

Chronology of Events in Iraq, June 2004*

June 1

UN confirms Ghazi Al-Yawer as new Iraq President. (Dow Jones International News)

U.N. envoy Lakhdar Brahimi confirmed the appointment of Ghazi Mashal Ajil al-Yawer as the new Iraqi president. Ibrahim al-Jaafari of the Shiite Muslim Dawa party and Rowsch Shaways, speaker of parliament in the Kurdish autonomous region in Arbil, were named vice presidents, Brahimi said. In his statement, Brahimi said Pachachi, "who enjoys wide respect and support in Iraq, was offered the presidential position with the support of Sheik Ghazi, but declined for personal reasons."

Three killed in Baghdad car bombing. (Agence France Presse / AFP)

At least three security guards were reportedly killed in a car bomb attack outside the Baghdad offices of a main Kurdish party, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

List of Iraqi Cabinet members announced by prime minister-designate. (Associated Press / AP)

The list of Iraqi Cabinet members was announced by the prime minister-designate, Ayad Allawi: Deputy Prime Minister for National Security Barham Saleh, Minister of Oil Thamir Ghadhbhan, Minister of Defense Hazem Shalan al-Khuzaei, Minister of Interior Falah Hassan al-Naqib, Minister of Justice Malik Dohan al-Hassan, Minister of Human Rights Bakhityar Amin, Minister of Electricity Ayham al-Samarie, Minister of Finance Adil Abdel-Mahdi, Minister of Health Alaa Alwan, Minister of Communication Mohammed Ali Hakim, Minister of Housing Omar Farouk, Minister of Public Works Nesreen Mustafa Berwari, Minister of Science and Technology Rashad Mandan Omar, Minister of Planning Mahdi al-Hafidh, Minister of Trade Mohammed al-Joubri, Minister of Sport and Youth Ali Faik Alghaban, Minister of Transportation Louei Hatim Sultan al-Aris, Minister of Provincial Affairs Waeil Abdel-Latif, Minister of Women Affairs Nermin Othman, Minister of Immigration and Refugees Bascal Essue, Minister of Irrigation Abdul-Latif Rasheed, Minister of Labor Leila Abdul-Latif, Minister of Education Sami Mudahfar, Minister of Higher Education Tahir al-Bakaa, Minister of Agriculture Sawsan Sherif, Minister of Culture Mufeed al-Jazaeri, Minister of Industry Hajim al-Hassani, Minister of State Qassim Dawoud, Minister of State Mahmoud Farhad Othman, and Minister of State Adnan al-Janabi.

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Governing Council bans Iraqis to contact foreign embassies. (Institute for War and Peace Reporting / IWPR and Iraqi newspaper *Al-Furat*)

The Iraqi Governing Council (IGC) made a statement preventing Iraqi employees from contacting foreign embassies, which the IGC regards as a threat to national security. The statement calls on all ministries to contact foreign embassies only through the Foreign Ministry. [Governing Council dissolved itself after the meeting of June 1.]

11 Iraqis killed in Baiji car blast. (Iraqi newspaper *Al-Manar*)

Iraqi police said that 11 Iraqi civilians were killed and 27 others were injured in a booby-trapped car explosion that took place at the gate of the US forces base in Baiji, 200 km to the north of Baghdad.

Train robbed in Babil. (Iraqi newspaper *Al-Nahdah*)

It was reported that a group of armed thieves stole the cargo of a train carrying goods when it stopped at a station in Babil Governorate on its way to Baghdad.

Demonstrators support Sistani's call for peace. (IWPR and London-based newspaper *Al-Zaman*)

Thousands of supporters of Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani demonstrated peacefully in the Kadhimiya area in support of the cleric and in protest against the attack on the holy shrines in Karbala and Najaf. The demonstration was led by Hussein al-Sadr and joined by groups of the Iraqi uprising, as well as by groups of Iraqi leaders and residents. Sheikh Maher al-Hamra, director of Hussein al-Sadr's office gave assurances of solidarity with Sistani's calls to stop bloodshed in the holy shrines.

Professors free to travel abroad. (IWPR and Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq newspaper *Al-Adalah*)

The Ministry of Higher Education has lifted bans imposed on university professors traveling abroad. The lifting came in compliance with bilateral agreements between Iraqi and international universities which will enable Iraqi professors to make exchange visits with their colleagues in those universities.

June 2**Four killed, more than 30 wounded in Baghdad blasts. (AFP)**

At least four people were killed and more than 30 others wounded, including five children, in a car bombing and another blast in a northern Baghdad district, hospital and police sources said. The blasts reportedly struck the mainly Sunni Muslim area of Adhamiyah killing at least four and wounding about 34.

Turkish, Egyptian taken hostage. (AP)

Masked men armed with rocket-propelled grenade launchers displayed a Turkish and an Egyptian truck driver said to have been kidnapped in Iraq and threatened them with death unless their governments condemn U.S. actions. The gunmen said the drivers were delivering supplies from Kuwait to Iraq for the U.S. military and were seized because they were working for the Americans.

June 3

Iraqi security officer shot dead in Ba'qubah market. (Qatari Al-Jazeera satellite TV)

It was reported that an Iraqi security officer was killed in one of the markets of Ba'qubah, which is the centre of the governorate, after an unidentified gunman opened fire on him. He was transferred to hospital but died before reaching there.

Journalist killed in Kirkuk. (Turkish Anatolian News Agency)

A journalist named Sahar Sadeddin Nuami was reportedly killed by a bomb attack on his car in Kirkuk. He was the editor-in-chief of three periodicals, namely *Al-Mizan*, *Al-Haima* and *Al-Hayat al-Jadida*.

Professor of Arabic slain in Misan. (Iraqi newspaper *Al-Mashriq*)

Unknown assailants assassinated a professor of Arabic language at the teachers' college in Misan. Eyewitnesses said three masked persons shot Kifaya Hassan at the gate of the college, and fled in an unregistered car. The victim worked also as a translator in a humanitarian organisation of the city.

Palestinian refugees in Jordan return to Iraq. (Jordanian newspaper *Jordan Times*)

UNHCR announced that 73 Palestinians who have been living in the Al-Ruwayshid camp in Jordan decided to go back to Iraq over the past two weeks, despite the difficult conditions in the country. UNHCR representative in Amman Sten Brunee said that the refugees have "voluntarily chosen to return to the frequent bombings and tension in Baghdad rather than spend another day hoping for a solution to their plight". He said return to Iraq is the only available solution for refugees at the time, and the interim government had welcomed their return. About 278 refugees remain at the camp, in the eastern desert, 50 km east of Iraq, as well as 50 other Palestinians at a UNHCR camp in the no-man's-land between Jordan and Iraq which shelters some 1,100 refugees, mostly Iranian Kurds, according to Brunee.

June 4

US forces agree Najaf withdrawal. (British Broadcasting Corporation / BBC)

US forces have agreed to pull back from the holy cities of Najaf and Kufa to let Iraqi police take over control. The move came after militiamen loyal to Shia Muslim cleric Moqtada Sadr, who have been fighting US forces for weeks, agreed to leave the area.

Zarqawi 'aide' captured in Iraq. (BBC)

Iraqi police have captured a top aide of al-Qaeda suspect Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the US-led coalition says. The man, Umar Baziyani, is known to have ties to several extremist groups in Iraq, according to a statement by the US military.

June 5

Brother of "informant" on Saddam's sons shot dead. (Reuters)

Gunmen killed the brother of a man widely regarded as having revealed the location of Saddam Hussein's sons to U.S. troops in an attack on his car, police said. Saddam's sons Uday and Qusay were killed in July 2003 when soldiers stormed a villa in Mosul

belonging to Nawaf al-Zeidan, who is distantly related to Saddam. Locals said Zeidan had tipped off U.S. forces that Saddam's sons were staying at his villa. Zeidan's brother, Salaah al-Zeidan, was killed and three of his male relatives traveling in the same vehicle were wounded, including an eight-year-old boy, during the attack in al-Hadbaa neighbourhood.

Assassination attempt against the head of the Ammara Defence Forces. (Anatolian News Agency)

It was reported that one of the bodyguards of Hussain Karim, the head of the Iraqi Defence Forces unit in Ammara, was killed in an attempt on his life.

Three killed in attack on road to Baghdad airport. (AFP)

Three people were killed when the convoy they were travelling in was ambushed on the main road to Baghdad airport, the US military officer said. Assailants hiding on the side of the road probably opened fire from multiple directions with Kalashnikovs.

13 police killed, 10 wounded at police station in Al-Musayyib. (AFP)

Gunmen killed 13 police and wounded 10 others in a bomb attack on a police station in Al-Musayyib. The US military said insurgents attacked the police station at 4:20 pm with small arms fire and lobbed a bag of explosives that demolished the building's facade.

Muslim Clerics' Board member killed, another arrested. (IWPR and Iraqi newspaper *Al-Mashriq*)

Muslim Clerics Board spokesman Sheikh Muhammed Bashar al-Faidhi said Board Member Sheikh Khalil al-Mashhadani was assassinated by unknown assailants west of Baghdad. Faidhi also said American troops assaulted the house of Board Member Sabah Chaloob, the same night. After a search of his house, Chaloob and two of his brothers were arrested. "Thus, the number of detainees of the Board in American prisons in Iraq is 65", added Faidhi.

June 6

Two killed in al-Tuz. (Anatolian News Agency)

A roadside bomb killed a policeman and a civilian in al-Tuz near Kirkuk.

Demonstration in al-Diwaniya. (Iraqi newspaper *Al-Mu'tamar*)

A number of political and religious parties participated in the demonstration that the Intifadah al-Sh'baniyah Trend called for in Al-Diwaniyah Governorate to protest the returning of the Ba'thists to their posts. The report did not mention the date of the demonstration.

British civilian killed, three wounded in Mosul. (AFP)

A British civilian security contractor was killed and three others wounded in an attack on their convoy in Mosul.

6 Iraqis killed in car bomb attack in Taji. (BBC)

At least six Iraqis have been killed in a car bomb attack north of Baghdad. A statement purporting to be from a group led by suspected al-Qaeda operative Abu Musab al-Zarqawi claimed the "suicide" attack. Dozens of people were hurt in the blast outside the gates of a US base at Taji, some 30km from Baghdad.

UN repatriates 15 Iraqi Kurds from Lebanon. (AFP)

Fifteen Iraqi Kurds who have been living in Lebanon as refugees for three years were repatriated in coordination with the United Nations mission here, a security source said. They were reportedly flown to Baghdad on a flight organised by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The refugees have been holed up outside the UN peacekeeping base in south Lebanon since August 2001 after a failed attempt to cross the nearby border with Israel to seek asylum.

June 7

Three killed in Kirkuk. (Anatolian News Agency)

Three persons were killed in two separate attacks in Kirkuk. Kirkuk police stated that a former Ba'ath official, Shamil Mouhiddin, was killed under gunfire in his home in Hussain neighbourhood. In an other incident, Settar and Bassel Salih were killed by unidentified gunmen.

Explosion rocks the Great Mosque in Kufa, two killed. (AFP)

An explosion rocked the Great Mosque in Kufa, where Shiite rebel leader Moqtada Sadr gives the sermon at the main weekly Muslim prayers. Two people were killed, and at least nine people were wounded. It was reported that the explosion was caused by a rocket landing in the ammunition storage inside the mosque," said Abu Ahmed, a member of Sadr's Mehdi Army militia, outside the compound. It was reported that Iraqi police who tried to render assistance were fired on by unknown attackers within the mosque.

Shi'a official killed in Baghdad. (Anatolian News Agency)

An official of the Supreme Council of Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) was killed by gunmen while heading to his office in al-Durra district of Baghdad. It was reported that the victim, Sahir Faisal Sahir, was a general in al-Badr Brigades.

Woman arrested on suspicion of spreading AIDS. (IWPR and London-based newspaper *Al-Zaman*)

Baghdad police arrested an Iraqi woman suspected of having relations with Facility Protection Police elements with the aim of spreading the AIDS virus among them. Colonel Qais Hameed said she was arrested three days ago after a policeman complained of symptoms following his relations with her. Hameed said the investigation is going on to determine if the woman was connected with any external groups seeking to spread the disease in Iraq. He confirmed the woman was a carrier of the AIDS virus after she was subjected to medical tests.

US forces release cleric after six months' arrest. (IWPR and Iraqi newspaper *Al-Dostur*)

After six months under arrest, US forces have freed the Imam and preacher of Um al-Tubool Mosque Mahdi al-Sumaidai, who is also head of the Dawa and Edict group in Iraq. The occupation forces accused him of "encouraging terrorism and owning light and mid-range weapons inside the mosque of Ibn Taimiya". Eyewitnesses denied the existence of any weapons inside the mosque.

June 8

UN Security Council adopts Iraq Resolution 1546 (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty RFE/RL *Iraq Report*)

The UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1546 on Iraqi sovereignty in a unanimous vote, setting out key elements of the formal end to the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq and a timetable for political steps such as national elections and the drafting of a constitution, international news agencies reported the same day. The U.S.-U.K.-proposed resolution sets out terms for the handover of authority from the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority slated for 30 June, and it establishes conditions for cooperation between the Iraqi government and international forces that are expected to continue security operations after the handover.

At least three killed, 30 wounded in car bombing in Mosul. (AFP)

At least three people were killed and 30 wounded, including a top police officer, when a car bomb and roadside bomb exploded simultaneously by city hall in the centre of Mosul. The US military said 10 people were killed and 100 wounded, but hospitals and the city morgue listed only three dead and 30 injured. It was reported that the car bomb and a roadside bomb exploded as Major General Sammi al-Haj Issa's nine-car convoy passed by. Issa, who is chief of the city's security committee, was slightly wounded by the blasts as the convoy passed by a school and a municipal building in central Mosul.

Car bomb kill 5 in Baquba. (BBC)

An explosion outside US al-Faris base in Baquba killed five and wounded 11. The blast happened as crowds of Iraqi civilians were queueing to get into work. Military sources confirmed one US soldier was among the dead. At least four Iraqis were also reported killed.

Hostages freed. (AP)

It was reported that three Italians and a Polish contractor kidnapped in Iraq had been freed.

Two Turks abducted in Iraq (AFP)

Two Turkish men, senior employees of a Turkish construction company, have been taken hostage in Iraq by armed insurgents. They were abducted, along with their Turkmen driver, near Fallujah.

Iraqi gunmen display Turkish hostages. (AP)

Iraqi gunmen displayed seven Turkish citizens Tuesday, saying they had kidnapped the men because they worked for Americans.

Coalition forces arrest kidnappers of Pole, Italians in Iraq (AFP)

US-led coalition forces arrested a number of kidnappers in an operation south of Baghdad that freed three Italians and a Polish national held since April 2004, the US military commander in Iraq said.

Turkoman businessman kidnapped in Kirkuk. (Anatolian News Agency)

It was reported that a Turkoman businessman was abducted in Kirkuk. Akram Muhammad Najib was abducted while leaving his office.

Nine Iraqi militias agree to disband. (AP)

Iraq's new Prime Minister announced an agreement by nine political parties to dissolve their militias, integrating some of the 100,000 fighters into the army and police and pensioning off the rest to firm up government control ahead of the transfer of sovereignty. The plan does not cover one of the most important militia fighting coalition forces -- the al-Mahdi Army of Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr -- or smaller groups that have sprouted across the country since the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime in April 2003. "We want to disband the Badr Brigade and to enable its members to join the new Iraqi army and police forces and serve the new Iraq," said Dr. Haitham al-Husseini, a top official in the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, which controls the 15,000-strong Badr Brigade, a Shiite group. Jassim al-Hilfi, a member of the central committee of the Iraqi Communist Party, said his group was willing to disband its armed components because "we want to be part of the new Iraq." Al-Sadr's al-Mahdi Army was excluded because it did not want "to work within the political system, within the political process," one coalition official said. The agreement also does not cover the brigade organized by the U.S. Marines to take control of the Sunni city of Fallujah after the end of the three-week siege in April 2004. U.S. officials described the Fallujah brigade as "a special auxiliary unit" under the nominal control of the Marines. Most of the militias covered by the agreement were organized to fight Saddam. Under the program, the estimated 100,000 fighters will be treated as veterans -- eligible for government benefits including pensions and job placement programs depending on their time in service.

Former intelligence officer killed in Mahmudiya. (Iraqi newspaper *Al-Adalah*)

It was reported that Dalaf Sabhan al-Nasiri al-Tikriti, former intelligence officer and former official in charge of the Jewish library in the former Iraqi Intelligence Agency, was killed in Al-Mahmudiyah. Al-Tikriti was accused of selling 1,000 ancient books to Israel.

Three killed in Baghdad and Diwaniya. (Iraqi newspaper *Al-Mashriq*)

Two lawyers in Baghdad and a translator in Al-Diwaniyah were killed by unknown gunmen.

US bans cleric from Iraq elections. (UK newspaper *The Guardian*)

Muqtada al-Sadr, the radical Shia leader whose militiamen have been fighting the US occupation forces in several Iraqi cities, was banned from standing in Iraq's forthcoming democratic elections. Paul Bremer, the US administrator in Iraq, signed an order stating that, with immediate effect, members of illegal militias "will be barred from holding political office for three years after leaving their illegal organisation".

Iraqi Brigade in Fallouja attacked. (US newspaper *Los Angeles Times*)

A mortar attack shattered several weeks of relative calm in Fallouja, wounding 12 members of a special Iraqi brigade created in July to end the bloody standoff between U.S. forces and insurgents in the city. Attackers firing mortars and small arms struck a brigade led by former Iraqi army officers. It was the first attack against the unit, which comprises many of the same residents who battled U.S. troops this spring.

June 9

Tribesmen need to respect police says ministry. (IWPR and Iraqi newspaper *Al-Sabah al-Jadeed*)

The Ministry of Interior (MI) called upon tribal leaders to stand up to anyone who resorts to threatening policemen who are doing their job of chasing criminals. The MI also asked tribal leaders to educate their followers to end such threats.

Poles withdraw from Karbala government buildings. (IWPR and Iraqi newspaper *Al-Mada*)

Polish military forces have withdrawn from the buildings of the Governor and Police of Karbala after an improvement in the security situation, said Rahman Mshawwi, information spokesman of the Karbala Police Directorate. Mshawwi said this withdrawal resulted from an agreement between Polish Commander Edward Kroshka and Police Commander Brigadier General Abbas Fadhil al-Hasani.

June 10

Al-Sadr's militia clashes with police in Najaf. (AP)

Shiite militiamen and Iraqi police fought for control of the police headquarters in Najaf in the first skirmishes since an agreement a week ago to end weeks of bloody clashes. Two Iraqis were killed and 13 were injured. Gunmen loyal to radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr attacked the station near the city's Revolution of 1920 Square. Al-Sadr's militia see the Iraqi police as being collaborators with U.S. forces.

Iraqi Baa'th Party condemns UN resolution, promises "armed resistance". (London-based Arabic newspaper *Al-Quds al-Arabi*)

The Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party issued a statement to condemn the UN resolution on Iraq. It says the resolution "internationalized the occupation" under the name of "multinational forces". The statement adds that "any party which plays a role in accordance with this resolution will be placing itself in the opposite trench in the ongoing military confrontation in Iraq" and will become a "combatant party" against the Ba'ath party and the "armed Iraqi resistance".

June 11

Sadr supporters stop weekly prayers in Najaf. (AFP)

Supporters of Moqtada Sadr threw stones and shoes at a rival Shiite group, forcing cancellation of the main weekly Muslim prayers in Najaf for the first time since the US-led invasion. The Shiite radicals launched their attack as some 200 members of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) filed into the Imam Ali mausoleum. They wounded a top SCIRI official in the head as he helped to prepare a platform for his brother, Sheikh Saddredin al-Kubbanji. Before entering the hallowed ground, where the Shiite religious figure Ali is buried, the SCIRI demonstrators had marched through the streets of Najaf, calling for Islamic unity and the return of security to Najaf after weeks of bloodshed. The peaceful crowd included 30 veiled women, holding pictures of the senior Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani and the slain SCIRI chief Mohammed Baqr al-Hakim.

Iraqi police station in Al-Yusufiyah blown up by gunmen (Qatari Al-Jazeera satellite TV)

Unidentified gunmen have reportedly blown up the Al-Yusufiyah police station. They fired two rockets on the station. They then led the guards to a neighbouring building before blowing the station up with explosive charges.

Son of Al-Sistani's aide abducted in Najaf. (London-based news agency Quds Press)

It was reported that unidentified persons kidnapped the son of Halim al-Afghani, an aide to the Shi'i authority Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani in the holy city of Al-Najaf. The abductors reportedly demanded a 10m-Iraqi dinar ransom for his release.

June 12

Iraqi deputy foreign minister assassinated. (Qatari Al-Jazeera satellite TV)

It was reported that Bassam Kubbah, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under-secretary, was exposed to an assassination attempt in Al-A'zamiyah area in Baghdad. Following the incident, he was taken to Al-Nu'man Hospital. He died of the wounds he sustained.

Seven hostages released in Iraq, three killed. (Reuters)

Seven Turkish hostages were freed, but a Lebanese and two Iraqi hostages abducted in a separate incident were killed. Four of the seven held by a group calling itself the Jihad Squadrons, an Iraqi Islamist group, which demanded that Turkish companies leave Iraq. A Lebanese diplomat said Iraqi kidnappers had killed a Lebanese citizen and two of his Iraqi colleagues after seizing them as they travelled to work in Baghdad on June 10. The bodies were dumped on a road between Falluja and Ramadi.

Senior Iraqi policeman escapes assassination attempt. (AFP)

A senior Iraqi police officer was shot and wounded during an assassination attempt. General Majid Almani Mahal, commander of Atraf police station in Baquba, was attacked as he drove through a suburb of the city.

June 13

Prominent Kurdish cleric slain by gunmen in Kirkuk. (AP)

A locally prominent Kurdish cleric was killed in Kirkuk when gunmen opened fire while he was visiting neighbors. Iyad Khorshid, a Sunni Muslim preacher, was killed instantly in the night attack, according to police.

A policeman was also killed in a separate incident when two attackers broke into his house and shot him dead in front of his family, the police said. The victim was a member of the city council during the regime of Saddam Hussein.

Iraqi professor reportedly killed in Baghdad. (Qatari Al-Jazeera satellite TV)

It was reported that Sabri al-Bayyati, a professor at Baghdad University, was assassinated by unknown gunmen.

Two employees of Al-Arabia channel found dead. (Anatolian News Agency)

It was reported that two employees of Al-Arabia TV channel were found dead in Al-Kaim near the Syrian border.

Suicide bomber strikes in Baghdad. (BBC)

A suicide car bomber has killed at least seven Iraqis outside a US base in Baghdad. Police officers who apparently stopped the car outside Camp Cuervo were killed along with the bomber and civilians waiting at a nearby petrol station.

June 14**Suicide car-bomb attack on convoy in central Baghdad killed 13. (AFP)**

The suicide car bombing on a convoy in Baghdad killed 13 people, including five foreigners, and wounded 69 others, the US military said. A General Electric convoy was reportedly attacked by a suicide car bomb in the Sadoun district in the centre of Baghdad entering rush hour. Five civilian contractors were killed and eight additional Iraqi civilians were killed and 69 injured in the attack.

Five Kurdish army recruits killed and burned near Samarra. (AFP and RFE/RL Iraq Report)

Five Kurdish recruits to the Iraqi Army were killed and their bodies burned after their car broke down in a Sunni stronghold within the week. The five were returning to their homes in Kirkuk after completing military training in Al-Taji when their car broke down between Samarra and Beiji. Jalal Jawhar, an official from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said that the men went to a garage for help, where they were ambushed and apparently killed. Their bodies were taken back to their car and set afire.

June 15**Dozens of Iraqi Shiites vows to avenge Shia truckers slain in Fallujah. (Chinese news agency Xinhua)**

Dozens of angry Shiite Muslims marched through the streets of Baghdad, vowing to revenge the killing of six Shiite truck drivers in Fallujah. The demonstrators held the coffins of the slain truckers and waved pictures of their corpses as they were marching from the mainly Shiite neighborhood in Baghdad, the Sadr city to a square in the center of the capital. The angry protesters said the truckers were driving goods in the area when they were kidnapped, and the kidnappers demanded a ransom from the families for their safe return. But the truckers were killed and their bodies mutilated.

Iraqi killed, another wounded in car bombing in Hilla. (AFP)

A car bomb killed one Iraqi and wounded another as it blew up outside a US military base near Hilla.

Iraqi professor assassinated in Babil. (Iraqi Shi'i group's Iran-based radio station Voice of the Mujahidin)

A professor in Babil University was killed by unidentified gunmen. Abd-al-Husayn Abdallah, a professor of Islamic history at Babil University, was assassinated as he was leaving the university.

June 16

Gunmen kill senior Iraqi North Oil official in Kirkuk. (Reuters)

Gunmen killed a senior official in Iraq's North Oil Company. Iraqi police said gunmen opened fire at Ghazi Talabani's car with automatic rifles as he drove to work, killing him and seriously injuring his driver.

Roadside bomb kills policeman in Ramadi. (AP)

An Iraqi police officer was killed and five Iraqi civilians were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded in the center of Ramadi as an American convoy drove by. Minutes after the blast the U.S. Marines arrested seven Iraqis, including six members of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps for alleged involvement in the attack, military officials said.

Nine killed in attack in Ramadi. (AFP)

Nine people were reportedly killed, including four foreigners, and 10 wounded when a vehicle was targeted in a blast in the town of Ramadi. It was reported that the four had been travelling in an all-terrain vehicle.

Three killed in attack on Iraqi police station near Baghdad (Egyptian news agency MENA)

Three Iraqi policemen were killed in an attack carried out by gunmen on a police station south-east of Baghdad, leaving also six vehicles burnt. Iraqi sources said the Iraqi police and attackers exchanged fire.

June 17

35 killed, 138 wounded in Baghdad suicide car-bombing. (AFP)

A suicide car bomber killed 35 people and wounded another 138 outside the gates of a recruitment centre for the new Iraqi army in Baghdad. The building also serves as an office for the Iraqi Civil Defence Corps.

Six Iraqi civil defence guards killed in car-bomb explosion. (Qatari Al-Jazeera satellite TV)

Six Iraqi civil defence guards were killed and four others were wounded in a car-bomb explosion north of Baghdad.

Two Saddam security agents arrested over Talabani murder in Kirkuk. (AFP)

Two veterans of Saddam Hussein's defunct security service were arrested in Kirkuk for murdering the security chief for Iraq's northern oil field, Ghazi Talabani, and his bodyguard, the Kirkuk police said. They were turned over to the US military for interrogation.

Kurds, Turkomen warn of escalation in ethnic tension if assassinations continue. (AP)

Kurdish and Turkomen officials warned that tensions could escalate in Kirkuk unless coalition officials can stop a wave of assassinations in the city. A PUK representative said Kurdish groups are concerned that some fringe elements within the Turkomen community are participating in some of the attacks in conjunction with Islamists said.

Demonstrators call for end to violence. (IWPR and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan newspaper *Al-Ittihad*)

Hundreds of the political prisoners and martyrs' families demonstrated before the Coalition Provisional Authorities. They demanded an end to violence and efforts for stability and security. Political parties and the Iraqi Free Prisoners Organization participated in the demonstration.

Karbala residents turn over weapons for cas. (IWPR and Iraqi newspaper *Al-Sabah al-Jadeed*)

Karbala residents surrendered a huge quantity of heavy and light weapons to the police emergency squadron. Coalition forces requested the people to surrender their weapons for payment before June 26.

June 18

Three Iraqi civilians wounded in roadside bomb in Mosul. (AFP)

Three Iraqi civilians were wounded when a roadside bomb targeting a police patrol exploded in Mosul. The blast occurred in Al-Ghabat, a tourist area in the north of the city.

Three Iraqis killed in Baghdad blast targeting US convoy. (AFP)

Three civilians were killed and three soldiers wounded in a bomb blast targeting a US military convoy in Sadr City, a US military spokesman said. The bomb was hidden in the mud off the curb of an open-air market in the Habibiya district of Sadr City.

Arrest warrant issued for former Saddam resistance leader. (AFP)

An Iraqi court has reportedly issued a warrant for the arrest of Abdul Kareem al-Mahamadawi, a famed former leader of the resistance to Saddam Hussein in the marshlands of southern Iraq. Mahamadawi, who went on to sit on the now dissolved interim Governing Council, is wanted in connection with the murder of a police major in Amara. The arrest warrant was reportedly issued by a court in Amara based on a suit filed by the family of police Major Mohammed al-Ashmani who was shot dead during a confrontation with Mahamadawi's followers. But he added that the case had been transferred to a special US-appointed court in Baghdad. Nicknamed "the king of the marshes" for the daring campaign of guerrilla resistance he led against Saddam's regime even after it drained the marshes in the 1990s, Mahamadawi's case was immediately taken up by fellow tribal chiefs. The Iraqi Independent Tribe Leaders' Union denounced the arrest warrant issued by "the occupation's illegal courts." "We stand behind Sheikh Mahamadawi with all our means and abilities," it said.

June 19

Five Iraqis wounded in Baghdad rocket attack. (Qatari Al-Jazeera satellite TV)

It was reported that five Iraqis, including three employees at the Capital Crimes Department, were wounded in a rocket attack launched by unknown people on the department of the Ministry of Interior. The attack caused damage to a mosque.

Clashes killed 13 Iraqis in Diyala. (AFP)

Diyala province police chief General Walid Khaled Abdul Salem said that 13 Iraqis were killed and 34 wounded in the fighting that started in Bohrouz on June 17. Salem said the US military had now agreed to let Iraqi police patrol the village and Diyala Governor Abdullah Hassan al-Juburi said the US army had agreed to pay compensation for damage to homes from the fighting. The US First Infantry Division said it had destroyed 50 percent of the insurgents in the village during the violence that kicked off after US soldiers were ambushed as they left a meeting with Bohrouz officials on June 16. Troops launched their retaliatory strike before sunrise on June 17. It resulted in the arrest of Hussein al-Septi, a suspected ringleader of the insurgency around Bohrouz, commanders said.

June 19

18 killed in US raid to Fallujah. (Iraqi newspaper *Al-Mada*)

It was reported that a US plane fired a rocket on the Al-Jubayl quarter of Al-Fallujah, totally destroying two houses and damaging two others. 18 people were killed [22 according to *Al-Zaman*] and eight others were wounded in the morning raid.

Blast outside Iraq's central bank kills two. (Qatari Al-Jazeera satellite TV)

In an attack on the Iraqi Central Bank, two policemen were killed and a number of civilian vehicles were damaged, including two buses carrying a number of employees of the bank.

Tikrit council member killed. (Qatari Al-Jazeera satellite TV)

Izz-al-Din al-Abdallah, a member of the local governing council in Tikrit, was killed by unidentified gunmen.

Eight killed in attack against the Interior Minister in Samarra. (Qatari Al-Jazeera satellite TV)

In an attack in Samarra, Eight people were killed, including five guards protecting Falah al-Naqib, the Interior Minister. 25 people were wounded in the ensuing clashes.

Iraqi Health Minister reportedly targeted by assassination attempt. (Qatari Al-Jazeera satellite TV)

It was reported that Iraqi Health Minister Ala Abd-al-Sahib al-Alwan was the target of an assassination attempt, when a bomb went off as his car passed by in the Al-Salihyah area in central Baghdad.

Iraqi National Congress HQ raided. (Iraqi newspaper *Al-Nahdah*)

The US forces raided the headquarters of the Iraqi National Congress Party in Baghdad for the second time in two weeks, searching for Chalabi's aides Humam al-Qurayshi and Aras Habib. It was alleged that three of Chalabi's followers were killed during the raid. The sources added that the Coalition Authority issued an arrest warrant against former IGC member Dr Ahmad Chalabi, the second of its kind against former IGC members.

June 20

Roadside bomb in central Baghdad kills one. (AFP)

A small roadside bomb blew up on the eastern side of the Tigris river by Baghdad's al-Shuhada bridge, killing one civilian and wounding three others, the US military said.

Local council head shot dead in Baghdad. (Qatari Al-Jazeera satellite TV)

It was reported that the head of the Municipal Council of Al-Fadl area in central Baghdad, Shaykh Majid Hamid al-Yusuf, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in a public place in the area.

Four officials fired from Transport Ministry. (Iraqi newspaper *Al-Qasim al-Mushtarak*)

It was reported that four directors general in the Transport Ministry were fired by the De-Ba'athification Committee because of their continued links with the Ba'ath Party.

June 21

Four Iraqis killed in bomb blast in Gayara. (AFP)

Four Iraqis were killed in a roadside bomb blast in the town of Gayara near the northern town of Mosul, the US military and witnesses said. "Four Iraqi citizens were killed at approximately 9:35 am when a roadside bomb exploded on their convoy approximately 50 kilometers south of Mosul," the military said in a statement,

Liquor store attacked in Baghdad. (Anatolian News Agency)

A liquor store run by a Christian Iraqi was attacked and destroyed by unidentified persons. The bomb in front of another liquor store was destroyed by the police.

Masked insurgents blow up Iraqi police station in Djor Askar. (AFP)

About 50 masked Iraqi insurgents blew up a police station south of Baghdad, a US general said. "Approximately 50 armed insurgents wearing black masks dismounted their vehicle by the Iraqi police station in Djor Askar," said the military spokesman for the US-led coalition.

New measures reduce traffic from Iran. (*Al-Sabah al-Jadeed*)

The Iraqi embassy in Tehran is issuing visas to Iranians for \$50. This procedure started recently to prevent illegal entrance to Iraq and to impose controls on the Iraq-Iran borders. Some Iranian visitors in Najaf said the Iraqi and Iranian governments have imposed strict procedures on borders to prevent the entry of infiltrators. These procedures have reportedly decreased the number of Iranian visitors to holy cities.

June 22

College dean, husband assassinated in Mosul. (Qatari Al-Jazeera satellite TV)

It was reported that Dr Layla Abdallah Sa'id, the dean of the College of Law at Mosul University, and her husband Munir al-Khayru were assassinated in their home at Al-Zanadan neighbourhood in Mosul. Unidentified persons stormed the house and opened fire on them from light firearms. Dr Layla had received several death threats from unidentified persons. Iraqi police sources said the murder was conducted by professionals. They entered the house, locked the doors and cut the telephone line.

They then carried out the murder, without leaving a trace and without stealing anything from the house. Some relatives of Dr Layla Abdallah said the murder was part of a campaign targeting Iraqi intellectuals and not Dr Layla Abdallah personally.

2 children killed in car bomb blast west of Baghdad. (Xinhua News Agency)

Two children were killed in a car bomb explosion in western suburb of Baghdad. The explosion took place in al-Ameriya suburb west of Baghdad killing two children as their family car was passing near the area and their parents were also wounded in the attack, according to witnesses.

Three killed in Fallujah attack. (AFP)

Three people were killed and 10 wounded in explosions in Fallujah, the local hospital said. The blasts came just hours after it was reported Islamic militants had beheaded South Korean translator Kim Sun-Il, whose body was found by the US military near Fallujah. A US warplane fired off a missile at a house in Fallujah on June 19, killing at least 20 people in a raid that US commanders said targeted a suspected safehouse of Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi. Police and residents in the city said the suspected hideout had turned up no trace of insurgents.

Iraqi women working for UK forces shot dead in Basra. (AP)

Gunmen shot dead two Iraqi women working as translators for British forces in Basra, Iraqi officials said. The women, who worked at the city's airport, were ambushed as they were riding home in the city's Kut al-Hajaj district. Their driver was wounded.

Kurds in Samarra targeted. (IWPR and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan newspaper *Al-Ittihad*)

A Kurdish residential area in Samarra was bombed, which resulted in the injury of one man named Waleed Rustem. Some 400 Kurdish families from Khanakeen reside in Samarra, where they were displaced in 1975 by the old regime. It was reported that the militia warned brokers not to buy Kurd properties in Samarra.

June 23

Iraqi Kurds in Iran return through newly-opened border crossing. (UNHCR)

Eighty refugees returned to Iraq's mainly Kurdish north as UNHCR and the Iranian government opened a newly-opened border crossing at Haj Omran to facilitate repatriation movements back to Iraq. The convoy left from Ziveh camp in Iran's West Azerbaijan province, which shelters some 3,300 registered Iraqi refugees. The Iraqis had fled their homeland 15 years ago when Saddam Hussein's government started the brutal Anfal campaign that saw the bombing of entire villages and use of chemical weapons against civilians in northern Iraq. Kurdish communities were decimated and many hundreds of thousands of people were forced from their homes. The UN refugee agency does not promote returns to Iraq due to the fragile security situation, the absence of a functioning judicial system to adjudicate property disputes, as well as the severe strain experienced by vital public services like health care and clean water. Nevertheless, due to the demands by anxious refugees to go home, the agency has so far facilitated the return of more than 6,600 refugees from Iran.

Terrorists threaten workers in Amara. (IWPR and Iraqi newspaper *Al-Qassim al-Mushtarak*)

A group called the "Traitors Extermination Organization" threatened to kill Iraqis identified on a list as working with the Coalition Provisional Authority in Amara. The list contains 13 names including women who were accused of selling themselves, their country and religion to the occupiers against little sums of dollars.

June 24

Five Iraqi cities rocked by violence, several Iraqis killed. (Al-Jazeera TV and RFE/RL Iraq Report)

It was reported that two Iraqis were killed and five wounded during heavy fighting in Fallujah. U.S. forces have closed the Baghdad-Amman road due to the clashes in Al-Fallujah.

In Ba'qubah, at least 19 Iraqi policemen were killed in fighting with gunmen who are reportedly members of the Jama'at Al-Tawhid wa Al-Jihad group affiliated with al-Zarqawi. Gunmen seized four government buildings, including a police station in the city center, and raised black flags over them.

In Al-Ramadi, at least five Iraqi policemen and one civilian were killed and 14 wounded in the city in numerous attacks. Gunmen bombed the Al-Qattanah police station in the city, destroying much of the building. A booby-trapped car also exploded near an industrial zone in Al-Ramadi.

As many as six explosions rocked the city of Mosul. Three of the explosions were from booby-trapped cars. An Iraqi police officer said that as many as seven police officers were killed and more than 20 Iraqis wounded in one of the attacks. One car bomb detonated near the Customs Department in Wadi Hijir (southern Mosul), causing unknown casualties and damaging several nearby vehicles. The first in a series of attacks in Mosul occurred on the west bank of the Tigris River when militants fired Katyusha rockets at the police academy, inflicting numerous casualties. While police and civilians worked to tend to the injured, an automobile broke through the crowd and detonated. Initial reports estimated that 25 policemen were killed and 56 injured. The car bomb ignited fires in adjacent cars, burning a family of four to death. At the scene, the mayor of Mosul declared a state of emergency in the city that includes a 9 p.m.-7 a.m. curfew. Just minutes after the attack, an explosion at the medical faculty of Mosul University inflicted numerous casualties. A car bomb also detonated near the Yarmuk bank in the Shaykh Fathi area of the city, killing two policemen. Police engaged militants attempting to break into the bank building, killing two fighters and capturing two others. Meanwhile, unidentified militants called in a bomb threat to the Mosul Municipality, prompting the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps to secure the area. Militants also attacked another bank in the city, but were unable to break into the building. A bombshell also fell near the local Department of Awqaf and Religious Affairs. Four Iraqi security officers were killed when a booby-trapped car exploded near a U.S.-Iraqi checkpoint south of Baghdad. The Health Ministry said at least 66 people were killed and 268 injured in the incidents that took place in the morning of 24 June.

Five police stations attacked in Mosul. (AFP)

A fifth police station was rocked by an explosion in the morning in Mosul, where already seven policemen and one US soldier had been killed, the police said. The last explosion happened at 10:30 am at the Baab al-Shat police station in the centre of Mosul. There were some people killed and wounded. The first police station in Mosul was attacked at 9:05 am in a car bombing, followed by the other attacks in rapid succession. [According to BBC News, the other spots attacked previously in the same morning were in the al-Wakhas district, the Wadi Hajar police station in the south of the city, the Iraqi Police Academy, another police station and the al-Jumhuri hospital.

Mehdi Army declared truce in Sadr City. (BBC)

The Shia militia loyal to radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr declared a unilateral truce in the Sadr City slum quarter of Baghdad - the final area where it was still opposing US-led coalition forces. "For the sake of the public interest and considering the sensitive situation the oppressed Iraqi people are under, the Central Mehdi Army Command announces a halt to military operations within Sadr City," the militia said in a statement.

June 25**Fallujah rocked by explosions and gunfire. (AP)**

Explosions and gunfire rocked the turbulent city of Fallujah for a second day. U.S. tanks and armored vehicles maneuvered on the highway near the edges of Fallujah, firing in all directions, while armed men in an eastern suburb returned fire, witnesses said. Seven people died in two days of exchanges there, hospital officials said.

Gunmen fire on offices of two main Kurdish parties in Tuz Khurmatu. (AP)

Police arrested three men for shooting at the local offices of the two main Kurdish parties. Gunmen opened fire on the offices of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and the Kurdish Democratic Party in Tuz Khurmatu, about 60 kilometers south of Kirkuk, said Gen. Anwar Amin of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps.

Iraqi police report finding two headless bodies in Kirkuk. (Al-Arabiya TV and RFE/RL Iraq Report)

Iraqi police said they found two headless bodies in the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk. One body was found along the highway leading to Al-Sulaymaniyah; the other was found in the Al-Askari neighborhood of Kirkuk. Police said the bodies belong to two individuals who "collaborated" with U.S. forces.

June 26**Car-bomb blast kills one, injures many in Arbil. (Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party satellite TV)**

Unidentified persons set off a car bomb on Al-Sittini Street near the KDP administration's Ministry of Industry and Energy in Arbil. A civilian was killed in the blast.

Al-Fallujah makes truce agreement with US. (Qatari Al-Jazeera satellite TV)

Fallujah security forces made a new agreement with the US side. According to the agreement: 1. The city of Al-Fallujah will witness three days of peace, during which

convoys will be allowed to travel on the highway without fear of attacks. There will also be no explosions in the vicinity of Al-Fallujah during this period. 2. US jet fighters and helicopters will not be allowed to fly in the skies of Al-Fallujah. Only reconnaissance planes will be allowed to fly over Al-Fallujah and at a high altitude of 4,000 feet. 3. The security forces in Al-Fallujah, represented by Al-Fallujah Brigade, the Iraqi police and the Civil Defence forces, will take over the security file in the city. They will maintain security in the city. 4. A meeting will be held on June 29 to assess this issue and what the two sides would reach.

Iraq group threatens to behead three Turkish hostages. (Qatari Al-Jazeera satellite TV)

In a statement, a group calling itself Al-Tawhid and Al-Jihad [Unity and Jihad] Group in Iraq said that it had abducted three Turkish workers and intended to punish them by beheading them within 72 hours unless Turkey withdrew all its firms that were working with the occupation forces in Iraq.

32 Iraqis reportedly dead in Al-Hillah blast. (Qatari Al-Jazeera satellite TV)

Iraqi police sources said that 32 Iraqis were killed and 22 others were wounded in a car-bomb explosion in central Al-Hillah. The explosion took place in a commercial street.

Insurgents capture Pakistani in Iraq. (AP)

Insurgents threatened to behead a Pakistani hostage if American forces do not release some prisoners being held at Abu Ghraib and elsewhere in Iraq within the next three days.

June 27

Six guards killed in Iraq attack. (BBC)

Six members of the Iraqi National Guard have been killed in an attack on a checkpoint north-east of Baghdad. Police said the base was attacked by gunmen using automatic weapons and anti-tank rockets. One of the gunmen is said to have died in the incident near the town of Baquba. Four guardsmen were also hurt.

Five killed in Baghdad mortar strike. (AFP)

Five Iraqis wading in the Tigris river were killed in a mortar strike near the Sheraton Hotel. "Five were killed including a child. They had just finished swimming in the Tigris when two mortar shells burst," said the police.

June 28

Sovereignty transferred to Iraq. (AFP)

The US-led coalition restored sovereignty to an Iraqi government after 14 months of occupation in a low-key official ceremony. The US civil administrator in Iraq, Paul Bremer, handed over legal documents to Iraq's interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi who was flanked by the country's new President Sheikh Ghazi Al-Yawar. Bremer handed Allawi and Yawar a letter from US President George W. Bush, requesting a resumption of diplomatic relations between the countries that were frozen in 1990 after then president Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait.

Police chief killed in Tikrit. (Iraqi Al-Sharqiyah TV)

Al-Awja police chief is assassinated by unidentified gunmen in Tikrit. It was reported that Ahmad Hamzah Barrak was killed when gunmen launched RPG rockets at his home.

Two Iraqis killed in blast targeting US military convoy in Baquba. (AFP)

Two Iraqis were killed and another wounded in a bomb attack targeting a US military convoy near the Iraqi city of Baquba. The explosion went off at about 9:00 am in the Hadid area to the city's northeast.

Iraqi court issues arrest warrant against three Sunni clerics in Al-Fallujah. (Iraqi National Congress weekly newspaper Al-Mu'tamar)

It was reported that a judicial warrant has been issued for the arrest of a number of clergymen in the Sunni Muslim Ulema Authority. The clerics included in the arrest warrant are Shaykh Abdallah al-Janabi, imam and preacher at the Sa'd Bin-Abi Waqqas Mosque in Al-Fallujah; Shaykh Zafir al-Dulaymi, imam of the Al-Rawdah al-Muhammadiyah Mosque in Al-Fallujah, and Shaykh Umar al-Hadidi. The three were accused of inciting the execution and mutilation of the bodies of six youths from the Al-Sadr City in Baghdad during their presence in Al-Fallujah. The warrant for the arrest of the three clerics reportedly followed an investigation by the court with relatives of the victims. Abbas al-Rubay'i, the father of one of the six, told journalists that the Muslim Ulema Authority had sent a delegation to pay a sum of 100m dinars for each victim in exchange for giving up the demand for revenge and avoiding any further publicity in the matter. Al-Rubay'i, who said that he was speaking for the families of the six victims, added that the Rubya'ah tribes had rejected the negotiations and the money, and refused to receive the cars of the victims, which were seized by the Muslim Ulema Authority in Al-Fallujah.

June 29

Roadside bomb targets senior police official in Kirkuk, one killed. (AP)

A roadside bomb exploded as a senior Kurdish police official was heading to work, killing one of his guards and wounding him, police said. Maj. Ahmed al-Hamawandi, the head of police in the Kurdish district of Azadi in Kirkuk, suffered minor injuries in the attack that occurred at around 8:50 a.m., said the police.

Gunmen attack Mahmudiyah police station, killing two. (AP)

Guerrillas using assault rifles and RPG attacked a police station, killing one officer and a civilian, police said. Policemen returned fire in the clash in Mahmudiyah. The attackers cited Quranic verses before the assault, witnesses said.

Iraqi killed during armed clash in Baghdad. (Al-Jazeera TV)

Iraqi police stated that an Iraqi was killed today in Al-A'zamiyah area in the northern part of the city after an exchange of fire between US forces and unknown armed men.

Two peshmergas killed in Mosul. (AFP)

In Mosul two Kurdish peshmerga fighters were killed and two others injured in the third attack of its kind since June 26. Unknown assailants opened fire on the group as they were riding in a car in the Karama neighbourhood in the eastern part of the city, according to the police.

US military police raid Iraqi detention centre to stop abuse of prisoners. (AFP)

American military police yesterday raided a building belonging to the Iraqi ministry of the interior where prisoners were allegedly being physically abused by Iraqi interrogators. The military police, who had been told of abuse, seized an area known as the Guesthouse just outside the ministry's main building. They disarmed the Iraqi policemen and at one stage threatened to set free prisoners whose handcuffs they removed, according to Iraqi officials. The arrival of a second group of US military police and a more senior officer led to an argument between the two groups of military policemen over who had command authority for the raid. Iraqi ministry of interior officials admitted that around 150 prisoners taken during a raid four days before in the Betawain district of Baghdad had been physically abused during their arrest and subsequent questioning. The men were captured in the first big Iraqi-led anti-crime and anti-terrorism operation, which took place a few days before the transfer of power, with US military police in support and using US satellite images. Senior Iraqi officers described those captured as "first class murderers, kidnappers and terrorists with links to al-Ansar" - a militant group in the former Kurdish no-fly zone - who had all admitted to "at least 20 crimes while being questioned". One of the prisoners bared his back after his initial arrest to reveal open welts allegedly caused by baton and rubber hoses. A bodyguard for the head of criminal intelligence, Hussein Kamal, admitted that the beatings had taken place.

June 30**Three police wounded by car-bomb in Samawa. (AFP)**

A car bomb exploded outside police headquarters in Samawa, where Japanese troops are deployed, wounding three policemen, an official said.

Iraqi police imposed curfew in Najaf. (Anatolian News Agency)

Najaf police chief announced that a curfew will be in place between 21.00 to 06:30 am. The curfew was declared in response to clashes with the Mahdi Army.

UNHCR Ankara

Country of Origin Information Team

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