue to call napalm on Iraqi troops on several occasions. He commanded Marine jet and helicopter units involved in the Iraq war and leads the Miramar-based 3rd Marine Air Wing.

Miramar pilots familiar with the bombing missions pointed to at least two locations where firebombs were dropped.

Before the Marines crossed the Saddam Canal in central Iraq, jets dropped several firebombs on enemy positions near a bridge that would become the Marines' main crossing point on the road toward Numaniyah, a key town 40 miles from Baghdad.

Next, the bombs were used against Iraqis near a key Tigris River bridge, north of Numaniyah, in early April.

There were reports of another attack on the first day of the war.

Two embedded journalists reported what they described as napalm being dropped on an Iraqi observation post at Safwan Hill overlooking the Kuwait border.

Reporters for CNN and the Sydney (Australia) Morning Herald were told by unnamed Marine officers that aircraft dropped napalm on the Iraqi position, which was adjacent to one of the Marines' main invasion routes.

Their reports were disputed by several Pentagon spokesmen who said no such bombs were used nor did the United States have any napalm weapons.

The Pentagon destroyed its stockpile of napalm canisters, which had been stored near Camp Pendleton at the Fallbrook Naval Weapons Station, in April 2001.

Yesterday military spokesmen described what they see as the distinction between the two types of incendiary bombs. They said mixture used in modern firebombs is a less harmful mixture than Vietnam War-era napalm.

"This additive has significantly less of an impact on the environment," wrote Marine spokesman Col. Michael Daily, in an e-mailed information sheet provided by the Pentagon.

He added, "many folks (out of habit) refer to the Mark 77 as 'napalm' because its effect upon the target is remarkably similar."

In the e-mail, Daily also acknowledged that firebombs were dropped near Safwan Hill.

Alles, who oversaw the Safwan bombing raid, said 18 one-ton satellite-guided bombs, but no incendiary bombs, were dropped on the site.

Military experts say incendiary bombs can be an effective weapon in certain situations.

Firebombs are useful against dug-in troops and light vehicles, said GlobalSecurity's Pike.

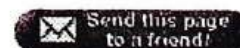
"I used it routinely in Vietnam," said retired Marine Lt. Gen. Bernard Trainor, now a prominent defense analyst. "I have no moral compunction against using it. It's just another weapon."

And, the distinctive fireball and smell have a psychological impact on troops, experts said.

"The generals love napalm," said Alles, who has transferred to Washington. "It has a big psychological effect."

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Pilots confirm US dropped napalm in Baghdad advance

posted by Independant on Monday August 11 2003 @ 09:03AM PDT

Pilots confirm US dropped napalm in Baghdad advance
New Zealand Herald 11.08.2003



WASHINGTON - American pilots dropped the controversial incendiary agent napalm on Iraqi troops during the advance on Baghdad. The attacks caused massive fireballs that obliterated several Iraqi positions.

The Pentagon denied using napalm at the time, but Marine pilots and their commanders have confirmed they used an upgraded version of the weapon against dug-in positions. They said napalm was used because of its psychological effect on an enemy.

A 1980 United Nations convention banned the use against civilian targets of napalm, a terrifying mixture of jet fuel and polystyrene that sticks to skin as it burns. The US, which did not sign the treaty, is one of the few countries that makes use of the weapon. It was employed notoriously against both civilian and military targets in the Vietnam war.

The upgraded weapon, which uses kerosene rather than petrol, was used in March and April, when dozens of napalm bombs were dropped near bridges over the Saddam Canal and the Tigris River, south of Baghdad.

"We napalmed both those [bridge] approaches," said Colonel James Alles, commander of Marine Air Group 11. "Unfortunately there were people there ... you could see them in the [cockpit] video. They were Iraqi soldiers. It's no great way to die. The generals love napalm. It has a big psychological effect."

A reporter from the Sydney Morning Herald who witnessed another napalm attack on March 21 on an Iraqi observation post at Safwan Hill, close to the Kuwaiti border, wrote the following day: "Safwan Hill went up in a huge fireball and the observation post was obliterated. 'I pity anyone who is in there, a Marine sergeant said. We told them to surrender.'"

At the time, the Pentagon insisted the report was untrue. "We completed destruction of our last batch of napalm on April 4, 2001," it said.

The revelation that napalm was used in the war against Iraq, while the Pentagon denied it, has outraged opponents of the war.

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The Pentagon said it had not tried to deceive. It drew a distinction between traditional napalm, first invented in 1942, and the weapons dropped in Iraq, which it calls Mark 77 firebombs.

< 'Hopscotch Rebellion' reaches Honolulu sidewalks | 'Bring us home': GIs flood US with war-weary emails >

☞ writes on Monday August 11 2003 @ 04:07PM PDT: [reply | parent]

What? The Pentagon lie? No way!

☞ writes on Monday August 11 2003 @ 08:10PM PDT: [reply | parent]

Isn't Napalm a chemical weapon? So the US used weapons of mass destruction against Iraq.

☞ afxgrin writes on Monday August 11 2003 @ 08:34PM PDT: [reply | parent]

This is fucking sick.

"The generals love napalm. It has a big psychological effect."

Well, no shit.

☞ pr writes on Tuesday August 12 2003 @ 08:11AM PDT: [reply | parent]

"We were firebombing over the Tigris when the drugs began to take hold..."

THE CUTTING EDGE - THE NEED FOR SPEED - Going to War on Drugs When Tom Cruise uttered those famous words in the film Top Gun, "I feel the need, the need for speed", he would not have known that his words had already been taken literally by the U.S. Air Force, in a way he could never have imagined. This documentary exposes how the Air Force, Navy and Special Forces have been issuing mind-altering drugs to their soldiers and airmen - almost certainly resulting in the deaths of allied forces and innocent civilians. In an extraordinary investigation, American military personnel speak for the first time, to explain how they were used as guinea pigs in wars ranging from the Gulf, Bosnia, Afghanistan and right up until the recent conflict in Iraq. We also discover that vital information on 'friendly fire' incidents has been withheld and examine the true human costs of wars fought on drugs. (From Germany, in English). CC

☞ Christopher Day writes on Wednesday August 13 2003 @ 05:53AM PDT: [reply | parent]

It gives new meaning to the phrase "War on Drugs."

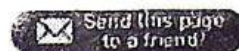
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Wednesday, September 03, 2003

Headlines



Published on Thursday, August 7, 2003 by the Los Angeles Times

Immunity for Iraqi Oil Dealings Raises Alarm

Some contend Bush's order grants U.S. firms a broad exemption, a view the government rejects
by Lisa Girion

datum

An executive order signed by President Bush more than two months ago is raising concerns that U.S. oil companies may have been handed blanket immunity from lawsuits and criminal prosecution in connection with the sale of Iraqi oil.

The Bush administration said Wednesday that the immunity wouldn't be nearly so broad.

But lawyers for various advocacy organizations said the two-page executive order seemed to completely shield oil companies from liability — even if it could be proved that they had committed human rights violations, bribed officials or caused great environmental damage in the course of their Iraqi-related business.

"As written, the executive order appears to cancel the rule of law for the oil industry or anyone else who gets possession or control of Iraqi oil or anything of value related to Iraqi oil," said Tom Devine, legal director for the Washington-based Government Accountability Project, a nonprofit group that defends whistle-blowers.

Taylor Griffin, a Treasury Department spokesman, dismissed that interpretation, saying the president issued Executive Order 13303 to protect proceeds from the sale of Iraqi crude oil, which are supposed to go into a special fund that the United Nations set up in May to help rebuild the war-torn country.

"This does not protect the companies' money," Griffin said. "It protects the Iraqi people's money."

For instance, administration officials said, if an American energy company received a shipment of Iraqi crude, the money to pay for the oil would be off limits in any litigation. That way, they explained, the proceeds would be sure to find their way to where they belonged: the Development Fund for Iraq.

Administration officials said the intent of the executive order would become clear once regulations, now being drafted by the Treasury Department, were issued. "Rules are forthcoming ... that will deal with some of these issues in greater specificity," Griffin said.

But Devine and others said the administration's stated intentions were not borne

It's very disingenuous to suggest that the only thing that's being protected here are development funds for Iraq. That's trying to hide the fact that it's the oil companies who are doing that work and generating those proceeds.

Betsy Apple, an attorney for Earthrights International

Immunity for Iraqi Oil Dealings Raises Alarm

out by the sweeping language in the executive order.

"Unless they offer a different, credible translation for plain English, it's no solace that the administration meant something different," Devine said.

According to the order, "any attachment, judgment, decree, lien, execution, garnishment or other judicial process is prohibited, and shall be deemed null and void, with respect to the following:

"(a) the Development Fund for Iraq and

"(b) all Iraqi petroleum and petroleum products, and interests therein, and proceeds, obligations or any financial instruments of any nature whatsoever arising from or related to the sale or marketing thereof, and interests therein, in which any foreign country or a national thereof has any interest, that are in the United States, that hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereafter come within the possession or control of United States persons."

The order defines "persons" to include corporations, and covers "any petroleum, petroleum products or natural gas originating in Iraq, including any Iraqi-origin oil inventories, wherever located."

Betsy Apple, an attorney for Earthrights International, which brings lawsuits on behalf of alleged victims of human rights abuses abroad, said the scope of the order goes far beyond the way the Treasury Department has billed it.

"It's very disingenuous to suggest that the only thing that's being protected here are development funds for Iraq," she said. "That's trying to hide the fact that it's the oil companies who are doing that work and generating those proceeds."

Devine of the Government Accountability Project suggested that the wording of the order was so broad that it could apply to anything from exploration and production of Iraqi oil to advertising and sales at U.S. gas pumps.

"Let's say I work at a Madison Avenue firm that engages in false advertising" as part of a campaign to market gasoline that was made from Iraqi crude, Devine said. The way the executive order is drawn, it appears that the ad agency "can lie to consumers as much as they want ... without any recourse by the Federal Trade Commission."

Devine added that if an oil company employee working in Iraq was fired in retaliation for blowing the whistle on wrongdoing allegedly committed by his employer, the executive order could make it impossible for him to collect damages from the company.

Similarly, an operator of an oil tanker that suffered a major spill while hauling Iraqi crude could be immune from liability, thanks to the executive order, lawyers said.

"That oil was shipped out of Iraq and it's protected," Apple said. "The company that failed to ensure it was using up-to-date tankers is not going to be held accountable.... There is nothing that anybody can do for any recourse."

Treasury Department officials said the order would not protect an oil company under such a scenario.

But Mariano-Florentino Cuellar, an assistant professor of international and administrative law at Stanford University, wasn't so sure.

The executive order is "extremely broad," Cuellar said. "If they were really trying to narrowly tailor this" to protect the Development Fund for Iraq, he said, it would have made more sense to spell out that a company is shielded from liability

"Inasmuch as that entity still owes money" to the fund.

Bush signed Executive Order 13303 on May 22. It then was published in the Federal Register, where it went largely unnoticed before being unearthed a few weeks later by Jim Vallette, a researcher with the nonprofit Sustainable Energy and Economy Network.

A lawyer for the American Petroleum Institute, the oil industry's main trade group, said he wasn't familiar with the executive order.

Jamin Raskin, a professor of constitutional law at American University, said the order appeared to improperly negate occupational safety laws aimed at protecting workers in the oil industry and to strip U.S. citizens of their right to sue.

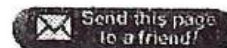
He cited in particular the part of the order that says "judicial processes" are "null and void."

That language "seems to destroy the prospect of any enforcement of civil or criminal liability," Raskin said. "People are saying of Iraq, 'It's a jungle out there,' and this order kind of makes that the law."

Raskin said Wednesday he was heartened to hear that the administration was disavowing an expansive reading of the order. "This does remind me of the extremely broad language of the executive order with respect to military tribunals that the administration later sharply refined by regulation after public protest," he said. "One can only hope that is what happens here."

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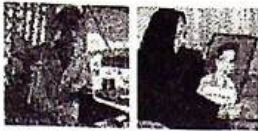
Civilian deaths stoke Iraqis' resentment Bitterness may widen resistance

Vivienne Walt, Chronicle Foreign Service

Monday, August 4, 2003

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URL: <http://home.planet.nl/~kempe103/story.html>



Baghdad -- It was 10:30 p.m. on a sweltering night in late June when 12-year-old Mohammed Al-Kubaisa climbed the concrete steps leading to the roof of his family's house.

The boy held two blankets, so he and his identical twin brother, Moustafa, could curl up together for the night, one of their favorite summer habits. Mohammed had just reached the top, when he turned to watch the military maneuvers on the street below: American soldiers patrolling with rifles. One soldier looked up in the darkness and saw a figure on the roof, watching him.

A single shot exploded into the air, slamming into Mohammed's chest.

In the chaos that followed, Mohammed's mother, Wafa Abdul Latif, recalls dragging her son inside and holding the screaming boy as his blood poured onto the floor. She says Mohammed was struggling to breathe when a group of American soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division slammed through the front door and pushed her aside to search the house for hostile gunmen.

"There were two patrols walking from different directions," Latif, 44, said in her living room as she clutched a large framed portrait of Mohammed. "One group thought the shot had come from inside the house."

Mohammed's death on June 26 is an almost forgotten incident as daily attacks by armed insurgents continue to dog the Americans trying to pacify Iraq. More than 50 U.S. soldiers have been killed in hostilities since May 1, when President Bush declared an end to the war's major combat operations.

But Iraqis say that the regularity of deaths in their own civilian population has drastically affected feelings regarding the U.S. occupation.

In numerous interviews, they warn that more than other factors -- like widespread unemployment, fuel shortages and electricity blackouts -- civilian casualties have hardened bitterness against U.S. soldiers, and could prolong or widen the armed resistance against them.

"It has increased our hate against Americans," said Ali Hatem, 23, a computer science student at the University of Baghdad. "It also increases the violence against them. In Iraq we are tribal people. When someone loses their son, they want revenge."

NUMBERS MOUNTING

Neither the Iraqis nor the Americans keep statistics for dead civilians, but the numbers are clearly mounting.

At least three Iraqis were killed in west Baghdad's elite Mansour district July 27, when U.S. soldiers from Task Force 20 opened fire on cars that overshot a military cordon. The drivers had apparently missed seeing the cordon when they turned into the area from an unblocked side street.

In other incidents, soldiers from the 82nd Airborne shot dead 13 Iraqi protesters in late April in the pro-Saddam Hussein city of Fallujah, 50 miles west of Baghdad. Soldiers fired on another demonstration June 18 at the gates of Baghdad's Republican Palace, killing at least two people.

In both incidents, U.S. forces said they believed they were being fired upon from armed insurgents hidden in the crowd. Iraqi witnesses have denied the charge.

The death of young Mohammed was cited in a report released July 23 by Amnesty International, which the London-based organization presented to officials of the Coalition Provisional Authority, the U.S.-dominated body that runs Iraq.

Amnesty said its researchers in Iraq had determined that U.S. forces were at times trigger-happy and were ill-prepared for policing Iraq.

"Coalition forces must abide by law enforcement standards and therefore use force in line with the principles of necessity and proportionality," says the report. "They should use firearms only if lives are in danger and there is no other means to respond."

U.S. officials express regrets that innocent people have been caught in the cross fire.

"I'm working very hard to ensure that with our tactics we aren't alienating the Iraqi people," Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, commander of U.S. forces in Iraq, said late last week.

NO APOLOGIES

Some of the bereaved Iraqis say they are pained that U.S. soldiers have not offered apologies or compensation, or even attempted to comfort them. Iraqi traditions generally call for monetary compensation when a murder occurs, and among several tribes, a retaliatory killing is expected.

When asked whether his officers had apologized to the families of those killed during the botched Mansour raid, Sanchez replied: "Apologies are not something that we have as a normal procedure in the military processes."

As for compensation, the Pentagon rejects nearly all claims in cases where Iraqis are mistakenly killed by U.S. soldiers during a combat operation. Under U.S. laws drafted during World War II, such cases fall under the so-called combat exclusion. Combat operations include foot patrols, like the one that killed young Mohammed.

"Our soldiers are conducting combat operations . . . and we are still engaged in (them)," Col. Marc Warren, judge advocate for the U.S. Army's V Corps and the senior U.S.

attorney in Iraq, said Sunday.

Warren said Mohammed's death was nonetheless being investigated, because he was only 12.

Soldiers, in fact, did visit the boy's family to express their regrets.

"They asked us what compensation we wanted," said Latif. "My husband was incensed. He said he wanted 10 of their men to die in exchange."

The couple said the Americans told them that one soldier had been arrested for Mohammed's death, a claim denied by military spokesman Col. Guy Shields.

"The incident was investigated. Nobody was disciplined," Shields said, adding that Mohammed's death was simply an unfortunate accident of war.

The family insists the boy could have been saved that tragic night, had it not been for the unyielding soldiers at a checkpoint in the Hay Al-Jihad district of south Baghdad.

"I tried to rush him to the hospital in my car," said a neighbor, Yaser Ala,

17. "They stopped us at the checkpoint because it was nearly curfew time. They said we could not go on, even though they saw Mohammed bleeding." No civilian is permitted outdoors in Baghdad after 11 p.m., under a curfew imposed last April.

Ala drove back to the house, where Mohammed bled to death in the car.

MAN SHOT HOLDING CAR PART

Another troubling incident involving the 82nd Airborne was the fatal shooting of 24-year-old Uday Ahmed on July 9.

That day, Uday was earning some money fixing his neighbor's 1982 car. In search of a spare part, he walked a few blocks from his house in the southwest Baghdad district of Saidiya to an auto-repair yard.

While walking across the yard, he held the car's distributor, a round metal object slightly bigger than a fist -- roughly the size and shape of a hand grenade. He was clearly visible from the rooftop of the Dorah Police Station that abuts the repair yard. There, 82nd Airborne soldiers are posted around the clock behind sandbags, rifles at the ready.

From atop the roof, a soldier spotted Uday and fired. Details of what happened came from several witnesses who spoke three weeks after the incident.

"I heard the bang of a rifle shot and swung around," said Ali Hassan, 40, who runs a falafel stand about 20 feet from where Uday stood. "This man was holding a car part. He doubled over bleeding and then glanced up. At that moment, a second shot came from the roof of the police station. It hit him and he dropped. There was blood everywhere."

Moustafa Ahmed, Uday's 28-year-old brother, displaying an autopsy report from Iraq's Ministry of Health, said, "No Americans have visited us to speak about what happened. And we don't feel we can go speak to them."

The 82nd Airborne soldiers posted at the Dorah Police Station would not comment and referred a reporter to the division's base two blocks away. Commanders refused to discuss the incident.

Young Mohammed's twin brother, Moustafa, meanwhile, has left home to live with an aunt and her children. "I don't want to be at home," said the shy boy. "There is no one to play with anymore."

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Iraqi Town's Anger Explodes Into Chaotic Revolt

Tense Encounter Underscores U.S. Difficulties

By Anthony Shadid

Washington Post Foreign Service

Wednesday, August 6, 2003; Page A10

KHALDIYAH, Iraq, Aug. 5 -- The troubles that swept through this rough-and-tumble farm town along the Euphrates River began with a grenade attack Monday on a U.S. convoy parked outside the mayor's office.



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A few hours later -- after a staccato series of escalations compounded by confusion, misperceptions and anger -- a mob had ransacked the mayor's office. Its newly painted white walls were scorched from fires still smoldering today. At least two teenage boys were shot and wounded, and the mayor and police chief in charge of restoring order were nowhere to be seen.

In the aftermath, the U.S. military was left pondering

what it would take to bring calm from chaos and resurrect its effort to rehabilitate Khaldiyyah's municipal government, while some residents of the town of 15,000 were vowing that they would never allow American forces to return. U.S. troops had withdrawn from the town earlier.

"We're sad this building was destroyed. This is our property," said Said Farhan Abed, 41, as he gazed at the two-story mayor's office, which was looted of everything except a toilet. "But we feel happy we got rid of the Americans."

U.S. forces have blamed resistance to the four-month occupation of Iraq on an eclectic assortment of Saddam Hussein loyalists, religiously inspired militants and foreign fighters. The groups enjoy little support from citizens mostly interested in improving their lives after years of deprivation and repression, U.S. forces have said.

But the unrest Monday in Khaldiyyah, which lies on a sun-baked plain 45 miles west of Baghdad, provides a glimpse of how brittle U.S. efforts to reconstitute Iraq remain, and how quickly popular sentiments, particularly in the restive region that is home to Iraq's Sunni Muslim minority, can turn from simmering anger to open revolt.

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"It's my sense that this was a setback that we can recover from," said Maj. Antonio Aguto, the executive officer for the 3rd Infantry Division, which is in charge of much of western Iraq. "This too will pass. It will obviously take some doing."

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The trouble began, residents recall, at about 10:30 a.m. Aguto said soldiers from the 43rd Engineering Company had traveled to Khaldiya for a weekly meeting with the mayor, police and other officials on making improvements in the town.

Some residents, however, believed that the U.S. troops were meeting informers behind closed doors. In the past six weeks, two lists had circulated in Khaldiya of people believed to be giving U.S. forces information -- the first list had 30 names, the second had six. No one on the lists had faced reprisals, residents said, but as with other Sunni towns, the suspected informers were a source of resentment.

"The Americans are used to going inside this building," said Kamal Suweid, 33, and an employee at a state-owned company in the nearby city of Ramadi. "We didn't accept their presence in there."

Soon after the meeting began, two armored vehicles and a Humvee parked outside the office came under fire. Abed, Suweid and others said two rocket-propelled grenades were fired from the sprawling date groves across the street; Aguto said it was only one, launched by a passenger who stepped out of a black Mercedes-Benz. The rocket-propelled grenade missed its mark, but the explosion drew a crowd of onlookers.

U.S. troops were quick to respond. Reinforcements were called in to sweep the area, Aguto said.

In their search for the assailants, residents said, U.S. troops used explosives to open the corrugated iron gates of two stores along a row of blacksmith and mechanic shops, where the men were believed to be hiding. The blasts tore off the gates, incensing a crowd that had grown to 200 people outside the mayor's office across the street. Aguto said he was not aware of those measures.

By then, Mayor Thar Halu Hamdullah and Abed Khalaf Jadaan, the police chief whose pickup truck was parked outside had been removed from city hall by U.S. troops. As the troops withdrew east toward the town of Fallujah, residents were chanting, and Iraqi flags were later held aloft. A crowd had gathered around a reporter from the Arab television network al-Jazeera, who was interviewing Abed when gunfire broke out.

Aguto said a man stepped out of the crowd. A soldier fired warning shots, he said, then aimed at the man and shot again. "To my understanding, they saw what resembled a grenade," he said. "You have to remember we had just taken an RPG shot."

Aguto said he understood one person was wounded but that troops were unable to locate that person when they tried to assist him.

Witnesses said the gunshots wounded Wisam Abdel-Karim Ahmed, 17, and Abdel-Qadir Fayedh, 15.

Abdel-Jabbar Ahmed Mohammed, another boy who was walking with the teenagers and was wounded in the leg by what he called shrapnel, said Ahmed waved his hand at a soldier and shouted, "Go!" Ahmed denied this. "We didn't say anything," he said, lying on a couch with a bandage over his right thigh. "It was just revenge for the person who shot them with an RPG. It was a lesson for us."

In about a dozen interviews in Khaldiyyah today, no one reported seeing a grenade, and residents said the shooting had infuriated the crowd.

"They fired without reason. I swear to God," said Fawzi Saleh, a 57-year-old policeman, one of the few police officers seen in the town. "The boys didn't have guns. They were just going to see al-Jazeera. It's really ridiculous. God above us wouldn't accept such a thing."

Mohammed Ibrahim, 33, came out of his house to see what was going on when he heard the blasts across the street. He found himself a few feet from the two youths, who lay on the ground bleeding. Ahmed was able to walk, and Ibrahim carried Fayedh to a pickup truck, which sped the wounded boys to the hospital in Ramadi. As the Americans withdrew, residents said, the crowd threw rocks at the police chief's pickup, then burned it. Others threw four grenades into the mayor's office, then ransacked it and set it on fire.

"The protest was not because we worked with Saddam," Ibrahim said. "The protest was because they shot children and bombed the shops. My opinion -- now, now -- is that Saddam is better than the Americans and the Governing Council" -- the U.S.-appointed body now ruling Iraq.

By this morning, the mayor's office, recently furnished and painted, was an empty hull, with a cracked safe at the entrance.

Doors and windows were ripped from their frames. Gone was the new office furniture, along with carpets, floor tiles and molding painted in bright blues, yellows and pinks along the ceiling. Fluorescent lights and light bulbs were taken, as was a circuit breaker, banister and bathroom sink. From atop the building, looters made away with four water tanks and had started ripping away slabs of concrete lining the roof. Amid piles of half-burned documents, still smoldering, the only fixture left was a toilet.

"They don't need that," Abed said.

Abed, college-educated but unemployed, surveyed the damage with a hint of embarrassment.

"They don't really need all these things," he said. "But if they leave the furniture, the Americans will come back."

Aguto, speaking from the 3rd Infantry Division's base in Ramadi, said the Americans planned to reenter the town, although residents said that by late this afternoon, they had seen no soldiers. Aguto acknowledged that Monday's incident was a setback, but a temporary one.

"We will go back in, we will help the mayor establish security and calm. We will help him rebuild his office if that's what he desires," Aguto said. "We know

the way we want to go forward. This isn't a grope in the dark."

Today, a handful of people from the mayor's office had set up shop at the nearby office of a relief organization -- the only furniture was a green and gray desk in a bare room. The police chief was said to be at home, the mayor in meetings in Ramadi.

"There's no government here in Khaldiya," Ibrahim said.

"What are they doing?" asked Abed, who called the police powerless. "What are they providing us?"

They recited the litany of complaints heard often in Sunni Muslim towns -- prices for gasoline and butane had skyrocketed, and electricity was better but available only 12 hours a day. They hesitated to praise the resistance, which they insisted was religious, not Baathist, but voiced sentiments that suggest fertile ground for opposition grounded in Islam.

"Every true Iraqi Muslim, who has faith in his heart, will not accept humiliation, and he will resist Americans and any occupier," Abed said. "We won't accept anyone who comes on the back of a tank."

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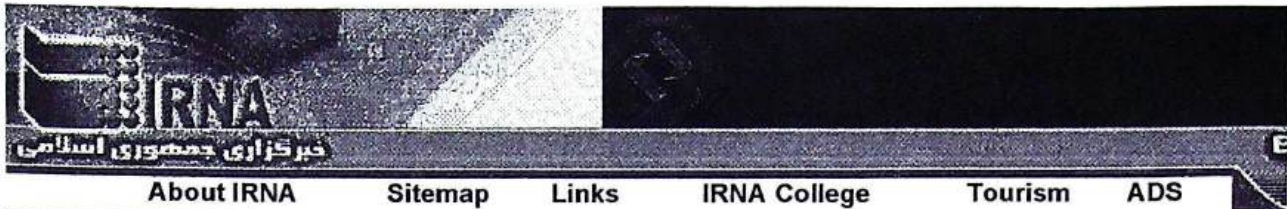
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German expert: Who is to hold the US accountable?

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Berlin, Aug 9, IRNA – Pentagon officials this week confirmed the use of the napalm-like MK-77 firebombs against Iraqi forces, but "who is to hold a state with such military and political might accountable?"

Otfried Nassauer, head of the Berlin Information Center for Transatlantic Security (BITS), answers his own question by saying that Washington will "most probably not" face any consequences, press reports said Saturday.

The prominent German security expert said that although the Geneva Convention prohibits the use of firebombs, the United States never ratified the additional protocol.

"And even if it did, who is to hold a state with such military and political might accountable?"

Questioned by the daily Tagesspiegel paper on why Washington was willing to ignore the international community's ethic consensus, Nassauer said: "Measured by their own yardstick, they aren't."

"The USA destroyed the majority of their napalm stock by 2001. The bombs are now filled differently...(which) is why from the US perspective, napalm-bombs were not used in Iraq."

The MK-77 firebombs used in Iraq are filled with a different mix of chemicals than napalm: "This means the MK-77 is an advanced (model) of the classical napal bomb and has the same military effect."

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8.30am

Wolfowitz sparks fury from al-Jazeera

Dominic Timms
Tuesday July 29, 2003
The Guardian

A fresh row has erupted between al-Jazeera and the US government after the deputy defence secretary, Paul Wolfowitz, effectively accused the Arabic satellite news channel of inciting violence against US troops in Iraq.

In an interview with Fox News, Mr Wolfowitz accused al-Jazeera of "slanting the news" in favour of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein and claimed that the channel's "very biased reporting" had the effect of "inciting violence against our troops" in Iraq.

And he accused al-Jazeera of deliberately misreporting events surrounding the "detention" of a leading holy man, sparking a furious reaction from the broadcaster.

Asked by Fox News Sunday anchorman Brit Hume, to give examples, the deputy defence secretary cited an al-Jazeera report that said US troops had detained one of the key Imams in the holy city of Najaf after he called for the formation of an Islamic army.

"It was a false report, but they were broadcasting it instantly," Mr Wolfowitz claimed.

But al-Jazeera denied it had ever reported the detention of the Imam, Muqtada Al-Sadr, and accused Mr Wolfowitz of basing his claims on "second, third and fourth-hand sources".

"Al-Jazeera is constantly accused of making outrageous and irresponsible statements we never made at all. We attribute the incredibly poor understanding and chronic misrepresentation of our reporting to the fact that almost no one actually watches al-Jazeera because they do not understand classical Arabic," the channel said in a statement.

"Therefore they rely on information from second, third and fourth-hand sources. Clearly Mr Wolfowitz was not informed of the differences between the word "hisar" meaning embargo or encirclement and "mu'taqal" meaning "detained."

Al-Jazeera said its reporter Yasser Abu Hilala had received calls from the Imam's secretary saying the US army had surrounded his house after he called for the formulation of an Islamic army. The US military activity resulted in a mass demonstration outside the Republican palace.

"When Mr Abu Hilala attempted to contact the US military's public information centre they did not even know about the demonstration going on in their own back yard, let alone what was happening in Najaf. When the US military finally got round to denying the encirclement of al-Sadr's home over 24-hours later we duly reported it."

The satellite channel also denied it had given favourable treatment to the regime of the former dictator, pointing out that Mr Abu Hilala and another reporter had been expelled from the country and received death threats before the fall of Saddam Hussein.

The satellite channel also said its Baghdad centre had been shut down twice by the former Iraqi information minister for "what they believed was unfavourable coverage".

Al-Jazeera called for Mr Wolfowitz to withdraw his comments and demanded an apology.

America Increasing Pressure on Al-Jazeera TV

Wednesday, July 30 2003 @ 09:26 PM GMT

"The unprecedented dispute between an Anglo-American occupation authority and an Arab station once praised for its services to free speech in the Arab world comes at a time when the US administration appears to be laying the ground work to close down Al-Jazeera's operations in Iraq .."

By Robert Fisk

BAGHDAD - Only a day after US Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz claimed that the Arabic Al-Jazeera television channel was "inciting violence" and "endangering the lives of American troops" in Iraq, the station's Baghdad bureau chief has written a scathing reply to the American administration, complaining that in the past month the station's offices and staff in Iraq "have been subject to strafing by gunfire, death threats, confiscation of news material, and multiple detentions and arrests, all carried out by US soldiers..."

The unprecedented dispute between an Anglo-American occupation authority supposedly dedicated to "democracy" in Iraq and an Arab station once praised by Washington for its services to free speech in the Arab world comes at a time when the US administration appears to be laying the ground work to close down Al-Jazeera's operations in Iraq — along with those of the Arabia channel — for alleged "incitement to violence".

America's senior occupation proconsul in Iraq, Paul Bremer, has officially stated that he would close down newspapers or television stations guilty of "incitement to violence" — without, of course, explaining exactly what this phrase means.

Wolfowitz, a right-wing ideologue and fervent supporter of Israel, is one of the cabal of advisers who pushed the US administration into war with Iraq on the grounds that Saddam possessed weapons of mass destruction and that the destruction of his regime would open the way to a new, democratic Middle East. He used the equally right-wing and Murdoch-owned Fox Channel to make his allegations against Al-Jazeera, many of which are palpably false. He claimed, for example, that the staff of Al-Jazeera "have a way when they want to cover somebody favorably, including Saddam Hussein in the old days, of slanting the news incredibly ... and now, the minute they get something that they can use to spread hatred and violence in Iraq, they're broadcasting it around."

In fact, as the station's Baghdad bureau chief, Wadah Khanfar, points out in his letter — addressed to Bremer, a copy of which has been obtained by The Independent — "Al-Jazeera did not cover Saddam Hussein favorably. Both Yasser Abu Hilala (one of the channel's senior correspondents) and I myself have been expelled from Baghdad by the former regime for our reporting. The Baghdad bureau was shut down twice by the former Ministry of Information for unfavorable coverage, and once by Al-Jazeera itself in protest over attempts at censorship. Al-Jazeera reporters in Iraq have even been physically assaulted by former Information Minister Mohamed Saeed As-Sahaf for daring to broadcast events which cast the regime in an unfavorable light."

Already, however, the dispute between Al-Jazeera and the US authorities has gone beyond mere words. American troops have raided the bureau's offices in the city of Ramadi and arrested reporters, harassment that has been accompanied by claims from US officers — a certain Col. Teeple of the US 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment prominent among them — that Al-Jazeera has advance notice of attacks against American troops. The truth is that the station sometimes receives unsolicited videotapes — hand-delivered to their reception staff by unidentified men — showing the military ambush of US convoys. In many cases, Al-Jazeera has decided not to show the tapes — but this has

had no effect on the Americans.

The history of mutual — indeed lethal — antagonism between Washington and Al-Jazeera goes back to the 2001 bombardment of Afghanistan when, after the Arab station showed videotape of Osama Bin Laden, an American Cruise missile exploded in their Kabul bureau. Then in the last days of the invasion of Iraq this year, after the channel beamed pictures of Iraqi civilians mutilated by US air raids and tape of American prisoners in Iraqi hands, a US jet targeted the station's Baghdad bureau, killing one of its senior reporters. Al-Jazeera had earlier given the map coordinates of its Baghdad offices to the Pentagon to prevent any accidental bombing of its bureau. These frightening events — regarded by many of the international Baghdad press corps as a deliberate attempt by the Americans to murder Al-Jazeera staff — mean that the channel's reporters regard themselves at risk of their lives if they offend the Americans.

Another of Wolfowitz's claims involved the station's coverage of an incident in the Iraqi Shiite city of Najaf. "Al-Jazeera ran a totally false report that American troops had gone and detained one of the key imams in this holy city of Najaf, Muqtad Al-Sadr (sic)," he said. "It was a false report, but they were out broadcasting it instantly." Wadah Khanfar's detailed reply — and his sense of frustration — will be familiar to any Western newspaper editor. "Al-Jazeera never stated at any time that Muqtada As-Sadr was detained," he wrote. "Our correspondent Yasser Abu Hilala, a top reporter with thirteen years experience covering the Middle East, stated he had received phone calls from Muqtada As-Sadr's secretary and two of his top deputies saying the imam's house was surrounded by US forces after he called for the formation of an Islamic Army. The phone calls were not only made to our offices but to all the offices of As-Sadr's followers in Baghdad resulting in a massive demonstration in front of the Republic Palace within 45 minutes which we reported, along with the New York Times, CNN and a host of others."

Khanfar added that "when Mr. Abu Hilala attempted to contact the US military's public information center they did not even know about the demonstration going on in their own backyard, let alone what was happening in Najaf. When the US military finally got around to denying the encirclement of As-Sadr's home over 24 hours later, we duly reported it."

The Al-Jazeera bureau chief suspects that poor translation of its dispatches mean that "half-truths and total falsehoods about our reporting...make the rounds in Washington, Baghdad and elsewhere." No doubt remembering the American missile strikes against Al-Jazeera's offices, he also states in his letter to Bremer that "the mischaracterizations of our reporting made by Mr. Wolfowitz and others are a form of incitement to violence against Al-Jazeera, the first Arab television channel to practice professional Western-style journalism free of the notorious censorship so prominent in the rest of the Middle East."

Khanfar is calling for Wolfowitz to retract his statement and issue an apology. But the real cause of American anger has always been Al-Jazeera's powerful coverage of Arab and Muslim suffering — and its ability to reflect this in millions of homes throughout the Middle East.

And since the US government neither explained nor apologized for its deliberate bombing of the station's offices in Kabul and Baghdad, Khanfar has not the slightest chance of an apology from Wolfowitz.

Source: *The Independent*



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THE MEDIA

American troops' attitude towards journalists worsening

Report, RSF/IFEX

6 August 2003

On 31 July 2003, RSF deplored the worsening attitude of American troops towards journalists in Iraq and urged United States (U.S.) Administrator Paul Bremer to explain why two Iranian journalists, Said Aboutaleb and Soheil Karimi, of the public television station IRIB, have been held since 1 July for alleged "security violations".

The organisation noted that confiscations of equipment, arrests of journalists and incidents between the media and American soldiers had increased in recent days.

"The U.S.-British forces must provide convincing evidence that the Iranians have violated security [provisions] or release them at once," RSF Secretary-General Robert Ménard said. He expressed concern over the worsening conditions for journalists and recent statements by U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz accusing pan-Arab satellite television stations Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya of airing reports encouraging violence against U.S. troops.

IRIB's bureau chief in Baghdad, Gholem Reza Kutchak, said his two journalists, as well as an Iraqi interpreter and a driver, were arrested on 1 July by American troops and taken to U.S. army headquarters in the southern town of Diwaniyah. They were working on a documentary around Al-Kut and Diwaniyah. On 7 July, U.S. soldiers went to the hotel in Kerbala where they had stayed and took away their belongings. The Iranian consul in Baghdad was told by U.S. forces on 15 July that they had been transferred to the Baghdad airport detention camp.

A spokesman for the U.S.-British forces said the journalists were arrested for "security violations" and that when they were picked up they were not behaving like journalists.

In addition, on 27 July, Kazutaka Sato, of Japan's Nippon Television Network, was beaten up by U.S. soldiers in Baghdad and detained for an hour until other foreign journalists came to find him. He was thrown on the ground and kicked after filming a U.S. army attack in the city's Al-Mansur district, in which five civilians were killed in a raid on a house where former president Saddam Hussein was believed to be hiding. Sato's camera was returned to him. "It seems they had something to hide, perhaps the bodies of civilians," he said.

The newspaper "Al-Adala", organ of Iraq's main Shiite party, said its Baghdad offices were recently ransacked by U.S. troops.

On 26 July, four Turkish journalists -Yalçın Dogan, Özdemir Ince, Faruk Balıkcı and Ferit Aslan - were detained for an hour and a half by U.S. troops. Their equipment was returned but the photographs they had taken of soldiers with a digital camera were erased.

Also on 26 July, Al-Jazeera's correspondent in Mosul, Nawaf Al-Shahwani, was arrested with his driver and held by U.S. troops until the night of 27 to 28 July. Their film was confiscated. Iraqi police had briefly detained a four-man Al-Jazeera team on 22 July while they were filming protests against the U.S.-British presence. The station said Iraqi police had arrested the four at the U.S. army's request.

On 29 July, on the U.S. television network Fox, Wolfowitz charged that Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya were airing "false and slanted reports that are an incitement to violence" against U.S. troops. The two

stations have protested against the accusations.

A report entitled "The Iraqi media three months after the war: a new but fragile freedom", published by RSF on 23 July, expressed concern about the possible misuse of the June order by Bremer concerning "inimical media activity".

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Wednesday, September 03, 2003

Headlines



Published on Sunday, August 10, 2003 by the Independent/UK

Family Shot Dead by Panicking US Troops

Firing blindly during a power cut, soldiers kill a father and three children in their car

by Justin Huggler in Baghdad

The abd al-Kerim family didn't have a chance. American soldiers opened fire on their car with no warning and at close quarters. They killed the father and three of the children, one of them only eight years old. Now only the mother, Anwaar, and a 13-year-old daughter are alive to tell how the bullets tore through the windscreen and how they screamed for the Americans to stop.

"We never did anything to the Americans and they just killed us," the heavily pregnant Ms abd al-Kerim said. "We were calling out to them 'Stop, stop, we are a family', but they kept on shooting."

The story of how Adel abd al-Kerim and three of his children were killed emerged yesterday, exactly 100 days after President George Bush declared the war in Iraq was over. In Washington yesterday, Mr Bush declared in a radio address: "Life is returning to normal for the Iraqi people ... All Americans can be proud of what our military and provisional authorities have achieved in Iraq."



Anwaar Kawaz, 36, weeps as her daughter Hadeel, 13, stands next to her at their home in Baghdad, Iraq on Sunday Aug. 10, 2003. On Aug. 8, Anwaar's husband and three of her children were killed by U.S. forces when soldiers opened fire on the family's car as they were trying to get back home before curfew. (AP Photo/Dario Lopez-Mills)

But in this city Iraqi civilians still die needlessly almost every day at the hands of nervous, trigger-happy American soldiers.

Doctors said the father and his two daughters would have survived if they had received treatment quicker. Instead, they were left to bleed to death because the Americans refused to allow anyone to take them to hospital.

It happened at 9.30 at night, an hour after sunset, but long before the start of the curfew at 11pm. The Americans had set up roadblocks in the Tunisia quarter of Baghdad, where the abd al-Kerims live. The family pulled up to the roadblock sensibly, slowly and carefully, so as not to alarm the Americans.

But then pandemonium broke out. American soldiers were shooting in every direction. They just turned on the abd al-Kerims' car and sprayed it with bullets. You can see the holes in the front passenger window and in the rear window. You can see the blood of the dead all over the gray, imitation velvet seat covers.

A terrible misunderstanding took place. The Americans thought they were under attack from Iraqi resistance forces, according to several Iraqi witnesses. These are the circumstances of most killings of Iraqi civilians: a US patrol comes under rocket-propelled grenade attack and the soldiers panic and fire randomly.

This time there was no attack. Another car, driven by an Iraqi youth, Sa'ad al-Azawi, drove too fast up to another checkpoint further up the street. Al-Azawi and his two passengers did not hear an order to stop, as their stereo was turned up too loud. The US soldiers, thinking they were under attack, panicked and opened fire.

In the darkness of one of Baghdad's frequent power cuts, other US soldiers on the street heard gunfire and thought they were under attack. They, too, reacted by opening fire, though they could not see what was going on. Soldiers manning look-out posts on a nearby building joined in, firing down the street in the dark.

It was then that the abd al-Kerims drew up to the checkpoint. The panicking US soldiers turned on their car and shot the family to pieces.

"It was anarchy," said Ali al-Issawi, who lives on the street and witnessed the whole thing. "The Americans were firing at each other."

There was plenty of evidence lying in the street under the hot sun. Empty bullet casings lay everywhere. Bullet holes marked the walls and gates of nearby houses. Several parked cars were riddled with bullet-holes, their windows smashed and tires shredded. From the spread of the bullet holes all over the street, it was clear the soldiers had fired in every direction.

Sa'ad al-Azawi, the driver of the other car, was killed. The Americans dragged his two passengers out and beat them, still thinking they were resistance, Mr al-Issawi said. Watching from his house nearby, Mr al-Issawi did not know that al-Azawi was dead, and when the car burst into flames, he tried to rush over to help the young man.

"The Americans did not let me," he said. "A soldier came over and told me 'Inside'. He pushed me, even though my eight-year-old daughter was with me. They didn't let us get the young guy's body out of the car until he looked like he had been cooked."

Further down the street, Anwar abd al-Kerim, who was heavily pregnant and had somehow managed to escape injury in the car as bullets rained all around her, got out of the car, holding her wounded eight-year-old daughter Mervet, and sought help from her brother, who lived down the road.

She had to leave in the car her injured daughters, 16-year-old Ia and 13-year-old Haded, along with her husband, Adel, who was bleeding badly and groaning. Her 18-year-old son, Haider, was already dead. A bullet went between his eyes.

"I saw my sister running towards me with her daughter in her arms and blood pouring from her," said Ms abd al-Kerim's brother, Tha'er Jawad. "She was crying out to me 'Help, help, go and help Adel'." I put them in my car and tried to drive to the car but the American soldiers pointed their guns at me and the people shouted out to me 'Stop! Stop! They will shoot!'

"We could see the other girls and their brother lying on the back seat of the car. They would not let us go to the hospital." Ia was not as badly injured as the others. "After a while they released her and let her come to us," Mr Jawad said. "But when they finally let us go to the hospital, Mervet died. The doctors checked her injuries

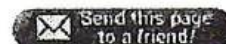
and told us she would have lived if we had brought her sooner.

"At 10.45 we heard the Americans had taken Adel and his other girl to another hospital. We went there at six the next morning, when the curfew was lifted, and they told us they both died in the hospital.

"The doctors said they might have lived if they got there sooner: the main cause of death was bleeding. The Americans left them to bleed in the street for hours."

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'Dead bodies are everywhere'

March 22 2003

There was little initial resistance as the United States Marines swept into southern Iraq early yesterday. One of the first encounters of the ground war was more like a massacre than a fight.

The Iraqi gunners fired first, soon after United States President George Bush announced the attack on Saddam Hussein was under way.

It was a fatal mistake.

The Iraqi artillery unit, preparing for the American invasion, had tested the range by firing registering shots at a likely spot where the American tanks would cross from Kuwait. US radar picked up the incoming shells and pinpointed their source.

Within hours, the Iraqi gunners and their Russian-made 122mm howitzers were destroyed as the Americans unleashed an artillery barrage that shook the ground and lit up the night sky.

"Dead bodies are everywhere," a US officer reported by radio.

Later in the day, the American firepower was turned on Safwan Hill, an Iraqi military observation post a couple of kilometres across the border. About six hours after US marines and their 155mm howitzer guns pulled up at the border, they opened up with a deafening barrage. Safwan Hill went up in a huge fireball and the Iraqi observation post was obliterated.

"I pity anybody who's in there," a marine sergeant said. "We told them to surrender."

The destruction of Safwan Hill was a priority because it had sophisticated surveillance equipment near the main highway that runs from Kuwait up to Basra and then Baghdad. The attacking forces could not attempt to cross the border unless it was destroyed.

Marine Cobra helicopter gunships firing Hellfire missiles swept in low from the south. Then the marine howitzers, with a range of 30 kilometres, opened a sustained barrage over the next eight hours. They were supported by US Navy aircraft which dropped 40,000 pounds of explosives and napalm, a US officer told the *Herald*. But a navy spokesman in Washington, Lieutenant Commander Danny Hernandez, denied that napalm - which was banned by a United Nations convention in 1980 - was used.

"We don't even have that in our arsenal," he said.

The navy admitted to using napalm as late as 1993 in training exercises on the island of Vieques in Puerto Rico, but the last cannister of a vast US naval stockpile was reportedly destroyed in a public ceremony in April 2001.

When dawn broke on Safwan Hill, all that could be seen on top of it was a single antenna amid the smoke. The marines then moved forward, their officers saying they were determined to push on as quickly as possible for Baghdad.

The first air strike on Baghdad, and Mr Bush's announcement that the war was under way, appeared to catch US officers in the Kuwait desert by surprise. The attack was originally planned for early today. But the US officers did not seem worried.

Within hours of Mr Bush's announcement, a vast army of tanks, trucks, bulldozers and heavy guns was surging to positions on Iraq's border.

Despite the early indications that Iraqi forces were showing little resistance, some US Marine units halted 200 metres inside Iraqi territory last night as they came under fire from anti-tank missiles and rifles. They called in artillery to deal with the threat.

The Pentagon subsequently issued a statement to the Herald:

Your story ('Dead bodies everywhere', by Lindsay Murdoch, March 22, 2003) claiming US forces are using napalm in Iraq, is patently false. The US took napalm out of service in the early 1970s. We completed destruction of our last batch of napalm on April 4, 2001, and no longer maintain any stocks of napalm. - Jeff A. Davis, Lieutenant Commander, US Navy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense.

This story was found at: <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/03/21/1047749944836.html>

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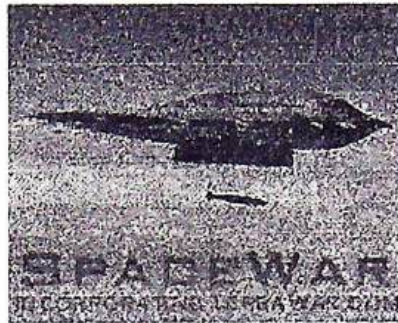
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Governing Council criticises coalition's treatment of Iraqis, warns of hatred

BAGHDAD (AFP) Aug 11, 2003

The president of Iraq's 25-man interim Governing Council demanded Monday the US-led coalition forces treat Iraqis better, amid allegations of civilians being struck down by American troops during aggressive raids.



"We have insisted on several occasions to the coalition forces on the necessity of treating Iraqis properly," Ibrahim Jafari, the council's first president in a nine-man rotation, told reporters.

He warned rough conduct with Iraqis would only let "hatred grow against them".

Jafari, a member of the Shiite Muslim fundamentalist Dawa party, called his country "occupied", but "Iraq has traditions and we must respect them and the blood of our compatriots has huge value in our eyes especially when soldiers kill innocent people."

The US forces' conduct has come under the spotlight since a raid July 27 in the upmarket Baghdad district of Mansur that left at least four civilians dead when soldiers opened fire on two cars which failed to stop at a checkpoint.

The top commander in Iraq, General Ricardo Sanchez, later expressed regret about the incident, but since then, civilians and policemen have been struck down in similar circumstances.

Sanchez said last Thursday the US troops would start to change their ground tactics in order to avoid alienating the local population.

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But the new strategy would rely mainly on better intelligence and the theory of "cordon and knock" when troops seal off a building, knock on a door, and ask permission to be let in, rather than just charging in.

Sanchez and his senior officers have cautioned the "cordon and knock" technique would be used only when appropriate, and they stressed the rules of engagement for soldiers' opening fire have not changed.

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[This is the print version of story <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/s922112.htm>]

AEST

US troops 'trigger happy', Iraqis say

The US military is investigating claims that American troops have mistakenly shot dead at least six Iraqi civilians and two local police officers in recent days.

The announcement came as the head of the Iraqi provisional government urged US troops to make more efforts to avoid civilian casualties.

US military officials have confirmed they are investigating allegations that US troops shot dead a family of six, who accidentally drove through a new checkpoint near their Baghdad home.

The military is also examining an incident in which at least two Iraqi police officers were killed by US troops.

Officials say it may have been a case of mistaken identity.

The head of the US-appointed Iraqi provisional government, Ibrahim Al Jaffri, says he has heard numerous complaints that US soldiers are 'trigger happy'.

He says US troops should exercise more care before firing, particularly as most Iraqis have welcomed them into the country, even though the US is an occupying power.

In other developments:

- Coalition forces in Iraq have launched a new operation to find guerillas loyal to the former dictator, Saddam Hussein. ([Full Story](#))
- Two British defence intelligence officials objected to the Blair Government's dossier on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction before it was published last September, an inquiry has heard. ([Full Story](#))

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News

U.S. Troops Shot Iraqi Family To Pieces: Independent

BAGHDAD, August 11 (IslamOnline.net & News Agencies) - Panicked by the relentless Iraqi resistance attacks that target them day in and day out, trigger-happy U.S. troops shot dead pointblank an Iraqi father and three of his four children, one of them only eight years old, a leading British newspaper reported Sunday, August 10.



An Iraqi woman laments the death of her brother

Now only the pregnant mother, Anwar, her 13-year-old daughter are alive to tell how the bullets tore through the windscreen and how they screamed for the Americans to stop, but her plea fell on deaf ears, the *Independent* revealed the straight-to-the-heart story.

"We were calling out to them 'stop, stop, we are a family', but they kept on shooting...We never did anything to the Americans and they just killed us," Mrs. Adel spoke about the horrible incident, which occurred Saturday, August 9, at 9.30 at night, long before the start of the curfew at 11p.m.

The respected daily further said that doctors said the father and his children would have survived if they had received treatment quicker, but they were left to bleed to death because the Americans refused to allow anyone to take them to hospital.

"American soldiers were shooting in every direction. They just turned on the car and sprayed it with bullets. You can see the holes in the front passenger window and in the rear window. You can see the blood of the dead all over the grey, imitation velvet seat covers," the paper gave on-the-scene details.

Heartbreaking Moments

Anwar's brother tells us about the worst moments in her life, when he saw his heavily pregnant sister racing against time to save her blood and flesh.

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"I saw my sister running towards me with her daughter in her arms and blood pouring from her," said Tha'er Jawad.

"She was crying out to me 'Help, help, go and help Adel'." I put them in my car and tried to drive to the car but the American soldiers pointed their guns at me and the people shouted out to me 'Stop! Stop! They will shoot!," he said, adding that Anwar had to leave in the car her injured daughters, 16-year-old Iaa and 13-year-old Haded, along with her husband, Adel, who was bleeding badly and groaning, to save her 8-year-old Mervet.

Her 18-year-old son, Haider, was already dead. A bullet went between his eyes.

"After a while the U.S. troops released Iaa and let her come to us," Jawad said. "But when they finally let us go to the hospital, Mervet died. The doctors checked her injuries and told us she would have lived if we had brought her sooner."

He continued: "At 10.45 we heard the Americans had taken Adel and his other girl to another hospital. We went there at six the next morning, when the curfew was lifted, and they told us they both died in the hospital.

"The doctors said they might have lived if they got there sooner: the main cause of death was bleeding. The Americans left them to bleed in the street for hours."

Eyewitnesses said that it has been always the case that panicked U.S. troops open fire randomly at Iraqi civilians, thinking that they were under attack.

The *Independent* gave a reminder of Sa'ad al-Azawi, an Iraqi Youngman who was driving his car with two of his colleagues. As they came across a U.S. checkpoint, they did not hear an order to stop as their stereo was turned up too loud. The U.S. soldiers, thinking they were under attack again, got panicked and opened fire.

Sa'ad al-Azawi, an eyewitness, said that the Americans further dragged Azawi's two colleagues out and beat them, still thinking they were resistance members.

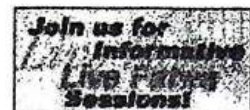
And he tried to help the bleeding Youngman out of the charred car.

"The Americans did not let me," he said. "A soldier came over and told me 'Inside'. He pushed me, even though my eight-year-old daughter was with me. They didn't let us get the young guy's body out of the car until he looked like he had been cooked."

On Saturday, U.S. President George W. Bush declared in a radio address: "Life is returning to normal for the Iraqi people ... All Americans can be proud of what

Women in the West

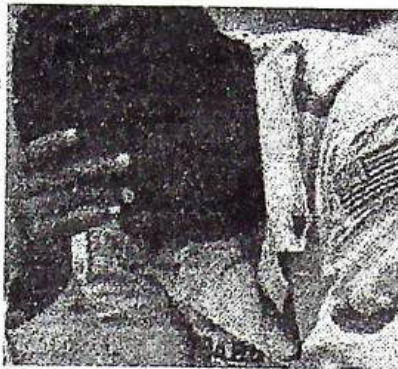
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our military and provisional authorities have achieved in Iraq."

'Bring Us Home'

Meanwhile, an unprecedented internet campaign waged on the frontline and in the U.S. is exposing the real risks for troops in Iraq, noting that Iraq has turned into a second Vietnam for the U.S. troops who want to go home. The Observer reported Sunday.



"Somewhere down the line, we became an occupation force in eyes. We don't feel like heroes any more."

"I want them to bring our troops home. I am appalled at Bush's policies. He has got us into a terrible mess," said Susan Schuman, whose son, Justin, is serving in the Iraqi town of Samarra, where U.S. troops are killed with grim regularity.

She lives in Shelburne Falls, a small town in Massachusetts, and says all her neighbors support her view.

"I don't know anyone around here who disagrees with me," she said.

Bush warned last June that the U.S. forces in Iraq face a future of "danger and sacrifice."

The U.S. soldiers themselves, through e-mails and chat rooms, paint a vivid picture of U.S. army life that is a world away from the sanitized official version, slamming the U.S. handling of postwar Iraq, the daily said.

"Somewhere down the line, we became an occupation force in eyes. We don't feel like heroes any more," Private Isaac Kindblade of the 671st Engineer Company said in an e-mail seen by *The Observer*.

"The rules of engagement are crippling. We are outnumbered. We are exhausted. We are in over our heads. The President says, "Bring 'em on." The generals say we don't need more troops. Well, they're not over here," he wrote.

Former colonel David Hackworth, who was the army's youngest colonel in the Vietnam War and one of its most decorated officers, said he receives almost 500 e-mails a day, many of them from soldiers serving in Iraq.

The paper further said that some veterans have to form organizations to campaign to bring the soldiers home and highlight their difficult conditions.

Erik Gustafson, a veteran of the 1991 Gulf war, has founded Veterans For Common Sense.

"There is an anger boiling under the surface now, and I, as a veteran, have a duty to speak because I am no longer subject to military discipline," the veteran said.

A recent email from Iraq passed to Gustafson, signed by "the Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade of the 3rd Infantry Division," said simply: "Our men and women deserve to see their loved ones again and deserve to come home. Thank you for your attention."

Schuman too is planning to join members of a new group, Military Families Speak Out, who will travel to Washington to make their case for their sons, daughters, husbands and wives, to be brought home from Iraq.

At least 57 U.S. soldiers have been killed in resistance attacks, while another 60 have now died in non-combat incidents since the White House declared major combat operations in Iraq over on May 1, according to an AFP account.

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Journalists Group Condemns Pentagon Report on Baghdad Hotel Killing

Wednesday, August 13 2003 @ 08:54 PM GMT

"This whole event from the very beginning has been shrouded in lies and deceit and shows the continuing failure of the military and political authorities to take responsibility for what happened .."

BRUSSELS - The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) on Wednesday described a Pentagon report over the killing of two journalists when United States troops fired on a hotel filled with media staff in Baghdad during the Iraq war as a "cynical whitewash" of the affair.

"While it is clear soldiers in the field were not to blame," said Aidan White, IFJ General Secretary, "the political and military commanders who failed to tell them this hotel was off limits because it was home to up to 200 media staff were negligent and they have been let off the hook."

"This is a cynical whitewashing of a horrifying and avoidable tragedy," said White in a statement issued this evening.

The Pentagon report issued this week said the attack was "a tragic and regrettable accident", but the IFJ says the US has ignored the unanswered question as to why commanders did not tell their troops that the Palestine Hotel, one of the tallest buildings on the Baghdad landscape, was a centre for foreign media staff and should not be targeted.

The hotel was the base for scores of journalists covering the Iraq conflict. On April 8 as US troops moved into the centre of Baghdad a tank round was fired at the hotel hitting the 15th floor.

Taras Protsyuk, a Ukraine cameraman working for Reuters news agency was wounded and pronounced dead on arrival at hospital. A second cameraman, Jose Couso of the Spanish television network Telecinco, was working on the floor below. He was hit by debris and died from his wounds.

Other media workers nearby were hurt.

The IFJ says that journalists worldwide still want to know why the information that the hotel was being used by journalists was not passed on to operational units.

"The families, friends and colleagues of the victims have a right to know why this knowledge was not passed on and who was responsible," said White.

The IFJ says that the report makes little of the false claims by US officials and press staff immediately after the attack that troops were fired upon first from the hotel. This version was revised only after dozens of journalists on the spot denied there was any shooting from the hotel.

"This whole event from the very beginning has been shrouded in lies and deceit and shows the continuing failure of the military and political authorities to take responsibility for what happened," said White.

The Brussels-based IFJ is the world's biggest journalists' organization representing more than 500,000 journalists in over 100 countries.

Source: Islamic Republic News Agency - IRNA

Risico uraniumgebruik in Irak onderschat

Sinds het gebruik in
Golfoorlog I van nieuwe
conventionele wapens,
waarin verarmd uranium
is verwerkt, stijgt de
kindersterfte in Irak en
kampen veteranen met
gezondheidsproblemen.
Robert Green is bezorgd.

Sinds de Golfoorlog van 1991 heb ik met grotere bezorgdheid kennis gemaakt met de gebruikte conventionele wapens, vooral in Zuid-Irak bij de slagvelden. In dezelfde periode hebben zowel Amerikaanse als Britse veteranen gezondheidsproblemen gemeld.

Het officiële aantal Amerikaanse slachtoffers was minder dan driehonderd doden en vijfhonderd gewonden, maar is inmiddels toegenomen tot honderds, claimen 221 daadwerkelijk overlevende Amerikaanse en Britse militairen.

In Groot-Brittannië zijn er meer dan 100.000 veteranen van de Golfoorlog van 1991, waarvan 17 procent van de Amerikanen en 17 procent van de Britten. Het is de bedoeling van de Britse regering dat de veteranen van de Golfoorlog van 1991 worden gecompenseerd.

Het verschil zou verband kunnen houden met de relatieve intensiteit van het gebruik van verarmd uranium (DU) in Irak.



Dochter Hanna van Michael Tidd, veteran van de eerste Golfoorlog, lijft aan ernstige ademhalingsproblemen.

VS dat ook zullen doen. Toegestaan wordt het gebruik van verarmd uranium (DU) in conventionele wapens.

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den ingesloten 22 kunnen leren hoe ze hun wapens kunnen inzetten. Het is een schadelijk idee, dat er in totaal een miljoen extra per vijf jaar DU moet worden gebruikt om de branders van vijf miljoen Amerikaanse en Britse militairen te voorzien van voldoende DU. Het is een schadelijk idee, dat er in totaal een miljoen extra per vijf jaar DU moet worden gebruikt om de branders van vijf miljoen Amerikaanse en Britse militairen te voorzien van voldoende DU.

■ **Geen gezondheidsproblemen** ■ Er grote gezondheidsproblemen bij de kinderen van de veteranen van de Golfoorlog van 1991. Het is een schadelijk idee, dat er in totaal een miljoen extra per vijf jaar DU moet worden gebruikt om de branders van vijf miljoen Amerikaanse en Britse militairen te voorzien van voldoende DU.

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US cleared over Iraq hotel deaths

By Justin Webb
BBC correspondent in Washington

A US military investigation has concluded that American soldiers who fired on a Baghdad hotel used by journalists during the war had strong reason to believe that hostile forces were in the building.

Two cameramen, one Spanish and one Ukrainian, were killed in the attack.

The report of the military investigation has not been made public, but officials have been briefing journalists about its findings and summaries have been sent to the Spanish and Ukrainian governments.

The inquiry appears to have concluded that the crew of the US tank, which fired at the Palestine hotel, acted in self defence and in keeping with the rules of engagement set out for American troops.

'No direct fire'

Officials said someone in the area of the hotel had been directing Iraqi fire on the Americans.

The tank had targeted the hotel after seeing a person with binoculars on an upper floor acting in a manner consistent with that of a spotter.

In the immediate aftermath of the attack, the Americans claimed that they were being fired on from the hotel.

However this version of events was disputed by some journalists who were there.

It seems that the claim of direct fire from the hotel has now also been dropped.

Story from BBC NEWS:
http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/world/middle_east/3145965.stm

Published: 2003/08/12 22:40:27 GMT

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1. The aftermath of conflict in Iraq

The situation in Iraq is currently one of great uncertainty. The Iraqi government and governmental agencies have collapsed, but sporadic fighting is continuing. Looting and violence has been widespread, and in some areas people have been forcibly displaced, further adding to the hardship of the Iraqi population. The US and UK forces have yet to restore order and ensure the provision of humanitarian assistance in the areas they control. Beyond immediate concerns, the duration of the military presence of the USA and UK is unknown, prospects for an effective Iraqi transitional authority are unclear and there is disagreement over the role of the UN.

The most difficult challenge for Iraq lies ahead: to ensure that in the post-conflict period human rights stand at the centre of reconstruction efforts. Addressing impunity for past violations, building a fair and effective justice system, ensuring respect for the rights of all without discrimination on grounds of religion, ethnicity or gender, and insisting that themselves drive the process forward – all will be of central importance.

The US and UK forces, as occupying powers under international law, have clear obligations to protect the Iraqi population. However, the authority of the occupying powers is limited to providing protection and assistance to the occupied population in the aftermath of war. They cannot, for example, change the legal system or introduce the Iraqi criminal justice system needed to ensure respect for human rights. Only a new Iraqi government, or a UN transitional administration set up by the Security Council, can exercise such authority under international law.

AI believes that ensuring full respect for human rights must be central to any agreement. Beyond the provision of humanitarian assistance, the UN should:



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- deploy human rights monitors throughout Iraq as soon as the security s
- establish a commission of experts to develop, in close consultation with proposals for a comprehensive program to ensure justice for past and r abuses, centred on the need to reform the Iraqi criminal justice system.

Before the military action against Iraq began on 20 March, AI repeatedly warned of widespread disorder, humanitarian crisis and human rights abuses, including once the Iraqi government's authority was removed. It urged the international community to find solutions that would lead to improvement in the human rights situation in Iraq, and only as a last resort in accordance with the UN Charter. AI never supports or opposes "regime change" and does not comment on whether the use of military force is justified or not, but is concerned solely with the protection of human rights and whether human rights law are being respected in the way a conflict is fought.

Related documents:

Iraq: The need to deploy human rights monitors - March 2003

Iraq: Ensuring justice for human rights abuses - April 2003

Iraq: Responsibilities of the occupying powers - 14 April 2003

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2. Protecting civilians and the rules of war

The immediate challenge is still to ensure respect for the laws of war in the current and future conflict. AI has sought assurances from all parties to the conflict to do their utmost to comply with their obligations under international human rights law.

International humanitarian law is the body of rules and principles that seek to protect people who are not participating in the hostilities, including civilians but also combatants who are captured.

All parties to the conflict must issue clear instructions to their forces:

- prohibiting any direct attacks against civilians or civilian objects (including military objectives);
- prohibiting attacks which do not attempt to distinguish between military or civilian objects (indiscriminate attacks);
- prohibiting attacks which, although aimed at a legitimate military target, disproportionate impact on civilians or civilian objects;
- prohibiting attacks using inherently indiscriminate weapons;
- to treat humanely all prisoners, the wounded and those seeking to surrender (must never be killed or held as hostages) – and to respect the rules relating to war;
- to take all other necessary measures to protect the civilian population from the effects of military operations, including not locating military objectives in densely populated areas or concentrations;
- to punish all breaches of the laws of war and to ensure those responsible are brought to justice.

They should also make clear to any of their allied or proxy forces that they expect them to follow the same rules.

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3. Public order and safety

A broader task in Iraq is to secure order and ensure that occupying powers and authorities respect their obligations to all of the people of Iraq. As widespread looting continues in many areas, including Baghdad, Amnesty International is reminding the occupying powers of their specific responsibilities as occupying powers under international humanitarian law. It is calling on them to take urgent measures to protect the rights of the civilian population by enforcing law and order in areas under their control, specifically by preventing destruction and violence.

The US and UK forces, as occupying powers, have a duty to protect the fundamental rights of the civilian population.

Iraqi population. They must restore and maintain public order and safety (Article 1, Regulations, 1907). Any use of force that may be required should comply with international rights and humanitarian law, including the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force by Law Enforcement Officials.

Combat troops do not usually have the training or the proper equipment for police functions, and should not be expected to do so. However, occupying powers have the responsibility for the breakdown of law and order in the areas where they establish military control. In Iraq, planning and resources seem to have been devoted to securing Iraqi oilfields. There is scarce evidence of similar levels of planning and allocation of resources for security or other institutions essential for the survival and well-being of the population. The disorder has been shockingly inadequate.

Amnesty International is calling on the USA and the UK to:

- deploy forces in sufficient numbers and with the right training and equipment to maintain law and order, until Iraqi police forces can operate effectively;
- set up urgently an effective and fair vetting procedure for members of the occupying forces, so as to reduce the chance of restoring to their duties officials who have been involved in human rights violations;
- ensure, in exercising or supervising policing functions, that the rights of expression and assembly are not arbitrarily restricted.

Related documents:

[Iraq: Respecting international humanitarian law - background information](#) - 25 March 2003
[Iraq: Looting, lawlessness and humanitarian consequences](#) - 11 April 2003
[Iraq: Responsibilities of the occupying powers](#) - 14 April 2003

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4. Humanitarian assistance

The health situation in Iraq is critical. Water shortages and power cuts threaten the population. Ransacked hospitals have acute shortages of drugs such as painkillers, antibiotics, anaesthetics, and are unable to deal with large numbers of casualties. Disorder and violence hampers the access of humanitarian relief agencies.

The US and UK forces are obliged as occupying powers to ensure food and medical supplies for the population, and to "bring in the necessary foodstuffs, medical stores and other resources of the occupied territory are inadequate" (Article 55, Fourth Geneva Convention).

The Fourth Geneva Convention states that an occupying power has the duty "to ensure the maintenance, with the cooperation of national and local authorities, the medical establishments and services, public health and hygiene in the occupied territory. Occupying powers are also required to facilitate and protect relief schemes, while in no way relieving their own responsibilities (Articles 59, 60).

Amnesty International is calling on the USA and the UK to:

- ensure the provision of food, water and medical supplies to people living under their control;
- maintain medical and hospital services, public health and hygiene;
- make every effort to facilitate the work of international and other humanitarian organizations, including by assisting them in getting effective access to the occupied territory. In particular, the ICRC and the Iraqi Red Crescent Society must be able to carry out their activities in accordance with the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Related documents:

[Iraq: Humanitarian needs of civilians must be met](#) - 24 March 2003
[Iraq: Looting, lawlessness and humanitarian consequences](#) - 11 April 2003
[Iraq: Responsibilities of the occupying powers](#) - 14 April 2003

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5. Ensuring justice for human rights abuses

There should be no impunity for past and recent crimes under international law rights abuses in Iraq. Credible allegations of unlawful killings of civilians during and its aftermath must be fully investigated and those found responsible indicted account. AI has called for a comprehensive program to reform the Iraqi criminal to ensure that those responsible for such crimes are brought to justice. Ensuring fundamental for the countless victims of decades of grave human rights violations Iraq, and as a means to prevent their repetition.

AI has called for a UN commission of experts to develop proposals, in close cooperation with civil society, for such a program. It should begin work immediately and could report in months. AI has outlined the role of such a commission of experts and set out full principles which should govern reforms.

The use of US or UK military tribunals to bring to justice civilians or soldiers accused under international law would be undesirable, even if they could guarantee fair trials being perceived as victors' justice. US military commissions, modelled on those established after the attacks in the USA of 11 September 2001, are administrative bodies, not courts and procedures are grossly unfair.

Related documents:

[Iraq: Ensuring justice for human rights abuses](#) - 14 April 2003

[Iraq: US must investigate civilian deaths](#) - 1 April 2003

[Iraq: Soldiers' civilian disguise likely to rebound on civilians](#) - 1 April 2003

[Iraq: Investigate civilian deaths](#) - 26 March 2003

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6. Use of indiscriminate weapons

AI repeatedly called on the parties to the conflict to ban the use of "weapons which are indiscriminate or otherwise prohibited under international humanitarian law".

Both US and UK officials refused to rule out the use of cluster bombs. Cluster bombs used by US and UK forces and may have been responsible for civilian deaths and injuries and reportedly laid anti-personnel mines, and US authorities stated that the US "retains cluster landmines".

Amnesty International:

- opposes the use, manufacture, stockpiling and transfer of anti-personnel weapons;
- calls for a moratorium on the use of cluster weapons;
- calls for a moratorium on the use of depleted uranium (DU) weapons pending conclusions on their long-term effects on human health and the environment;
- calls on all parties not to use nuclear weapons;
- calls for full respect of the prohibitions in international law of chemical and biological weapons. Such weapons should not be used and any stockpiles should be destroyed.

Related documents:

[Iraq: Condemnation of British use of cluster bombs](#) - 03 April 2003

[Iraq: Use of cluster bombs – Civilians pay the price](#) - 02 April 2003

[Iraq: Risk to civilians if landmines and cluster bombs used](#) - 27 March 2003

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7. Prisoners of war

AI calls on the US and UK authorities to treat all prisoners in conformity with the Geneva Convention. Prisoners should not be tortured or ill-treated, and should be given access to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

AI calls on all media to ensure that its use of images respects the dignity of all people, whether Iraqi, US or other nationals.

Related documents:

[Iraq/USA: No double standards for POWs](#) - 25 March 2003

[Iraq: Responsibilities of the occupying powers - 14 April 2003](#)

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8. Protection of refugees

Although there has so far been no major refugee influx into neighbouring countries, states to keep their borders open to receive refugees and displaced persons should also facilitate the work of the UNHCR and the ICRC. The international community should support these countries and ensure burden sharing.

Related documents:

[Iraq: Refugees and displaced persons - protection first - 24 March 2003](#)

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9. Global backlash against human rights

Following the start of military action, a backlash against certain human rights has emerged around the world. This included:

- attacks on the rights to freedom of expression and assembly;
- excessive use of force by police against anti-war demonstrators;
- restriction of asylum rights.

AI calls on all governments to respect the right of people to express peacefully and to refrain from using the war in Iraq as a pretext for curtailing or abusing fundamental rights.

Related documents:

[Iraq: In the shadow of war: backlash against human rights - 30 March 2003](#)

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10. Human rights in Iraq before the conflict

Human rights violations have been committed on a massive scale against all sectors of Iraqi society. Most of the victims have been suspected political opponents of the government, relatives, and members of religious and ethnic groups.

AI has issued numerous reports over the years, documenting "disappearances", executions and other unlawful killings, including mass killings of civilians using imprisonment of prisoners of conscience; long-term detention without charge or trial; systematic torture including the use of judicial punishments such as flogging and branding of the forehead; forcible expulsions; extensive use of the death penalty.

These reports made detailed recommendations to the government of Iraq concerning measures that were required to end violations.

Related documents:

[Iraq: Systematic torture of political prisoners - 15 August 2001](#)

[Iraq: Victims of Systematic Repression - 24 November 1999](#)

[Iraq: "Disappearances": Unresolved cases since the early 1980s - 01 October 1999](#)

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HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH
MAY 16, 2003 PAPER
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**The War in Iraq and International Humanitarian Law
Frequently Asked Questions on Occupation (FAQ)
May 16, 2003**

The following FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) analyzes international humanitarian law with respect to belligerent occupation. It does not attempt to cover the issue of occupation comprehensively, but focuses on those issues that might arise during the occupation of Iraq by the United States and its allies.

The FAQ is based primarily on the 1907 Hague Convention (IV) Respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land, the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, and customary international humanitarian law.

Belligerent Occupation

Question: What are the basic principles of international humanitarian law (IHL) underlying military occupation?

International humanitarian law provides that once an occupying power has assumed authority over a territory, it is obliged to restore and maintain, as far as possible, public order and safety (Hague, art. 43). Under the Fourth Geneva Convention, the occupying power must also respect the fundamental human rights of the territory's inhabitants, including non-citizens (Geneva IV, arts. 29, 47).

Four basic principles of international law underlie an occupation:

- 1) The occupying power does not, through occupation, gain sovereignty over the occupied territory.
- 2) Occupation is considered a transitory phase in which the rights of the population must be respected by the occupying power until formal authority is restored.
- 3) When exercising authority, the occupying power must take into account the interests of the inhabitants as well as military necessity.
- 4) The occupying power must not use its authority to exploit the population or local resources for the benefit of its own population and territory.

Security in Occupied Areas

Question: What are the duties of an occupying force to provide security?

An occupying power has a duty to restore and ensure public order and safety in the territory under its authority. Under customary international law, this duty begins once a stable regime of occupation has been established. But under the 1949 Geneva Conventions, the duty attaches as soon as the occupying force exercises control or authority over civilians of that territory, that is, at the soonest possible moment (a principle reflected in U.S. Army Field Manual 27-10) (G IV, art. 6).

Military commanders on the spot must prevent and where necessary suppress serious violations involving the local population under their control or subject to their authority.

The occupying force is responsible for protecting the population from violence by third parties, such as newly formed armed groups or forces of the former regime (Hague, art. 47). Ensuring local security includes protecting persons, including minority groups and former government officials, from reprisals and revenge attacks.

Occupying forces may have to be deployed to secure public order until the time local or international police can be mobilized for such responsibilities. Unless such forces are facing hostilities, the use of force is governed by international standards for law enforcement. That is, only absolutely necessary force may be used and only to the required extent, in accordance with the principle of proportionality.

Looting and "Shoot on Sight" Orders

May an occupying power issue "shoot on sight" orders to soldiers or police in order to stop looters or otherwise maintain security?

"Shoot on sight" orders are prohibited under international human rights law. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which the United States is a party, states: "No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life." The Human Rights Committee, the body that monitors compliance with the Covenant, has said that the deprivation of life by state authorities, including arbitrary killing by their own security forces, is "a matter of the utmost gravity." A state must strictly control and limit the circumstances in which the authorities might deprive persons of their lives.

The U.N. Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials provides guidance on the use of force and firearms by those enforcing the law, including soldiers. Where the lawful use of force and firearms is unavoidable, law enforcement officials must exercise restraint and act in proportion to the seriousness of the offence and the legitimate objective to be achieved; they must minimize injury, and respect and preserve human life.

The Basic Principles further provide that the intentional lethal use of firearms may only be made "when strictly unavoidable in order to protect life." Exceptional circumstances such as internal instability or other public emergency may not be invoked to justify a departure from these basic principles.

Under international humanitarian law, the United States as the occupying power in Iraq is obligated to restore and ensure public order and safety. Achieving security must however be in conformity with international human rights law standards. These standards apply to all those acting under U.S. authority, including members of the U.S. and coalition armed forces, Iraqi police and international law enforcement officers.

Occupation and the Rights of the Local Population

Question: What are the obligations of an occupying power towards the local population?

An occupying power is responsible for respecting the fundamental human rights of the population under its authority. All persons shall be treated humanely and without

discrimination. This includes respecting family honor and rights, the lives of persons, and private property, as well as religious and customary convictions and practice.

Women shall be especially protected against any attack, in particular against rape, enforced prostitution, or any form of indecent assault. Everyone shall be treated with the same consideration by the occupying power without any adverse distinction based, in particular, on race, religion or political opinion. Private property may not be confiscated. (Hague, art. 46, G IV, art. 27). However, an occupying power may take such measures of control and security as may be necessary as a result of the war (G IV, art. 27).

An occupying power is specifically prohibited from carrying out reprisals and collective penalties against persons or their property (G IV, art. 33) and from taking hostages (G IV, art. 34). In general, no one can be punished for acts for which he or she has not personally committed.

All parties to a conflict are required to provide information on prisoners of war (G III, art. 122) and "protected persons" (civilian nationals) in their custody (G IV, art. 136). The occupying power is prohibited from forcibly transferring protected persons outside of the occupied territory for whatever reason (G IV, art. 49). Foreign nationals in the occupied territory are generally protected by IHL, especially when they do not come under the protection of their own diplomatic representatives.

The Fourth Geneva Convention permits the internment or assigned residence of protected persons for "imperative reasons of security." This must be carried out in accordance with a regular procedure permissible under IHL and allow for the right of appeal and for review by a competent body at least every six months (G IV, art. 78). The Fourth Geneva Convention provides detailed regulations for the humane treatment of internees.

Occupied Population's Well-Being and Health

Question: What are the obligations of an occupying power to provide for supplies and healthcare to the population?

Generally, an occupying power is responsible for ensuring that food and medical care is available to the population under its control, and to facilitate assistance by relief agencies. An occupying force has a duty to ensure the food and medical supplies of the population, as well as maintain hospitals and other medical services, "to the fullest extent of the means available to it" (G IV, arts. 55, 56). This includes protecting civilian hospitals, medical personnel, and the wounded and sick. Medical personnel, including recognized Red Cross/Red Crescent societies, shall be allowed to carry out their duties (G IV, arts. 56, 63). The occupying power shall make special efforts for children orphaned or separated from their families (G IV, art. 24) and facilitate the exchange of family news (G IV, arts. 25, 26).

If any part of the population of an occupied territory is inadequately supplied, the occupying power shall facilitate relief by other states and impartial humanitarian agencies (G IV, art.

59). However, the provision of assistance by others does not relieve the occupying force of its responsibilities to meet the needs of the population (G IV, art. 60).

The occupying power shall ensure that relief workers are respected and protected.

Law and Administration in an Occupied Territory

Question: What responsibilities does an occupying power have with respect to the legal system and administration of the occupied territory?

An occupying power has a duty to restore public order and safety. The criminal laws of the occupied country remain in effect. The occupying power may only set aside or modify laws that contradict international legal standards or which pose a security threat to the occupying power (G IV, art. 64). Any criminal laws enacted must be publicized; *ex post facto* (retroactive) laws are prohibited.

So long as they can ensure the effective administration of justice, the courts of the occupied territory shall continue to function (G IV, art. 64). Where this is not possible, the occupying power may set up "properly constituted, non-political military courts" with local or foreign judges to sit in the occupied country; such courts must apply international fair trial standards (G IV, art. 66). This excludes all "special tribunals." The occupying power's own courts may only prosecute violations of international humanitarian law and crimes of universal jurisdiction (G IV, art. 70).

Likewise, the administration of the occupied territory shall be given the opportunity to carry on its activities (Hague, art. 43). An occupying power may not compel public officials to stay in their jobs. It is permitted to remove officials from their posts (G IV, art. 54). Should it be necessary, particularly if there is an administrative vacuum, the occupying power may set up a new civil administration.

Prisoners of War and Detained Civilians

When must prisoners of war be released?

The Third Geneva Convention provides that prisoners of war (POWs) shall be released and repatriated "without delay after the cessation of active hostilities." The Convention and the ICRC Commentary do not provide guidance on the phrase "without delay," but indicate that only practical concerns, and not political considerations, are relevant.

Must there be a formal determination that the war is over for POWs to be released?

There is no requirement that there be a formal declaration that active hostilities have ended (in the same way that no formal declaration of war is needed for the Geneva Conventions to become applicable during an armed conflict). A formal declaration by a party to the conflict would be indicative of the end of active hostilities, but it is neither required nor conclusory.

Must all POWs be released?

All POWs must be released without delay. There are two important exceptions.

POWs against whom criminal proceedings for an indictable offense are pending may be detained under the end of such proceedings, and if necessary, until the completion of any sentence. But there is no prohibition against releasing such prisoners.

A POW may request not to be repatriated if there are serious reasons for fearing that he or she may become subject to persecution. Such a request must be freely made and individually examined.

May Iraqi officials implicated in crimes or posing a security threat be apprehended after the close of hostilities?

The occupying power may detain a civilian in anticipation of a trial for war crimes, crimes against humanity or other criminal offenses. The occupying power may set up "properly constituted, non-political military courts" with local or foreign judges to sit in the occupied country; such courts must apply international fair trial standards. This excludes all "special tribunals." The occupying power's own courts may only prosecute violations of international humanitarian law and crimes of universal jurisdiction.

The Fourth Geneva Convention also permits an occupying power if necessary "for imperative reasons of security" to subject persons to assigned residence or to internment. Such decisions to detain must be made by the occupying power according to a regular procedure that conforms with international humanitarian law. This procedure shall include the right of appeal, which shall be decided with the least possible delay. A competent body of the occupying power shall review such detentions at least every six months.

Public Officials in an Occupied Territory

Is an occupying power required to pay the salaries of state employees?

International humanitarian law does not specify that an occupying force is required to pay the salaries of all state employees. However, an occupying power has an obligation to ensure public order and safety, and provide necessary services such as health care. Public officials are needed for this and they must be paid a salary. The Fourth Geneva Convention on occupation provides that while an occupying power has the right to remove government employees, it also cannot compel persons to work without payment. From this the conclusion can be drawn that an occupying power must ensure that wages be paid to those state employees retained in their positions.

Property and Resources of the Occupied Territory

Question: What obligations exist concerning the property and resources of the occupied territory?

In general, the destruction of private or public property is prohibited unless military operations make it absolutely necessary (G IV, art 53). Cultural property is entitled to special protection; the occupying power must take measures to preserve cultural property (Cultural Property Convention, art.5).

As a rule, private property cannot be confiscated. Religious, charitable and educational institutions are to be treated as private property. The occupying power may requisition food and medical supplies for occupation forces and administrative personnel so long as the needs of the civilian population have been taken into account and fair payment is made (G IV, art. 55). Taxes and tariffs may also be imposed to defray the administrative costs of the occupation, including the cost of occupying forces (Hague, art. 49).

Public properties are treated as either movable or immovable property. Movable government properties that may be used for military purposes (transport, weapons) are considered "spoils of war" and may be seized without compensation (Hague, art. 53).

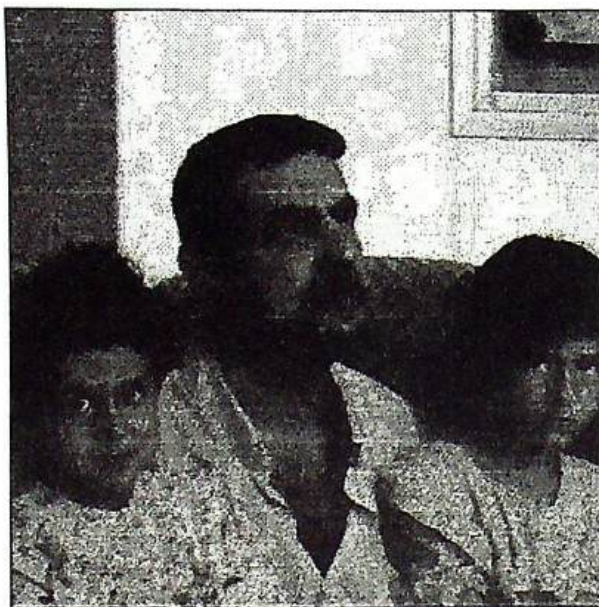
Immovable government properties (public buildings, real estate) may not be appropriated; however they can be used and administered by the occupying power so long as their assets are maintained (Hague, art. 55). Any loss of value from their use must be compensated. Oil is an immovable object and so cannot be removed for the benefit of the occupying power. Instead the occupying power has an obligation to properly maintain the oil wells.

End of Occupation

Question: When does an occupation end?

Belligerent occupation ends when control by the occupying power is no longer exercised. This usually occurs when there is a political settlement of the armed conflict, and the occupying power withdraws and a new government assumes authority. Protected persons in custody or serving sentences for offenses committed in the occupied territories must be turned over to the new authorities (G IV, art. 78). Requisitioned private property and immovable government property shall be restored.

The provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention provisions relating to occupation expire one year after the general close of military operations. However, those provisions concerning fundamental rights remain in effect so long as the occupation continues (G IV, art. 6).

BBC NEWS**In Pictures: Iraq's forgotten poor****Blinded**

Riath Hussein, with his daughters Rana, 7, and Noor, 5.

Mr Hussein, a former petrol station attendant, was shot in the head by American troops while travelling as a passenger in a civilian car. He is now blind in both eyes.

His brother Faris, who was driving, was shot dead.

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Sagittarius

Van: "Platform Tegen de 'Nieuwe Oorlog'" <vrede@omslag.nl>
Nieuwsgroepen: ann.vrede
Aan: "Verzendlijst Media" <list@omslag.nl>;
Verzonden: vrijdag 29 augustus 2003 22:01
Onderwerp: dreigende situatie voor christenen in Mosoul (Irak)

P E R S B E R I C H T

Van het Platform tegen de 'Nieuwe Oorlog'

Nederlandse religieuze terug uit Irak:
 dreigende situatie voor christenen in Mosoul

Utrecht, 29 augustus 2003 - Vanmiddag is zr. Yose Hohne-Sparborth teruggekeerd uit Mosoul en Bagdad. Zij was een week lang op bezoek bij dominicaanse gemeenschappen, die allemaal direct betrokken zijn geraakt bij de aanslagen van de laatste tijd. In tegenstelling tot hetgeen minister De Hoop Scheffer gisteren beweerde tijdens het Kamerdebat over Irak, is het in Noord-Irak bepaald niet rustig. Met name de eeuwenoude christelijke gemeenschap daar ligt onder vuur.

In Mosoul werd het gebouw van de Dominicanen verleden week door een raket getroffen, net toen een veertigtal Amerikaanse militairen in hun kerk de mis bijwoonde. De raket raakte een deel van het huis. Vier weken geleden trof een granaat het provinciale huis van de Dominicanessen, waar zr. Hohne-Sparborth logeerde. De granaat ontplofte in de slaapkamer waar drie jonge zusters sliepen. Niemand raakte gewond, de drie zijn wel nog steeds zeer gespannen. Afgelopen woensdag, was er 's avonds rondom het klooster een hevige schietpartij, waarbij een persoon gewond raakte. Een auto die granaten gooide werd door omwonenden verjaagd, doordat allen op de auto begonnen te schieten. „Hier in Mosoul en omgeving is de vijandigheid tegenover christenen erg aan het toenemen. Fundamentalisten uit Iran, Syrie en Saoedi-Arabie kunnen vrij het land in, en ze stoken de plaatselijke bevolking op. We zijn erg bang voor verdere escalatie", aldus de zusters dominicanessen.

Volgens zr. Hohne-Sparborth is de kans groot, dat de aanslag van vanmiddag op Al Hakim met zoveel doden, de spanning in en rond Mosoul zeer zal doen toenemen. Er is een wraakstemming, en de christelijke minderheid in Irak worden met de Amerikanen vereenzelvigd. De tolerante verhouding tussen christenen en moslims zoals die in Bagdad merkbaar is, ontbreekt in Mosoul nagenoeg.

 Noten voor de pers:

- zr. Yose Hohne-Sparborth is vrijdagavond en zaterdag bereikbaar bij vrienden in Laren: 035-5311146; vanaf zaterdagavond in haar eigen huis: 030-2318306 en vanaf maandagochtend via het secretariaat van Kerk en Vrede: 030-2316666.
- de komende weken is zr. Yose Hohne-Sparborth ook beschikbaar voor lezingen e.d.
 Afspraken kunnen gemaakt worden via het secretariaat van Kerk en

Vrede: 030-2316666 of irak@kerkenvrede.nl

- actueel vredesnieuws uit binnen- en buitenland is beschikbaar op de samenwerkende websites:

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Onderwerp: Persbericht: 'Nederlandse handelsmissie Irak ongepast'

PERSBERICHT

van het Platform tegen de 'Nieuwe Oorlog'

Nederlandse handelsmissie Irak ongepast

Utrecht, 27 augustus 2003 - Het Platform Tegen de 'Nieuwe Oorlog' keurt de verkennende handelsmissie die vandaag vertrekt naar de buurlanden van Irak af. Enige doel van deze door het Ministerie van Economische Zaken en het Nederlands Centrum voor Handelsbevordering georganiseerde missie lijkt het veroveren van een plaatsje op de nieuwe Iraakse markt te zijn.

De missie zal vanwege de veiligheidssituatie Irak zelf niet aandoen, maar zich beperken tot bezoeken aan omliggende landen waar gevluchte rijke Iraakse handelsfamilies zich ophouden en bedrijven die al handelen met Irak actief zijn. Op het moment dat de hulpverlening in Irak slecht op gang komt en de humanitaire situatie met de dag verslechtert, acht het Platform een dergelijke missie die zich puur richt op eigen economisch gewin bijzonder ongepast.

Het doel van de handelsmissie maakt eens te meer duidelijk dat een van de redenen voor de oorlog bestond uit het openleggen van nieuwe afzetmarkten voor westerse bedrijven. In plaats van het steun bieden aan Irakezen om een eigen economie te herstellen en op te bouwen, dreigt Irak hiermee het zoveelste slachtoffer van westers economisch imperialisme te worden.

Het Platform vindt het bijzonder schrijnend dat de Nederlandse regering 65 miljoen euro uittrekt voor uitzending van militairen naar Irak en 3 miljoen euro voor steun aan het Nederlandse bedrijfsleven die de Iraakse markt willen veroveren, terwijl voor humanitaire hulp slechts 21 miljoen beschikbaar is gesteld. Nu steeds meer hulporganisaties zich uit het land terugtrekken, dreigt de Iraakse bevolking nog verder aan haar lot te worden overgelaten.

Noten voor de pers

* Voor meer informatie: Mark Akkerman, 030-2714376 / 06-10328106

* Zie ook <http://www.wereldcrisis.nl>

* Eerdere persberichten van het Platform Tegen de 'Nieuwe Oorlog' op <http://www.omslag.nl/pers.htm>

29-8-03

Rense.com

US Slams Amnesty Intl Charges Of US Abuse In Iraq

News24.com - South Africa
7-24-3

BAGHDAD -- The US-led coalition running Iraq expressed its disappointment on Thursday over what it called an "unbalanced" Amnesty International report which savaged the US military for alleged human rights abuses in Iraq.

The London-based rights watchdog had warned on Wednesday that US military raids were claiming the lives of everyday people and resulting in the disappearance of Iraqis without a trace into the prison system.

"We expressed disappointment that there was very little recognition by Amnesty ... of the enormous steps forward in the human rights of the Iraqi people that have taken place since the liberation of this country," a coalition spokesperson told a press briefing here.

"While we will continue to engage with them, we think that report was unbalanced in the way it presented a picture of the current human rights situation

in Iraq.

"There was a surprising lack of credit given to the enormous steps that we have actually taken."

The spokesperson said the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) had gone out of its way to make key changes to the penal code, "introduce right to counsel" and right to silence, and launch a \$5m legal aid scheme.

Despite what the coalition insists is progress, the spokesperson admitted that "many of those we accepted as being legitimate concerns."

http://www.news24.com/News24/World/Iraq/0,,2-10-1460_1392563,00.html

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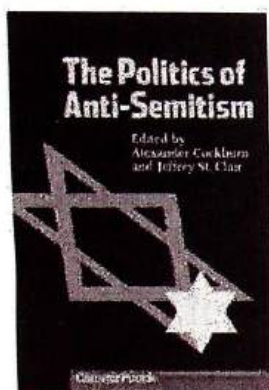
Coming in October
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Press

August 21, 2003

Bush's Tinker-Toy Ideology

Toward Permanent War?

By VIRGINIA TILLEY



The Politics of Anti-Semitism
Edited by Alexander Cockburn
and Jeffrey St. Clair

The terrible bombing of the UN offices in Baghdad has capped an accelerating series of sabotage actions against Iraqi water mains, oil pipelines, electricity grids--and US soldiers, hapless agents of this mess, who are killed daily. But most sharply, it highlights one fact: the end of "major combat operations" in Iraq announced by President Bush on May 1 was not the culmination of trouble but the beginning of an inevitable march into quagmire. The Bush administration has waded into a military adventure of breathtaking complexity brandishing a tonker-toy ideology of "spreading democracy," on some Napoleonic agenda to reconfigure the entire Middle East. Yet in the real world of Iraqi society and politics, that naiveté has proved disastrous.

Over-stretched and poorly planned, the US occupation daily inflicts yet more suffering on a war-weary population. A still-crippled infrastructure, and brutal search and arrest tactics by US soldiers, inspire arching resentment and fury among Iraqi civilians. In this light, are massive explosions, orchestrated by an invisible resistance force, really surprising? To Saddam's left-over thugs, outraged Iraqi nationalists are doubtless swelling the ranks of those willing to launch suicidal actions against the foreign invader. And not only Iraqi militants but any foresighted militant nationalists in the region

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might logically seek to sabotage the US occupation, if only to deter the US from trying the same venture elsewhere. How does any occupier combat such diverse and furtive resistance, which may not even be a true network? The outlook is very grim. As US officials swear even greater commitment to making it all work, and as the death count mounts, one can almost hear the old doomed Vietnam mantra, "peace with honor."

Yet the explosion which wrecked the UN offices in Baghdad (the "worst day in UN history" according to some) signals something worse: that, at least for some well-armed militants, the UN itself has become seen as an arm of US foreign policy. Whether this impression is actually wrong is debatable--certainly UN employees are committed to their mission--but it is hardly foolish. Through the 1990s, the UN implemented the US-sponsored sanctions regime which wrecked Iraqi society. The UN Security Council recently endorsed the US-installed puppet government and effectively recognized the occupation by opening a UN mission office to help make it successful. In the meantime, the Bush administration has rejected any meaningful participation by other world powers (except its loyal retainer, Britain) in the rebuilding of Iraq. Other countries have indeed retreated in disgust from the White House's funneling--in blazon crony fashion--of the country's reconstruction contracts to Vice President Cheney's former (and future?)

Mirror.co.uk

US TROOPS ADMIT SHOOTING IRAQI CIVILIANS

By Naveed Raja

American troops today admitted they routinely gun down Iraqi civilians - some of whom are entirely innocent.

As distrust of the invading forces increases amongst the local population US soldiers said they have killed civilians without hesitation, shot injured opponents and abandoned them to die in agony.

The testimonies of the troops on the ground further expose George Bush's claims about the role his forces are playing in the failing reconstruction of Iraq.

Sergeant First Class John Meadows summed up the prevailing attitude amongst his colleagues telling the Evening Standard that Iraqi fighters were dressed in civilian clothes.

"You can't distinguish between who's trying to kill you and who's not," he said.

"Like, the only way to get through s*** like that was to concentrate on getting through it by killing as many people as you can, people you know are trying to kill you. Killing them first and getting home."

And in an admission that directly contrasts with the line coming out from the Pentagon's spin doctors Specialist Corporal Michael Richardson added: "There was no dilemma when it came to shooting people who were not in uniform, I just pulled the trigger.

"It was up close and personal the whole time, there wasn't a big distance. If they were there, they were enemy, whether in uniform or not. Some were, some weren't."

Describing the scene during combat Richardson admitted shooting injured soldiers and leaving them to die.

He said: "S***, I didn't help any of them. I wouldn't help the f*****. There were some you let die. And there were some you double-tapped."

Making a shooting sign with his hand he went on: "Once you'd reached the objective, and once you'd shot them and you're moving through, anything there, you shoot again. You didn't want any prisoners of war. You hate them so bad while you're fighting, and you're so terrified, you can't really convey the feeling, but you don't want them to live."

And despite there being no link between Iraq and the September 11 attacks Richardson admitted that it gave him his motivation to fight Iraqis.

"There's a picture of the World Trade Centre hanging up by my bed and I keep one in my flak jacket. Every time I feel sorry for these people I look at that. I think, 'They hit us at home and, now, it's our turn.' I don't want to say payback but, you know, it's pretty much payback."

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Intelligence Unglued
by Veteran Intelligence
Professionals for Sanity

Friday, July 25, 2003



Published on Friday, July 4, 2003 by Agence France Presse

US Breaching Geneva Conventions Over Iraq Nuclear Plant: Greenpeace

Environmental group [Greenpeace](#) accused US-led authorities in Iraq of breaching international law and refusing to allow United Nations experts to assess contamination at a nuclear plant near Baghdad.

The group says it has detected worrying levels of radioactivity in schools and homes around the Tuwaittha nuclear plant, around 20 kilometers (12 miles) east of the capital, but that the coalition refuses to recognize the problem.

The head of the group's Iraq investigation team, Mike Townsley, said the US-led occupation authority was breaching the Geneva Conventions "by failing in its responsibility to ensure the public health of the Iraqi people".

The conventions lay out the legal obligations of an occupying power, as well as the rules of war and treatment of prisoners.

Townsley said that coalition authorities were ignoring what he called an urgent environmental health crisis caused by a "frightening array of radioactive material".

The group brought a barrel containing a radioactive sample of yellow cake — one of the main ingredients used for making nuclear fuel — to coalition headquarters in Baghdad to press its case.

Radioactive material was looted from the plant in the chaos that followed the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime on April 9.

Greenpeace says it has noticed an increase in reports of illnesses with symptoms consistent with radiation poisoning, adding that local doctors are ill-equipped to deal with the situation.

The group brought the barrel together with a letter addressed to the top US civil administrator, Paul Bremer, to his offices in a former palace in central Baghdad, but was refused entry, Townsley told AFP.

In the letter, which was accepted by a coalition official, the group said: "We urge you to immediately meet your obligations to protect the health of those who live around Iraq's nuclear sites.

"We urge you to immediately meet your obligation to protect public health by calling on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to mount an urgent investigation into radioactive contamination around Al-Tuwaitha."

The group said it believed there was sufficient evidence for Bremer to reassess his view there was no health risk posed by the plant.

The group says Bremer's administration has repeatedly denied that the Tuwaitha plant represents a threat to public health and says it has blocked efforts to allow the IAEA to access the plant.

The Iraqi atomic energy commission, along with the IAEA and the US army's own radiation protection unit's chief, Colonel Mark Melanson, has recommended that a UN team be allowed to assess the situation at the plant, Townsley said.

"The reason they (the IAEA) can't get in is because their entry is being blocked by the US administration," Townsley said.

Greenpeace said last week that it had uncovered radioactivity in a number of buildings, including one source



A US soldier pushes a Uranium 'yellow cake' barrel which was brought by Greenpeace activists for a protest outside the former Iraqi Presidential Palace, which now houses the US Administration office in Iraq, Friday July 4, 2003 in Baghdad. The environmentalist group is calling the attention of the US civilian administration to take action in safeguarding the nuclear facility in Tuwaitha which allegedly can be disastrous due to high radiation levels after it was looted during the war. (AP Photo/Bullit Marquez)

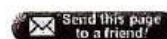
measuring 10,000 times above normal and another, outside a primary school, measuring 3,000 times above normal.

Locals were still storing radioactive barrels and lids in their houses and several objects carrying radioactive symbols lay discarded in the community.

But an IAEA team last month found most of the uranium feared stolen from Tuwaitha, Science magazine reported on June 20.

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News

Global Anti-War Groups Monitor Occupation Abuses In Iraq

BAGHDAD, July 9 (IslamOnline.net & News Agencies) - After failing to stop the Iraq occupation, the global anti-war movement announced Wednesday, July 9, it had established a center in Baghdad to monitor abuses by the U.S.-led coalition forces occupying Iraq.

The "International Occupation Watch Center" will investigate and report on abuses such as "illegal detentions, the dismissal of more than 100,000 employees, improper searches, illegal seizures of properties," according to Ted Lewis of non-governmental organization Global Exchange, reported Agence France-Presse (AFP).

"There were 40 million people in the streets against the war," said atrocities against Iraqi civilians Medea Benjamin of United for Peace and Justice, an organization that groups some 600 anti-war non-governmental organizations.

"This is a reorganization of the anti-war movement to say 'no' to the occupation," she told AFP.

Coalition forces "must provide basic security and deliver basic services," Lewis of Global Exchange added.

On the political level, Benjamin said the 25-member "transitory governing council" which U.S. overseer of Iraq Paul Bremer said he will unveil in the next two weeks would be nothing more than a "puppet government."

"A government selected by the coalition in a totally secretive process (is) a puppet government," she said, lamenting the lack of transparency that was also applied to business contracts to help rebuild Iraq.



The new Watch Center is expected to highlight atrocities against Iraqi civilians

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"They give the contracts to U.S. corporations with close ties with the Bush administration," she said.

The U.S.-led campaign to invade and occupy Iraq drew world-wide unprecedented criticism on all levels. It even caused a rift in the United Nation's Security Council with the anti-war camp, led by Germany, France and Russia, blocking a resolution authorizing the war by the invasion camp, led by Washington and London.

Three months now have passed since the fall of Baghdad and the occupation coalition is coming under heated criticism inside Iraq for failing to meet its promises of "liberating" the Iraqis and granting them a "new, secure, prosperous and democratic life".

It is also under harsh criticism internationally for failing so far to come up with any tangible evidence backing up the case for launching the invasion in the first place; namely, the Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

Both U.S. President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair are under fire at home for reportedly 'misrepresenting information and - in some cases - using forged documents to win domestic support for the controversial occupation.

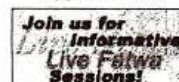
Before the end of the invasion, the Swiss Foreign Ministry had decided to document U.S.-British war crimes against Iraqi civilians on a separate section within its website.

Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy Rey Monday, March 31, was quoted by the German paper *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* as saying that the section - operational since Monday morning - gathers information and data from credible and documented sources, adding names of new victims would be added on an hourly basis.

The initial data available so far reveals the dirtiness of U.S.-British warmongers, the fakeness of their claims about a clean war, as well as their indifference to the lives of innocent, unarmed Iraqi civilians, Rey, member of the ruling Socialist, Democratic Party, was quoted by the paper as saying.

However, the move was killed before it even got started, due to huge pressures and the difficulty of obtaining related documents.

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Mondo Washington
by James Ridgeway

Counting the Bodies

Hard to Keep Track of the Dead in Iraq

September 3 - 9, 2003

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- **The Meter's Running** To Pay for the Meters' Not Running
- **Stunning News for Parents** No More Naughty Kids or Pets

Amid increasing suspicions that the U.S. media have been underestimating Iraqi casualties, here are the latest more or less reliable figures culled from several sources, including the government:

Iraq Body Count (iraqbodycount.net) reported that the number of civilian deaths in Iraq ranges from 6,113 to 7,830. **Military.com** reports that as of August 28 a total of 281 U.S. soldiers have been killed since the start of the invasion—that includes 143 since major fighting was declared "over" on May 1. The Iraq Coalition Casualty Count (lunaville.org/warcasualties/summary.aspx), based on tallies from Centcom, the Defense Department, and the British Ministry of Defence, shows that, as of August 27, 281 U.S. soldiers, 50 British soldiers, and two "other" coalition

soldiers have been reported killed. The estimated wounded? 1,212.

But by far the most interesting and quite possibly most realistic report comes by way of Jude Wanniski, the supply-side economist and ex-*Wall Street Journal* reporter who has struck up a correspondence with Mohammad al-Obaidi, an Iraqi doctor living in Britain. Al-Obaidi coordinates the small Iraqi Freedom Party, which favors free enterprise and is both anti-Saddam and anti-U.S. Al-Obaidi tells the *Voice* that members of his family have been tortured and killed by Saddam's secret



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police, and others have been killed in American air and ground attacks. Al-Obaidi, whose brother is a retired general now living in Iraq, says he has no ties with any intelligence service and has nothing to do with the American stooge Ahmed Chalabi.

Al-Obaidi told Wanniski that "hundreds of our party's cadre" spent five weeks interviewing undertakers, hospital officials, and ordinary citizens in all of Iraq (except for what's controlled by the Kurds) and came up with a total figure of 37,137 civilians killed since the beginning of the invasion, 6,103 of them in Baghdad. Those figures, according to al-Obaidi, do not include members of unofficial militias, paramilitary groups, or Saddam's Fedayeen units.

Additional reporting: Phoebe St John

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CONDUCT OF OCCUPATION FORCES

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Iraqis working with US fear attacks

Witnesses testify to beating of Iraqi prisoners by four soldiers

by **TAREK AL-ISSAWI**, Associated Press
August 28th, 2003

UMM QASR, Iraq - In a second day of testimony Thursday to determine whether charges of mistreating prisoners of war should be brought against four U.S. Army reservists from Pennsylvania, an officer testified he saw a prisoner being thrown to the ground and other prisoners being punched.

"I saw what appeared to be a punch," Staff Sgt. Donald Bragg testified, in a tent courtroom at Camp Bucca, where the prisoners were being taken when allegedly mistreated in May.

Possible charges against the four include dereliction of duty, assault, maltreatment of prisoners, conspiracy to obstruct justice and obstruction of justice.

The hearing near Umm Qasr, a southern port city, is the equivalent of a civilian grand jury investigation that will

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Cost of the War and
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produce a nonbinding recommendation to be forwarded to Gen. Janis Karpinski, commander of the 800th Military Police Brigade, for a final judgment.

He could decide to ignore the allegations, set penalties or call for a courts martial.

The four - Spc. Timothy Canjar, 21; Sgt. Shawna Edmondson, 24; Master Sgt. Lisa Marie Girman, 35, and Staff Sgt. Scott A. McKenzie, 38 - are all from the 320th Military Police Battalion, based in Ashley, Pa.

They are alleged to have punched and kicked several Iraqis, breaking one man's nose, while escorting a busload of prisoners to the Camp Bucca POW processing center. The soldiers have said they acted in self-defense.

Thursday's session was adjourned after a few hours to allow the defense counsel to consult with their clients.

On Wednesday, several government witnesses said they saw prisoners being treated with excessive violence.

Spc. Brian Taylor said he saw McKenzie kicking a prisoner in the groin.

Spc. Diane Rider testified that Edmondson, a close friend of hers, told her the soldiers physically harmed a prisoner who was allegedly a rapist.

"She said they did it to teach the prisoner a lesson on how to treat women because he was charged with rape," she said.

Rider said Edmondson told her she met with other members of her unit after an investigation into the allegations was launched, prompting the government attorneys to add the possible charges of conspiracy to obstruct justice and obstruction of justice to the list of charges.

Several of the reservists have experience in handling prisoners in their civilian jobs.

Girman, a Pennsylvania state trooper for 14 years, served at a POW camp during the 1991 Gulf War. McKenzie, who was decorated for his previous service in Bosnia, is a lieutenant in a boot camp-style prison run by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. Edmondson is a campus security officer at the University of Scranton, where she also takes classes.

The case has caused an uproar in Pennsylvania, where relatives of the accused have enlisted the help of politicians, veterans' groups and friends to support the four reservists.


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News

Global Anti-War Groups Monitor Occupation Abuses In Iraq

BAGHDAD, July 9 (IslamOnline.net & News Agencies) - After failing to stop the Iraq occupation, the global anti-war movement announced Wednesday, July 9, it had established a center in Baghdad to monitor abuses by the U.S.-led coalition forces occupying Iraq.

The "International Occupation Watch Center" will investigate and report on abuses such as "illegal detentions, the dismissal of more than 100,000 employees, improper searches, illegal seizures of properties," according to Ted Lewis of non-governmental organization Global Exchange, reported Agence France-Presse (AFP).

"There were 40 million people in the streets against the war," said Medea Benjamin of United for Peace and Justice, an organization that groups some 600 anti-war non-governmental organizations.

"This is a reorganization of the anti-war movement to say 'no' to the occupation," she told AFP.

Coalition forces "must provide basic security and deliver basic services," Lewis of Global Exchange added.

On the political level, Benjamin said the 25-member "transitory governing council" which U.S. overseer of Iraq Paul Bremer said he will unveil in the next two weeks would be nothing more than a "puppet government."

"A government selected by the coalition in a totally secretive process (is) a puppet government," she said, lamenting the lack of transparency that was also applied to business contracts to help rebuild Iraq.

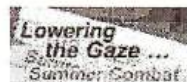


The new Watch Center is expected to highlight atrocities against Iraqi civilians

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"They give the contracts to U.S. corporations with close ties with the Bush administration," she said.

The U.S.-led campaign to invade and occupy Iraq drew world-wide unprecedented criticism on all levels. It even caused a rift in the United Nation's Security Council with the anti-war camp, led by Germany, France and Russia, blocking a resolution authorizing the war by the invasion camp, led by Washington and London.

Three months now have passed since the fall of Baghdad and the occupation coalition is coming under heated criticism inside Iraq for failing to meet its promises of "liberating" the Iraqis and granting them a "new, secure, prosperous and democratic life".

It is also under harsh criticism internationally for failing so far to come up with any tangible evidence backing up the case for launching the invasion in the first place; namely, the Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

Both U.S. President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair are under fire at home for reportedly 'misrepresenting information and - in some cases - using forged documents to win domestic support for the controversial occupation.

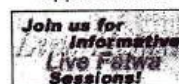
Before the end of the invasion, the Swiss Foreign Ministry had decided to document U.S.-British war crimes against Iraqi civilians on a separate section within its website.

Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy Rey Monday, March 31, was quoted by the German paper *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* as saying that the section - operational since Monday morning - gathers information and data from credible and documented sources, adding names of new victims would be added on an hourly basis.

The initial data available so far reveals the dirtiness of U.S.-British warmongers, the fakeness of their claims about a clean war, as well as their indifference to the lives of innocent, unarmed Iraqi civilians, Rey, member of the ruling Socialist, Democratic Party, was quoted by the paper as saying.

However, the move was killed before it even got started, due to huge pressures and the difficulty of obtaining related documents.

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Victims of trigger-happy Task Force 20

Rage triggered by US raid that claimed five lives

Jamie Wilson in Baghdad
Tuesday July 29, 2003
The Guardian

The first hint that something might be up came at 1.30pm on Sunday afternoon. A car full of westerners in civilian clothes with cropped military-style haircuts pulled up outside the Al Sa'ah restaurant, two blocks from Prince Rabbiah Muhamed al-Habib's house in the wealthy Mansur district of Baghdad.

The people going about their business in the sweltering afternoon sun did not know it at the time, but the men sitting in the car watching the street were the best the coalition forces had to offer: members of Task Force 20, the unit responsible for hunting down Saddam Hussein and other key members of the regime.

Within two hours soldiers attached to this so-called elite unit had shot and killed at least five people. Their actions have provoked anger towards the coalition in this previously peaceful and prosperous neighbourhood that is likely to simmer for some time to come.

According to Ra'fet Saad, 38, a local businessman, the car loitered in the area for two hours. Moments after it pulled away there was a loud explosion from the direction of Mr al-Habib's house. Mr Saad ran to the corner, where he saw special forces descending on the building from every direction. Wearing gas masks, body armour and black T-shirts with brightly coloured identification lettering on the sleeves, they blasted their way into the house.

Cover

Fifty yards up the street six Humvees had created a partial roadblock at a crossroads. Other troops, some dressed in civilian clothes, fanned out to block the main roads around the house, but crucially not the quieter side streets.

The first vehicle to get unlucky was a Chevrolet Malibu. For some reason, the driver did not stop as he approached the roadblock and the soldiers opened fire. Mr Saad had taken cover behind a wall. When he dared to look up, the soldiers were dragging two men away from the car. "I think they were dead," he said.

Fifteen minutes later, a Toyota Corona being driven by a man called Mazin, who was disabled and walked with the aid of a frame, arrived in the area. His wife was in the passenger seat and his teenage son in the back. If he had turned left out of the small lane that led to their house, they might all still be alive.

Instead, Mazin made the mistake of turning right towards the roadblock. A bullet from the volley of shots fired at the car passed through the windscreen and blew off the right half his head, according to Ahmed Ibrahim, who runs an optician's shop opposite the Al Sa'ah restaurant.

Nobody on the street yesterday seemed to know what had happened to his wife or teenage son, only that they had been injured and taken away by the Americans.

According to Mr Ibrahim, the soldiers were by now firing indiscriminately. A bullet struck the doorframe of his shop, while two others hit a generator belonging to the restaurant on the other side of the street. Another round hit the fuel tank of his Mercedes. It exploded in flames, setting alight the car parked next to it.

The next victim, who was in a red Mitsubishi Pajero landcruiser, was not even driving towards the roadblock. Instead, he had been travelling on a main road more than 150 yards away when he slowed down to see what the commotion was. Two bullets hit him in the chest.

Mr Ibrahim said that minutes later more troops had arrived in the area and the shooting had stopped. "One of them told me that they were looking for Ali [another of Saddam Hussein's sons]." Dressed in flowing robes and a black and white headdress, Prince Rabiah was taking the raid on his house calmly yesterday morning. "My people," he said, "want to demonstrate in all Iraq. But we want peace, so I tell them No, we do not want to make a big thing of this." He had spent Sunday in Kut, 50 miles south east of Baghdad, and was not at home when the special forces arrived. The only people in the building when the raid started had been two of his bodyguards, and the Americans had taken them away. But a neighbour told him that when the force arrived they had thrown bombs and there had been a lot of shooting.

"When we entered the house everything was upside down," he said, walking into the sitting room where a video recorder and satellite receiver had been pulled from a cabinet. "A lot of things were missing - money, two fax machines, a video camera and cassettes." In another room, two bullets had made holes and spider web patterns in the window. On the floor next to an ornate sideboard were two shotgun cartridges, which had been used to blow the locks off the door. "What do they think? That Saddam Hussein is going to be able to hide in here?" he said pointing at the cabinet.

Although the prince admits having known Saddam Hussein - "He respected me very much" - he said he had not seen the former president for many months. "I have no idea why they came here. But if they want to find anybody in this house they just have to knock on the door."

But while the prince was taking the raid calmly, elsewhere in Mansur it provoked a reaction that was anything but. "We consider the Americans now as war criminals," said Mahmoud al-Baghdadi, a 32-year-old baker. "They claim to be fighting terrorism, but they cannot defend freedom by killing disabled people."

Yaqdan Kadhemi, a waiter, said that before he had felt sympathy for the Americans, but now he supported the attacks on US troops. "Until now I was against Saddam Hussein, but now I hate the Americans for what they did yesterday."

The coalition refused to comment on events in Mansur, except to say the raid had been carried out by Task Force 20.

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US Troops Turn Botched Saddam Raid Into A Massacre

By Robert Fisk in Baghdad

28 July 2003: (The Independent) Obsessed with capturing Saddam Hussein, American soldiers turned a botched raid on a house in the Mansur district of Baghdad yesterday into a bloodbath, opening fire on scores of Iraqi civilians in a crowded street and killing up to 11, including two children, their mother and crippled father. At least one civilian car caught fire, cremating its occupants.

The vehicle carrying the two children and their mother and father was riddled by bullets as it approached a razor-wired checkpoint outside the house.

Amid the fury generated among the largely middle-class residents of Mansur - by ghastly coincidence, the killings were scarcely 40 metres from the houses in which 16 civilians died when the Americans tried to kill Saddam towards the end of the war in April - whatever political advantages were gained by the killing of Saddam's sons have been squandered. A doctor at the Yarmouk hospital, which received four of the dead, turned on me angrily last night, shouting: "If an American came to my emergency room, maybe I would kill him."

Two civilians, both believed to have been driving with their families, were brought to the Yarmouk, one with abdominal wounds and the other with "his brain outside of his head", according to another doctor.

At the scene of the killings, there was pandemonium. While US troops were loading the bullet-shattered cars on trucks - and trying to stop cameramen filming the carnage - crowds screamed abuse at them. One American soldier a few feet from me climbed into the seat of his Humvee, threw his helmet on the floor of the vehicle and shouted: "Shit! Shit!"

There was no doubt about the target: the home of Sheikh Rabia Mohamed Habib, a prominent tribal leader who had met Saddam but who was not even in his house when the Americans stormed it. One report says they killed a guard as they entered.

"The Americans searched the house completely, very roughly," Sheikh Habib said. "It seems they thought Saddam Hussein was inside." It appears the killings started as the troops were searching the

building and as motorists approached the barbed wire which the soldiers had placed without warning across the road. Witnesses said the first car contained at least two men. "The second contained two children about 10, their mother and their father who had been wounded in the Iran-Iraq war - he was a cripple," a local shopkeeper told me. "They all died. The man's legs were cut in half by the bullets," he added. A third car then approached the Americans, who opened fire again. One of the occupants fled, but the other two remained in the vehicle and were killed.

When another car arrived US troops riddled it with more bullets and it burst into flames. It is believed that two people were inside and both were burnt to death. "The Americans didn't try to help the civilians they had shot, not once," a witness said. "They let the car burn and left the bodies where they lay, even the children. It was we who had to take them to the hospitals."

Yet again, false informers, ill-trained American soldiers who appeared to exercise no fire control and a lack of military planning has created a tragedy among the people the Americans claimed to be 'liberating' from Saddam Hussein only 15 weeks ago. Last night, there were reports from the southern city of Karbala that three men had been shot dead by American troops during a demonstration.

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14 US Soldiers Wounded in Iraq Over the Weekend

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Iraqis curse 'silver bullet,' fear illness from radioactive contamination

By **MONI BASU**

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Basra, Iraq

On her hospital cot, Nadeema Rahimi watched day turn to night from the same uncomfortable position. The frail 20-year-old was forced to lie on her stomach 24 hours a day.

It was a blessing she could no longer see the basketball-size tumor that had overtaken her lower back.

After her bone cancer was discovered several months ago, Rahimi's husband abandoned her. Only her mother stayed by her bedside at Basra General Hospital.

Dr. Jawad Ali, head of the hospital's oncology unit, said cancer cases such as Rahimi's skyrocketed in southern Iraq after the 1991 Persian Gulf War. The most recent conflict has raised fears that yet another wave of illness could be caused by radioactive contamination.

"DU," Ali said simply.

DU is depleted uranium, the dense metal used by U.S. tanks, fighting vehicles and aircraft to pierce and destroy armor. U.S. forces used 320 tons of DU munitions in the Gulf War and more in the spring invasion. But DU is radioactive, and Iraqis blame it for their mysteriously soaring rates of cancer and birth defects.

"Take a look around," the doctor said, standing in one of the many sixth-floor cancer wards. "All these people are dying."

Rahimi's kidney stopped functioning because of the severe pressure the giant tumor put on her nerves. She is paralyzed from the waist down.

Rahimi did not know modern medicine had failed her, that her cancer was too far gone for chemotherapy. But she, too, was sure she knew the cause of her suffering.

"Contamination," she said, using all her energy to lift her head off her crisscrossed arms.

Supertough weapons made with DU helped the allies score a swift victory over Saddam Hussein, but their radioactive remains continue to generate controversy.

"Low radiation is more dangerous than an atom bomb," Ali said. "This will kill us for thousands of years."

Debate shrill on both sides



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The DU debate has been going on since the first Gulf War ended. The Pentagon's take on the issue is the opposite of the Iraqis'.

U.S. officials have repeatedly insisted that exposure to DU weaponry, often called the Army's "silver bullet," poses no health risks. They say Saddam's regime exaggerated claims and manipulated data on DU effects for political gain.

Without definitive epidemiological studies, no one can point to proof DU is responsible for the illnesses of Rahimi and thousands of other Iraqis.

"The debate has become so politicized," said Charles Sheehan-Miles, executive director of Washington's Nuclear Research Policy Institute. "You've got the Pentagon on one side saying it's not harmful at all and people on the other side equating it to a nuclear holocaust. We can't necessarily trust Pentagon data any more than we can trust Iraqi data."

DU-related or not, the evidence of human suffering was plentiful at Basra's Ibn Khazwan Children's Hospital, where Dr. Jenan Hassan led a tour of wards teeming with children suffering from leukemia.

In her office, she pulled out two photo albums thick with pictures of babies born without heads or with other gross deformities. Downstairs in the neonatal ward, 2-day-old Bint Zainab Hussein lay dying in an incubator; she was born with her brain outside her head.

In 1988, 11 out of every 100,000 people in the Basra region suffered from cancer, according to Hassan's research. In 2002, she said, 123 out of every 100,000 are cancer patients. Birth defects have risen from 11 per 100,000 births in 1989 to 116 per 100,000 births in 2002.

"I am not exaggerating anything. What you see is true," she said. "We did not have cancer or birth defects like this in Iraq before. And all this will go up by 2008 or so, when we will begin to see the impact of the latest war. The incubation period for DU is five years."

After the '91 war, U.S. veterans complained of Gulf War syndrome. The Pentagon monitors a small group, though Navy veteran and DU expert Dan Fahey said the study size is too small to draw any conclusions.

But the most complaints surfaced in Basra, where allied forces pounded Saddam's retreating military with armor-piercing shells made from DU, the first time such weapons were known to have been used in warfare.

Iraq's second-largest city swirls with rumors about DU. The slightest pimple conjures images of terminal cancer. Pregnant women undergo ultrasound testing to make sure their babies are free from abnormalities.

The latest war has only heightened those fears, though not everyone is convinced DU is the culprit.

Dr. Mohammed Nasir, director of Ibn Khazwan hospital, said Baath Party loyalists used the DU issue to attract international sympathy.

"Yes, there is an increase of cancer here, but we have had a lot of medical problems in Iraq for a long time," Nasir said. "We have no proof that it is related to DU, even though there are doctors in my own hospital who will tell you otherwise. There could be other reasons for what is happening here. The only way to settle this is to prove it scientifically."

Therein lies the problem, said Fahey.

Scientific answers needed

Little research has been done on how DU affects humans, though tests on mice suggest exposure can cause cancer, reproductive disorders and other maladies, Fahey said.

A few years ago, the World Health Organization proposed an investigation of Iraq's DU claims, but Saddam killed the effort by imposing too many conditions.

"Even though I am skeptical of the Iraqi data, clearly there is something going on, particularly in Iraq," Fahey said. "All possible causes for cancer and birth defects should be studied – including the possible effects of DU."

Depleted uranium is a relatively cost-effective way for the military to provide armor-piercing munitions and foolproof shields for U.S. tanks and fighting vehicles. It is cheap because it is essentially unusable waste material created in the enrichment of uranium for nuclear reactors and weapons. It also is sturdy because of its extremely high density.

But DU has a half-life of 4.5 billion years. The United Nations Environmental Program says DU munitions can pollute the environment and create a 100 percent increase in uranium levels in groundwater.

A U.S. Army training manual acknowledges DU's danger, stating that "contamination will make food and water unsafe for consumption."

In addition to the 320 tons of DU rounds fired in the '91 war, the Pentagon also has acknowledged using DU in the attacks in March and April of this year. But no official assessment of the amount has been released. Independent analysts say anywhere between 200 and 2,000 tons could have been used this time.

At a recent symposium in New York, scientists offered various interpretations of DU's effects. But they all agreed soldiers returning from Iraq should be tested, that the Iraqi people must be warned of potential contamination, and that coalition forces should clean up the potentially hazardous mess they left behind.

The U.N. environmental agency's conflict assessment team announced in April it intended to survey Iraq's most recent battlegrounds, many around Baghdad and other heavily populated urban centers between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers.

Fahey said such a U.N. study could put to rest unfounded fears or confirm potential risks. Until then, DU remains an unknown.

"It appears a lot of DU was shot in urban areas this time, where people are living, selling food," Fahey said. "Obviously there is great concern."

Doctors in Basra said they hoped a comprehensive study was coming. For now, they curse the "dirty bombs" and treat their patients with the few drugs available to them.

"He will be my friend till the last day of his life," said Ali, holding the hand of Mohammed Abdul Saleh, 10, a leukemia patient. "I will lose all my friends this way. How can the Americans say they have nothing to do with this?"

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Iraq counts its own dead

The Mansur victims deserve an inquest

Leader

Wednesday July 30, 2003

The Guardian

Some figures are more important than others in keeping a tally on the bloody aftermath of the war in Iraq. There is the triumphant total of cards turned up so far in the deck of the most-wanted. There is the number of mass graves uncovered which proves - as if we did not know it - that Saddam Hussein was a tyrant.

Unhappily for many US families, there are also the American soldiers killed in the past three months since "major military action" officially ended - more than a hundred, of whom half have died "in combat". The New York Times led a recent front page with the death of just one: "A marine is killed in Iraq, and grief ripples at home".

Much less attention is given to the grief of many more Iraqi families which has become not a ripple but a torrent, propelling a far broader anger against the US forces. Iraq's military dead are un-numbered: as General Tommy Franks said, "we don't do body counts." It is left to unofficial researchers, such as the Iraq Body Count, to estimate the civilian deaths, conservatively in excess of 5,000.

The carnage on Sunday in the Mansur district of Baghdad, when US "elite units" killed at least five innocent people during another botched search for Saddam, should finally focus attention on this reckless disregard for civilian life.

The facts are clear: the American forces threw an incomplete cordon around the house they were targeting, and then shot up several cars which unwittingly penetrated it. The only official US comment so far has been the callous remark that "if you cross a roadblock, we assume you mean to do harm."

To our knowledge, no enquiry has been launched into any of the previous incidents in which civilians were shot. It is not even clear to whom their grieving families can complain. Preoccupied with its own losses, the has been indifferent to those which it inflicts on the Iraqi people. The Mansur victims and all the others deserve a proper inquest.

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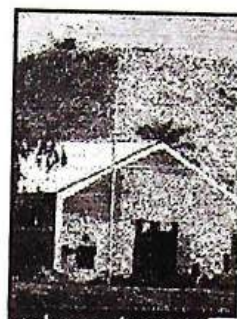
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U.S. Has Not Inspected Iraqi Nuclear Facility

Site That Contained Uranium Was Looted After War

By Barton Gellman
Washington Post Staff Writer
Friday, April 25, 2003; Page A14

KUWAIT CITY, April 24 -- Nearly three weeks after U.S. forces reached Iraq's most important nuclear facility, the Bush administration has yet to begin an assessment of whether tons of radioactive material there remain intact, according to military officials here and in Washington.



enlarge photo The Tuwaitha Nuclear Research Center had value on black market

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Before the war began last month, the vast Tuwaitha Nuclear Research Center held 3,896 pounds of partially enriched uranium, more than 94 tons of natural uranium and smaller quantities of cesium, cobalt and strontium, according to reports compiled through the 1990s by inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Immensely valuable on the international black market, the uranium was in a form suitable for further enrichment to "weapons grade," the core of a nuclear device. The other substances, products of medical and industrial waste, emit intense radiation. They have been sought, officials said, by terrorists seeking to build a so-called dirty bomb, which uses conventional explosives to scatter dangerous radioactive particles.

Defense officials acknowledge that the U.S. government has no idea whether any of Tuwaitha's potentially deadly contents have been stolen, because it has not dispatched investigators to appraise the site. What it does know, according to officials at the Pentagon and U.S. Central Command, is that the sprawling campus, 11 miles south of Baghdad, lay unguarded for days and that looters made their way inside.

Tuwaitha is headquarters of Iraq's Atomic Energy Agency, with hundreds of structures covering some 120 acres. At the height of Iraq's clandestine nuclear weapons program, which nearly succeeded in building a bomb in 1991, Tuwaitha incorporated research reactors, uranium mining and enrichment facilities, chemical engineering plants and an explosives fabrication center to build the device that detonates a nuclear core.

—Ma
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The facility was inspected more often than any other site by U.N. inspectors, who began disarming Iraq under U.N. Security Council mandate in 1991.

Disputes inside the U.S. Defense Department and with other government agencies have slowed the preparation of orders for a team of nuclear experts to assess Tuwaitha, officials said. Though it anticipated for months that war would leave it with responsibility for Iraq's nuclear infrastructure, the Bush administration did not reach consensus on the role it would seek at those facilities.

President Bush's senior advisers have accused the IAEA, under Director General Mohamed ElBaradei, of being hostile to U.S. objectives in Iraq. Civilian policy officials in the Pentagon, according to people with first-hand knowledge, initially proposed to make a complete inspection of Tuwaitha without the IAEA -- an exercise that apparently would have required U.S. government experts to break seals the agency's inspectors placed on safeguarded nuclear materials. The nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, of which the United States is a signatory, gives the IAEA exclusive authority over those seals.

Strong objections came from other parts of the Pentagon policy apparatus and from the State Department offices responsible for treaty compliance, international organizations and nonproliferation.

The unresolved dispute has prevented Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld from issuing guidance to U.S. Central Command that would define the objectives and limits of a site survey.

Lt. Col. Michael W. Slifka, a senior leader at Central Command's Sensitive Site Exploitation Planning Team, said U.S. forces had not broken any IAEA seals. But he said in an interview here that he did not know whether seals had been broken by others, because he had not been authorized to dispatch a team with nuclear experts from the Energy Department's national laboratories.

"For force protection reasons, because of the folks we've got there," Slifka said, "we aren't in a position to go inside."

"The site is now secured by coalition forces," he said. "They're safeguarded." Slifka said technicians had taken readings and "established safe zones" to protect U.S. forces and civilians, "but we've left it at that."

A defense official made available to describe the policy tonight said there are "tentative plans" for "a U.S. assessment team to enter the site once a team can be organized and properly equipped." The official emphasized that the team would not break IAEA seals and added: "The issue of the IAEA's role in this process will be addressed once we have a better idea from the assessment team on the actual status of the buildings, containers and materials at the site."

A second official said that formula only deferred the harder questions. "The intent is to inventory the site and to make a determination ~~what~~ if anything is missing," he said, and that cannot be done without a full inspection.

Outside experts expressed astonishment today that the government had not treated the possibility of missing nuclear materials with greater urgency.

"It's extremely surprising," said Corey Hinderstein, deputy director of the Institute for Science and International Security, when told that U.S. nuclear experts had not yet been to Tuwaitha. "I would have hoped that they would try to assess as quickly as possible whether the site had been breached. If there is radiological material on the loose in Iraq, with the chance that it may be transferred across borders, it would be extremely important to know that [in order] to prevent it from crossing a border or being transferred to a terrorist or another state."

Working through the late 1990s against what it then called "Iraq's prevarication" and an "endeavor to conceal the [nuclear weapons] program in its entirety," the IAEA seized more than 100 pounds of highly enriched uranium — sufficient to build a nuclear bomb — and supervised the destruction of a weapons infrastructure encompassing 10 major centers around Iraq.

The agency eventually concluded that the weapons program had been expunged, an assessment disputed by the Bush White House. The IAEA turned to "ongoing monitoring and verification" of sites it had already disarmed. As part of that effort, it placed tamper-proof seals on many rooms at Tuwaitha and on at least 409 barrels of radioactive material.

Until fighting began on March 19, those seals were believed to have remained intact and Tuwaitha's three major storage structures were secured by Iraq's Special Republican Guard. But when a U.S. Marine engineers reached the site on April 6, the Marines found it abandoned.

Iraqi locals told the Marines, according to situation reports sent through Central Command, that the last of the guards had departed four days earlier. The Marines reported that some of the buildings showed evident signs of looting. Until receiving reinforcements, the small unit was unable to prevent further intrusions by Iraqis who cut through barbed wire fencing and stole inside.

The IAEA's ElBaradei has said publicly that his agency holds the only lawful authority over Tuwaitha's safeguarded materials. Officials in the U.S. government and the IAEA said there have been no substantive discussions between them on the terms of a postwar survey there.

"It's worrisome," said an expert with long experience at Tuwaitha who is familiar with ElBaradei's views. The IAEA, he said, "would like to quickly understand if there has been any diversion, any disappearance, because the sooner we know, the sooner we can do something about it."

Staff researcher Robert Thomason contributed to this report.

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U.S. holding Iraqis at notorious prison

Families are barred from Abu Ghraib and very few inmates have been allowed to see lawyers

By Alex Rodriguez
Tribune foreign correspondent

August 6, 2003

ABU GHRAIB, Iraq -- Once one of Iraq's notorious prisons where Saddam Hussein had political prisoners tortured and hanged, Abu Ghraib has become a makeshift jail at the heart of the U.S. military's struggle to give Iraqis a new sense of justice.

About 500 Iraqis are detained here and, like detainees in U.S. prison camps across Iraq, none has been allowed family visits. Only one out of 10 has been allowed to see a lawyer.

The five compounds in the prison were ransacked after Hussein freed virtually all of Iraq's prisoners last October, so the detainees are penned in tents behind rolls of razor wire. On some days, the camp roasts under a midday sun that produces temperatures as high as 130 degrees.

On Monday, dozens of Iraqi detainees sprinted from their tents at the sight of a group of journalists in a convoy and began screaming.

"What did we do? We didn't do anything!" a shirtless inmate shouted.

"We want to leave from here!" another yelled.

"We are kind of in a box," said Col. Marc Warren, a judge advocate general and the Army's ranking legal officer in Iraq. "We have got this huge backlog trying to get these guys into the Iraqi court system."

The sprawling Abu Ghraib complex has the largest capacity of the U.S. military's Iraqi detention camps. Under Hussein's regime, it was a much-feared prison where inmates were routinely tortured with everything from electric shock to beatings on the soles of their feet.

Though much of the prison was looted, the compound for the condemned and an adjoining death chamber are intact. A length of thick rope remains tied to the ceiling where political prisoners were hanged; the levers used to activate the gallows still function.

Messages in Arabic scrawled by condemned prisoners on cell walls will not be painted over, military officials said.

"Death is better than shame," one message read.

'No other options'

"We had extraordinary concerns about using a facility with this kind of reputation," said Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski, who oversees the detention of prisoners in Iraq. "But it was the facility with the

<http://www.majority.com/news/prison.html>

3-9-03

largest capacity capability, and we had no other options."

The much larger problem, U.S. officials acknowledge, is ensuring Iraqi detainees are afforded basic legal rights.

As of Monday, 5,000 people were being held by U.S.-led coalition forces. About 200 detainees are Iraqi prisoners of war who remain in custody because they are suspected of war crimes or because they were officials in the Hussein regime and might have valuable intelligence for coalition forces.

About a fourth of the prisoners held in Iraq are "security detainees," accused of committing politically motivated crimes such as guerrilla attacks on coalition forces or acts of sabotage.

The rest are Iraqis charged with civil crimes ranging from curfew violations to weapons charges to murder. In many instances, those detainees have yet to be brought to an Iraqi court for a preliminary appearance, according to the human-rights group Amnesty International.

In many other cases, civilians charged with crimes and held by the U.S. have been brought before an Iraqi judge who has set bail, but bail rulings have been ignored by U.S. forces.

After spending 29 days at Abu Ghraib and at the military's detention camp near Baghdad's airport, Kaith Moussa Kadhem, who was being held on a weapons possession charge, had his bail set at \$62 by an Iraqi judge.

U.S. officials ignored the ruling, and Kadhem spent 27 more days at Abu Ghraib. He was released July 23 without any finding of guilty or not guilty. He and three friends had been arrested by U.S. soldiers May 28. Kadhem said guns found in their car belonged to his friends.

"When I was inside the prison, I was thinking, 'Am I going to stay all my life in here?'" said Kadhem, 26.

Families in the dark

The U.S. also has not devised a way for Iraqi families to learn where relatives are in custody, said Said Boumedouha of Amnesty International. The military has begun supplying names of detainees to the International Committee of the Red Cross, but Red Cross officials say the list is incomplete.

Iraqi families simply go from prison to prison, hoping to find their relatives. On Monday, Asuma Shakhir appeared at the gates of Abu Ghraib looking for his brother, Thaar Shakhir, 31, who was arrested 12 days ago and accused of having a gun in his car.

U.S. soldiers told him to go to the Red Cross office, but Red Cross workers had told him a week ago that they had no information about his brother.

"We just need to know where he is and whether he is all right," Shakhir said. "Maybe I will stay here until I find out what happened to my brother."

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"I would agree with Saint Augustine that 'An unjust law law at all.'"

-Martin Luther King, 1963 Letter from a Birmingham Jail

Dear Friends:

[Sign the letter to Attorney General Ashcroft](#)

At a time when the whole world expects our country to be pouring resources into the re-building of Iraq, the US government has decided to prosecute people who brought humanitarian aid and medical supplies to the people of Iraq. As unbelievable as this sounds, it is true.

[Letter to Attorney General Ashcroft](#)

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[VITW Response to Complaint of Penalties](#)

The US Department of the Treasury sued Voices in the Wilderness for \$20,000 in fines for bringing medicines to people of Iraq. Though law and justice are not the same, that we will have a fair chance to make the following legal arguments and to put on evidence to support each of the

In every phase of this matter, we must never allow the government to obscure the key point that the sanctions imposed on the people of Iraq caused the deaths of over 500,000 children under the age of five and the deaths of hundreds of thousands of others. VITW and many other human rights, religious and humanitarian groups around the globe have struggled vigorously to stop these immoral and illegal actions against the innocent people of Iraq. No case, no fine, no argument can ever be allowed to take our focus off of our sisters and brothers in Iraq. Now more than ever our sisters and brothers in Iraq need the solidarity of all the people of the world. All our work on this case must proceed with this foremost in our minds.

In court, we will first point out that taking medicines to people of Iraq does not appear to even be illegal. Neither the statutes cited nor the executive orders cited specifically prohibited the provision of humanitarian aid to Iraq. In fact, they specifically exempt humanitarian aid. The regulations prohibit unlicensed humanitarian aid, but because the regulations only get their authority from the law, the

regulations are too broad and therefore invalid against V members. The fact that the sanctions have been lifted fu indicates the lack of basis for this fine under current law VITW is not a corporation. VITW did not go to Iraq to l medical supplies, some of the people associated with VI did. Why sue VITW?

Second, we have to raise the protections of our constitut The actions of VITW members are consistent with constitutional law and it is reasonable to question the pc and the timing of the prosecution. The First, Fifth, Ninth Fourteenth Amendments protect the freedom of people engage in speech and political action, to practice their re and ethical beliefs and practices, the freedom of associa the freedom to travel, and the due process and substanti process rights of people. Freedom from governmental interference is supposed to be protected whenever possi particularly when VITW members were helping people. Because VITW members took these actions of providin medical assistance openly, in good conscience and in gc faith to assist people who were and remain in desperate because of years of grave and immoral sanctions that re in the deaths of over a half a million children under the six, and hundreds of thousands more over the age of six VITW actions should be protected by the constitution. T timing and focus of this prosecution gives rise to serious questions about the constitutionality of the actions of th would try to fine people for providing humanitarian aid people of Iraq and we will specifically reserve the right discovery and challenge the selective prosecution of VI Further, it is inappropriate to sue VITW under freedom association grounds because not all members of VITW l medical supplies to Iraq. VITW members all oppose the and unjust sanctions imposed against the innocent peopl Iraq, but those political views are not violations of any l

Third, the action taken by the government is a violation Religious Freedom Restoration Act, 42 usc 2000bb-1. R bars the government from placing a "substantial burden" person's exercise of religion "even if the burden results rule of general applicability," unless the government demonstrates a "compelling governmental interest," and the "least restrictive means" of furthering that interest. N VITW members have taken their positions and taken ac bring medical supplies to those in need in Iraq because ethical and religious beliefs. The government should no people for such action and belief.

Fourth, the actions taken by VITW members are consist with and protected by international law. The sanctions h resulted in the deaths of more than a million people. International law does not support the sanctions nor the application of sanctions against the innocent people of I People who try to provide medical assistance to innocer

victims of illegal sanctions are protected under international law.

Fifth, the actions taken by VITW members are consistent and protected by the law of necessity. Necessity is the legal doctrine that says that there are just circumstances where law needs to be violated in order to pursue a higher good. If you have to break into a house on fire to help the person trapped inside, it makes no sense to prosecute people for trespass afterwards. If any of these actions were actually to be technical violations of law, then they were allowed as an appeal to the higher good of justice.

Sixth, VITW asks for a trial by jury. Wouldn't you love the chance to talk about the real effect of the sanctions on the innocent people of Iraq and tell what people saw in Iraq? Let's argue about the justice in all of this to the good people of Washington, DC? That would be a true exercise in justice and work.

Everyone is clear that VITW will not pay the fine and no one else pay the fine.

Thanks to all who have contributed ideas and thoughts. Let the actions of our government distract our focus from the needs of our sisters and brothers in Iraq.



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US accused of 'very severe' HR abuses in Iraq: AI condemns denial of access to prisoners

BAGHDAD, July 20: Amnesty International accused US troops on Sunday of "very severe" human rights abuses in Iraq and complained that it had been denied access to thousands of prisoners held without charge in "appalling" conditions.

Amnesty spokeswoman Judit Arenas Licea said some Iraqis had been forced to stand under the blistering sun for up to 48 hours in US-run detention centres that lack proper sanitation and that relatives had no information on their plight.

One detainee was shot dead by US troops during a prison riot last month, she told Reuters in an interview in Baghdad.

"We are disappointed that human rights were used as an excuse to go to war in Iraq and now the human rights of Iraqis are being violated," she said, condemning conditions at among other sites Saddam Hussein's once notorious Abu Ghraib prison.

US military officials declined immediate comment. A team from the London-based independent rights watchdog is visiting Iraq to take testimony from those held and released by US forces and to try and speak to some of those still held.



It is also investigating abuses under Saddam, although most of those imprisoned by him are now free. While some Iraqis detained by invading troops have been released, many remain in prisons with no access to a lawyer or families, Licea said.

The US military authorities have repeatedly turned down Amnesty's requests for access to those jails, Licea said.

Some Iraqis are being held by the Americans at the Abu Ghraib complex near Baghdad, one of the most feared prisons under Saddam. Today it is heavily guarded by US troops.

Licea alleged that American soldiers shot and killed detainee Alaa Jassem there on June 13 while trying to contain prisoners rioting against poor conditions.

US Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz visited Abu Ghraib prison on Sunday as part of a five-day tour of Iraq.

Saddam and his associates had "murdered" 30,000 people in Abu Ghraib, Wolfowitz told reporters, adding that he believed that most Iraqis were now behind the United States.

When Amnesty tried to investigate prison conditions it got similar answers from US soldiers every time, Licea said:

"They just cite security reasons for not giving information. But we know from ex-prisoners that many have not bathed properly for months and there is no sanitation."

Amnesty has also been denied access to a temporary American prison set up at Baghdad's main airport where it believes some of Saddam's top officials are held.

US troops, who have lost 37 of their comrades to attacks since major combat was declared over on May 1, have struggled to impose order since they toppled Saddam. Many fear for their lives and so prefer to trust no one on the streets. But Licea said this was prolonging a vicious circle of mistrust as soldiers were heavy handed in arrests and searches.

"People are handcuffed and put on their knees and humiliated. There was one case where a 12-year-old child was handcuffed behind his back with a group of adults. The Americans treat the children like adults," she said. -Reuters

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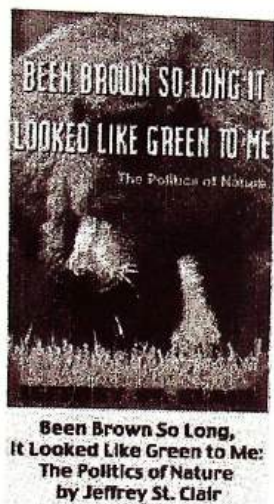
The Ugly Truth of Camp Cropper

A Torture Story to Shame Us All

By ROBERT FISK

<http://www.counterpunch.org/fisk07242003.html>

25-7-03



Now here's a story to shame us all. It's about America's shameful prison camps in Iraq. It's about the beating of prisoners during interrogation.

"Sources" may be a dubious word in journalism right now, but the sources for the beatings in Iraq are impeccable. This story is also about the gunning down of three prisoners in Baghdad, two of them "while trying to escape". But most of all, it's about Qais Mohamed al-Salman. Qais al-Salman is just the sort of guy the US ambassador Paul Bremer and his dead-end assistants need now. He hated Saddam, fled Iraq in 1976, then returned after the "liberation" with a briefcase literally full of plans to help in the restoration of his country's infrastructure and water purification system.

He's an engineer who has worked in Africa, Asia and Europe. He is a Danish citizen. He speaks good English. He even likes America. Or did until 6 June this year.

That day he was travelling in Abu Nawas Street when his car came under American fire. He says he never saw a checkpoint. Bullets hit the tyres and his driver and another passenger ran for their lives. Qais al-Salman stood meekly beside the vehicle. He was carrying his Danish passport, Danish driving licence and medical records.

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Website of the Day
Lieberman & Falwell:

But let him tell his own story. "A civilian car came up with American soldiers in it. Then more soldiers in military vehicles. I told them I didn't understand what had happened, that I was a scientific researcher. But they made me lie down in the street, tied my arms behind me with plastic-and-steel cuffs and tied up my feet and put me in one of their vehicles."

The next bit of his story carries implications for our own journalistic profession. "After 10 minutes in the vehicle, I was taken out again. There were journalists with cameras. The Americans untied me, then made me lie on the road again. Then, in front of the cameras, they tied my hands and feet all over again and put me back in the vehicle."

If this wasn't a common story in Baghdad today--if the gross injustices meted out to ordinary Iraqis and the equally gross mistreatment in America's prison camps here was not so common--then Qais al-Salman's story would not be so important.

Amnesty International turned up in Baghdad yesterday to investigate, as well as Saddam's



Fisk: The Ugly Truth of Camp Cropper

True Love at Last

July 22, 2003

Diane Christian
Bad Guy / Good Guy:
War Forces; Peace Frees

monstrous crimes, the mass detention centre run by the Americans at Baghdad international airport in which up to 2,000 prisoners live in hot, airless tents. The makeshift jail is called Camp Cropper and there have already been two attempted breakouts.

Jeremy Brecher
Solidarity and Student
Protests in Iran

Both would-be escapees, needless to say, were swiftly shot dead by their American captors. Yesterday, Amnesty was forbidden permission to visit Camp Cropper. This is where the Americans took Qais Al-Salman on 6 June.

Steve Kretzmann
and Jim Vallette
Plugging Iraq into
Globalization

He was put in Tent B, a vast canvas room containing up to 130 prisoners. "There were different classes of people there," Qais al-Salman says. "There were people of high culture, doctors and university people, and there were the most dirty, animal people, thieves and criminals the like of which I never saw before.

Sam Smith
Greening the Golden
Triangle

James Plummer
Smile, You're on Federal
Camera

"In the morning, I was taken for interrogation before an American military intelligence officer. I showed him letters involving me in US aid projects. He pinned a label on my shirt. It read, 'Suspected Assassin'."

Lucretia Stewart
This Day Shall Not Define
My Life: January 18,
2003

Now there probably are some assassins in Camp Cropper. The good, the bad and the ugly have been incarcerated there: old Baathists, possible Iraqi torturers, looters and just about anyone who has got in the way of the American military. Only

Website of the Day
Iraq Coalition Casualties

July 21, 2003

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Website of the Day

"selected" prisoners are beaten during
interrogation. Again, I repeat, the source is
impeccable, and Western.

2.2

Gais al-Salman was given no water to wash in
and after trying to explain his innocence to a
second interrogator, he went on hunger strike.
Formal charges were made against him. There
were no rules for the American prisoners.

Some soldiers drove me back to Baghdad after
43 days in the camp," Gais al-Salman says.
"They dropped me in Rashid Street and gave me
back my documents and Danish passport and
they said, 'Sorry'."

Gais al-Salman went home to his wife and
mother who had long believed her son was dead.
No American had contacted her despite her
desperate requests to the US authorities for help.
Not one of the Americans had bothered to tell the
Danish government they had imprisoned one of
its citizens. Just as in Saddam's day, a man had
simply been disappeared "off the streets of
Baghdad."

Robert Fisk is a reporter for the Independent
and author of *Pity the Nation*. He is also
contributor to *Jackburn* and *Sunday's*
forthcoming book, *The Politics of Anti-
Semitism*.

gedaagden te gebieden om binnen 5 dagen na het te wijzen voornis iedere
inbreuk op het merkteken van eiseres, al dan niet door middel van het direct of indirect
registreren van domeinnamen die gelijk zijn aan of overeenstemmen met haar merken,
van eiseres, te staken en gestaakt te houden, alsmede zich te onthouden van anderszins
onechtmatig handelen jegens eiseres door het geregistreerd hebben en houden van de
domeinnaam IQU.nl, op straffe van een dwangsom NLG 10.000,- per dag of gedeelte
daarvan die gedaagden met de nakoming van dit gebod in gebreke blijven.

2.1

Matie vordert in dit geding:

e. Name Space weigert tot op heden -ondanks sommatie daartoe- de domeinnaam aan
Matie over te dragen.

d.

Op 4 mei 2000 heeft Name Space bij de Stichting Internet Domeinregistratie Nederland
(hierna: SIDN) de domeinnaam iqu.nl (hierna: de domeinnaam) laten registreren. Matie
heeft hieroe geen toestemming verleend.



IRAQ BODY COUNT

Comment and Analysis

Earlier Analyses:

1. HOW MANY CIVILIANS WERE KILLED BY CLUSTER BOMBS?
2. THE HOLES IN THE CASUALTIES MAP

100 Names of Civilians Killed *- and only 2% of a vital task completed*

Printer-friendly format

27th May 2003

Since the start of Iraq Body Count project we have been recording names of civilians killed. We have done this whenever names have been given in the media reports which form the sources for our work.

The table below contains the first 100 full names of civilians killed that we have been able to extract. They are listed in date order of death. Also included, where known, are age and/or brief personal details, the place of death, the date of death, the source in which the name was reported, and the incident code from the IBC data base. The majority of the basic research was undertaken by IBC archivist Kay Williams.

We record these names for exactly the same basic motivation as others have recorded the names of those who perished on September 11th 2001 (see <http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2001/memorial/>). Each person was a victim whose life was unjustly and abruptly ended. Each person loved and was loved: their death leaves an irreplaceable hole in someone's heart. Each person requires to be remembered, not as a statistic but as a human being brutally plucked from their life, their family, their friends.

At the time of writing (May 27th) the maximum recorded civilians deaths arising as a result of coalition military action has exceeded 7,000. These 100 names therefore represent less than 2% of the total killed. Despite this, our list is, at present, the longest list of full names that has been published. We have found just over 200 further deaths for which some incomplete name information is available. This is generally of the form "relatives of (name)", "11 members of the (name) family" or a more specific designation such as "daughter of (name)". For the moment we are not publishing this data (in the hope that full names will become available) but are constantly adding to it and will make it available in due course. We also plan to add further human details to the data below, as we are able to extract and organise it.

On Friday 16th May 2003, the Guardian Newspaper devoted a special issue of their G2 supplement to obituaries of people killed in the Iraq War. Their publication was headed "One hundred lives: the untold stories of the men, women and children who died during the war on Iraq". An abridged version is available on the Guardian website at

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/Iraq/memorial/0,13313,952862,00.html> .

The Guardian report provided a brief obituary of each person killed, written by one of 7 Guardian journalists, James Meek, Will Hodgkinson, Ewan MacAskill, Jonathan Steele, Simon Hattenstone, Oliver Burkeman, and Luke Harding.

Only 47 of the deaths listed by the Guardian were civilian. The remainder were soldiers, mainly American. A more comprehensive list of names of coalition military personnel killed has been compiled by CNN and is available at

<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2003/iraq/forces/casualties/index.html>

Compiling the fullest possible memorial to the civilian victims of the Iraq War is clearly a moral and humanitarian imperative. We publish these hundred civilian names partly to raise awareness of the fact that names are available, and the search for more names must be intensified. The fact that we have so few names should not be taken as any particular comment on the work of the journalists who published these names. It is not the job of journalists to gather names in a systematic way – their job is to report what they see and who they talk to. The preponderance of names from incidents in Baghdad reflects the high concentration of journalists working in that city, who were able to talk to doctors, relatives, and

eye-witnesses. The full job of compiling a register of the dead can only be done by properly funded organisations operating on the ground in Iraq with that express purpose.

Our contribution to this work is clearly limited, and we cannot be confident that this work will progress much more rapidly or easily for people on the ground. One major problem is, of course, that many of those killed were not able to be identified at the time of their deaths. There are heart-rending reports of Iraqi families going from hospital to hospital and seeking out every makeshift graveyard they could find, looking for loved ones and their "missing, presumed dead." The Iraqi Red Crescent, one of the agencies attempting a comprehensive count, was reported recently as saying that it was still too early for anything like a definitive estimate of civilian casualties (Christian Science Monitor, 21 May 2003 <http://www.csmonitor.com/2003/0522/p01s02-woiq.html>.)

A comprehensive census of civilian deaths may take months or even years, and may perhaps never be so complete that each and every individual is named and registered among the war's victims. But this makes it all the more important that every available name *is* recorded, so we know the extent of the task that lies ahead.

John Sloboda

100 names of civilians killed in the war on Iraq						
No.	Name	Age (or personal details)	Place of death	Date of death	Source	IBC incident
001	Hashim Kamel Radi	22	Bus from Baghdad to Nasiriyah	Mar	Boston Globe 22 Apr	
002	Jalal al-Yussuf	17	Zambrania	Mar	IND 04 Apr Alternet 08 Apr	j020
003	Ibrahim al-Yussuf	12	Zambrania	Mar	IND 04 Apr Alternet 08 Apr	j020
	Ahmed Al-					

004	Rahal (al-Bath in some accounts)	-	Communications Building on Baghdad-Amman road	20 Mar	IND 22 Mar	x007
005	Sufian al-Batayneh	Jordanian student	Road near Mosul	22 Mar	HUA 25 Mar	x018
006	Abdullah al-Ababneh	Jordanian student	Road near Mosul	22 Mar	HUA 25 Mar	x018
007	Ahmad al_enezi	Jordanian student	Road near Mosul	22 Mar	HUA 25 Mar	x018
008	Omran al-Serihaine	Jordanian student	Road near Mosul	22 Mar	HUA 25 Mar	x018
009	Fateha Ghazzi	8	Nahrawaan district, near Diyala Bridge to NE of Baghdad	24 Mar	IPT report 26 Mar	
010	Nada Abdallah	16	Nahrawaan district, near Diyala Bridge to NE of Baghdad	24 Mar	IPT report 26 Mar	
011	Um Aqeel-Khalil	Mother-in-law of Sahar	North Baghdad	24 Mar	Wash Post 25 Mar	x021
012	Sahar Khalil	Daughter in law of Um	North Baghdad	24 Mar	Wash Post 25 Mar	x021
013	Khowla Abdel-Fattah	70	North Baghdad	24 Mar	Wash Post 25 Mar	x021
014	Samad Rabai.	-	Al Shaab, Baghdad	26 Mar	AJR 29 Apr	x020
015	Faris El Baur	11	Al Shaab market, Baghdad	26 Mar		x020
016	Saif El Baur,	11	Al Shaab market, Baghdad	26 Mar		x020

017	Marwa Abbas	11	Baghdad	26 Mar?	NYT 13 Apr	
018	Tabarek Abbas	8	Baghdad	26 Mar?	NYT 13 Apr	
019	Safia Abbas	5	Baghdad	26 Mar?	NYT 13 Apr	
020	Qassem Moussa	42 (teacher)	Hilla	27 Mar	WP 19 Apr	
021	Thamer Abdel-Wahid	27	Shuala Market, Baghdad	28 Mar	Wash Post 15 Apr	j005
022	Nujeh Abdel-Ridda	27	Shuala Market, Baghdad	28 Mar	Wash Post 15 Apr	j005
023	Najia Hussein.	-	Bus from Hillah to Najaf	28 Mar	SMH 03 Apr	
024	Haytham Rafi	-	Rifa	29 Mar	ABC 1 Apr	x027
025	Arkan Daif	14	Baghdad	30 Mar		Incident ibc x025?
026	Walid Abu Shaker	23	Saddem Canal Bridge, Baghdad	1 Apr	GUA 3 Apr	x036
027	Hilal Faraj Silo	-	Bartala	2 Apr	Assyrian Forum 4 Apr	ibc j016
028	Manal SaadAllah Matti	-	Bartala	2 Apr	Assyrian Forum 4 Apr	ibc j016
029	Mahroosa Jarjis	-	Bartala	2 Apr	Assyrian Forum 4 Apr	ibc j016
030	Valentina Bashar Faraj	-	Bartala	2 Apr	Assyrian Forum 4 Apr	ibc j016
031	Samar Hussein	13	Manaria	03 Apr	IND 04 Apr	
032	Mohammad Ahmed	4	Radwaniyeh, Baghdad	4 Apr	REU 4 Apr	
033	Nadia Kalaf	33	Palestine Street, NE Baghdad	5 Apr	MIRROR 05 Apr	
	Zeena Akram					

Vervolgens hebben eisers hun vorderingen nader toegelicht en gedachten verveel gevoerd met conclusie tot afwijzing van de vorderingen. Na verder debat hebben partijen stukken, waaronder van weerszijden producties en pleitnotities, overgelegd voor vormswijziging.

[illegible]

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061	Shams Amin	20 (daughter of Salma)	Mansour district, Baghdad	8 Apr	Telegraph 21 Apr	k003
062	Sami Osama	-	Sanawa (possibly Samawah)	Before 8 Apr	Arab News 8 Apr	
063	Tareq Ayoub	-	Aj-Jazeera's Baghdad office	8 Apr	AP REU 8 Apr	x041
064	Taras Protsyuk,	35	Palestine Hotel, Baghdad	8 Apr	AP REU 8 Apr	x042
065	Jose Couso	37	Palestine Hotel, Baghdad	8 Apr	AP REU 8 Apr	x042
066	Vatche Arslanian	48	Baghdad	8 Apr	REU 9 Apr BBC 9 Apr	x046
067	Hanna Fatah	70	mental patient, Al Rashad hospital	8 Apr	NYT 11 May	
068	James Kachadoorian	-	Baladayat Street, Baghdad	8 Apr	NYT 19 Apr	
069	Nicolas Kachadoorian	-	Baladayat Street, Baghdad	8 Apr	NYT 19 Apr	
070	Edmund Kachadoorian	-	Baladayat Street, Baghdad	8 Apr	NYT 19 Apr	
071	Wael Sabah	Mother of Noor and Abdul	Baladyat district of Baghdad.	8 Apr	GUA 09 Apr	x043
072	Noor Sabah	12	Baladyat district of Baghdad.	8 Apr	GUA 09 Apr	x043
073	Abdul Khader	5	Baladyat district of Baghdad.	8 Apr	GUA 09 Apr	x043
074	Hamsa Mohammed Omar	6	Fathlia (N. Iraq)	9 Apr	Gua 13 Apr	x060
075	Hamsa Mohammed Omar	12	Fathlia (N. Iraq)	9 Apr	Gua 13 Apr	x060

076	Ali Ramzi	10	Fathlia (N. Iraq)	9 Apr	Gua 13 Apr	x060
077	Abu Salam Abdul Gafir	16	Fathlia (N. Iraq)	9 Apr	Gua 13 Apr	x060
078	Rowand Mohammed Suleiman	8-months	Baghdad (Al Yarnouk Hosp)	10 Apr	GUA 12 Apr BG 11 Apr	j022
079	Haithem Tamini	7	Baghdad	11 Apr	Newsday 22 Apr	
080	Nora Tamini	9	Baghdad	11 Apr	Newsday 22 Apr	
081	Arkan David Belu	28	Baghdad	11 Apr	Newhouse NJ 13 May	
082	Khansa'a Thaib	-	South of Baghdad	13-18 Apr	SMH 21 Apr	
083	Muhammed al-Barheini	25	Shop on Al-Rashid Commercial St, Baghdad	11 Apr	Sky 11 Apr	j025
084	Rashid Majid	-	Al-Kharnouq, Baghdad	15 Apr	Miami Herald 16 Apr.	j027
085	Ghassan Majid	-	Al-Kharnouq, Baghdad	15 Apr	Miami Herald 16 Apr.	j027
086	Arkan Majid	-	Al-Kharnouq, Baghdad	15 Apr	Miami Herald 16 Apr.	j027
087	Uday al Shimarey	-	Al-Kharnouq, Baghdad	15 Apr	Miami Herald 16 Apr.	j027
088	Dana Ali	8	Baghdad	19 Apr		ibc x071
089	Lamiya Ali	6	Baghdad	19 Apr		ibc x071
090	Abdullah Abdul-Majeed al-Sa'doon	26	Basra	22 Apr	BG 25 Apr	
091	Salman Abu al-Heel	25	Kut	24 Apr	GUA 25 Apr	
092	Waleed Saleh Abdel-Latif.	32	Fallujah	28 Apr	Commondreams 29 Apr	

093	Tuamer Abdel Hamid	47	Fallujah	28 Apr	Commondreams 29 Apr	
094	Husseln Rashid	18	Fallujah	28 Apr	Commondreams 29 Apr	
095	Sa'aleh al-Jumaili	20s	Fallujah	30 Apr	IND 1 May	x069
096	Ghanam al-Jumaili	20s	Fallujah	30 Apr	IND 1 May	x069
097	Ali Salim	14	Basra	3 May	GUA 5 May BBC 5 May	j034
098	Raeed Amar	13/14	Birmingham (burn wounds sustained in Basra)	4 May	Birmingham Post 9 May	
099	Daoud Qais	-	Baghdad	17 May	WP 20 May	
100	Ahmed al Rifaai	13	Samarra	26 May	SMH 30 May KR 29 May	x082

(Not included in this table are foreign journalists whose deaths, and names, were relatively well-publicized.) Revised 17 June 2003.

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Earlier analysis from Iraq Body Count:

6th May 2003

How Many Civilians Were Killed by Cluster Bombs?

The Pentagon says 1: Iraq Body Count says at least 200.

It is understandable that the US government should wish to

play down the damage done to Iraqi civilians by cluster bombs, for those who use them in civilian areas open themselves to charges of war crimes. [\[Read More\]](#)

28th April 2003

The Holes In the Map:
Mapping Civilian Casualties to Location

The Iraq Body Count Data Base can now be consulted in the form of a map, created by Donalda Speight of Mapbureau.com. The map has a clickable "dot" at each location where civilian deaths [\[Read More\]](#)

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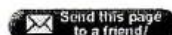
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Friday, July 25, 2003



Published on Tuesday, July 22, 2003 by the [Buffalo News](#) (New York)

Warning of Toxic Aftermath from Uranium Munitions

by Anthony Cardinale

The American use of depleted uranium munitions in both Persian Gulf wars has unleashed a toxic disaster that will eclipse the Agent Orange tragedy of the Vietnam War, a former top Army official said Monday evening.

Former Maj. Douglas Rokke, who was director of the Army's depleted uranium project, spoke to 125 people at the Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society. The Champaign, Ill., science professor was brought here by the Western New York Peace Center.

"I am a warrior," the 54-year-old Vietnam War veteran began. "The sole purpose of war is to kill and destroy. There are no winners."

Dressed in sneakers, blue jeans and a red polo shirt, Rokke fit the image of an animated science professor, hair tousled, adjusting his glasses and eager to impart his findings to the next generation.

If what he says is true, students will soon have yet another chapter of heartbreaking history to study in the schools. If he is wrong, it will take years to disprove.

Called to active duty in 1990, Rokke said, he was assigned to develop procedures for cleaning up uranium contamination after "they decided to use depleted uranium munitions" in the war to expel Iraq from Kuwait.

"They didn't tell anybody what they were doing. Why would they? Depleted uranium munitions are the ultimate weapon. Each round fired by an Abrams tank (represents) 10 pounds of solid uranium-238. The

purpose of war is to kill and destroy."

Rokke said his team in the gulf blew up vehicles and structures with these munitions and then tested the wreckage for radioactive contamination. He said they found that uranium dust is so fine that it acts like a gas, seeping through the tiny pores of protective masks.

The United States blew up Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, in Kuwait and on the Saudi Arabian border in the first gulf war, Rokke said. As a precaution, American personnel were inoculated before entering the field, but "we were told not to record it, and it's not in the soldiers' medical records."

Uranium munitions were also used during the recent war in Iraq, he added.

"It's like playing darts," he said, "except you're playing with 10 pounds of solid uranium and it catches fire immediately. You lose nearly 40 percent of the round in uranium dust. It contaminates air, water and soil for all eternity."

Rokke said an "infamous memo" from the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico on March 1, 1991, warned of the "impact on the environment" of depleted uranium rounds and suggested that they "may become politically unacceptable." Today he interprets the memo as "a direct order to lie."

The memo from Los Alamos - where the first atomic bombs were developed and tested during World War II - prevented the military from acknowledging the danger of these munitions, Rokke said.

"The United States used 375 tons in Gulf War I," Rokke said. "My orders were to take care of U.S. casualties and vehicles" that had been hit by "friendly fire."

"Myself and my team members started to get sick almost immediately. It started with respiratory problems, then rashes."

But the procedures developed by his team were never implemented, Rokke said, despite a military order of June 1991 to treat these personnel. Recalling a wounded friend who suffered tumors where uranium shrapnel had been left in his body, he said the authorities found "no compelling evidence" of a connection and refused to authorize removal of the shrapnel or special treatment.



Former Army Maj. Douglas Rokke tells of lethal legacy from depleted uranium munitions used in gulf wars. (Buffalo News Photo/Ronald Collieran)

In his own case, Rokke added, his body has six times the amount of uranium that usually requires medical care but has received no help or advice from the government.

"The technology of war is out of control," Rokke concluded. "We don't have the ability to clean it up (or) treat it. I'm a warrior, but my conclusion is that war is obsolete. A U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs report says over 221,000 of our sons and daughters are on permanent disability and over 10,000 dead - one-third of our Gulf War I force. And they're coming back sick right now."

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Iraq's resistance war was planned

Jason Burke, Baghdad
Sunday June 29, 2003
[The Observer](#)

datum



The bodies of two missing American soldiers were found yesterday as news emerged that a growing campaign of Iraqi resistance to coalition occupation may have been planned before the war began.

Allied officials now believe that a document recently found in Iraq detailing an 'emergency plan' for looting and sabotage in the wake of an invasion is probably authentic. It was prepared by the Iraqi intelligence service in January and marked 'top secret'. It outlined 11 kinds of sabotage, including burning government offices, cutting power and communication lines and attacking water purification plants.

What gives the document particular credence is that it appears to match exactly the growing chaos and large number of guerrilla attacks on coalition soldiers, oil facilities and power plants.

At least 61 US troops have died in Iraq since major combat was declared to be over on 1 May, including at least 23 in attacks. The latest death came on Friday when a soldier was killed in an ambush, and another shot in the neck and critically injured. Grenades were thrown at a US convoy as it passed through the Thawra area, a poor, mainly Shia Muslim part of the capital that had been largely free of anti-American violence.

US officials dismiss their casualties as 'militarily insignificant' and point out that there are 55,000 US troops in Baghdad. But the repeated attacks damage the forces' image of invulnerability and lead to harsher security measures that risk alienating swathes of the population.

A series of major operations involving hundreds of arrests have apparently failed to quell the unrest, much of which is believed to be committed by criminals hired by wealthy former Baath Party officials. Some attacks are also sponsored, security officials believe, by hardline religious groups.

It is not known who was behind Friday's attack although the prime suspects are Sunni Muslims from the west of Baghdad, where resistance to the US has so far been strongest. It is

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possible that they chose to attack Americans in a Shia Muslim area to bolster the impression that Iraq's majority Shia population, who have hitherto been relatively supportive of the occupying forces, are joining the fight against the coalition.

The spiral of violence has also hit British troops after six military policeman were killed and eight other soldiers injured in the southern Iraqi town of Majar Kabir. Yesterday UK troops returned to the village where the men were killed after dropping leaflets promising that there would be no 'mass punishment'.

Military officials insisted they were not offering an amnesty to those who were responsible for the killings. 'The priority is to win back the hearts and minds of the people,' an Army spokesman said. 'But by doing that one of the benefits will be that hope fully we will be able to catch the people responsible. There is certainly no amnesty.'

There is still no explanation of why the RMP detachment was not assisted by the substantial British forces near by when it was surrounded by an angry mob. Sources within the RMP in the UK told The Observer they suspected that the detachment may have been short of ammunition. One soldier recently returned from Iraq said that a shortage had led to ammunition being taken from military policemen to give to frontline units.

'When I was in Kosovo we had to borrow ammo and grenades off the Para Regiment to feel as though we were suitably armed when isolated. Apparently we were "policemen not soldiers", so we weren't issued it,' one source said. 'I know from friends in the Gulf that they had had a lot of ammo withdrawn because of this attitude. It cost them their lives.'

British military officials dismissed the claims last night. 'The idea that we send anyone out without enough ammunition is simply rubbish,' one said.

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List of casualties in Iraq war

April 11 2003

Following are details of recent casualties in the Iraq war as announced by US, British and Iraqi authorities or independently confirmed by Reuters correspondents:

US AND BRITISH MILITARY CASUALTIES:

- 102 US killed and 11 missing
- 30 British killed

IRAQI CASUALTIES:

- **Iraqi military:** At least 2320 (US military estimates for Baghdad alone).
- **Iraqi civilians:** More than 1250 killed (Minimum Iraqi estimates as of April 3)

NOTE: Official figures usually lag behind actual battlefield casualties. Does not include unspecified number of deaths from "friendly fire" bombing of Kurdish and US special forces convoy on April 6.

US MILITARY IN COMBAT:

April 9 - The Pentagon said 101 members of the US armed forces had been killed in the war against Iraq.

There were 399 wounded, 11 missing and seven prisoners, according to the Pentagon's latest casualty figures.

April 10 - The US says one Marine has been killed and more than 20 wounded in a battle at a mosque in Baghdad.

BRITISH MILITARY IN COMBAT:

April 6 - Three British soldiers were killed in the southern Iraqi city of Basra, taking the British death toll in the war against Iraq to 30, the Defence Ministry said.

IRAQI CIVILIANS:



War On Iraq

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April 3 - Iraq's Foreign Minister Naji Sabri said more than 1250 civilians had been killed and 5000 injured since March 20, the start of the war.

List of casualties in Iraq war

Fear slips away like a fleeing tormentor

US & BRITISH NON-COMBAT DEATHS:

April 6 - A US plane mistakenly bombed a convoy of US special forces and Kurdish fighters, killing 18 Kurds and wounding over 45, including the brother of Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani. Unknown number of casualties among US special forces.

April 7 - Two US Marines were killed and three injured in a friendly fire incident in fighting to secure two bridges over the Nahr Diyala river, a tributary of the Tigris on the edge of Baghdad.

JOURNALISTS & MEDIA STAFF KILLED:

April 8 - Tarek Ayoub, a producer and correspondent for al-Jazeera television, was killed in a US air raid on Baghdad. A second al-Jazeera correspondent was slightly wounded.

April 8 - Reuters cameraman Taras Protsyuk, a Ukrainian national based in Warsaw, and Spanish television cameraman Jose Couso, who worked for Tele 5, died after a US tank fired at the Palestine Hotel, base for much of the foreign media in Baghdad. Three other Reuters staff were wounded.

NON-IRAQIS:

April 8 - Iran says a boy was killed in Abadan by a rocket fired by US forces in neighbouring Iraq.

- Canadian Vatche Arslanian, 48, a staff member with the International Committee of the Red Cross was shot and killed in Baghdad when the vehicle he was in was caught in crossfire.

NON-COMBATANTS MISSING:

March 22 - Two journalists from Britain's Independent Television News missing after coming under fire on their way to Basra.

April 4 - International relief group Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said two of its six-member team in Baghdad had been missing since April 2. MSF announced it had suspended operations in Iraq.

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Desert sheikhs feast on hate for detested American 'invaders'

(Filed: 28/06/2003)

Peter Foster finds the Bedouin in north-west Iraq are increasingly irritated with their occupiers

The Iraqi desert is a lawless place. On the advice of a British diplomat we travel armed, although not with a Kalashnikov. Our safety is to be guaranteed by a letter written by Sheikh Fahran al-Sadeed. He is the head of Iraq's Shamir tribe and, we are told, a very powerful man.

We meet and drink Turkish coffee for about three hours. The sheikh, fresh from a meeting with Paul Bremer, the US administrator, spends most of the time enthusiastically denouncing "ignorant Americans" and foreigners in general.

We also get our first lesson in the complexities of local Iraqi politics. He explains that not all sheikhs are "real" sheikhs.

After 1990 Saddam created hundreds of "pet sheikhs" and kept them loyal by paying them large sums of money. The last payment of three million Iraqi dinar was made only a month before the war. In Iraq these are disparagingly known as "Sheikh 90s".

Sheikh Fahran says the "fake" sheikhs are queuing up outside Bremer's office daily for a slice of the reconstruction pie. He laughs wildly at Bremer's gullibility, predicting Iraq will be in flames if the Americans don't start creating jobs and stability soon.

He doesn't much like foreigners. Our letter of safe passage is written in Arabic in his own florid hand. I hope it says the right thing.

In Balji, a provincial oil-town 160 miles north of Baghdad, we knock on the door of a large house. Whatever the letter says, it has an almost magical effect. The guard on the gate is a narrowed-eyed Bedouin with a loaded gun. He looks at us suspiciously until the letter is produced, with Sheikh Fahran's personal card attached. Suddenly those eyes are wide open.

Inside we submit to the obligatory three hours of tea and chat. Forty or more local sheikhs sit against the walls, all traditionally dressed in white tunics and head-dresses. Everyone is complaining about the Americans.

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In the garden outside the charred stump of a date palm - victim of a night-time grenade attack - is testament to the lack of security. Renegade Ba'athists are to blame.

It is not clear what, if anything, the meeting is meant to achieve. The sheikhs complain that the Americans don't listen to them. This is not entirely surprising as there seems to be little consensus even on simple things, like what is the most serious problem facing the town - security, salaries, or sewage? If nothing else, cursing the American invader has a cathartic effect.

Another sheikh, Abu Fayed, joins the party. Everyone stands. We are introduced. He nods. "Tonight," he says, "we shall go to the desert."

Our romantic notions of the desert and its nomadic Bedouin people are soon disabused. There is not a sand dune in sight. After driving 30 miles due west into the scrub towards Syria we reach the first Bedouin settlement.

There are no tents, but single-room, mud-brick houses. Since the 1970s the camel has been replaced as chief mode of transport by the Toyota pick-up. The families sleep outside on iron bedsteads that look like cast-offs from an English prison or public school.

We ask the headman about the war. Had he seen any American soldiers out here? He says he heard the jets in the sky every night. Then he saw tanks - at least seven of them - rolling through the night. The children all cried. And the Americans nearly killed his donkey, which became frightened and bolted. Since that night, nothing.

What does he feel now? Is he happy to see the back of Saddam? "Of course," he says, adding in the same breath that he hates the American "invader". The Coalition ceased to be "liberators" after the first day.

Is life better since the war? No, he says, it's worse. Before the war, the ministry gave them food every month. Contrary to all the assurances given by Mr Bremer at his Baghdad press conferences, the headman says the American-led authority gives them nothing. The food is not getting through.

These are the rural poor of Iraq. No one in the village is starving, but none of the children is going to school either. While the village poor scrape together an evening meal of bread and yoghurt, we are invited to a feast. Word had been sent ahead of our arrival, a sheep has been killed in our honour. The crowd of guests grows with the setting of the sun, and soon we have a hillside full of parked Toyotas.

There is not an American soldier in sight, but at no time during the last five weeks have we been more secure. The only risk is from the stray dogs which are wolf-sized and crazy. After eating, the discussion turns once again to the American invasion.

Everyone has a story to tell, apocryphal or otherwise. The most senior man, Saba al-Dhaib - whose name means "the wolf" - tells how his two sons found an arms cache and, ignoring his advice, helped themselves to "just a couple" of machineguns.

The men of the family were all arrested by the Americans and taken by helicopter to Nasiriya. As a parting shot, he says, the Americans opened up with the helicopter's heavy machinegun and destroyed his vehicle. The story is unverifiable but typical of those told all over Iraq. True or not, they have same effect - feeding resentment against the Coalition.

Another sheikh wants to know why a country can put satellites into space - literally translated from the Arabic as "artificial moons" - but can't fix the sewers in Baiji. After all, it was coalition bombs that broke them.

Another tells how the Americans have sacked 4,000 workers from the Baiji oil refinery and now intend to bring in foreign workers.

There is no alcohol but the party does not seem to flag. Tired of Coalition-bashing the talk turns to farming and women. The men sitting around the table can muster more than 4,000 sheep between them. That makes them very rich.

Like farmers the world over, however, they protest that they are all as poor as minaret mice.

The Americans are not paying enough for the grain - prices have almost halved since the war. Sheep prices are also down to US\$60 (£36) each - a sum that would delight most English farmers.

All night, the women have been nowhere to be seen. They are busy cooking, washing and looking after a child that can be heard bawling behind a closed door.

Camels and sheep seem as important as wives. I can't help thinking of Baghdad and Mr Bremer's assurances that women will have an equal station in the new Iraq.

The last guest leaves after 1.00am. We sleep outside on the same raised earthen platform where we ate dinner.

The "wolf", grandiloquent as ever, has the final word. "If the Americans stay as our guests, they can stay 100 years.

"If they stay as our invaders, they will not last two. I will fight, my people will fight too."

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News

Baghdad Back To Stone Age

By Nidal al-Assadi, IOL Iraq Correspondent

BAGHDAD, July 6 (IslamOnline.net) - With power outages for long hours that could reach 20 to 23 hours a day and people resorting to primitive methods to cope with backbreaking hardships in the searing 50 degree celsius, the U.S. troops have turned Baghdad into a Stone Age city.

A water vat in the house's corner and a lantern barely spreading its dim light through a lightening wick that helps children study for tomorrow's exams though with drooping eyes, while the mother stand cooking for her children with coal and the daughter fanning with fronds in the stifling heat of July.

This is almost the case in every house in Baghdad as put by Maisaa, an Iraqi girl living in the elite Al-Khadra district in Baghdad. In the near past, many houses in the war-scarred country was full of state-of-the-art domestic appliances, but now that almost three months have elapsed since the downfall of the Iraqi capital to the hands of the U.S. occupation TV sets, radios electric ovens and other appliances have become something of a luxury.

"Acute water, gas and fuel shortage together with power outage forced Iraqis to use traditional things instead of such appliances, however, these much sought-after basics are of sky-rocketing prices with one lantern hitting 2000-4000 dinars (one dollar equals around 1300 Iraqi dinars) compared to its original price of 250 dinars," said Ikhlas Mohammad, a professor of psychology at Baghdad University.

"When you pronounce words like electricity and water you, no doubt, conjures up visions of civilization and life...But we are no leading our lives without water or civilization," Thurayaa Mohidin, a biologist, echoed the same feelings.



Iraqis resorted to lanterns to cope with hard times

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She continued: "But such appalling conditions is nothing new for Iraqis, who suffered for 12 years the same hardships under the ousted Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein...The Americans only added insult to injury."

"Can anybody imagine that I daily read theses on the dim light of lanterns in the sweltering heat of the room...Is this the freedom that the U.S. has promised us it would break the yoke of 35 years of injustice? Are not these (U.S.) practices brazen violations of the rights of oppressed and down-trodden people, who were born to find themselves the people of the world's richest country?" She wondered.

"Majority of Iraqis have already had their fill of these conditions and I fear that it the lull before the storm," she said after a breath of relief.

Diseases

Um Radi, 39, a housewife and a mother of 7 children said that power outage and Iraq's stifling heat afflicted her three-year-old daughter with severe diarrhea, given that she could not bear such temperatures.

"When I went to the hospital I was shocked by the large number of babies who suffered typhoid and dermatitis," she said.

As for Abu Ahmad, an engineering graduate, circumstances beyond his control forced him to work as a tailor.

"We used to sleep on the roof to escape heat and enjoy the night's breeze under the moonlight...But U.S. Apache helicopters pace the night sky at lower altitudes and have the gall to step their shoes out to our humiliation," he said.

'Honeymoon on Roof'

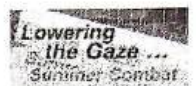
Um Ahmad said that her nephew spent his honeymoon on his house's roof which overlooks the Tigris River.

"It seems as if the Iraqi people were predestined to suffer all along starting from the U.K. occupation in 1917 till today...The occupation is aimed at forcing the Iraqis to live under poverty, starvation and oppression," said Walid Umar, a post-graduate student.

"Can anyone imagine that the people of a country like Iraq, which abounds in natural resources such as oil, depleted uranium, phosphor and mercury, have now to drink from water vats to stay alive? Even the Iraqi sand is now at great demand at the moment by giant corporations because it is the raw material of the world's best ceramics," he added.

Iraqis charged that the U.S.-led occupation authority deliberately cut off electricity and water as a

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collective punishment in retaliation for mounting resistance attacks, which have become more organized as recently admitted by U.S civilian administrator Paul Bremer.

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News

Switzerland Documents U.S.-British War Crimes In Iraq

By Khaled Schmidt, IOL Correspondent

BONN, April 1 (IslamOnline.net) - 13 days after the launch of U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, the Swiss Foreign Ministry has decided to document U.S.-British war crimes against Iraqi civilians on a separate section within its website.

Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy Rey Monday, March 31, was quoted by the German paper *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* as saying that the section - operational since Monday morning - gathers information and data from credible and documented sources, adding names of new victims would be added on an hourly basis.

The initial data available so far reveals the dirtiness of U.S.-British warmongers, the fakeness of their claims about a clean war, as well as their indifference to the lives of innocent, unarmed Iraqi civilians, Rey, member of the ruling Socialist, Democratic Party, was quoted by the paper as saying.

The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* quoted the minister as noting that incoming data, days after the start of the invasion, revealed a significant and a dangerous rise in the number of civilian casualties, as a result of attacks carried out by the invading troops.

Switzerland is a founder and a sponsor of the Geneva Convention, related to the prisoners of wars, civilians and human rights during wars, especially the protection of civilians in war zones. In this capacity, it was imperative for us to do our best to see the Convention is applied, especially, the protection of civilians during wars, the paper quoted Rey as saying.

Since she held her post early this year, Rey adopted what she described as "open diplomacy," said the German newspaper.

It added that in January, 2003, Rey called on the U.S. and Iraq to hold a meeting in Switzerland to try



U.S.-British war crimes in Iraq will be verified, documented by Switzerland

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to solve the standoff peacefully. The Americans turned down her proposal.

During this week, Rey plans to hold a conference to co-ordinate humanitarian and aid steps in Iraq, as a complementary step to a similar conference she organized a week before the launch of the invasion.

According to the latest poll about the U.S.-led invasion, among the Swiss citizens, majority of them opposes the invasion and denounces the U.S.-British policies.

Almost all Swiss population have set up white flags on their roofs, as a sign of peace and opposition to the ongoing invasion.

The Swiss government opposes using its airports or airspace by U.S.-British military aircrafts. It also refused expelling Iraqi diplomats, a request sought repeatedly by Washington.

According to the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, Rey intends to "take a walk" through the demilitarized zone on the border between North and South Korea, in an attempt to ease tension in the Korean Peninsula.

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News

Apocalyptic Scene in Baghdad: Rubbles, Dead, Grief

BAGHDAD, March 26 (IslamOnline.net & News Agencies) - It almost, if not certainly, seems as if we are going to hear about a myriad of U.S. massacres in Iraq day in and day out.

Today, Wednesday, March 26, news agencies reported the killing of at least 29 Iraqi civilians in ancient Baghdad and its outskirts, which were pounded anew by the U.S.-led occupation forces, in addition to another 1000 Iraqis in an-Najaf in just 72 hours.

Baghdad, this working-class city known as "the city of the people," was picking up the pieces in grief and in rage after the barbaric U.S.-led attack.

Tawfiq Radi Farhan, a street vendor, said he watched them slaughtered before his very own eyes.

"I was sitting outside when the missile hit. Cars caught fire and I myself saw people martyred and wounded. Thank God I didn't get hurt," he, still shaken, told Agence France-Presse (AFP).

Piles of rubble lay in the street, as a dull rain watered down the pools of blood. Something far heavier than the debris weighed on people's hearts.

Bombing Women, Children

"They say they only aim at military targets," shouted Ali Sami, who said he was a loyal supporter of Saddam Hussein's Baath party. "And then they launch bombs on our women and children."

U.S. President George W. Bush "will be crushed under our boots!" one man wailed.

Friends and neighbors pitched in to try to salvage the remaining belongings of those who lived, and

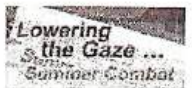


An Iraqi girl stands in front of her house destroyed by the U.S.-led attack on Baghdad

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console the relatives of those who didn't.

Seif Jamal, a 20-year-old student, rushed down his narrow stairway carrying a charred television on his shoulder.

"A missile landed on the sidewalk and the shrapnel flew into our house," he said. "My other electronic equipment is burnt, and lots of furniture."

Abdul Jabbar Ali, a mechanic, said he was with his family when the attack pounded the apartments, wiping out his garage on the ground floor.

"Miraculously, We Lived"

"Miraculously, we lived. Whole sections of walls were crashing down around me, doors and windows were demolished," said Ali, who escaped with bruises. His wife and daughter-in-law were taken to hospital wounded, and his son had a bandaged eye.

Ali said he saw innocent people incinerated in their cars, and two men killed who were having lunch in the cafe next door.

Young firebrands waved machine guns, old ladies shouted -- all of them venting their fury at the American president, and their undying support for their own.

They chanted: "Bush, Bush, listen! We all love Saddam Hussein!"

They cried: "We sacrifice our blood and our souls for Saddam Hussein!"

And one old woman, veiled in black, moved carefully through the mud and broken pavement, repeating, almost to herself: "Iraq will be victorious."

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Adding indifference to injury

***At least 20,000 civilians were injured in the Iraq war:
Why are the occupiers ignoring their suffering and
their needs?***

August 7th 2003

Extraction of media-reported civilian injuries from the Iraq Body Count database and archive of war reports provides evidence of at least 20,000 civilian injuries on top of the maximum reported 7798 deaths. 8,000 of these injuries were in the Baghdad area alone, suggesting that the full, countrywide picture, as with deaths, is yet to emerge.

The Iraq Body Count Project has never published a running total of injuries suffered in the war because injuries encompass a scale from the grievous and incapacitating to the light and fully recuperable, and in the absence of information about severity it makes no sense to assign the same unit value to each report of injury. But because injuries are not all comparable does not mean that they can or should be excluded from an accounting of the human costs of the war. On the contrary, the

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need to investigate and assess them is especially urgent, for many of the injured may still be suffering and their condition may be improved if we act promptly.

The protagonists of the war have repeatedly claimed an inability to provide accurate estimates of civilian deaths. Insofar as some casualties may have been burned beyond recognition, pulverised into dust or buried quickly according to Islamic custom and never officially recorded, there is indeed a possibility that not every death can be accounted for. Injuries are another matter. The injured are alive, perhaps receiving treatment, and the cause, nature and extent of their injuries will appear in medical, official, and informal records.

What follows is Iraq Body Count (IBC)'s attempt to provide an overview of the scale of the problem that needs to be tackled more directly by those who have the means to do so. First we analyse what the IBC data-base can tell us about civilian injuries in Iraq, and include various accounts of injuries suffered during the course of the war to illustrate our general conclusions. We then discuss the potential costs of compensation, and argue that the occupying powers have a moral and humanitarian imperative to meet those costs. It is our hope that they do not entirely lack the will to do so – or if they do, that their citizenry will help them to find it.

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Data are derived from over 300 press reports

IBC archivist Kay Williams has undertaken a content-analysis of over 300 published reports used to establish the 150 entries in the IBC data-base of civilian deaths to July 6 2003. Every mention of injuries in these reports has been extracted and tabulated. In IBC terminology, each line in the on-line data-base is referred to as an incident, even though some entries cover multiple incidents within a locality.

There is evidence that the "precision" or highly-targeted bombing of Baghdad in early days of the conflict may have injured far more people than were killed. Conversely, deaths in the ground war, particularly when civilian cars were fired on by heavy machine guns or tanks, may have seen the ratios reversed, with few escaping alive from the blazing wrecks. However, taken across all phases and

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arenas of the war, injuries were probably about 3 times more numerous than deaths.

Press and media reports for 43 IBC incidents do not mention any injuries. It cannot be inferred from this that no injuries occurred, simply that the journalists or reporters concerned either had no access to information about injuries, or were concentrating simply on deaths.

Civilian injuries were mentioned in the press and media reports for 107 incidents. **The total maximum reported injuries across all 107 incidents is 19,733.** [1] This takes account of known double counting across different incidents using much the same methodology as has been applied to reports of deaths in the IBC database. This total should NOT however be considered comprehensive, and is most likely an under-estimate because:

- Our data-base includes only stories which include reports of civilian deaths. Stories reporting injuries but no deaths are not included in our data-base.
- The present calculations include only media and NGO reports published up to July 6, and in particular do not include UNICEF's July 17 report [2] of more than 1,000 children injured since the end of the war by unexploded ordnance;
- The injured may, and likely will, have been under-reported during the war, for reasons including their more rapid removal (for treatment) from the scene of incidents.

These limitations should be borne in mind and the present study considered a "first count", not a final or complete accounting, of the war's civilian wounded.

3 times as many injuries as deaths have been reported

An informative statistic for analysing and evaluating injuries is the RATIO of to deaths for a given incident. This ratio can be calculated by dividing the maximum estimate of injuries by the maximum estimate of deaths. If there are

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equal numbers of injuries to deaths, then this ratio is 1.0. If there are twice as many injuries as deaths, this ratio is 2.0. If there are twice as many deaths as injuries, this ratio is 0.5.

18 of the 107 incidents had a injury-to-death ratio of less than 1.0, and 7 incidents had a ratio of exactly 1.0. The remaining 82 incidents had an injury-to-death ratio of greater than 1, with a maximum ratio of 69. This maximum ratio was provided by 207 reported injuries and 3 reported deaths during massive aerial bombardment of Baghdad on the night of 21-22 March (IBC incident x009). Although the reports of injuries were provided by Iraqi government sources, independent estimates from the Red Cross confirmed at least 100 injuries, which still represents a massive injury-death ratio of 33. This lends some support to the claims that parts of the air-war (particularly in and around Baghdad) were conducted using precision-guided munitions, where there were few deaths but many injuries from falling and flying masonry, shrapnel etc. Most of the larger ratios were indeed the result of aerial bombardment, relatively early in the campaign. The smaller ratios typically come from the later ground war and "post-war" conflict.

If one wished to answer the question "what is a typical, or average" ratio of injuries to deaths, there are two statistical averaging procedures which might be used. One is the **mean** ratio (the mean is the sum of all ratios divided by the number of incidents from which ratios could be calculated). The mean injury-death ratio is 5.0 (in other words, 5 injuries per death).

A second averaging procedure is the **median** ratio. This is found by setting out all 107 ratios in ascending order, and picking the ratio which occurs at the 54th position (i.e. in the middle of the series). The median injury-death ratio is 2.85 (in other words, around three injuries per death).

Often the mean and the median of a set of scores are quite close to one another. The mean tends to differ from the median when the distribution is statistically skewed. The distribution of injury-death ratios in the IBC data base is indeed skewed, with a small number of incidents having very high injury-death ratios, which are not typical of the larger number of incidents. Only 23 of the incidents have an injury-death ratio of greater than 6, with the majority of these being below

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10. However the "top" 10 incidents have injury-death ratios, in ascending order, of 10.2, 13.1, 13.9, 16.2, 16.6, 17.8, 20, 24, 45, and 69. These few incidents skew the mean upwards.

In our view, the more "typical" estimate is given by the median. This would suggest that, on average, in a typical incident in this war, there were about 3 injuries for every death. **Multiplying the 7711 maximum reported deaths (up to July 7th 2003) by the median of 2.85 provides a figure of 21,976, which might be considered a more accurate estimate of injuries that takes into account the 43 database entries for which injuries were not reported and other data absent from the IBC database, as noted earlier.**

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Many of the reports of injuries are simply anonymous numbers. But Western journalists were sometimes able to get close to the field of battle and report their encounters with the wounded.

Heartbreaking details

Some of the most horrific scenes followed coalition air raids in and around Hillah, where, in the first days of April, the Red Cross reported dozens of civilians killed and more than 450 wounded by aerial bombardment, including by suspected cluster bombs. [3]

Robert Fisk was among the Western journalists to visit the local hospital and report on the aftermath: *"Heartbreaking is the only word to describe 10-year-old Maryam Nasr and her five-year-old sister Hoda. Maryam has a patch over her right eye where a piece of bomblet embedded itself. She also had wounds to the stomach and thighs. I didn't realise that Hoda, standing by her sister's bed, was wounded until her mother carefully lifted the little girl's scarf and long hair to show a deep puncture in the right side of her head, just above her ear, congealed blood sticking to her hair but the wound still gently bleeding. Their mother described how she had been inside her home and heard an explosion and found her daughters lying in their own blood near the door. The little girls alternately smiled and hid when I took their pictures. In other wards, the hideously wounded would try to laugh, to show*

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their bravery. It was a humbling experience." [4]

Further injuries are, of course, being sustained after the cessation of bombing, by unexploded munitions, many fired by US or UK forces:

"Karbala is typical. At al-Hussein hospital, 35 bodies have been brought in since the city fell April 6, many dismembered by a cluster-bomblet blast, according to chief surgeon Ali Iziz Ali. An additional 50 have been treated for fractures and deep, narrow puncture wounds, typical of the weapons. Karbala civil-defense chief Abdul Kareem Mussan says his men are harvesting about 1,000 cluster bombs a day in places Myers said were not targets." [5]

UNICEF has recently reported that more than 1,000 children have been injured by unexploded ordnance since the end of the war, including by cluster bombs (and now unguarded) Iraqi munitions, and emphasized that "the coalition forces have a clear obligation under humanitarian law to remove these dangers from communities." [2]

Despite "major hostilities" having been declared over, Iraqi civilians are still regularly being shot and injured by American and British troops. This incident in Majar-al-Kabir is just one of literally scores of similar incidents all over Iraq, notable only in that this time British troops were involved:

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"Most agree that a local man, possibly a former Ba'ath party official, started shooting with a handgun. The British then opened fire. 'It was about 10.15 and the market was very crowded,' said Mr Younis. 'I threw myself on the ground and shouted to everybody to run away or get down. The shooting lasted for about five minutes but there were bullets going everywhere. They were firing on automatic.'At least 17 people were hit. They included a 13-year-old girl caught by a ricochet in the shoulder and a nine-year-old boy. Several other casualties have spinal injuries and multiple fractures. In all, five men died from their wounds.... As the wounded lay in the bazaar the British soldiers drove away." [6]

And sometimes, like these descriptive on-the-scene reports, even anonymous statistics provide shocking glimpses of the war's toll of pain, horror and long-term

suffering:

The Red Cross reported from Baghdad that during its heaviest fighting the city's hospitals were so overwhelmed by admissions that no one could any longer keep an accurate count, but that one major hospital alone had been admitting the war-wounded at a rate of about 100 patients an hour. [7] And in one of the most heart-rending of statistics, another aid organization reported just a month into the war that a hospital, situated in one of the poorest parts of Baghdad, "had amputated more than 100 limbs of children in that one month." [8]

When will the injured see justice?

A sizeable if as yet unknown proportion of Iraqi families will contain a relative whose life was ended or put on hold by the US or British forces. Even if only in self-interest, the US and UK administrations should be putting the needs of the injured at the very heart of its strategy to "win hearts and minds". Instead, along with deaths, the maimed civilians of Iraq have been brushed under the carpet, with the exception of a few recipients of "high-profile" rescues (such as the air-lifting to Kuwait of Ali Abbas who lost all his family and both of his arms, recorded in IBC incident x025 - Baghdad, March 30).

MASH units, too, provided immediate help to some Iraqi civilians wounded in the fighting, although it would appear that this was dependent upon the goodwill and resources of commanding officers - and likely to be withdrawn when it conflicted with their primary function. [9,10] Iraq's own hospitals, run-down and neglected for years under the sanctions regime, have suffered looting, vandalism, loss of electrical power, the deaths of staff and even (in at least three of them [11]) direct bombardment, all attributable to the war. But however heroic the efforts of their staff, there is no denying that the country's health system is now in a desperate state.

To our knowledge, no US or UK government-directed programme is specifically targeted towards the injured civilians of Iraq: the men, women, children and old people maimed and traumatised by the brutality of military intervention, and no

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government-directed report is available on the progress, if any, that has been made to assess and address the serious humanitarian and health issues arising from war injuries. It has been left to a few charities and aid-agencies, which have struggled against US obstruction to gain a foothold for their work with the sick and injured. The United Nations has remained ineffectual, firmly kept in the background by US diktat.

It is the most basic of principles that those who cause damage, harm and injury are responsible for repairing these and making amends if they have the power to do so. "But U.S officials," the Washington Post reported in late May, "have made clear to Iraqis that they do not intend to conduct a complete accounting of war damages, nor compensate those who say the occupying army owes them." [12]

Dina Sarhan, 21, who lost a leg to US shrapnel, sought no more than a prosthetic leg from the occupying power, only to be repeatedly turned down because it was "up to a higher authority." One of "thousands who incarnate the collateral damage of [the] war," she is unable to climb the stairs in her house and is "learning to make do" by sleeping in the dining room. She says she has forgiven the anonymous soldiers who injured her, but recognizes all too clearly the gap between the rhetoric and reality of modern warfare: "Mr. Bush said this would be a clean war. Is this a clean war?"

Unfortunately the "higher authorities" have their minds on other matters. "While sympathetic to individual hardships suffered as a result of war, U.S. officials say they are wary of beginning a legal process that could entail millions of claims against them" (when material damages as well as physical injuries are included); they also fret over "the endemic fraud that would creep into this."

But those, surely, are risks the US brought upon itself.

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And instead of facing up to its responsibilities, the Pentagon is already ducking them - by restraining those of its more enlightened on-the-ground commanders who have acted in recognition of the strength of war of victims' claims. In a recent briefing US military leaders explicitly ruled out any compensation for injuries (or deaths) sustained during the combat period prior to May 1st. Families will only be

eligible for compensation if they can "prove clear-cut negligence or wrongdoing by soldiers" in the "post-combat" phase of the occupation. This ruling will exclude the vast majority of injuries from potential compensation. For example, claims are ineligible in the case of soldiers mistaking civilians for combatants. However, some military commanders have been making ad-hoc discretionary payments to the victims or their families. When this was pointed out, a US official said he would investigate these payments and, if necessary, tell the commanders concerned to stop making them. [13]

So much for the "sympathetic" Pentagon – but exactly how justifiable is the USA's fear of "millions" of claims against it?

Given that most Iraqis who are asking for damages "seek a few thousand dollars to get their lives running again", it is possible to make an estimate of the cost of such reasonable compensation and then compare it to other expenditures in this war. Assuming the Pentagon's "millions" of claims were a credible prediction, then perhaps two million Iraqis (including those seeking only compensation for financial losses) could be awarded \$10,000 each. That would amount to \$20 billion, or the cost of occupying the country for 5 months, which Sec. of State Rumsfeld has pegged at \$4 billion a month. [14]

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This is a large sum, to be sure, but not one that the US isn't already countenancing in its open-ended occupation of Iraq. And arguably, the US occupation could be cut short by as many months and its soldiers sent home wreathed in roses if the US were to distribute its money in this way.

If however we restrict our calculations to more realistic scenarios and 20,000 injury claims at \$10,000 each, the total amount awarded would be \$200 million – less than the US spends *every two days* on the occupation. (And approximately the amount the UK spends monthly in its role.[15])

What excuse can the US possibly have for declining this opportunity to do some good for those who desperately need it (and for whose hurt it is responsible), and in the process, win back some of that "goodwill" it has lost in Iraq and much of the world? Even if the number of claims or of average awards is ultimately twice or ten

times higher than this, it will still be trivial compared to the overall cost of the war and occupation.

Hamit Dardagan, John Sloboda and Kay Williams - 7th August 2003

Notes:

1. As at July 7th 2003. The Minimum total count of injuries in the IBC database is 16,439. However, given the more limited reporting of injuries by the media and IBC's data-gathering methodology which focuses on reports of deaths, we feel that in this instance the Maximum count (of 19,733) is likely to be a closer approximation to the true number of wounded – and as discussed in the body of this report, may itself be an under-estimate.

2. <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=7758&Cr=iraq&Cr1=relief>

3. Pepe Escobar, Asia Times Online, April 4 2003
http://atimes.com/atimes/Middle_East/ED04Ak07.html

4. Robert Fisk, Independent, April 3 2003 (IBC incident x030)
<http://argument.independent.co.uk/commentators/story.jsp?story=393458>

5. Michael Weisskopf, Time Magazine, May 3 2003 (IBC incident x072)
<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1101030512-449440,00.html>

6. Jason Burke, Guardian, June 26 2003 (IBC incident x100)
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/Iraq/Story/0,2763,985237,00.html>

7.
<http://www.icrc.org/Web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/iwpList545/992529B799BE3AF9C1256D00004273DB>

8. "But due to the lack of time and sutures, the limbs after being amputated were sewn up very basically and bandaged. They are re-opening the bandages and trying to stitch the wounds up properly." - Dr Jemilah Mahmood of Mercy Malaysia, who brought much-needed supplies to hospital and suffered a bullet wound in the process. Reported in The Star Online, April 18 2003
<http://thestar.com.my/services/printerfriendly.asp?file=/2003/4/18/nation/shaz17b.asp>

9. "Medical staff here [at 86th Combat Support Hospital at Tallil Airfield] have admitted more than 500 people since the war began - most of them Iraqi men, women and children. Many more have been treated for ailments that didn't require hospitalization." - Associated Press, April 26 2003. <http://www.etaiwannews.com/World/2003/04/26/1051322026.htm>

10. After the ordeal of seeing their three other children killed when a US tank machine-gunned their car in Nasiriyah, Daham and Gufran Ibed Kassim and their wounded five-year-old daughter Mawra were taken for treatment at a US Army field hospital:

"For two nights, the remains of the family slept in a bed. It appears that the story reaching an end. 'Wait!' insists Kassim, his tears preparing themselves for what is to come, as if his trials could get any worse. 'Don't ask me questions. I will tell you what happened.'

On the third night, that of 27 March, 'there were some Americans wounded that night, in the fighting. Maybe they needed the beds. So they told us we had to go outside. I heard the order - "put them out" - and they carried us like dogs, out into the cold, without shelter, or a blanket. It was the days of the sandstorms and freezing at night. And I heard Zainab crying: "Papa, Papa, I am cold, I am cold." Then she went silent. Completely silent.'

Kassim breaks off in anguish. His wife continues the story of the night. 'What could we do? She kept saying she was cold. My arms were broken, I could not lift or hold her. If they had given us even a blanket, we might have put it over her. We had to sit there, and listen to her die.'

Ed Vuillamy, The Observer, July 6, 2003
<http://observer.guardian.co.uk/Print/0,3858,4706830,00.html>

11. 1. Al-Rutbah children's hospital (on March 19)
<http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/fortwayne/news/local/5525110.htm>

2. Al-Yarmouk, Baghdad (on April 7)
<http://www.28news.com/stories/2003/04/030411baghdad.shtml>

3. General Surgical Hospital, Nasiriyah (on March 24)
<http://observer.guardian.co.uk/Print/0,3858,4706829,00.html>

12. Scott Wilson, Washington Post, May 31 2003 <http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A59974-2003May30?language=printer>

13. "U.S. Limits Payments to Kin of Slain Iraqi Civilians" - Robyn Dixon, LA Times, August 4,

2003 <http://www.latimes.com/templates/misc/printstory.jsp?slug=la-fg-pay4aug04§ion=/printstory>

14. "The Cost Of Occupation" - Dorothy Pomerantz, Forbes.com, July 15 2003
http://forbesbest.com/2003/07/15/cz_dp_0715conflict.html (it has been widely mooted – including by officials in Dick Cheney's office – that the occupation's costs could be borne directly by Iraqis through the sale of their oil.)

15. "Cost of occupation: £5m a day - human cost extra" - Richard Norton-Taylor and Larry Elliott, Guardian July 17 2003 <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/Print/0,3858,4714030,00.html>

Earlier analysis from Iraq Body Count:

12th June 2003

Counting the Human Cost
*A Survey of Projects Counting
Civilians Killed by the War in Iraq*

At the outset of the Iraq War, Iraq Body Count was providing the only systematic estimates of civilian casualties. Now, 15 different projects are at varying stages of completion.
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27th May 2003

100 Names of Civilians Killed
- and only 2% of a vital task completed

Since the start of Iraq Body Count project we have been recording names of civilians killed. [Read More]

6th May 2003

**How Many Civilians Were Killed by
Cluster Bombs?**

The Pentagon says 1: Iraq Body Count says at least 200.

It is understandable that the US government should wish to play down the damage done to Iraqi civilians by cluster bombs, for those who use them in civilian areas open themselves to charges of war crimes. [\[Read More\]](#)

28th April 2003

The Holes In the Map:
Mapping Civilian Casualties to Location

The Iraq Body Count Data Base can now be consulted in the form of a map, created by Donald Speight of Mapbureau.com. The map has a clickable "dot" at each location where civilian deaths [\[Read More\]](#)

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http://www.iraqbodycount.net/editorial_aug0703.htm

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Verzonden: vrijdag 25 juli 2003 15:59
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- de Vaste Commissie voor Defensie van de Tweede Kamer

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- de Vaste Commissie voor Justitie van de Tweede Kamer

Zeist, 25 juli 2003

Geachte dames / heren,

Hierbij roep ik de Nederlandse regering op om bij de Amerikaanse regering protest aan te tekenen tegen de liquidatie van de zonen van Saddam door het Amerikaanse leger.

Tevens verzoek ik vaste Kamercommissies voor Buitenlandse Zaken, Defensie en Justitie om deze kwestie te bespreken zodra de Kamer terug is van reces en daarover een duidelijk standpunt in te nemen.

In dit verband verzoek ik om bijgaand schrijven aan de eerstkomende agenda van de commissie toe te voegen.

Niets wijst erop dat hier van iets anders sprake was dan van moedwillige 'extrajudicial killings' door het Amerikaanse leger, en dat in volle openbaarheid. Dergelijke moorddadige praktijken verdragen zich niet met het recht, wie het ook betreft.

Als dat de standaard is die in Irak geïntroduceerd dient te worden, dan staat hen daar in het Midden Oosten een revival van het Wilde Westen te wachten. Made in the USA.

Dit doet trouwens onmiddellijk de vraag rijzen naar de geweldsinstructies die gelden voor de Nederlandse militairen in Irak. Naar de regering jegens de Tweede Kamer heeft aangegeven zullen de Amerikaanse en Britse 'rules of engagement' ook voor de Nederlandse militairen in Irak van toepassing zijn. Betekent dit dat Nederlandse militairen, in voorkomende gevallen, ook tot 'extra judicial killings' zullen kunnen overgaan?

Het lijkt ons zaak daarover duidelijk te zijn.

Naar het parlement toe. Naar het Nederlandse volk. En naar het Iraakse volk.

Dat er recht op heeft om te weten wat het van Nederlandse kant boven het hoofd hangt.

Gaarne ontvang ik een ontvangstbevestiging van dit schrijven.

hoogachtend,

25-7-03

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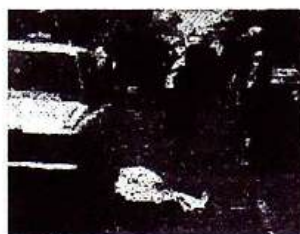
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Iraq civilian body count passes 6,000

LONDON (Reuters) - New information from remote locations of Iraq has pushed up the civilian death toll from the U.S.-led war by 500 in the last month to at least 6,000, an Anglo-

American research group says.

The Iraq Body Count's (IBC) latest figures, based on media reports and more than a dozen counting projects from independent investigators in and outside Iraq, put the minimum number of civilians dead at 6,055 and the maximum at 7,706.

"Both the U.S. & the U.K. said they were taking every effort to minimise civilian casualties and talked a lot about smart, precision weapons," IBC researcher John Sloboda told Reuters.

"From that, one could have expected a clean war with very few casualties, but I don't call 5,000 to 7,000 very few. It is clear the coalition claims were political claptrap."

The latest IBC toll has risen by about 500 after information arrived from areas that had not been reached before by outsiders. The group says its statistics are the most comprehensive collation of civilian deaths available.

"If you look at a map of Iraq, there are still a lot of places, that you would imagine allied troops have gone through, where there have been no reports of killings yet, simply because no journalist or researcher has gone there," said Sloboda, a psychology professor from Britain's Keele University.

The IBC, run by British and American academics and peace activists, has chastised London and Washington for not setting up an official investigation into civilian deaths.

"Then there are the deaths by malnutrition and dehydration as a consequence of the war which we haven't even started talking about," Sloboda added.

The United States and Britain have repeatedly stressed their tactics were designed to keep civilian casualties to a minimum.

But they are declining to give estimates.

"We made every effort to reduce civilian casualties by a careful targeting policy," a spokesman for Britain's Ministry of Defence said.

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Attack on Bridge Part of Perilous Routine for Troops Non-Fatal Strikes in Iraq Rattle GIs but Go Uncounted

By Rajiv Chandrasekaran
Washington Post Foreign Service
Wednesday, July 9, 2003; Page A01

BAGHDAD, July 8 -- The combat engineers inside the tan Humvees had traversed the Wedding Island Bridge dozens of times to fetch their translator. It was a routine trip, soldiers in the unit said. Cross the narrow bridge. Pick him up. Drive back over the bridge to complete their assignment for the day.

But today, as they headed onto the bridge at 9:10 a.m., the lead Humvee encountered what has become another routine for U.S. forces in this simmering city. A bone-rattling explosion punched the vehicle several feet into the air and spewed an orange fireball and a cloud of black smoke.

The Humvee fell back to the bridge, its left wheels touching down and bouncing back up before the right side, propelled higher by the blast, smashed into the ground. Shrapnel and flying asphalt shattered the windshield and dented the vehicle's body.

After the Humvee stopped, the driver appeared to pause for a split second before restarting the engine and flooring the accelerator, swerving to the left and right as he sped off the bridge and veered onto a connecting



enlarge photo, Ⓢ

An Iraqi girl with a toy pistol approaches U.S. soldiers as they examine the crater created by an explosion at the foot of a bridge in Baghdad. (Mikhail Metzel - AP)

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road.

The explosion, which military investigators say they believe was caused by a land mine planted on the side of the bridge, was witnessed by a Washington Post correspondent who was less than 30 yards away, driving onto the bridge and toward the Humvee. Although none of the Humvee's occupants was killed, the incident illustrated how resistance attacks have become an everyday occurrence for U.S. forces in Iraq.

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Because the blast did not result in a death or serious injury, it was not mentioned to reporters by the U.S. military's public information office. But military officials acknowledged that such non-fatal attacks are more widespread than daily casualty figures reflect.

"It's becoming routine," a U.S. military official said. "It's no longer a few isolated incidents."

Such incidents are of growing concern to military commanders, who express fear that assailants will learn from their failures and improve their tactics. Military officials also are worried that a barrage of non-fatal attacks -- estimated by officials at more than a dozen a day in Baghdad -- will sap troop morale and cause people to reevaluate official pronouncements that armed resistance to the U.S. occupation is small and militarily insignificant.

Three other incidents today wounded seven U.S. soldiers, the military said.

In Baghdad, two were wounded in another land mine attack, a military spokesman said, and two more were hurt when insurgents dropped a homemade bomb from a bridge onto a passing military convoy.

In the city of Kirkuk, about 150 miles north of the capital, assailants fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a military convoy, wounding three servicemen. Military officials said soldiers in the convoy returned fire, but it was not immediately known if there were Iraqi casualties.

The Associated Press reported that three Iraqis, including a 13-year-old boy, were killed by U.S. soldiers returning fire after a grenade attack on a police station in a Baghdad suburb. In addition, U.S. Central Command reported that a soldier attached to the 101st Airborne Division died Monday of a gunshot wound suffered in a non-combat incident.

Just who planted the mine on the Wedding Island Bridge remains a mystery. Also unknown is whether the device was triggered by remote control or was placed so it would be triggered by a vehicle crossing the bridge. If it was not remotely detonated, it could suggest that the soldiers' routine was observed and the mine was embedded in the

median with the belief that the next vehicle to cross the concrete structure would be a Humvee.

Though vehicle traffic over the bridge is light, the area is far from abandoned. This morning, a dozen children were playing along the embankment, running into a dry creek that feeds into the nearby Tigris River. Kebab vendors were setting up their roadside stalls, and workers were building a new fence.

None of them said they saw who buried the mine. And even if they did, several said, they would not identify the person to U.S. forces.

"This kind of attack is good for the Iraqi people," insisted Khudier Abbas, 39, a food vendor along the Tigris. "The Americans have been here for four months. What have they done for us?"
datum

He stuck his hand into his pocket and fished out some candy -- a piece of yellow butterscotch and pink bubblegum. "This is all the Americans have given me," he said with a harrumph. "They think this will make us happy?"

The soldiers in the Humvees were members of the 40th Engineer Battalion of the 2nd Brigade of the U.S. Army's 1st Armored Division. The unit, which is based in Germany, has been blowing up unused Iraqi weapons and ammunition.

Their translator, Hassan Hamrun, a lanky man with a wide-brimmed hat who was traveling in the second Humvee, said he suspected one of his neighbors might have been involved.

The neighbor, whom Hamrun did not identify, was active in former president Saddam Hussein's intelligence service and bragged about his friendship with Hussein's elder son, Uday, Hamrun said. In recent days, Hamrun said, his neighbor had threatened to attack Americans and Iraqis cooperating with U.S. forces.

This morning, he said, the neighbor was not in his house. "It is very suspicious," Hamrun said.

Vexed by the increasing attacks on military personnel, the U.S.-led occupation authority said it would offer a \$2,500 reward for information leading to the arrest of anyone who shoots at or kills a foreign soldier or Iraqi policeman.

"I urge the Iraqi people to come forward to take these people off the streets of the country," said Bernard Kerik, a former New York City police commissioner who is in charge of Baghdad's police force.

Last week, the occupation authority offered a \$25 million reward for the capture of Hussein or confirmation of his death.

Arab television channels today broadcasted what they said was a new audiotape made by Hussein. The voice in the recording could not be confirmed as that of Hussein, but people familiar with his voice said it

sounded authentic. On Monday, CIA analysts said another tape broadcast by the al-Jazeera satellite news channel was most likely made by Hussein.

"Returning to covert attacks is the appropriate means for resistance," said the voice on one of the tapes, which was broadcast by Lebanon's al Hayat-LBC channel. "Your main mission, Iraqis, is to evict the invaders from Iraqi territory."

L. Paul Bremer, the U.S. civil administrator of Iraq, insisted Hussein's "days in Iraq are finished."

"He may be alive, but he is not coming back," Bremer said at a news conference. "I think the noose is going to tighten around his neck."

But Bremer acknowledged that the release of additional tapes purportedly from Hussein could encourage attacks on U.S. forces. The fact that Hussein has not been captured or killed, he said, "gives these die-hard elements the opportunity to say to other people that Saddam is going to come back."

Bremer said the recent attacks on U.S. forces, while conducted with "considerable professionalism," do not appear to be coordinated by one person or group. "There is no central command and control."

He said the fatal, point-blank shooting of a soldier on Sunday at Baghdad University was the eighth incident that involved a shot to the neck area, above the soldier's flak jacket but below the helmet.

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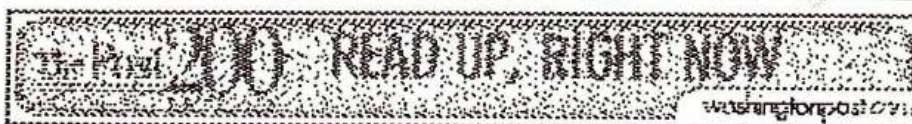
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Urban Combat Frustrates Army

Attackers in Baghdad Using Cover of Crowds, Buildings

By Rajiv Chandrasekaran and Molly Moore

Washington Post Foreign Service

Tuesday, July 8, 2003; Page A01

BAGHDAD, July 7 -- As attacks on occupation forces in Iraq escalate, assailants in Baghdad have used the capital's bustling crowds, tall buildings and busy streets as avenues for surprise strikes and easy escapes -- elements of urban warfare that U.S. troops managed to avoid during the military campaign to topple the government of Saddam Hussein.

On Sunday, a U.S. soldier was fatally shot in the neck outside a packed cafeteria at Baghdad University by a man who disappeared into a throng of students. On Thursday night, a soldier poking out of the hatch of an armored vehicle was killed by a sniper perched in an eight-story building across the street. And 10 days ago, a civil affairs soldier walking along a sidewalk was gunned down by an assailant who had appeared from -- and then disappeared back into -- a swarm of shoppers.

"When you're in the middle of a city, it's impossible to tell friend from foe," said Sgt. Lawrence Adams of the 1st Armored Division, whose field artillery unit has been attacked seven times since it arrived in Baghdad in early May to patrol a two-square-mile sector along the Tigris River. The incidents included mortar fire from a nearby neighborhood, a drive-by shooting, a rocket-propelled grenade launched from a bus stop and hand grenades tossed at soldiers' Humvees as they drove through a congested market.

The daily attacks that use the urban landscape for concealment and flight have frustrated and frightened U.S. forces in Baghdad, many of whom have to drive through the city in open-sided Humvees, stand in front of government buildings and walk through public places every day. On a mission to restore public order and rebuild a war-scarred nation, soldiers regard themselves as particularly vulnerable to resistance fighters who take advantage of the fact that not all U.S. troops are hunkered down in sandbagged bases or driven around in armored vehicles.

"If we have to be peacekeepers here, we're going to be exposed to all kinds of attacks," said a military police

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officer. "Sure, we have our flak jackets and our helmets and we're always on the lookout for suspicious activity. But the depressing thing is a whole lot we really can do about those guys who are determined to try to kill us

U.S. military commanders had hoped to avoid urban combat in the earliest days or relied on airstrikes and a strategy of drawing the Iraqi army outside this sprawling million people. But since Hussein's government collapsed and the war was declared unpredictable guerrilla-style attacks against U.S. troops have escalated.

The death of Pfc. Edward J. Herrgott of Shakopee, Minn., illustrates the everyday confronting U.S. troops. On Thursday evening, Herrgott was manning the gunner's Bradley Fighting Vehicle parked in front of the entrance to the Baghdad Museum story building that has stores on the first two floors and an abandoned parking lot floors. Around 8:30 p.m., as the sun was setting but there was still enough light to sniper fired three rounds at the Bradley, killing Herrgott, said Habib Saleh, a guard shopping center who witnessed the shooting. *datum*

"They should be somewhere else," Saleh said of the soldiers at the museum, which unremarkable wax figures in displays that depict life in Baghdad a century ago. "I where they are."

The day after the shooting, members of Herrgott's unit stood behind the Bradley, scanning the parking lot every few minutes. When a visitor approached on the sidewalk refused to talk, saying that walking toward a nearby razor-wire barricade would p

But one of the soldiers, who would not provide his name, shouted that the troops in museum had been shot at before. "This happens all the time," he growled.

Although no soldiers from Adams's unit -- Alpha Battery of the 4-27th Field Artillery killed, none of the unit's attackers has been apprehended either. "If we've got some us from a bus stop across the street, you can't automatically open fire on them," said of Kansas City, Mo. "And you don't always want to chase them in a Humvee."

On Sunday night, a U.S. soldier was killed in Baghdad's Adhamiyah neighborhood other soldiers pursued two gunmen who had ambushed a patrol, military officials hours later, insurgents threw a homemade bomb at a U.S. convoy in northern Baghdad another soldier, the officials said.

Those two fatalities brought to 30 the number of U.S. military personnel killed by since President Bush declared major combat over on May 1. U.S. officials blame fighters still loyal to Hussein, Islamic extremists and others disgruntled with the country.

The attackers have become bolder, often striking in broad daylight. At the same time become more selective in their targeting. Instead of attacking large, armed convoys plant homemade bombs along streets where foot soldiers frequently patrol, attack vehicles and catch victims off-guard with random, point-blank shootings in public

"We're hit more now that the war is pretty much over," said Spec. Justin Keeney, City, Ore., who drives a heavy equipment truck between Baghdad and military en northwest of the city. "When we haul tanks or artillery, they don't mess with us. If engineering equipment, we get lit up. It's almost guaranteed."

Pfc. Kyle Clark, 20, of Kent, Wash., a gunner on a military police Humvee who p

said his unit was "shot at two times in the last two days." In one instance, a sniper school. Soldiers returned fire, then cordoned off the area around the school, but then leaped over a wall and escaped, Clark said.

"Two or three weeks ago, we used to be hit only at night," said Spec. Heath Mont driver with the 11th Transportation Company who travels throughout the area near Baghdad. "Now we get hit during the day."

Such urban combat not only poses an immediate threat to soldiers' lives, it has the resentment toward occupation forces at a time when the U.S. government is attending attention on its efforts to rebuild Iraq. The deaths of innocent civilians trapped in explosions have inflamed emotions among Iraqis who question the ability of the U.S. to bring stability to the country and have undermined support among those who have chosen to support the occupiers.

When a bomb exploded in the median strip of busy Haifa Street on Thursday, killing and injuring 12, angry residents held U.S. troops responsible for all the deaths and those caused by the Iraqi-laid bomb rather than the spray of bullets that American troops fired in response.

"I blame the Americans," said Ahmed Midhat, 12, whose legs were shredded by fragments of metal from the explosive device. "You know why? The Americans started to shoot."

Many soldiers say they are not surprised by the increasing attacks or the displays of violence by Iraqis.

"They're getting tired of us," said Spec. James McNeely, 48, a member of the District of Columbia Guard's 547th Transportation Company. "Wouldn't you be mad if they invaded you?"

McNeely said his unit has had little chance to interact with Iraqis or play a part in reconstruction operations that Washington hopes will win the support of Iraqis.

"We're just trying to survive, trying to make our lives a little more pleasant," he said. He stopped at a roadside vendor to buy soft drinks for the men on his truck before heading into a compound at Baghdad's international airport.

For others, the attacks have become not only frightening, but disheartening.

"We get so much resistance, we hear so much about different military people getting killed, it seems like people don't want to be helped," said Spec. Julian Snelling, 21, of Fredonia, Ariz., a member of the 307th Military Police Company. "Many Iraqis love us, but the way they're thinking."

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Aan: <Undisclosed-Recipient:;>
Verzonden: woensdag 25 juni 2003 19:54
Onderwerp: CDSM:Fw: Deca puginula od NATO bombi - Children killed by NATO

>
> ----- Forwarded Message
> From: "Vladimir Krsljanin" <slobodavk@yubc.net>
> Date: Wed, 25 Jun 2003 16:45:29 +0200
> To: <Undisclosed-Recipient:;>
> Subject: Deca puginula od NATO bombi - Children killed by NATO bombs
>
> DECA POGINULA OD NATO BOMBI
> CHILDREN KILLED BY NATO BOMBS
>
>
> 1. AHMETAJ ARBRNOR - AVDO, 4, Korisa
> 2. AHMETAJ AGRON, 10, Korisa
> 3. BERISA ELVIS, 17, Prizren
> 4. BERISA ESAD, 12, Prizren
> 5. BESIM VALJETA, 6, Djakovica
> 6. BRUDAR JULIJANA, 10, Plav
> 7. GASI DEA, 9, Pristina
> 8. GASI DENISA, 4, Pristina
> 9. GASI REA, 6, Pristina
> 10. DACIC SENAD, 18, Besnik
> 11. DIMIC DRAGANA, 12, Staro Gradsko
> 12. ZIVANCEVIC MIODRAG, 8, Djakovica
> 13. ZECIRI NERCIVANE, 17, Djakovica
> 14. ZULJFERI BECIR - BECA, 14, Prizren
> 15. ZULJFERI KASANDRA, 3, Prizren
> 16. ZULJFERI MAKSUM, 2, Prizren
> 17. KASTRATI KUJTIM, 1, Orahovac
> 18. KNEZEVIC MIROSLAV, 14, Plav
> 19. KOPOLA ARIJETA, 13, Podujevo
> 20. KOPOLA MERLJINDA, ?, Podujevo
> 21. KOPOLA MERUSA, ?, Podujevo
> 22. KOPOLA CAVIT, 15, Podujevo
> 23. KOPOLA FLJORINDA, 18, Podujevo
> 24. KODZA BURIM, 14, Kacanik
> 25. KODZA VALJDET, 15, Kacanik
> 26. KODZA EDON, 4, Kacanik
> 27. KODZA OSMAN, 14, Kacanik
> 28. KODZA FISTIK, 5, Kacanik
> 29. KRASNICI ERNEST, 3, Orahovac
> 30. KREPNIK HAJDARAJ, 16, Djakovica
> 31. KUKAJ ALJBON, 14, Korisa
> 32. KUKAJ FLJORINDA, 5, Korisa
> 33. LUGICI ARTA, 13, Lipjan
> 34. MAKSIMOVIC OLIVERA, 13, Plav

- > 35. MILENKOVIC SANJA, 16, Varvarin
- > 36. MILIC VLADIMIR, 12, Surdulica
- > 37. MILIC MILJANA, 15, Surdulica
- > 38. MILOVANOVIC MILOMIR, 17, Surdulica
- > 39. MITIC IRENA, 16, Nis
- > 40. NIKOLIC GORDANA, 18, Vladicin Han
- > 41. OSMANI EDON, 14, Djakovica
- > 42. PAVLOVIC DAJANA, 5, Ralja
- > 43. PAVLOVIC STEFAN, 8, Ralja
- > 44. PAJAZITI VIOLETA, 16, Djakovica
- > 45. PAJAZITI VJOLCA, 18, Djakovica
- > 46. PALJUSI DIJANA, 5, Korisa
- > 47. PETROVIC MARIJA, 15, Podujevo
- > 48. PETROVIC NIKOLA, 17, Podujevo
- > 49. PECOLI BESMILJE, 17, Prizren
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- > 51. RAKIC MILICA, 3, Batajnica
- > 52. ROGLIC MARKO, 16, Novi Pazar
- > 53. SIMIC MARKO, 2, Novi Pazar
- > 54. SMAJLI BERSADA, 7, Djakovica
- > 55. STANIJANOVIC BRANIMIR, 6, Aleksinac
- > 56. STOJANOVIC MILICA, 13, Pavlovac
- > 57. TASIC DALIBOR, 18, Vranje
- > 58. TOSOVIC BOJANA, 1, Kursumlija
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- > 61-81. 20 nepoznate dece uzrasta 3 meseca do 18 godina, Korisa
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- > Iz knjige ?Deca optuzuju?. From the book ?Children Accuse?.
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- > To join or help this struggle, visit:
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The IBC Web Counter

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The IRAQ BODY COUNT Project

This is a Human Security project to establish an independent and comprehensive public database of media-reported civilian deaths in Iraq resulting directly from military actions by the USA and its allies in 2003. Results and totals are continually updated and made immediately available on this page and on various **IBC counters** which may be freely displayed on any website, where they will be automatically updated without further intervention. Casualty figures are derived from a comprehensive survey of online media reports. Where these sources report differing figures, the range (a minimum and a maximum) are given. All results are independently reviewed and error-checked by at least three members of the Iraq Body Count project team before publication.

The project takes as its starting point and builds upon the earlier work of Professor Marc Herold who has produced the most comprehensive **tabulation** of civilian deaths in the war on Afghanistan from October 2001 to the present, and the methodology has been designed in close consultation with him.

Professor Herold commented: "I strongly support this initiative. The counting of civilian dead looms ever more importantly for at least two reasons: military sources and their corporate mainstream media backers seek to portray the advent of precision guided weaponry as inflicting at most, minor, incidental civilian casualties when, in truth, such is not the case; and the major source of opposition to these modern 'wars' remains an informed, articulate general public which retains a commitment to the international humanitarian covenants of war at a time when most organized bodies and so-called 'experts' have walked away from them".

Rationale:

Adversities such as wars and civil wars threaten the survival and dignity of millions of people. The victims of these conflicts are primarily, if not almost exclusively, civilians - ordinary men and women. Civilian casualties are the most unacceptable

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consequence of all wars. Each civilian death is a tragedy and should never be regarded as the "cost" of achieving our countries' war aims, because it is not we who are paying this price. One in four killed in the US war on Afghanistan were civilians, and in Yugoslavia the proportion was even higher. We believe it is a moral and humanitarian duty for each such death to be recorded, publicised, given the weight it deserves and, where possible, investigated to establish whether there are grounds for criminal proceedings.

Traditionally, security threats were examined in the context of "state security", i.e. the protection of the state, its boundaries, people, institutions and values from external attacks. States set up powerful military systems to defend themselves. People were considered to be assured of their security through the protection extended by the state. Recent history, however, shows that the states as "protector of people" frequently come to play ineffective if not adversarial roles. They showed no serious interest in documenting and investigating the civilian deaths and their causes. The governments of victor states certainly have almost no interest in doing this during the conduct of military campaigns. Proponents of "modern" warfare also make much of the claim that their weapons are "smart" or "precision guided." Civilian deaths give the lie to such claims. Recent examples demonstrate that no air-launched weapon can avoid civilian deaths.

The UN Secretary-General has called the world community to advance a new human-centred approach to these problems. As a contribution to this effort, the Commission on Human Security (CHS) first met in New York in June 2001 and held its second meeting in Tokyo in December 2001. The Iraq Body Count project is a direct response to this agenda of Human Security.

The Iraq Body Count project aims to promote public understanding, engagement and support for the human dimension in wars by providing a reliable and up-to-date documentation of civilian casualties in the event of a US-led war in 2003 in the country. The duty of 'recorder' falls particularly heavily on the ordinary citizens of those states whose military forces cause the deaths. In the current crisis, this responsibility must be borne predominantly by citizens of the USA and the UK.

It is accepted that war causes many dire consequences for the civilian population even if they are not directly killed or injured in military strikes. They may suffer long-term injury or illness (as a result, for instance of radiation, post-conflict

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contact with unexploded munitions, pollution due to spillage of toxic materials). UN estimates suggest that a war in Iraq would create starvation and homelessness for millions. A widely-leaked UN report on the humanitarian consequences of a US-led war in Iraq has estimated that the conflict would create two million refugees. (BBC News, 28 January, 2003, 07:38 GMT) People may suffer deep psychological trauma, miscarriage, bereavement, dislocation, and loss of home and property. Destruction of civil infrastructure can have effects which last for generations. These factors undoubtedly cause many further deaths. However, documenting and assigning responsibility for such effects requires long-term "on the ground" resources. Immediate deaths and injuries through military strikes can be pinpointed in place and time, and responsibility straightforwardly attributed to the weapon that caused the death or injury.

This project aims to record single-mindedly and on a virtually real-time basis one key and immutable index of the fruits of war: the death toll of innocents. The full extent of this has often gone unnoticed until long after a war has ended, if at all. One reason is that reports of incidents where civilians have been killed are scattered in different news sources and spread over time: one or two killed here, a few dozen there, with only major incidents (such as the attack on the Al-Amariyah bomb shelter where hundreds of women, children and elderly were incinerated alive) being guaranteed headline coverage. But the smaller numbers quickly add up: and however many civilians are killed in the onslaught on Iraq, their death toll should not go unnoticed by those who are paying — in taxes — for their slaughter. It is to these all too easily disregarded victims of violence that Iraq Body Count is dedicated, and we are resolute that they, too, shall have their memorials.

Methodology:

Overview
Sources
Data Extraction
Data Storage

**Publication of data (including conditions of use)
Limitations****1. Overview**

Casualty figures are derived from a comprehensive survey of online media reports and eyewitness accounts. Where these sources report differing figures, the range (a minimum and a maximum) are given. All results are independently reviewed and error-checked by at least two members of the Iraq Body Count project team in addition to the original compiler before publication.

2. Sources

Our sources include public domain newsgathering agencies with web access. A list of some core sources is given below. Further sources will be added provided they meet acceptable project standards (see below).

ABC - ABC News (USA)
AFP - Agence France-Presse
AP - Associated Press
AWST - Aviation Week and Space Technology
Al Jaz - Al Jazeera network
BBC - British Broadcasting Corporation
BG - Boston Globe
Balt. Sun - The Baltimore Sun
CT - Chicago Tribune
CO - Commondreams.org
CSM - Christian Science Monitor
DPA - Deutsche Presse-Agentur
FOX - Fox News
GUA - The Guardian (London)
HRW - Human Rights Watch
HT - Hindustan Times

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ICRC - International Committ of the Red Cross
 IND - The Independent (London)
 IO - Intellnet.org
 JT - Jordan Times
 LAT - Los Angeles Times
 MEN - Middle East Newslne
 MEO - Middle East Online
 MER - Middle East Report
 MH - Miami Herald
 NT - Nando Times
 NYT - New York Times
 Reuters - (includes Reuters Alertnet)
 SABC - South African Broadcasting Corporation
 SMH - Sydney Morning Herald
 Sg.News - The Singapore News
 Tel- The Telegraph (London)
 Times - The Times (London)
 TOI - Times of India
 TS - Toronto Star
 UPI - United Press International
 WNN - World News Network
 WP - Washington Post

For a source to be considered acceptable to this project it must comply with the following standards: (1) site updated at least daily; (2) all stories separately archived on the site, with a unique url (*see Note 1 below*); (3) source widely cited or referenced by other sources; (4) English Language site; (5) fully public (preferably free) web-access.

The project relies on the professional rigour of the approved reporting agencies. It is assumed that any agency that has attained a respected international status operates its own rigorous checks before publishing items (including, where possible, eye-witness and confidential sources). By requiring that two independent agencies publish a report before we are willing to add it to the count, we are premising our own count on the self-correcting nature of the increasingly inter-connected international media network.

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Note 1. Some sites remove items after a given time period, change their urls, or place them in archives with inadequate search engines. For this reason it is project policy that urls of sources are NOT published on the iraqbodycount site.

3. Data extraction

Data extraction policy is based on 3 criteria, some of which work in opposite directions.

- a. Sufficient information must be extracted to ensure that each incident is differentiated from proximate incidents with which it could be potentially confused.
- b. Economy of data extraction is required, for efficiency of both production and public scrutiny.
- c. Data extraction should be uniform, so that the same information is available for the vast majority of incidents. This is best guaranteed by restricting the number of items of information per incident to the core facts that most news reports tend to include.

The pragmatic tensions in the above have led to the decision to extract the following information only for each incident:

- **Date of incident**
- **Time of incident**
- **Location of incident**
- **Target as stated by military sources**
- **Weapon** (munitions or delivery vehicle)
- **Minimum civilian deaths** (see Note 2)
- **Maximum civilian deaths** (see Note 2)
- **Sources** (at least two sources from the list in section 2 above)

Reliability of data extraction will be increased by ensuring that each data extraction is checked and signed off by two further independent scrutineers prior to publication, and all data entries

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will be kept under review should further details become available at a later date.

Note 2. Definitions of minimum and maximum

Reports of numbers dead vary across sources. On-the-ground uncertainties and potential political bias can result in a range of figures reported for the same incident. To reflect this variation, each incident will be associated with a minimum and maximum reported number of deaths. No number will be entered into the count unless it meets the criteria in the following paragraphs. This conservative approach allows relative certainty about the minimum.

Maximum deaths. This is the highest number of civilian deaths published by at least two of our **approved** list of news media sources.

Minimum deaths. This is the same as the maximum, unless at least two of the listed news media sources publish a lower number. In this case, the lower number is entered as the minimum. The minimum can be zero if there is a report of "zero deaths" from two of our sources. "Unable to confirm any deaths" or similar wording (as in an official statement) does NOT amount to a report of zero, and will NOT lead to an entry of "0" in the minimum column.

As a further conservative measure, when the wording used in both reports refers to "people" instead of civilians, we will include the total figure as a maximum but enter "0" into the minimum column unless details are present clearly identifying some or all of the dead as civilian - in this case the number of identifiable civilians will be entered into the minimum column instead of "0". The word "family" will be interpreted in this context as meaning 3 civilians. [Average Iraqi non-extended family size: 6. -CIA Factbook 2002.]

4. Data storage

Although it is expected that the majority of sources will remain accessible on

the web site from which they were drawn, the project will create a secure archive of all original sources (in both electronic and paper form). Where judged appropriate by the project team, this data may be released to bona-fide enquirers, for verification purposes. At an appropriate juncture, the entire archive will be passed to an institution of public record (such as a University or National Library) for permanent access by bona-fide researchers. The copyright of original sources will remain with the originators. The copyright of the Iraq Body Count data extraction remains with the named researchers on the project (see **About us**).

5. Publication of data (including conditions of use)

Once verified through the processes described in section 3 above, each new incident will be added as a new line on a spreadsheet database which will be updated regularly (at least daily) on the www.iraqbodycount.org site. The total minimum and maximum deaths will be automatically updated, and will feed through to all remotely positioned web-counters downloaded from the site.

Permission is granted for any individual or agency to download and display any of the web counters available on this site, provided that the link back to the www.iraqbodycount.org site is not disabled or otherwise tampered with when displayed on a live interactive web-site. Permission is also granted for cut-and-paste downloads of the spreadsheet database listing each incident. All press and non-commercial uses are permitted. Other commercial uses are prohibited without explicit permission (contact info@iraqbodycount.org).

We request that you acknowledge any use of the Iraq Body Count data base or its methodology by mentioning either the project name ("Iraq Body Count") or the url (www.iraqbodycount.org) or the names of the principal researchers, Hamit Dardagan and John Sloboda.

6. Limitations and scope of enquiry:

Any project has limitations and boundaries. Here are some FAQs about this topic and our answers to them.

Why don't you report all civilian deaths in Iraq since the 1991 Gulf War ended?

Our decision to stick with deaths from Jan 2003 is mainly tactical, and based on the resources we have. We would rather provide one stream of verifiable evidence to a high degree of reliability than spread ourselves too thin. Current deaths are more newsworthy than past deaths, and will be of more interest to the general websites who will carry the **IBC Web Counters**. We agree that reckoning total deaths since 1991 is a very worthwhile project. We would be happy to support someone wanting to do this, but we can't manage it ourselves with current resources.

Why don't you report civilian injuries as well as deaths?

Injuries are difficult to quantify. Anything from shock to loss of limb can be classified as an injury. Also, injuries can recover, so that by the time there is independent verification the injury can have healed. The level of resource we would need to track and categorise the far higher number of injuries would likely overwhelm our resources. Deaths are irreversible and immutable. Again, they are the most "newsworthy" tip of the iceberg, and the greatest crime against innocents.

"Does your count include deaths from indirect causes?"

Each side can readily claim that indirectly-caused deaths are the "fault" of the other side or, where long-term illnesses and genetic disorders are concerned, "due to other causes." Our methodology requires that specific deaths attributed to US-led military actions are carried in at least two reports from our approved sources. This includes deaths resulting from the destruction of water treatment plants or any other lethal effects on the civilian population. The test for us remains whether the bullet (or equivalent) is attributed to a piece of weaponry where the trigger was pulled by a US or allied finger, or is due to "collateral damage" by either side (with the burden of responsibility falling squarely on the shoulders of those who initiate war without UN Security Council authorization). We agree that deaths from any

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<http://www.iraqbodycount.net/background.htm>

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deliberate source are an equal outrage, but in this project we want to only record those deaths to which we can unambiguously hold our own leaders to account. In short, **we record all civilians deaths attributed to our military intervention in Iraq.**

(The above FAQ does not apply to sanctions; although we are opposed to them, our study deals with the consequences of our current military actions in Iraq. It has also been newly revised due to our growing awareness that we were too narrowly-focused on bombs and other conventional weapons, neglecting the deadly effects of disrupted food, water, electricity and medical supplies. These effects, though relatively small at the outset of a war, are likely to become much more significant as time passes, and we will monitor media reports accordingly.)

Won't your count simply be a compilation of propaganda?

We acknowledge that many parties to this conflict will have an interest in manipulating casualty figures for political ends. There is no such thing (and will probably never be such a thing) as a "wholly accurate" figure, which could be accepted as historical truth by all parties. This is why we will always publish a **minimum** and a **maximum** for each

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Gulf War II

The Secret behind the Sanctions: "how the US intentionally
destroyed Iraq's water supply," Thomas Naggy, available
at www.progressive.org/0801issue/naggy0901.47n1

Amnesty International Banned From U.S. Prison Camp in Iraq**Date:** Saturday, July 26, 2003 @ 17:24:42 CDT**Topic:** News from the Front**Report by YellowTimes.org**
NewsFromtheFront.org

WASHINGTON (NFTF.org) -- Amnesty International has been denied access to Camp Cropper, an outdoor U.S.-run "tent prison."

"The conditions of detention Iraqis are held under at the Camp Cropper Center at Baghdad International Airport -- now a U.S. base -- and at Abu Ghraib Prison may amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, banned by international law," stated Amnesty International in a June 30 news release.

A July 22 article in *The Independent* confirms Amnesty International's concerns.

Journalist Robert Fisk cited an unnamed but "impeccable and Western" source, who informed him that Camp Cropper interrogation methods include beating of "selected" prisoners. Further, two prisoners were reportedly shot dead attempting to escape.

Fisk wrote that Amnesty investigators arrived in Baghdad last week, but were forbidden entry to Camp Cropper, believed to warehouse as many as 2,000 prisoners.

Fisk also recounted the experience of Iraqi-born Qais al-Salman, an engineer who fled his oppressive native country in 1976. Now a Danish citizen, al-Salman had returned to Iraq to aid U.S. reconstruction efforts "with a briefcase literally full of plans to help the restoration of his country infrastructure and water purification system."

Traveling with two other passengers on June 4, their vehicle was fired upon by U.S. forces after failing to stop at a checkpoint that al-Salman told Fisk he never saw.

While the others fled, al-Salman waited for U.S. officers and was placed under arrest. He was held in a large tent with 130 other prisoners and no water to cleanse themselves.

"There were people of high culture, doctors and university people, and there were the most dirty animal people, thieves and criminals the like of which I never saw before," al-Salman recalled.

After showing interrogators letters that confirmed his involvement in U.S. projects, al-Salman was pinned with a label reading "Suspected Assassin." Finally released after 33 days and a brief hunger strike, the engineer was never charged with a crime, nor was the Danish government ever informed of his imprisonment.

YellowTimes.org correspondent Lisa Ashkenaz Croke drafted this report.

To receive an e-mail about two times a week with weblinks and descriptions to new News from the Front articles at YellowTimes.org, please enter your e-mail address in the following form.

Collateral Damage

Dec 2002

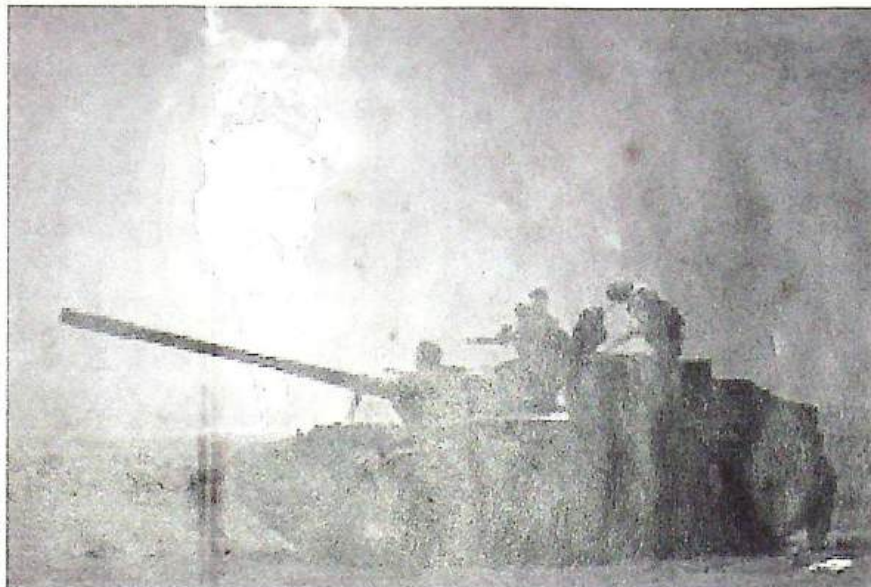
Stef van den Eynde

Op 12 november 2002, een paar dagen na de goedkeuring van resolutie 1441 door de VN-Veiligheidsraad, stelde Medact, de Britse afdeling van IPPNW officieel het rapport 'Bijkomstige schade: de gevolgen voor gezondheid en milieu van een oorlog tegen Irak' (*Collateral Damage: the health and environmental costs of war on Iraq*) voor in Londen. Op dezelfde dag hebben trouwens ook de VS-afdeling, *Physicians for Social Responsibility* en een tiental andere IPPNW-afdelingen dit rapport gelanceerd. Hieronder vindt u een samenvatting van het rapport.

Bijkomstige schade: de gevolgen voor gezondheid en milieu van een oorlog tegen Irak

Het inzetten van kernwapens tijdens een oorlog tegen Irak zou aan ongeveer vier miljoen mensen het leven kunnen kosten. Zelfs een beperkt conflict zou al de dood van een half miljoen mensen veroorzaken en verschrikkelijke gevolgen hebben voor het leven, de gezondheid en het milieu van de strijdende partijen, van Iraakse burgers en van de bevolking in Iraks buurlanden en in andere landen. Het conflict zou bovendien ook een weerslag kunnen hebben op de wereldeconomie en dus onrechtstreeks de gezondheid en het welzijn van miljoenen mensen op de wereld ondermijnen.

Dit rapport, geschreven door gezondheidswerkers, is de neerslag van onderzoeken over de mogelijke effecten op de volksgezondheid van een nieuwe oorlog tegen Irak. Betrouwbare schattingen van het totale aantal mogelijke slachtoffers bij alle partijen tijdens het conflict en in de drie maanden erna gaan van 48.000 tot meer dan 260.000. Een burgeroorlog in Irak zou nog eens 200.000 slach-



offers kunnen maken. In de nasleep van het conflict zouden nog eens 200.000 mensen kunnen sterven. Het gebruik van kernwapens kan het dodenaantal tot 3.900.000 doen oplopen. In alle scenario's zouden de meeste slachtoffers burgers zijn.

Een 'conventionele' oorlog zou kunnen leiden tot een burgeroorlog, hongersnood en epidemieën, zou miljoenen mensen op de vlucht kunnen drijven, zou catastrofale gevolgen voor de gezondheid en ontwikkeling van kinderen kunnen hebben. Ook zou de economie kunnen instorten, o.a. door een falende landbouw en productiesector en zou een langdurige vredeshandhaving noodzakelijk zijn. Mogelijk worden regimes in Iraks buurlanden gedestabiliseerd of vervangen en worden er terroristische aanslagen gepleegd. Verder zou ook een wereldwijde economische crisis de kop kunnen opsteken als gevolg van een vermindering van de handel en uit de pan swingende olieprijsen. Zo'n crisis zou bijzonder nefast zijn voor de ontwikkelingslanden.

De financiële last zou voor alle partijen enorm zijn: de uitgaven voor wapens, een bezetting, noodhulp en reconstructie zouden waarschijnlijk tussen 150 en 200 miljard dollar

schommelen. De VS zou vermoedelijk tussen 50 en 200 miljard uitgeven aan de oorlog zelf en tussen 5 en 20 miljard dollar per jaar aan de bezetting. Het rapport wijst erop dat 100 miljard dollar volstaat om gedurende vier jaar in de noden van de armsten ter wereld te voorzien.

Het conflict zou verwoestender zijn dan de Golfoorlog van 1990-1991

De VS stelt zich tot doel het huidige regime te vervangen door een ander. Dat betekent echter dat een nieuw conflict veel intenser en vernietigender zal zijn dan de Golfoorlog van 1990-1991 en dat meer dodelijke wapens in de interimperiode zullen worden ingezet. Bovendien zijn de gewone Irakezen er fysiek en mentaal heel wat slechter aan toe dan in 1991. Ze zijn dus veel kwetsbaarder en zullen minder in staat zijn het land opnieuw op te bouwen.

Dankzij de olie-inkomsten en het sociale beleid onder Saddam Hoesseins dictatuur was het Irak van vóór 1991 een redelijk welvarend, verstedelijkt land met modale inkomens, een moderne sociale infrastructuur en degelijke openbare diensten. De gevolgen van zowel de oorlog als de sancties, die slechts gedeeltelijk teniet

geopperd door Steinmetz (die van der Bij's redenering dat primitieve volken geen oorlog voerden omdat ze primitief waren omdraaide tot de stelling dat primitieve volken primitief waren, juist omdat ze geen oorlog voerden) en vooral Davie (1929) die bij primitieve volken bloeddorstige oorlogen constateerden om redenen als plundering, veediefstal, en het verkrijgen van meer territorium of vrouwen, maar ook om niet-economische redenen zoals wraak of de verplichtingen van de bloedvete. De contemporaine school van (eco)materialisten (Vayda, Harris, Ferguson) heeft het eveneens over groepsconflicten met een economische grondslag; oorlogsvoering is een middel om aan begeerde, hooggevalueerde of strategische goederen te komen, zoals land en dierlijke producten, beheersing van handelsroutes, etc.

De wortels van deze school ontsproten omstreeks 1940 toen antropologen de oorlogsvoering van Zoeloes en Indianen in een economisch perspectief gingen plaatsen, in feite als bewuste en opzettelijke gevechten om schaarse materiële goederen. De oudste gedocumenteerde oorlogen in de menselijke geschiedenis waren ordinaire rooftochten. Wraak, vrouwen, territorium en schaarse materiële hulpbronnen (inclusief de nimmer eindigende zoektocht naar veiligheid) zijn de voornaamste proximate oorzaken of motieven van oorlog bij primitieve volkeren, op de voet gevolgd door motieven als status, prestige en eer, en 'bovennatuurlijke' of magico-religieuze motieven zoals koppen-snellen, trofeeënjacht, en mensen-offers (Davie, Turney-High, Chagnon, Divale, Otterbein, Ferguson, Van der Dennen, Keeley, Gat). Zoals Gat het, in een evolutionair perspectief, formuleert: 'De alomvattende strijd om de onderling samenhangende zaken als schaarse hulpbronnen, status en prestige en voortplanting is de grondoorzaak van oorlog bij mensen zoals ook bij andere diersoorten. Alle andere redenen van oorlogsvoering zijn hiervan afgeleid'.

In 1978 maakte Carol Ember een einde aan 'de mythe van de vredelievende jager-verzamelaar'. Van der Dennen, Gat en Keeley hebben on-

langs bevestigd dat primitieve en prehistorische oorlogsvoering een zeer dodelijke en bloedige bezigheid is, die zelfs uit kan monden in *massacres* en genocide: *guerre à l'outrance*. Wat letaliteit, sanguiniteit en destructiviteit betreft wint de primitieve oorlog het met vlag en wimpel van de moderne oorlog. Het uitsterven van groepen mensen door chronische oorlogsvoering van kleine dorpsgemeenschappen of stammen komt voor in Nieuw-Guinea, het Amazonegebied en andere gebieden waar bloedvetes en oorlog endemisch zijn.

Agent of Progress

Broch & Galtung (1966) hebben de data van Wright opnieuw geanalyseerd en kwamen tot de ondubbelzinnige conclusie dat: 'Oorlogszuchtigheid samenhangt met beschaving'. Hoewel hun gegevensbestand meer synchroon dan diachroon loopt, suggereert het niettemin dat er een dynamisch proces is wat er voor zorgt dat 'toenemende beschaving leidt tot toenemende oorlogsvoering'. Een vergelijkbare theorie (vooral sociaal-Darwinistisch) in deze is de visie dat strijd, oorlog en intergroepsconflicten de belangrijkste factoren zijn geweest in de menselijke vooruitgang, en dat oorlog de *prime mover* is geweest in de menselijke culturele, morele en spirituele evolutie: oorlog is, in deze visie, bij uitstek *Agent of Progress*. Bij andere contemporaine scholen is de visie op oorlog als oorzaak van ontwikkeling te verdelen in degenen die oorlog zien als de belangrijkste oorzaak of *prime mover* (bijv. Carneiro), diegenen die oorlog zien als secundair en andere ontwikkelingen versterkend proces (bijv. Fried), of degenen die oorlog zien als een slechts één variabele in een hele set van samenhangende variabelen (bijv. Ferguson).

Sociale organisatie

De evolutie van de historische oorlogsvoering wordt wel beschreven als de transformatie van bewapende mannen in bemande wapens, waarbij de voortplantingsvoordelen steeds meer zijn 'losgeraakt' van oorlogszuchtig gedrag, zoals Low (1993: 45) suggereerde. Turney-High heeft er herhaaldelijk op gewezen dat de evolutie van oorlogsvoering niet zozeer een kwes-

tie is van verbeterd wapentuig, maar meer nog van sociale organisatie. 'De militaire horizon hangt niet af van de effectiviteit van het wapentuig, maar van de effectiviteit van samenwerking, organisatie en bevelstructuur die voldoen aan bepaalde simpele (tactische) principes' (Turney-High, 1949: 23). Daarom zijn legers in de loop der tijd steeds meer hiërarchisch georganiseerd en hebben ze steeds grotere veldslagen uitgevochten, hebben ze steeds grotere plundercampagnes uitgevoerd, het territorium steeds meer uitgebreid, en andere volken onderworpen of uitgeroeid en politieke macht veroverd: macht, suprematie en imperium.

Discipline en coördinatie tekent het onderscheid tussen de krijger en de soldaat. De krijgersmentaliteit verloor terrein in de westerse geschiedenis toen de oorlogsvoering veranderde van overvallen en hinderlagen naar het treffen tussen massale slagordes. 'De eerste slagordes zijn misschien ontstaan door een kleine elitegroep van strijders, die hiermee succes behaalde. Maar de slagorde geeft een veranderde oorlogsgeest aan: de collectieve discipline wint het van het individuele vertoon, en zelfdiscipline (*sophrosune*) neemt het over van de krijgersrazernij (*menos*)' (Vernant, 1990: 90). Oorlog is in toenemende mate verworpen tot een suboptimale oplossing - qua kosten en opbrengsten - voor het oplossen van politieke problemen, maar zal in deze eeuw waarschijnlijk gevoerd blijven worden om schaarse goederen te verkrijgen zoals olie, schoon water, 'veiligheid' en 'etnische onafhankelijkheid' (afscheidingsoorlogen en etnopolitieke conflicten zullen in toenemende mate binnen staten plaatsvinden; de internationale oorlog maakt plaats voor de burgeroorlog, zonder duidelijke fronten, zonder duidelijk begin en eind, en zonder duidelijke combatanten: een guerrilla van iedereen tegen iedereen, zoals Hobbes die ooit voorzag).

Concluderend kan gezegd worden dat de productiemiddelen, de reproductiemiddelen en de destructiemiddelen de sociaal-culturele evolutie in grote lijnen gevormd hebben en zullen blijven vormen (Schmookler, Ehrenreich, Sanderson). 63

werden gedaan door het Olie-voedsel-programma, slingerden het land terug naar een pre-industrieel tijdperk. Irak staat nu op de 126ste plaats (op 174) in de VN-ontwikkelingsindex.

Het meest voor de hand liggende oorlogsscenario

De schattingen in het rapport zijn gebaseerd op gegevens uit de vorige Golfoorlog, uit vergelijkbare conflicten en crises elders, en op de meest betrouwbare recente informatie over de gezondheidstoestand van de bevolking in Irak. Het schetst een geloofwaardig oorlogsscenario op basis van de huidige militaire VS-strategie die op vier pijlers rust: volgehouden en vernielende luchtaanvallen op overheids- en militaire gebouwen en infrastructuur in Bagdad en andere stedelijke centra; de landing van grondtroepen om de olieproducerende regio's in het zuid-oosten te bezetten; het uitoefenen van controle over Noord-Irak; en het inzetten van snelle-interventietroepen, ondersteund door luchtaanvallen, om Bagdad in te nemen.

De VS streven naar een wissel van het regime, maar hun plannen zullen worden gedwarsboomd door Saddam Hoesseins wil om te overleven. Een korte, chirurgische campagne is dus waarschijnlijk *wishful thinking*.

De volgende opties liggen open voor Saddam Hoessein:

- olieputten in brand steken en raketten met een radiologische of chemische kernkop gebruiken om ze te verontreinigen;
- paramilitaire aanvallen op olievelden, pijpleidingen en installaties in Koeweit en Saoedi-Arabië;
- paramilitaire aanvallen op burgercentra in andere Golfstaten
- paramilitaire aanvallen op doelwitten in de VS, het VK en andere coalitiestaten

- selectief gebruik van chemische en biologische wapens

Het rapport onderzoekt ook de omstandigheden waarbij chemische, biologische en kernwapens zouden kunnen worden ingezet. Een Iraakse aanval met chemische en biologische wapens op Israël of een ander land zou leiden tot een onmiddellijke vergeldingsaanval met kernwapens door Israël, de VS en/of het VK. Bovendien hebben het VK en de VS de optie om eerst aan te vallen niet uitgesloten. Heel wat vragen blijven onbeantwoord over de nasleep van de oorlog en de waarschijnlijkheid om een nieuw stabiel regime te installeren. De huidige problemen in Afghanistan tonen aan dat er enorm veel moet worden geïnvesteerd om een verwoest land weer op te bouwen en dat de internationale gemeenschap niet staat te trappelen om zo'n lange-termijnproject te steunen.

Alternatieven voor de oorlog

Dit objectieve rapport van gezondheidswerkers neemt geen politiek standpunt in over de alternatieven voor een oorlog tegen Irak. Het wil vooral de besluitvorming vooruithelpen en een openbaar debat stimuleren door erop te wijzen dat de werkelijke kosten van een nieuwe oorlog moeten worden afgewogen tegen de mogelijke voordelen ervan. Het geeft een lijst van geweldloze strategieën die nog niet volledig zijn uitgetest. Sommige daarvan hebben rechtstreeks te maken met Irak en sommige met het verbeteren van de veiligheid in de wereld. De conclusie is dat er dringende nood is aan humane en wijze wereldleiders die erkennen dat nationale veiligheid niet mogelijk is zonder internationale veiligheid. ☺

*Het rapport is te bestellen voor € 5,-.
Over te maken op giro 4395340
t.n.v. NVMP Utrecht, o.v.v.
Collateral Damage.*

Themadag Medische dilemma's tijdens humanitaire hulp- en vredesmissies

Onderwerp:

Medische neutraliteit

Op zaterdag 14 december

2002 organiseert de Johannes Wier Stichting haar jaarlijkse themadag in Utrecht. Dit jaar is gekozen voor het thema humanitaire hulpverlening en medische dilemma's die daar een rol spelen.

In het ochtendprogramma geven vertegenwoordigers van het Rode Kruis, Defensie en ontwikkelingsorganisaties uitleg over hoe zij hun medisch personeel voorbereiden op uitzending. Ook komen enkele praktijkervaringen over lijfstraffen en foltering aan de orde en bericht iemand van Defensie over de ervaringen van de vredesmissies naar Rwanda en Srebrenica.

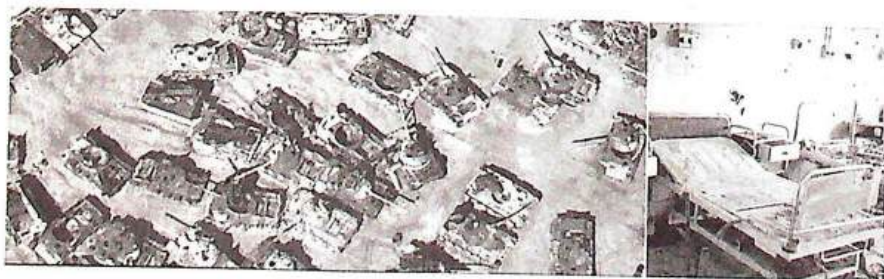
's Middags zijn er workshops waarin casussen besproken worden, waarna een plenaire discussie volgt.

Voor deze bijeenkomst zullen vertegenwoordigers van relevante organisaties uitgenodigd worden.

Het verslag van de bijeenkomst zal t.z.t. op deze website gepubliceerd worden.

www.johannes-wier.nl

Dit artikel komt van:
Johannes Wier Stichting.



'Oorlog Irak bezorgt EU grote stroom vluchtelingen'

ANP
ATHENE

De Europese Unie moet zich bij een militaire actie tegen Irak voorbereiden op een ongekende stroom vluchtelingen. Dat heeft de Griekse minister van Openbare Orde, Michalis Chrysohoidis, vrijdag gezegd.

Griekenland vervult in de eerste helft van 2003 het voorzitterschap van de Europese Unie. Chrysohoidis zal de vergaderingen van de EU-ministers van Binnenlandse Zaken leiden.

Volgens de bewindsman zal de vluchtelingenstroom niet tot Europa en het Midden-Oosten beperkt blijven. 'Dit is een kwestie die de gehele wereld aangaat', aldus Chrysohoidis. Tijdens de oorlog om de Servische provincie Kosovo nam ook Australië vluchtelingen op. Vooral Iraks buurland Turkije zal hulp nodig hebben.

De Griekse minister bepleitte dat de EU voldoende humanitaire hulp gereed houdt voor de slachtoffers van de oorlog in Irak. De voorzitter van de Europese Commissie, Romano Prodi, had eerder gezegd dat de unie al geld voor humanitaire doelen heeft klaarliggen, al is het minder dan het dagelijks bestuur van de unie wil.

Het zou gaan om een bedrag van ongeveer 15 miljoen euro. Prodi was in Griekenland voor een kennismakingsbezoek.

Lubbers voorziet menselijke ramp Irak

AP, AFP
LONDEN

Een oorlog tegen Irak zou een menselijke ramp teweegbrengen, waarschuwt de Hoge Commissaris voor Vluchtelingen van de Verenigde Naties. 'Geloof me, uit humanitair oogpunt wordt het een ramp', zei Ruud Lubbers vrijdag in een interview met de BBC.

Lubbers vreest dat zo'n oorlog een nieuwe vluchtelingenstroom op gang zou brengen van tienduizenden, misschien zelfs een miljoen Irakezen. Een ander punt van zorg is dat er wellicht burgers zullen omkomen door de in Irak opgeslagen chemische en biologische wapens. 'Onze eerste verantwoordelijkheid is om dit te voorkomen', aldus de Unhcr-leider.

'Wij moeten inderdaad heel streng zijn voor Saddam Hussein, maar het doel is hem te ontwapenen. Pas als Saddam Hussein niet meewerkt met zowel de inspecties als de gevolgen van de inspecties, zou dat een reden kunnen zijn voor een militaire interventie', zei Lubbers.

Ook volgens de niet-gouvernementele hulporganisatie Oxfam staat Irak aan de vooravond van een humanitaire ramp. Oxfam wijst erop dat 16 miljoen van de 22 miljoen Irakezen afhankelijk zijn van de voedseldistributie door de regering, en dat de drinkwatervoorziening in een oorlog zou kunnen worden verwoest.

De ruim honderd wapeninspecteurs van de Verenigde Naties zijn nu een maand bezig in Irak. Op 9 januari moeten ze opnieuw met een tussentijds rapport komen, hun eindverslag wordt op 27 januari verwacht. Algemeen wordt aangenomen dat de Verenigde Staten deze eindrapportage niet bevredigend zullen vinden en de verwachting luidt dat de oorlog tegen Irak in de eerste helft van februari zal beginnen.

Met het oog daarop heeft Turkije besloten de productie van gasmaskers te verhogen. Een team van deskundigen moet adviseren welke maatregelen er nog meer nodig zijn met het oog op een mogelijke aanval met nucleaire, chemische of biologische wapens.

Twee Amerikaanse staatssecretarissen hebben gisteren in Ankara besproken hoe de VS de Turkse economie kunnen ondersteunen als het oorlog wordt. Als buurland van Irak is NAVO-bondgenoot Turkije van vitaal strategisch belang.

'Aanval op Irak ramp voor de bevolking'

Van onze redactie buitenland
AMSTERDAM - Een invasie Irak zal een 'menselijke ramp' tot gevolg hebben met tussen de 50 000 en 250 000 doden van wie de meesten burgers. Dat heeft de Britse organisatie van artsen en verpleegkundigen Medact becijferd in een teren gepubliceerd rapport.

Collateral damage, bijkomende schade, is de titel van het rapport waarin Britse deskundigen de situatie in Irak vergelijken met vorige oorlogen als de vorige C oorlog, Libanon, Somalië, Tsjechië en Joegoslavië.

Op basis van de meest waarschijnlijke scenario's voor militair ingrijpen in Irak, stellen dat een oorlog nu meer burger slachtoffers zal maken dan de vorige. Omdat er nieuwe, dodelijke wapens gebruikt worden, en ook omdat Iraakse burgers de nasleep van die oorlog - water, slechte medische zorg, de VN-sancties nu minder gezamenlijk weerbaar zijn dan toen.

En als Saddams regime snel valt, ontstaat een moeilijk voorspellen, gevaarlijke situatie met mogelijk vele duizenden doden als er chemische of kernwapens worden gebruikt. Een kernaanval op Bagdad zou tot 306 tot 3,6 miljoen doden kunnen leiden.

Medact gaat in de voorspellingen uit van zware bombardementen van Bagdad en andere Iraakse steden, met tussen de vijfduizend en 170 000 burgerdoden. Volgens een burgeroorlog, dan steiger nog eens twintigduizend Iraakse burgers.

Het Britse Medact is gelid aan de Internationale Medische Preventie van Kernoorlog (IPPNW), die in 1985 de Nobelprijs voor de vrede wonnen. De organisatie voert een internationale actie tegen Amerikaans militair ingrijpen in Irak voor het voortzetten van Amerikaanse containment-beleid dat beoogt Saddam Hoessein zwak te houden.

VN schetsen rampscenario voor een oorlog in Irak

30-1-2003

Van onze buitenlandredactie
AMSTERDAM

Ongeveer 500 duizend mensen kunnen slachtoffer worden van een oorlog tegen Irak. Waarschijnlijk miljoenen mensen zullen ernstig ondervoed raken en het aantal vluchtelingen kan oplopen tot een miljoen. Dat blijkt uit een uitgelekt document waarin de VN een inschatting maken van de humanitaire gevolgen van een aanval.

Van de 500 duizend Irakezen die volgens het scenario van de VN als gevolg van oorlogshandelingen medische zorg behoeven, zullen naar schatting 100 duizend direct door de bombardementen gewond raken. De overigen zullen behandeld moeten worden voor ziektes die het gevolg zijn van vernieling van bijvoorbeeld waterinstallaties en rioleringen.

De verwachte voedseltekorten zullen vooral kinderen en zwangere vrouwen in problemen brengen. Op het moment zijn zestien miljoen Irakezen afhankelijk van voedselvoorziening door de regering. Deze distributie van levensmiddelen zal voor een groot deel stil komen te liggen.

Voor ongeveer twee miljoen kinderen onder de vijf jaar die al

ondervoed zijn, zal voeding op medische basis nodig zijn, denken de VN. Dat geldt ook voor ongeveer een miljoen zwangere en zogende vrouwen.

Naar schatting een miljoen Irakezen uit Bagdad en andere centrale delen van het land zullen proberen te vluchten naar Iran en naar Saudi-Arabië.

Nog eens anderhalf miljoen Irakezen zullen hun directe woonomgeving moeten verlaten, een derde daarvan zal noodopvang nodig hebben. Een deel van de Irakezen die de oorlogshandelingen moeten ontvluchten zal naar verwachting ernstig ondervoed raken.

De Verenigde Naties geven in hun rapport geen schatting van het aantal te verwachten dodelijke slachtoffers. Zij schetsen wel een pessimistisch beeld van de situatie van de bevolking. De Irakezen zijn door de economische blokkades sinds het einde van de eerste Golfoorlog in 1991 zo verzwakt geraakt, dat zij waarschijnlijk een groot risico lopen aan nieuwe ontberingen te bezwijken.

In Afghanistan – dat net als Irak zo'n 26 miljoen inwoners heeft – kwamen bij de bombardementen in de oorlog vorig jaar naar schatting vijfduizend burgers om het leven. Nog eens twintigduizend

mensen stierven door de indirecte gevolgen van de oorlog. De VN denken niet dat de situatie in Irak vergelijkbaar is, omdat de overwegend stedelijke bevolking van Irak veel minder zelfvoorzienend is dan die in het rurale Afghanistan. De infrastructuur van het land zal bij een aanval grotendeels vernield worden. Wegen, bruggen en elektriciteitscentrales zijn waarschijnlijk doelwitten van een militaire actie. Hierdoor zal transport van goederen nauwelijks meer mogelijk zijn. Ook zal bijvoorbeeld het drinkwater- en het rioolnetwerk niet meer functioneren.

De VN schatten in dat er in Irak onder normale omstandigheden voor vier maanden voorraad is aan primaire medicijnen. Maar, zo waarschuwt de organisatie, geavanceerde medische bijstand is niet voorhanden, en medicijnen tegen bijvoorbeeld diarree kunnen wel eens snel opraken.

Het geheime document waarin deze cijfers genoemd worden, heet 'Waarschijnlijke humanitaire scenario's' en is bedoeld om de hulpverlening zodra een oorlog is uitgebroken zo goed mogelijk op gang te brengen. Het is uitgelekt naar een Britse organisatie tegen de oorlog in Irak, die het op het internet zette (www.casi.org.uk).

- > Nederlandse religieuze bij terugkeer uit Irak:
- >
- > "AANVAL OP IRAK VEROORZAAKT HUMANITAIRE RAMP"
- >
- >
- >
- > AMERSFOORT, 6 december 2002 - Een grote aanval op Irak zal
- > desastreuze gevolgen hebben voor de bevolking van het land. Dat is
- > een van de conclusies van José Höhne-Sparborth, bij terugkeer van
- > een zesdaags bezoek aan het land. "Meer dan zestig procent van de
- > bevolking is volledig afhankelijk van de voedseldistributie. Bij een
- > aanval zal dit hele systeem in elkaar storten", zo gaf Höhne aan tijdens
- > een persconferentie in Amersfoort.
- >
- > José Höhne-Sparborth maakte deel uit van een internationale kerkelijke
- > delegatie. Vanuit Nederland werd dit bezoek ondersteund door Kerk en
- > Vrede en de Raad van Kerken in Nederland. Het bezoek vond plaats
- > op initiatief van de Duitse afdeling van de International Fellowship of
- > Reconciliation, waarvan Kerk en Vrede de Nederlandse afdeling vormt.
- > De Raad van Kerken van het Midden-Oosten was de uitnodigende
- > instantie, die het bezoek in Irak begeleidde.
- >
- > Höhne-Sparborth bezocht in Bagdad onder meer enkele christelijke
- > kerkgenootschappen, waar met vertegenwoordigers van het bestuur en
- > gemeenteleden gesproken werd. Ook werd een bezoek gebracht aan
- > een moskee en een synagoge. In een kinderziekenhuis kon zij met
- > eigen ogen waarnemen hoe het personeel letterlijk met lege handen
- > staat. Door de al twaalf jaar durende sancties tegen Irak ontbreken de
- > meest elementaire medicijnen. Ook de voedselsituatie in Irak is
- > nijpend.
- >
- > Volgens cijfers van de coördinator van het VN-voedselprogramma ter
- > plekke, de Fransman Francis Dubois, is zestig tot zeventig procent van
- > de Iraakse bevolking afhankelijk van het voedseldistributiepakket, dat
- > onderdeel vormt van het "olie voor voedsel"-programma van de
- > Verenigde Naties. Dit distributiesysteem zal bij een aanval binnen
- > veertien dagen instorten. Dubois drong er bij de delegatie op aan de
- > eigen regeringen ervan te overtuigen dat zo'n aanval voorkomen moet
- > worden en de boycot moet stoppen. Deze boodschap kwam ook
- > duidelijk van de andere Iraakse gesprekspartners.
- >
- > Höhne-Sparborth vertelde verder zich vooraf goed bewust te zijn
- > geweest van haar bijzondere positie van een westerling die Irak
- > bezoekt: "Ik ging naar Bagdad vanuit het besef dat ik een wereld
- > vertegenwoordig die al twaalf jaar met dit volk in oorlog is, ik kon er
- > dus niet zomaar van uitgaan dat ze me vertrouwen. Vergelijk het maar
- > met een groep Duitsers die in 1943 in Nederland komt kijken hoe het
- > land er voor staat. Tot mijn vreugde was er tijdens mijn ontmoetingen
- > met mensen in Bagdad altijd vrij snel openheid. Maar kerkmensen
- > waarschuwden ons bezorgd: 'Er groeit in Irak nu een generatie op die
- > het westen leert haten'."
- >
- > De Raad van Kerken en Kerk en Vrede zijn al langere tijd betrokken bij
- > de situatie in Irak. In oktober schreef de Raad een brief aan de minister
- > van Buitenlandse Zaken, De Hoop Scheffer, waarin de Raad er bij de
- > minister op aandringt zijn invloed aan te wenden om een oorlog tegen
- > Irak in de huidige situatie af te wenden. In die brief gaf de Raad aan te
- > hechten aan de mening van de Iraakse bevolking in haar
- > verscheidenheid. "Het bezoek van José Höhne geeft de Raad
- > mogelijkheden rechtstreeks contact te leggen met kerken en andere
- > groeperingen in Irak", aldus algemeen secretaris van de Raad, Ineke
- > Bakker. De Raad zal de bevindingen van Höhne-Sparborth binnenkort
- > bespreken
- >
- > =====
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KWESTIES / Ondervoeding Irak

22-11-2002

De ondervoeding van Iraakse kinderen is de afgelopen jaren, in vergelijking met rampjaar 1996, drastisch afgenomen. Dat meldt VN-Kinderfonds Unicef. De organisatie waarschuwt echter dat Iraakse gezinnen slechter dan voor aanvang van de Golfoorlog in 1991 zijn voorbereid op een oorlog. Zij zijn nu aangewezen op voedseldistributie.

Het hoofd van de afdeling Irak van Unicef, Carel de Rooy, zei dat sprake is van een aanzienlijke verbetering in de voedselsituatie in Irak, waardoor het sterftcijfer van kinderen onder de vijf jaar is gedaald. Het cijfer steeg in

de jaren negentig dramatisch, van 56 per duizend in 1989 tot 113 per duizend in 1999, een ontwikkeling die volgens Irakezen en humanitaire organisaties het gevolg was van het VN-embargo.

De Rooy zegt dat het percentage van kinderen onder de vijf jaar met acute ondervoeding, dat in 1996 nog op 11 procent stond, is gedaald tot 4 procent. Het percentage kinderen met ondergewicht is van 23 procent in 1996 gedaald tot 9 procent nu. Unicef schrijft de verbetering deels toe aan het programma voor voedselrantsoenering van de VN, dat in 1996 van start ging.

Straatgevechten enige troef Irak

Tegenstander kan zich op eigen terrein lange tijd verschansen

In een stedelijke omgeving kan westers militair overwicht teniet worden gedaan. Irak zou mikken op de Amerikaanse vrees voor straatgevechten.

Door MENNO STEKETEE

ROTTERDAM, 4 FEBR. Militaire analisten zijn het erover eens dat de Iraakse strijdkrachten een Amerikaans-Brits grondoffensief vanuit Koeweit nauwelijks een strobreed in de weg kunnen leggen. Daarvoor ontbreekt het de Irakezen aan geoefende manschappen en modern materieel. Om het aanzienlijke Amerikaanse militaire overwicht op te heffen, willen de Irakezen hun tegenstanders verleiden tot straatgevechten in de stedelijke omgeving van Bagdad. „Als ze het politieke systeem in Irak willen veranderen”, vertelde het Iraakse parlements lid Mohammed Saleh Amerikaanse journalisten, „dan zullen ze naar Bagdad moeten komen. We zullen hen daar opwachten.”

Straatgevechten, aldus de Amerikaanse landmachtgeneraal Edwin Smith in het Amerikaanse *Army Magazine*, gelden in internationale militaire kringen als „de grote gelijkmaker”. MOUT-operaties – *Military Operations in Urbanized Terrain* – zoals ze in jargon heten, slokken volgens Smith grote aantallen militairen op, die over gebouwen en over verdiepingen moeten worden verdeeld. De tegenstander vecht bovendien op ei-

gen terrein en kan zich, slechts uitgerust met automatische wapens en RPG-raketgranaten en grote voorraden, lange tijd verschansen.

Vliegtuigen en andere methodes om precisiegeleide projectielen af te schieten, meent Smith, kunnen de tegenstanders in het „urbane landschap” hooguit isoleren. Maar verslaan kun je ze er niet mee.

Er zijn in de militaire geschiedenis veel voorbeelden te vinden van dergelijke 'gelijkmakers'. Het bekendste daarvan is zonder twijfel 'Stalingrad' in de winter van 1942

malische krijgsheer te arresteren, kwamen achttien Amerikaanse soldaten om. Dat grote aantal slachtoffers bracht de Amerikaanse regering ertoe om zich uit het land terug te trekken.

De Irakezen weten dat de Amerikaanse strijdkrachten huiverig zijn voor MOUT-missies. In plaats van zich in te graven in de woestijn, wat tijdens de Golfoorlog in 1991 rampzalig uitpakte, oefenen Iraakse troepen behalve in Bagdad ook in de zuidelijke stad Basra in het voeren van straatgevechten. Wapen- en voedselvoorraden zou-

van vechten in verstedelijkt gebied. Zo werd een radar ontvoerd die door muren heen kon kijken. Een van de problemen dat oefje was dat geen onderscheid viel te maken tussen burgers en gewapende tegenstanders.

Sindsdien ligt de nadruk hard trainen, maar dat garandeert weinig. Zo kwamen begin dertien Israëlische soldaten op straatgevechten in Jenin op Westelijke Jordaanoever, om wie manschappen van een eenheid van de Israëlische marine Amerikaanse mariniers hadde recente MOUT-oefeningen met al een virtueel verlies van tien cent.

De vrees voor straatgevechten wordt binnen het Pentagon deeld. De Amerikaanse generaal John Hoar, veteraan van de Golfoorlog, noemde het tijdens een hoorzitting voor de Senaat een „nachtmerriescenario”. Een „half dozijn divisies de Republikeinse garde” zijn in Bagdad verschanst, versterkt met een paar duizend stuks luchtmacht.

De Amerikaanse strijdkrachten zouden uiteindelijk wel winnen, vertelde Hoar de senatoren, „tegen welke prijs?” Hij deed daarbij niet alleen op de militaire slachtoffers. De publicitaire de die de VS zouden opleveren „wanneer de wereld toekijkt wij bombarderen en granaten exploderen in dichtbebouwde Iraakse woonwijken” zou ernstig zijn.

‘Als ze het systeem in Irak willen veranderen dan zullen ze naar Bagdad moeten komen’

op 1943. De Duitsers konden toen met geen mogelijkheid de Sovjet-troepen uit de puinhopen van de stad verdrijven. Een modern voorbeeld is de Tsjetsjeense hoofdstad Grozny waar het Russische leger in 1995 zware verliezen leed: moderne T-80-tanks waren geen partij voor Tsjetsjeense strijders die er vanaf korte afstand met RPG's gaten in schoten.

Maar ook de Amerikaanse strijdkrachten hebben niet zelden met straatgevechten hun neus gestoten, het meest recent in 1993 in de Somalische hoofdstad Mogadishu. Bij een mislukte actie om een So-

den zijn aangelegd en mobiele telefoontjes uitgedeeld.

Met name sinds 'Mogadishu' oefenen Amerikaanse en andere westerse strijdkrachten dit type gevecht. Ook Nederlandse eenheden, van de landmacht en het Korps Mariniers trainen OVG, operaties in verstedelijkt gebied, zoals straatgevechten hier heten.

In de VS waren het vooral mariniers die met jaarlijkse 'Urban Warrior'-oefeningen werden getraind. Aanvankelijk meenden de Amerikaanse plannenmakers dat hoogwaardige technologie een antwoord bood op de problemen

Een inwoner van Bagdad heeft twee watertanks aangeschaft om drinkwater in op te slaan.

FOTO AP

Burgers van Bagdad voorbereid op oorlog

Een van de eerste dingen die in Bagdad gebeuren als het oorlog wordt, is dat de stroom uitvalt. Dat betekent dat de drinkwatervoorziening ermee ophoudt. Niet alleen de bommen zullen slachtoffers maken onder de bevolking, ook de tyfus zal levens eisen.

Van onze correspondent
Kim Ghattas
BAGDAD

Het stinkt in de waterzuiveringsinstallatie Rustumiyya in het zuiden van de Iraakse hoofdstad Bagdad. En dat is een goed teken. Dagelijks passeert 175 duizend kubieke meter rioolwater de zuiveringsfabriek. Als het alle stadia van zuivering heeft doorlopen, stroomt het schoon de rivier de Tigris in. Anderhalf miljoen Irakezen zijn van dat water afhankelijk voor de bevoeding van hun velden en het doen van de afwas. Maar juist dat zou straks wel eens een uitbraak van tyfus kunnen veroorzaken.

'Als er oorlog komt en de

stroom uitvalt, dan houdt deze installatie ermee op, omdat we geen generatoren achter de hand hebben', zegt Samir Elias, een technicus van het Internationale Rode Kruis die sinds oktober aan de zuiveringsinstallatie werkt. 'Het rioolwater stroomt dan zo de rivier in. Dat levert gevaar op voor de volksgezondheid.'

De Iraakse regering heeft de burgers opgeroepen in elke wijk waterputten te slaan, om ervoor te zorgen dat ze altijd drinkwater hebben. Wie het zich kan veroorloven legt een voorraad flessenwater aan, anderen kopen watertonnen om regenwater op te vangen. Als de stroom helemaal uitvalt na een Amerikaanse aanval op Irak betekent dat namelijk ook dat de drinkwatervoorziening uitvalt en de Irakezen dus naar de rivier moeten om te drinken. Ook vallen dan de rioolstations uit die het afvalwater door de stad kanaliseren - dan stroomt het rioolwater gewoon over straat.

De watervoorziening is slechts een van de vele zorgen in het geval van een oorlog. De Verenigde Naties schatten dat er in een vroeg stadium van de oorlog al 500 duizend gewonden zouden kunnen vallen en dat wel 900 duizend Irakezen naar de buurlanden zouden

vluchten. De hulporganisaties zijn voorzichtig met uitspraken die de ongerustheid over de oorlog nog groter kunnen maken, terwijl ze tegelijkertijd trachten op alles voorbereid te zijn.

'Tot voor kort zijn we zeer terughoudend geweest over onze voorbereidingen, maar we moeten ook praktisch zijn', zegt Roland Huguenin, woordvoerder van het

om de toestand op te nemen, maar zij worden gehinderd door maatregelen van de Iraakse regering. Ook op het hoofdkwartier van de Rode Halve Maan worden voorbereidingen getroffen, maar het budget is beperkt.

'We zijn niet klaar voor een oorlog', zegt Anwar Masraf, een bestuurslid van het Internationale Rode Kruis. 'Het is waarschijnlijk onvermijdelijk, maar ik hoop dat de oorlog wordt uitgesteld. We hebben meer tenten nodig, dekens en medicamenten, maar vooral waterzuiveringstabletten. Daar hebben we niet genoeg van en het is moeilijk om ze het land in te krijgen vanwege de sancties.'

Voedsel is een andere bron van zorg: 4,5 tot 9,5 miljoen Irakezen kunnen direct bij het begin van de oorlog al afhankelijk raken van voedselhulp. Het Rode Kruis onderzoekt hoe voedsel het land kan worden binnengebracht, waar het kan worden opgeslagen en langs welke routes en met welke vrachtwagens gedistribueerd.

De meeste Irakezen zijn al afhankelijk van de voedselrantsoenen die de regering maandelijks verstrekt. De voedseldistributie is goed georganiseerd. Hij is van kracht sinds september 1990, kort na de inval in Koeweit. In de pak-

ketten zit meel, suiker, rijst, graanproducten en thee - in totaal ongeveer tweederde van de calorieën die een mens nodig heeft. Fruit, vlees en groente ontbreken.

Sinds eind vorig jaar deelt de Iraakse regering twee rantsoenen per keer uit, zodat de Irakezen nu in theorie genoeg voedsel in huis hebben om het tot mei te kunnen uitzingen. Bederfelijk voedsel wordt niet gehamsterd, uit angst voor stroomuitval.

'We hebben een voorraad voedsel in huis, maar we gaan nog levende kippen kopen om in de tuin te houden', zegt Mohammed Jawad, een vader van vier kinderen in Bagdad. 'Af en toe plukken we dan een kip, zodat we ook tijdens de oorlog vers vlees hebben.'

Veel minder bedeelde Irakezen, niet gewend aan zoveel eten in huis, hebben hun rantsoenen meteen opgegeten. Anderen verkopen een deel van de inhoud om schoenen, kleren of medicijnen te kunnen kopen.

'De toestand is heel anders dan in 1991, toen Irak nog een behoorlijk welvarend land was', zegt Huguenin van het Rode Kruis. 'Na twaalf jaar sancties is de bevolking kwetsbaar en verarmd. Ze hebben geen reserves. Ze zullen het zwaar krijgen.'

Voorraad voedsel in huis, kippen in de tuin

Internationale Rode Kruis in Bagdad. De organisatie heeft in Irak en de buurlanden voorraden medicamenten en operatiematerialen aangelegd. 'We kunnen nu een paar duizend gewonden aan in de eerste weken, dat geeft ons tijd om onze voorraden aan te vullen.'

Er zit maar een handvol buitenlandse niet-gouvernementele organisaties (ngo's) in centraal Irak, en enkele tientallen in het Koerdische gebied in het noorden van het land. Er zijn meer organisaties die proberen het land in te komen

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SITEMAP

Te weinig eten en zorg in Bagdad

ROELFIEN SANT

AMSTERDAM - "Zelfs al duurt de oorlog in Irak maar twee maanden, dan nog is de ellende voor de bevolking niet te overzien. In bijvoorbeeld Bagdad kan je niet zomaar in een supermarkt eten kopen. Er is al jaren voedseldistributie; per persoon wordt tien kilo per maand uitgedeeld. De bewoners van Bagdad hebben voor twee maanden gekregen. Dat is krap. De kinderen in de stad zijn chronisch ondervoed."

Willem Smit, coördinator van het bureau noodhulp van het Rode Kruis/Halve Maan maakt zich grote zorgen. "Als de oorlog over twee maanden afgelopen is, duurt het nog weken voordat er eten is voor de miljoenen inwoners van Bagdad. Bijna alles moet dan met vrachtauto's ingevoerd worden. Zo'n distributiesysteem zet je niet in een paar dagen op in een grote stad. Mensen die de bombardementen overleven, zullen van de honger omkomen."

Medewerkers van het internationale Rode Kruis en de zusterorganisatie de islamitische Halve Maan zijn in Amman en Damascus, maar ook in Nederland getraind in het omgaan met biologische en chemische aanvallen. In Nederland ging dat onder leiding van traumaspécialisten in Rijnmond en Pernisgebied. "We hebben in Nederland veel expertise op het gebied van chemische rampen in huis," zegt Willem Smit.

"De mensen die zo'n cursus gevolgd hebben, zitten nu in Jordanië, Syrië en Turkije. Daar hebben we onze vluchtelingenkampen opgezet. We weten nu al dat we te weinig plek hebben. Er is in Jordanië plaats voor 5000 mensen en dat geldt ook voor Syrië. Heel frustrerend. Het is een kwestie van geld dat die kampen niet groter zijn. In het kamp in Iran, vlak over de grens, dat de Halve Maan heeft opgezet, is plaats voor zo'n 100.000 tot 200.000 vluchtelingen. Het grote probleem is dat de grenzen, voor zover wij zijn geïnformeerd, dicht zijn. Ik heb net gehoord dat er een grote groep vluchtelingen voor de grens bij Iran staat. Maar ze kunnen er niet in."

De afgelopen maanden hebben Rode Kruis en Halve Maan ziekenhuizen opgeknapt, Irak had toen Saddam niet aan het bewind was, een behoorlijke gezondheidszorg. "Helaas," zegt Willem Smit die een aantal jaren in Irak werkte, "is na 1992 alles verwaarloosd. De apparatuur is twaalf jaar oud en doet het vaak niet meer omdat er geen onderdelen te krijgen zijn."

"Ik ben in ziekenhuizen geweest die zo lek waren als een mandje. Het regenwater liep overal doorheen. In veel ziekenhuizen in Bagdad is dat nog zo. De ertsen die ooit goed opgeleid waren, hebben een achterstand van twaalf jaar. De afgelopen jaren hebben we er hard aan getrokken

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Lun
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om alles weer een beetje op niveau te krijgen. Dat is redelijk gelukt. Er zijn 32 klinieken, de zorg die daar verleend wordt is een stapje lager dan in een ziekenhuis, waar per dag zo'n 500 mensen gebruik van maken. Met de oorlog weet ik niet hoe het zal gaan."

Willem Smit zorgt vanuit Nederland dat de logistiek in de kampen van het Rode Kruis in orde is. Dus toevoer van medicijnen, de watervoorziening, tenten die uit Turkije moeten komen omdat invliegen vanuit Europa twee keer zo duur is.

"In Bagdad is er een behoorlijke hoeveelheid reguliere medicijnen. De mensen van ons die nog in de stad zitten, verdelen ze. Medicijnen tegen een biologische en chemische aanval zijn er niet voor de bevolking. Alleen onze medewerkers hebben ze. Wij konden ze niet importeren. Saddam zei immers dat er in Irak geen chemische en biologische wapens waren. De ziekenhuizen in Irak zijn er ook totaal niet op voorbereid."

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Honderdduizenden Irakezen op de vlucht

BAGDAD — Tussen de 300.000 en 450.000 mensen hebben in Noord-Irak de steden verlaten om een veiliger heenkomen te zoeken bij verwanten op het platteland. Het gaat om inwoners van onder meer Kirkuk, Erbil, Dahuk en Sulaymaniyah, aldus de BBC. Volgens een zeggeman van de Verenigde Naties heeft zeker 60 procent van de ontheemden geen directe hulp nodig. (ANP/RTR)

Tientallen doden en gewonden in Basra

Een oude man zit zwaar gewond en verslagen op de grond in Basra, de tweede stad van Irak waar het afgelopen weekend zware bombardementen plaatsvonden. In totaal werden hier 77 burgers gedood en raakten 366 anderen gewond. Dat zei de Iraakse minister van Informatie, Said al-Sahhaf, gisterochtend op een persconferentie. Basra zit sinds vrijdag bovendien zonder drinkwater en stroom. De toestand in de stad is zeer ernstig, aldus een woordvoerder van het Rode Kruis. De gevechten hebben met de elektriciteit ook de waterpompen uitgeschakeld. Er is nog een beperkte voorraad water, maar dat is niet drinkbaar. Het Rode Kruis onderhandelt met de oorlogvoerende partij en teneinde toestemming te krijgen waterpompen te repareren. FOTO: AP