

## **Chronology of Events in Iraq, May 2003\***

### **May 1**

#### **Kurdish official says peshmerga forces withdrawn from Mosul. (Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party newspaper *Khabat*)**

Member of Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) Political Bureau, Fadil Mirani, said that the KDP peshmerga forces that entered some areas in Mosul in coordination with the coalition forces withdrew from the city after actively participating in protecting security and private and public properties.

#### **Jordan admits 14 Iraqi refugees, dozens still stranded on border. (Agence France-Presse / AFP)**

Jordan allowed 14 Iraqi refugees to enter a camp inside the country while dozens continue to be stranded in no-man's land on its border with Iraq. Peter Kessler, a spokesman for the UNHCR, criticised Jordan for restricting the entry of refugees despite an agreement signed on April 15. Under that accord, "all Iraqis should be permitted to cross into Jordan for temporary protection in the refugee camp at Ruweished". "The current government policy is leaving some desperate Iraqis stuck in the no-man's land," he said, adding that dozens were stranded in the windswept border zone, many of them having been there for one month. The 14 allowed into the temporary camp at Rusweished carry valid residence permits in the United Arab Emirates, Kessler added. Some 1,000 refugees are still denied entry into Jordan and stuck in no-man's land, most of whom are Iranian Kurds, Kessler said.

#### **Kurdish party launches radio station in Baghdad. (Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan newspaper *Al-Ittihad*)**

Following the publication of "Al-Ittihad" in Baghdad, the "Voice of Freedom", voice of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, began FM test transmissions daily on 95 MHz. The radio broadcasts programmes in Arabic and Kurdish from 13:00 until 22:00 local time. The programmes include news bulletins, political analyses, interviews, as well as variety and music.

#### **Kurds release last batch of POWs detained during war. (Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party newspaper *Khabat*)**

An official source from the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) announced the release of the last batch of Iraqi military personnel who were taken prisoners during the battles in northern Iraq. The source said that the last batch, consisting of 22 Iraqi army officers, were released and would return to their families. One of the prisoners, was Brig-Gen Abd-al-Karim Jabir Salman.

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*\* Disclaimer: Reports contained in this document are selected from publicly available resources and edited by country experts. The information provided here is not, and does not purport to be, either exhaustive with regard to conditions in the country of origin surveyed, or conclusive as to the merits of any particular claim. Further information may be obtained from BO Ankara.*

**May 2**

**Top figure in Saddam regime reported arrested. (Associated Press / AP)**

U.S.-led forces detained three top leaders of Saddam Hussein's regime, including a vice president and a director of weapons development, U.S. officials said. The officials taken into custody - all on the U.S. most-wanted list of 55 regime leaders - were identified as Abdel Tawab Mullah Huweish, director of the Military Industrialization Organization; Taha Muhie-eldin Marouf, a vice president and member of the Revolutionary Command Council, and Mizbah Khadr Hadi, another Revolutionary Command Council member who had been an adviser to Saddam since the early 1980s. Huweish was listed as No. 16 on the most-wanted list, Hadi was No. 41 and Marouf was No. 42.

**US forces kill one Iraqi in Tikrit. (Arab news site *Al-Bawaba*)**

U.S. soldiers raided a dozen buildings in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, killing one Iraqi and detaining about 20. U.S. officers claim members of Saddam's Baath Party are trying to reorganize to stage attacks on American troops, and one of the men detained was described as a party official.

**Police arrested two in Najaf. (Arab news site *Al-Bawaba*)**

In Najaf, police arrested two people after gunmen shot automatic weapons and threw grenades outside the city's central shrine, the tomb of Imam Ali. Authorities said it was probably common crime, but some clerics blamed former Baath Party operatives. The men arrested were later identified as two of the 16 suspects in the killing of Abdul Majid al-Khoei, a cleric stabbed to death in April by a mob at the tomb.

**U.S. troops clash with exile leader's militia. (US newspaper *USA Today*)**

Members of a militia assembled by Ahmad Chalabi, the U.S.-backed leader of former Iraqi exiles, got into a firefight with U.S. forces recently in a northwest suburb of Baghdad, and several Iraqis were wounded, U.S. Defense officials said. The officials described the firefight as a "friendly fire" incident that resulted from mistaken identity. The militia is called Free Iraqi Forces. After U.S. forces occupied Baghdad, Chalabi and his forces moved to the capital, where they have helped track down former top officials in Saddam's regime. But the fighters have also taken over private property and intimidated Iraqi civilians. U.S. troops arrested eight members of the group in April after they were found looting abandoned homes of ousted regime members. The senior US Defense official says several militiamen were caught recently robbing a bank.

**Iraqi Al-Da'wah Party holding talks with opposition committee. (London-based newspaper *Al-Zaman*)**

Ibrahim al-Ja'fari, the spokesman of the Iraqi Islamic Al-Da'wah Party, said that party representatives in Baghdad will hold talks with the leadership command of the Iraqi opposition. Al-Da'wah Party had boycotted the meetings that were held in London and in Al-Nasiriyah in southern Iraq.

**May 5**

**Mosul municipal council elected. (Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party newspaper *Khabat*)**

Retired Maj-Gen Ghanim al-Basu, who is an Arab, was appointed Mosul governor and head of the Municipal Council, which comprises 24 members. Six of them represent Arabs; five represent Kurds; two represent Assyrians; and one represents Turkomans. A number of Mosul tribes are also represented and eight members represent important departments. Khosraw Goran, a Kurd, was elected deputy governor and deputy head of the Municipal Council, assisted by an Assyrian and a Turkoman. The commander of the coalition forces in Mosul and northwestern Iraq, Gen David Peterson, supervised the electoral process.

**Attack by gunmen obstructs TV, radio transmission in Baghdad. (Al-Jazeera satellite TV)**

The building from which the temporary Iraqi television transmits has come under an attack by unidentified gunmen. The studio was damaged, thus obstructing the launching of the experimental transmission, which was scheduled to last six hours daily. Differences persist between Abdallah al-Shaykh, who was appointed by the Americans and Mustafa al-Rubay'i, who was selected by the television workers to supervise the transmission.

**May 7**

**Elections in Iraqi province postponed after protest. (Al-Jazeera satellite TV)**

The election of a governor and a council for Karbala Governorate was postponed upon a call from parties and tribe leaders in the city after scores of Hawza [Shi'i religious seminary] supporters in Karbala stormed the hall in which the elections conference was supposed to be held. The people who stormed the hall support the present local council, which was chosen by the Hawza in the city, and refuse to elect a substitute council. The storming took place when more than 300 chieftains and party leaders in Karbala were preparing to hold a conference to elect a new governor and council for the city after the US troops had turned down a call to protect the conference and supervise elections.

**Iraqi Kurdistan parliament adopts new resolutions. (Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party newspaper *Khabat*)**

The Kurdistan National Assembly proposed a draft resolution on the elimination of the consequences of Arabization policy and return of the displaced people to their places of origin. The resolution includes the following points:

“1. Elimination of all traces of the Arabization policy which were implemented by the successive Iraqi governments against the Kurdish people and in the Kurdish areas; exerting efforts to normalize the situation by reinstating the state before the implementation of this policy and reinstating the original owners' rights. 2. Bringing the non-Kurdish citizens back to their places of origin in the other governorates. This concerns those who were settled in Diyala, Mosul, Kirkuk and Arbil Governorates within the framework of the policy of Arabizing Iraqi Kurdistan. 3. Kurdistan

National Assembly urges international humanitarian organizations to offer assistance in eliminating all the traces of the Arabization scheme.” The draft resolution was submitted to the legal committee, and the human rights, interior affairs and reconstruction committees.

Another resolution of the Iraqi Kurdistan National Assembly concerned the legal fate of the people who have worked for the former Iraqi regime. The text of the draft resolution reads: “The legal fate of the people of the former Iraqi regime's operatives, who have fled to Kurdistan region, is to be defined as follows: 1. Prohibiting them from having any political and administrative posts in the Kurdistan region. 2. They will not have the right to establish or belong to any political party or council in Kurdistan region. 3. They will have no right to become candidate for National Assembly or any other council's membership. 4. All the Iraqi citizens have the right to claim their civil rights from these people in court. No political side has the right to defend them or impede the work of the court.” The draft resolution was submitted to the legal, human rights and interior affairs committees.

#### **Kurds and Arabs fighting north of Baghdad. (AFP)**

At least three people have died in gun battles between Kurds and Arabs north of Baghdad over the past three days, according to doctors and local officials. Doctors from the hospital at Khalis, near Baqubah some 40 kilometres north of the Iraqi capital, said the fighting erupted after Arabs began shooting Kurds travelling on the road toward Baghdad from Kirkuk. "People are taking revenge on each other. Many armed people are in the street and they are taking revenge on each other," a doctor at the local hospital said. Doctors said resentment between Arabs and Kurds in the area was strong. They believe the fighting began when Arab Iraqis started shooting and robbing Kurds as they travelled south. At one point gunmen were in the hospital threatening to shoot Kurdish patients, they said. "Any car with a number plate from the north (Kurdish) -- the people are being shot randomly. There is no control in the town, no law," the doctor said.

#### **Coalition detains wanted Baath party leader. (AFP)**

Coalition forces are holding a leading Baath Party and militia commander for central Iraq, the US Central Command said. Ghazi Hammud al-Ubaydi was Baath Party Regional Command chairman and Baath militia leader for Wasit governorate, centred on the city of Al-Kut. Ubaydi was number 32 on the US list of most wanted Iraqis and the two of hearts in the pack of cards issued to assist US troops.

#### **Green Party established. (Iraqi Kurdish newspaper *Hawlati*)**

The Green Party of Iraq was founded for the first time in Iraq's political life, as a movement to defend the environment in Iraq and protect its green spaces against fire and pollution.

#### **Coalition planes reportedly raid Ansar al-Islam positions in Iran. (Iraqi Kurdish newspaper *Hawlati*)**

The coalition planes bombed the remnants of Ansar Al-Islam (Supporters of Islam, SIK; Kurdish: Pishtiwanani Islam la Kurdistan, PIK) forces on two successive nights on the far side the Sureen mountain, on the border with Iran. In the evening on 4 May, coalition planes heavily bombed Kani Khayaran, on the far side Sureen. In the

evening, on 5 May, the coalition planes heavily bombed the Minarah, Dolanaw and Mayan summits, situated behind Rangeen and Sureen. The bombardment aimed at striking at the remnants of SIK's armed men, who fled to the other side of the border with Iran, and settled in an area called Kan-i Khayaran.

## **May 8**

### **Baathist organisation re-emerges in Baghdad. (London-based newspaper *Al-Hayat*)**

In the Baath Party organization's first reaction to the collapse of the regime, the "Strugglers Organization" [Arabic: Munazzamat al-Munadilin] in the party announced the continuation of organizational action "like the other parties" and because it is "oldest party with its roots stretching deep in the land of Iraq and the Arab homeland, and one that is impossible to destroy". This came in the statement issued by the organization and distributed in a limited way in various parts of Baghdad. The statement urged the "the courageous Baathist strugglers to uphold the organization's unity, reunite, and restore the organizations in accordance with the party's bylaws... and to expel all the hypocrites, defeated ones, thieves, and renegades [from its ranks]". The "Strugglers Organization" which issued the statement was created in the early 1990s and included party members who occupied leading posts and who were then pensioned off when they reached retirement age or became unable to carry out their party duties and tasks for health reasons. But it also included cadres whose ideas Saddam Hussain felt had ceased to be compatible with the developments he had created in the party's theories and the state institutions' system of performance. In the same context, slogans appeared on walls in Baghdad under the name of the "Saddamists Party" [Arabic: Hizb al-Saddamiyin], calling for "fighting the Americans" and supporting deposed President Saddam Husain.

### **Turkoman radio stations opened in Mosul, Talla'far. (Iraqi Turkoman Front newspaper *Turkomaneli*)**

The Head of the Information Office, Isam Tarzibashi opened the "Turkomaneli Radio" in Talla'far on May 6 and opened another radio in Mosul on May 8.

## **May 10**

### **Shia clerics urge faithful to attack returning Ba'athists. (*Financial Times*)**

Some Shia clerics in Iraq called on their followers to attack any senior Ba'athist official who returns to work in public institutions. Qadhim al-Nassiri, a cleric, told tens of thousands of worshippers at Friday prayers on May 9 outside the Muhsin mosque in Sadr city (former Saddam City) in Baghdad that a senior religious figure from the holy city of Najaf, Qadhim al-Hairi, had issued a recent edict on the fate of the Ba'athists. "The message is clear. The Hawza (the Shia establishment) cannot protect them - these Ba'athis, these Saddamites - who are now coming out," he declared. "This is unacceptable to the Hawza ... It is permissible to kill them." The fatwa, or clerical ruling, by al-Hairi could put some clerics on collision course with US officials who are seeking to restart public services and have already reappointed

some low level members of the Ba'ath party to their old positions. The edict was said to have been issued by only one cleric and does not necessarily point to a policy by the clerical establishment in Najaf. Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, considered by many Iraqis the top Shia authority in the country, has warned against any resort to violence and cautioned followers to verify fatwas issued by other clerics.

**Ba'athist academic killed in a wave of revenge killings. (US newspaper *Washington Post*)**

Falah Dulaimi, the assistant dean of the Mustansirya University's College of Sciences was assassinated. A group of students shot him as he walked to his campus office in the morning.

**May 12**

**Police rearmed in response to rising crime in Baghdad. (AP)**

Police packed guns again for the first time since the war as Baghdad is full of people outraged over incessant crime, continuing blackouts and vanished salaries. Many Iraqis have said they feel helpless over the looting, arson and general lawlessness that have devastated much of Baghdad since the U.S.-British invasion brought down President Saddam Hussein's government. The nature of that problem appears to be changing from mass looting to more targeted crime: reported kidnappings, widespread car theft and carjackings. To combat the tidal wave of crime, the occupation authorities took a big step, redistributing sidearms for the first time to Baghdad police, holdovers from the former regime. Police guarding important sites will be armed with assault rifles. An estimated 5,000 of 9,000 Baghdad police officers have reported for duty since a call went out May 4. But none of Baghdad's 60 police stations - many of which were looted in the aftermath of the war - is considered equipped, armed and secure enough to operate around the clock.

**Unpaid soldiers protest in Baghdad. (AP)**

300 Iraqi military men marched through the heart of east Baghdad and across a Tigris River bridge to a gate of the Republican Palace complex, and the U.S. Army's main Baghdad base. The U.S. postwar administration has made US\$20 emergency payments to some civil servants in an effort to restart government operations. The Iraqi military has not benefited, however, although the U.S. Joint Chiefs chairman, Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, said that the coalition will look at ways to rebuild a "new and reformed" Iraqi armed forces. Many of Iraq's 400,000 military personnel, routed in the U.S.-British invasion, shed their uniforms and went home as the war wound down in early April. Some have since reappeared at abandoned military offices on rumors that lists of names were being compiled for payments.

**Armed Iraqi police on Basra streets, but only for traffic duty. (AFP)**

Around 200 armed Iraqi policemen were back on the streets of Iraq's southern capital directing traffic with British army approval, but the officers stressed they would have no security role. The police, who have been charged with traffic duty, cannot arrest or fine anyone.

### **Refugees sent back to Iraq by Jordan. (UNHCR).**

16 young Iraqis and Palestinians encamped in the no man's land near Jordan were picked up by the Jordanian authorities and deposited back on the Iraqi side of the border. There has so far been no clear explanation, and UNHCR is negotiating with the Jordanian authorities to resolve their situation.

### **May 13**

#### **Iranian refugees flee intimidation in Iraq. (UNHCR).**

The UN refugee agency has expressed concern at the rising number of refugees being targeted in post-war Iraq after a UNHCR team emerged from refugee settlements in the south with reports of widespread intimidation and eviction. Up to 1,000 Iranian refugees may be displaced in southern Iraq after having their homes, crops and other property confiscated. Some of them are living in an abandoned transit centre on the outskirts of Basra city. Many others are camped out near the border area with Iran, intent on heading back to their homeland. A UNHCR team visited the displaced Iranians' homes in the refugee settlements of Dujaila, Al-Kumiet and Ali Gharbi. The team spoke to some of the remaining refugees – estimated at 5,000 to 6,000 – and to local Iraqi tribal leaders in an attempt to diffuse tensions. At Dujaila, the refugees reported frequent gunfire in the neighbourhood, that food stocks had been depleted, the school had been destroyed and that water and electricity had been suspended in the area for more than two months. They also said that local Iraqi militias had ordered them to leave. While the UNHCR team was there, it heard two long bursts of small arms fire, observed a truck carrying masked men and saw a young boy armed with an AK 47 walking away from the settlement. These eye-witness accounts gelled with reports of a systematic campaign of intimidation from refugees who had fled to the Basra area. Like several other agencies that have visited Dujaila settlement, UNHCR believes that the refugees are in grave danger.

In all, there are more than 23,000 Iranian refugees in Iraq. There are 6,700 Iranian Arab refugees in the south, including those in Dujaila and Al-Kumiet settlements. They are mostly Shia Muslims, and have been in Iraq since the Iran/Iraq war of the 1980s. Mainly farmers, they were considered to be well integrated with the host population.

#### **Iraqi Minister resigned, rejecting to repudiate the Baath party. (US newspaper *The Boston Globe*)**

The interim Iraqi minister of health, picked just 10 days ago by the United States, resigned under fire after he refused to repudiate the Ba'ath Party. Controversy had raged around the minister, Ali Shnan al-Janabi, since his appointment. Hundreds of Iraqi doctors and nurses demonstrated a week ago against Janabi, the ministry's third-ranking official under the Baath regime. US-controlled "Voice of New Iraq" radio station said that Browning accepted Janabi's resignation "due to his refusal to condemn the Ba'ath Party."

**Top microbiologist and military chief of staff in custody. (US newspaper *USA Today*)**

The U.S.-led coalition in Iraq has taken custody of two more key figures from Saddam Hussain's government: Rihab Rashid Taha, who allegedly helped make weapons-grade anthrax, and Ibrahim Ahmad Abd al Sattar Muhammad, listed as No. 11 on the U.S. most-wanted list. He had been chief of staff of Iraq's armed forces since 1999.

**May 14**

**Kurdish Revolutionary Hezbollah dissolved. (Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party newspaper *Khabat*)**

The Central Committee of Kurdish Revolutionary Hezbollah declared dissolving the party, saying that the objectives of the party were achieved with the fall of the Ba'athist regime.

**Baghdad university re-opens. (AFP)**

Baghdad's university re-opened for business, with hundreds of students returning in hope of resuming courses and a new director of the campus in the process of being elected by the 900 teachers. US officials said that many teaching staff were closely linked to Ba'ath party apparatus. "It's imperative that these key sectors such as universities are not run by high ranking officials. But we understand that many of them here were low level," he asserted, pointing out that those targetted by the 'de-Baathification' ruling were limited to the most senior members.

**May 15**

**U.S. Forces arrest 260 persons in raiding Tikrit. (AP)**

Heavily armed U.S. Army forces stormed into a village near the city of Tikrit before dawn, seizing more than 260 prisoners, including one man on the most-wanted list of former Iraqi officials. U.S. troops encountered no resistance during the five-hour sweep. About 230 of those detained were being released later in the day, the military said. Among the 200 people taken into custody were some teenage boys and elderly men. Each was zip-cuffed - had their hands tied with plastic - and ordered to sit or kneel on the roads outside their homes. Many were kept in custody outside a large mansion with high walls.

**May 16**

**Purge of Ba'athists may involve 30,000 persons. (UK newspaper *The Guardian*)**

The US-led authority running Iraq said that up to 30,000 Ba'ath party members would be banned from taking part in a new government. At least 15,000, and as many as 30,000, Ba'athists will be excluded. Of these 2,000 are thought to have tried to resume their jobs since the war. US and British intelligence agencies have several lists of senior party members.

## May 17

### **Arabs, Kurds clash in Kirkuk. (US newspaper *New York Times*)**

Ethnic tensions between Kurds and Arabs exploded into violence, as clashes in several neighborhoods left at least five dead. Pickup trucks carrying armed men drove into Kirkuk from the town of Hawija, witnesses said. Kurdish witnesses to the violence said the armed men were Arabs, who were shouting slogans of support for Saddam Hussein. Gunfights ensued in two neighborhoods, said people who had been wounded in the fighting. The violence began three days ago, when Kurds harassed Arabs in an outdoor market and a bridge called Asho-Hada. Rouad Aziz, a resident of Qadesiyah, said he had been beaten and threatened by Kurds on May 16. The Kurdish police said Arabs had cut the throats of four Kurds in another neighborhood on May 15. The body of a man who had been decapitated was in the city morgue. In all, 40 people were wounded, mostly in gunfire, said doctors from the city's two main hospitals. At least three were in intensive care and were not likely to live through the night. In the Kurdish quarter across the street, groups of men with guns patrolled many street corners. They said they were protecting their blocks from Arabs, who, they contended, had been driving through their neighborhood, shooting automatic guns.

### **Iraqis killing former Baath Party members. (US newspaper *Washington Post*)**

Iraqis have begun tracking down and killing former members of the ruling Baath Party. The assassinations appear to have picked up since the United States issued a decree on May 16 that prohibits senior Baath Party officials from holding positions in Iraq's postwar government. The number of former Baath Party officials killed since the war ended is difficult to pin down in a city of 5 million people with only two functioning police stations, no recordkeeping and a destroyed government. Drawing on anecdotal evidence, however, former exile groups and Iraqis familiar with some of the killings say it could reach several hundred in Baghdad alone. Many of the killings have been carried out in the slum formerly known as Saddam City, a neighborhood on the eastern edge of the capital largely inhabited by Shiite Muslims, they say. Revenge killings on a smaller scale have been reported in the cities of Najaf, Karbala and Basra in the Shiite-dominated center and south of the country. The killers appear to be working from lists looted from Iraq's bombed-out security service buildings, which kept records on informants and victims alike. But others are simply killing Baathist icons or irksome party officials identified with the Hussein government.

### **“Most Wanted” list revised. (Reuters)**

The U.S. Central Command issued a revised list of the top 55 most-wanted Iraqis:

1. Saddam Hussein - President of Iraq, Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC).
2. Qusay Hussein - Special Republican Guard Commander who controlled elite Republican Guards, intelligence services and a special force providing security for Saddam.
3. Uday Hussein - Saddam Fedayeen Commander, Chairman of the Iraqi Olympic Committee and head of the Iraqi Football Association.
4. Abid Hamid Mahmud al-Tikriti - Presidential Secretary.
5. Ali Hassan al-Majid - Saddam's cousin, commander of southern Iraq.
6. Izzat Ibrahim – Vice-chairman of the RCC.
7. Hani Abd Latif Tilfah al-Tikriti - Special Security Organization Director.
8. Aziz Salih Numan - Baath Party (BP) Regional Commander, Commander BP Militia.
- 9.

Mohammed Hamza al-Zubeidi - Central Euphrates Regional Commander, former deputy prime minister, in US custody. 10. Kamal Mustafa Abdallah Sultan al-Tikriti - Republican Guard Secretary, , in US custody. 11. Barzan Abd Ghafur Sulayman al-Tikriti - Special Republican Guard Commander. 12. Muzahim Sa'b Hassan al-Tikriti - Air Defense Force Commander, , in US custody. 13. Ibrahim Ahmad Abd al Sattar Muhammad al-Tikriti - Armed Forces Chief of Staff, , in US custody. 14. Sayf al-Din Fulayyih Hassan Taha al-Rawi - Republican Guard Chief of Staff. 15. Rafi Abd Latif al-Tilfah - Director of General Security. 16. Tahir Jalil Habbush al-Tikriti - Iraqi Intelligence Service Director. 17. Hamid Raja Shalah al-Tikriti -- Air Force Commander. 18. Latif Nussayif Jasim al-Dulaymi -- BP Deputy Chairman. 19. Abdul Tawab Mullah Hwaish - Minister of Military Industrialization, , in US custody. 20. Taha Yassin Ramadan - Vice-President of Iraq, , in US custody. 21. Rukan Razuki abd al-Ghafur Sulayman al-Tikriti - Chief of Tribal Affairs. 22. Jamal Mustafa Sultan al-Tikriti - Private Secretary to Saddam Hussein, , in US custody. 23. Mizban Khider Hadi - RCC Member, Commander Central Euphrates Region, , in US custody. 24. Taha Mohieddin Ma'rouf - Vice-President and RCC member, , in US custody. 25. Tareq Aziz - Deputy Prime Minister, , in US custody. 26. Walid Hamid Tawfiq al-Tikriti - Governor of Basra. 27. General Sultan Hashim Ahmed - Minister of Defense. 28. Hikmat Ibrahim al-Azzawi - Deputy Prime Minister, Economics and Finance Minister, in US custody. 29. Mahmoud Diyab al-Ahmed - Minister of the Interior. 30. Ayad Futayyih Khalifa al-Rawi - Al Quds Force Chief of Staff. 31. Zuhayr Talib Abd al Sattar al-Naqib - Military intelligence director, in US custody. 32. Amer Hammoudi al-Saadi - Top Scientific Adviser, in US custody. 33. Amer Mohammed Rasheed - Former Oil Minister, in US custody. 34. Hussam Mohammad Amin al-Yasin - National Monitoring Director, in US custody. 35. Mohammed Mehdi Saleh - Minister of Trade, in US custody. 36. Sabawi Ibrahim - Baath Party, Saddam's maternal half-brother. 37. Watban Ibrahim Hasan al-Tikriti - Saddam's half-brother and presidential adviser, in US custody. 38. Barzan Ibrahim Hasan al-Tikriti - Saddam half-brother and adviser to the president, in US custody. 39. Huda Salih Mahdi Ammash - Party Youth and Trade Bureau Chairwoman, in US custody. 40. Abd al-Baqi Abd Karim al Sadun - BP Chairman and Commander BP Militia Baghdad. 41. Muhammad Zimam Abd al-Razzaq al-Sadun - BP Chairman and Commander BP Militia Ta'mim and Ninawa Governate. 42. Samir Abulaziz al-Najim - BP regional command chairman for East Baghdad, in US custody. 43. Humam abd al-Khaliq abd al-Ghafur, Minister Of Higher Education And Scientific Research, in US custody. 44. Yahya Abdallah al-Ubeidi - BP Chairman and Commander BP Militia Basra Governate. 45. Nayif Shindakh Thamir - BP Chairman and Commander BP Militia Salah al-Din Governate. 46. Sayfal al-Din al-Mashhadani - BP Chairman and Commander BP Militia Muthanna Governate. 47. Fadil Mahmud Gharib - BP Chairman and Commander BP Militia Babil/Karbala Governate, in US custody. 48. Muhsin Khadar al-Khafaji - BP Chairman and Commander BP Militia Qadasiyah Governate. 49. Rashid Taan Kazim - BP Chairman and Commander BP Militia Anbar Governate. 50. Uгла Abid Sighar al-Kubeiysi - BP Chairman and Commander BP Militia - Maysan Governate. 51. Ghazi Hamud al-Adib - BP Chairman and Commander BP Militia Wasit Governate, in US custody. 52. Adil Abdallah Mahdi al-Duri al-Tikriti - BP Chairman and Commander BP Militia Dhi Qar Governate. 53. Husayn al-Awawi - BP Chairman and Commander BP Militia Ninawa Governate. 54. Khamis Sirhan al-Muhammad - BP Chairman and Commander BP Militia Kerbala

Governate. 55. Sad Abd al-Majid al-Faysal- BP Chairman and Commander BP Militia Salah al-Din Governate.

## **May 18**

### **Iraqi suspect in mass killings released. (Human Rights Watch)**

Sheikh Mohammad Jawad al-Naifus was released from custody in Iraq. According to a U.S. Central Command press release, U.S. military forces mistakenly released al-Naifus from the Bucca Internment Camp at Umm Qasr on May 18, 2003. Human Rights Watch identified Al-Naifus, the pro-Saddam Hussein head of the Albu Alwan tribe, as one of the key officials responsible for the executions of thousands of Shi'a civilians around al-Hilla in 1991. Eyewitnesses from the execution sites, as well as from the military base where Shi'a execution victims were detained prior to their death, told Human Rights Watch that al-Naifus and members of his tribe were directly involved in the executions. Following the executions, the land on which the largest mass grave was located was taken from local farmers and given to a member of al-Naifus' tribe, who was responsible for safeguarding the mass grave.

## **May 19**

### **Iraqi general who disappeared from Denmark is reportedly working in Iraq. (Danish radio)**

Former Iraqi General Nizar al-Khazraji, who suddenly disappeared from his flat in Soroe in March, is in Iraq, where he is doing political work. This is stated by the Iraqi general's son, Ahmed al-Khazraji, who is thereby changing his earlier explanation of the general's disappearance.

### **Over 1,400 arrivals at Iraq-Jordan border camp. (Jordanian news agency Petra)**

The Jordanian Red Crescent (JRC) said that the number of arrivals at Al-Ruwayshid Camp since the start of the war on Iraq stood at 1,407. According to the JRC, 1,200 arrivals left the camp while 207 are still there and waiting for returning home to their native countries. The current residents of the camp have different nationalities including Sudanese, Somalis, Palestinian, Eritrean, Yemeni, Iraqi, Egyptian and Lebanese.

### **High-level Republican Guard officer killed in Mosul. (Arab news site *Al-Bawaba News*)**

A top officer in the Republican Guard of the ousted regime of Saddam Hussain, Colonel Abdul Karim Mohsen Juhaish, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in the northern city of Mosul. Juhaish was accused by Kurds in northern Iraq of involvement in the killing of over 60 Kurdish residents of Surie village in Dahuk province in 1991.

## **May 20**

### **Ba'athist singer shot dead in Baghdad. (British Broadcasting Corporation / BBC)**

An Iraqi singer whose fervently pro-Saddam Hussain songs made him a well-known face on Iraqi television has been killed. Daoud al-Qaissi, a Baath party member, was shot by gunmen outside his home in central Baghdad. The singer's death also follows reports of similar attacks on other former members of the Baath regime in the city. Qaissi held a relatively senior rank in the Baath, having been a member since 1963. By profession, he was a singer and head of the Iraqi artists' union, and was responsible for propaganda during the first Gulf War and the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s.

## **May 22**

### **UN Security Council approves interim arrangements, UN role in Iraq, lifts sanctions. (UN News Service)**

The United Nations Security Council adopted with near unanimity a new resolution on Iraq, granting wide interim governing powers to the United States and its coalition partners, including a role for a UN Special Representative working with this provisional authority, and lifting sanctions imposed almost 13 years ago following the invasion of Kuwait. The resolution, co-sponsored by the US, United Kingdom and Spain, also allows for full resumption of oil sales in order to restore economic activity for reconstruction, sets up a government infrastructure under the new US-controlled Authority, and calls on UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to appoint a Special Representative. On the issue of weapons inspections, the Council underlined its intention "to revisit the mandates of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)."

## **May 24**

### **Ba'athist apparatus abolished in Iraq. (BBC)**

The new American administrator in Iraq, Paul Bremer, has abolished the ministries and institutions that formed the backbone of Saddam Hussain's power structure. The Iraqi army - including the Republican Guard - has been disbanded, and will be replaced by a new defence force. The defence and information ministries, the military and security courts and the Olympic Committee have all been dissolved. In a separate move aimed at restoring order, the top US military commander in Iraq announced that Iraqis would be banned from carrying heavy or automatic weapons.

## **May 26**

### **Shi'a leader issues fatwa forbidding murder of Ba'ath party members. (AFP)**

One of Iraq's leading Shiite Muslim dignitaries has issued a religious decree, or fatwa, forbidding the murder of former members of the Baath party. "It is forbidden to take

the initiative and punish those who played a direct role in the murder of innocents because punishment is the resort of the victim's family after confirmation of the crime by religious court," Ayatollah Ali Sistani said in his fatwa. In the fatwa released from his stronghold in the holy city of Najaf, Sistani also forbade the killing of "those who wrote reports against believers, leading to their execution" as well as those agents "who had been forced to collaborate with the former secret service under threat and pressure."

**Iraqi police protest for reinstatement of Ba'athist chief. (AFP)**

Hundreds of Iraqi policemen took to the streets of central Baghdad to protest the sacking of their chief, General Abbas Jadduh Khalaf, by the US-led coalition for his membership in the Baath party. Several protests have since taken place in by Iraqi workers in various jobs demanding former colleagues be reinstated despite their allegiance to the Baath party.

**Iraqis protests dismissal of Basra council. (Al-Jazeera satellite TV)**

Angry demonstrations were staged in the streets of Basra in protest against the British forces' decision to dissolve the municipal council headed by Shaykh Muzahim al-Tamimi. Mansur Abd-al-Razzaq, spokesman for the People's Union Party, said they were rejecting the resignation of Shaykh Muzahim.

**May 28**

**Iraqi Unified National Movement leader opposes Ba'thists' dismissal. (Iraqi Unified National Movement weekly newspaper *Al-Sa'ah*)**

Shaykh Dr Ahmad Ubayd al-Kubaysi, leader of the Unified National Movement, has said: "the Ba'athists are our sons and we will embrace every one of them who has not committed a crime". He said: "We do not agree to the expulsion of all Ba'thists from their jobs."

**Badr Brigade dismantled. (Kurdish newspaper *Hawlati* and RFE/RL Iraq Report\)**

U.S. forces begun disarming the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq's (SCIRI) armed wing, the Badr Brigade, in the area of Ba'qubah, northeast of Baghdad. It was reported that some brigade members were arrested and interrogated about the number and identity of the Iranians who accompanied them into Iraqi territory. The report was not independently confirmed. It was also reported that U.S. forces stormed SCIRI offices in Tal Afar, near Mosul, seizing equipment and documents, and arresting a number of SCIRI members who were meeting there. Ayatollah al-Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of SCIRI, announced in a speech in Karbala that the Badr Brigades would be transformed into the Badr Institution for Building and Reconstruction.

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