

# Bush scolds Dems on war

By JENNIFER LOVEN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## WASHINGTON

President Bush, in full campaign mode, warned Democratic critics of his Iraq policy on Tuesday to watch what they say or risk giving "comfort to our adversaries" and suffering at the ballot box in November.



BUSH

Democrats said Bush should take his own advice. There are 10 months before congressional elections in which polls indicate the president's Republican Party could lose its dominance of Capitol Hill.

But Bush is wasting no time engaging the battle.

In his first speech of 2006 on the road, last week in Chicago, he aggressively challenged Democrats on the economy.

Tuesday's equally sharp message represented an attempt by the president to neutralize Democrats' ability to use Iraq, where violence is surging in the wake of December parliamentary elections and messy negotiations to form a new coalition government, as an election-year cudgel against Republicans.

Bush acknowledged deep differences over Iraq among casualty-weary Americans, just 39 percent of whom approve of his handling of the war, according to a recent AP-Ipsos survey.

Without specifically mentioning Democrats, the president urged campaigning politicians to "conduct this debate responsibly."

He said he welcomed honest critics who question the way the war is being conducted and the loyal opposition that points out what is wrong with his administration's approach.



AP PHOTO

Sunni Muslims hold banners denouncing the Sunday raid on the Umm al-Qura mosque during the first day of Eid al-Adha on Tuesday in central Baghdad, Iraq. US and Iraqi forces searched the Sunni mosque for the American journalist Jill Carroll, who was kidnapped.

# Day without violence

## Sunni Arabs use holiday to demand withdrawal of U.S. troops

By PATRICK QUINN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### BAGHDAD, Iraq

Shiite and Sunni Arabs celebrated the Islamic feast of sacrifice Tuesday with calls for an end to the bloodshed that has wracked Iraq since last month's elections. Sunni Arabs tempered their appeals with renewed calls for the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

In a day with no violence reported, Iraqis nationwide celebrated the opening of the four-day Eid al-Adha celebration with visits to relatives, food and sweets. Lambs were slaughtered and food was distributed to the poor.

"This Eid is a happy day for all Muslims, especially Iraqis. But it comes after painful events that happened in Karbala and Ramadi," said Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari, a Shiite.

He referred to the killings of more than 120 people in suicide bombings last week in the Shiite holy city of Karbala and at a police recruiting center in Ramadi. Monday, suicide bombers infiltrated the heavily fortified Interior Ministry compound in Baghdad and killed 29 Iraqis, an attack claimed by al-Qaida in Iraq, a group with an avowed aim of starting a sectarian war.

"We also demand that the occupier get out, because he is the reason behind every crime."

Harith al-Ubaidi  
Member of the Sunni Arab Iraqi Accordance Front, in a sermon

Violence has increased since the Dec. 15 elections, with at least 498 Iraqis and 54 U.S. forces killed. Al-Jaafari said despite the violence, Iraq had made significant advances in 2005, citing a large turnout for the Dec. 15 elections as one of the biggest achievements.

About 70 percent of Iraq's 15 million voters, including large numbers of Sunni Arabs, participated in the elections, although some Sunni Arab groups complained the vote was tainted by fraud, delaying the release of results.

Al-Jaafari's governing United Iraqi Alliance emerged with a large lead in the elections, far ahead of a Kurdish coalition and Sunni Arab groups but without the majority it will need in the 275-member parliament to avoid a coalition.

With final results expected next week, the Shiites, Kurds and some Sunni Arab groups have been talking about forming a

broad-based coalition government.

Iraq's leading Shiite politician, United Iraqi Alliance leader Abdul Aziz al-Hakim, urged Sunni Arabs to stop complaining and accept the results.

"We call upon everybody to make the general interest of Iraq their top priority, away from sectarian or private interests," al-Hakim said in an Eid message.

A senior Sunni Arab politician giving a holiday sermon Tuesday denounced the suicide bomb attack in Karbala and said "Iraqis would live as brothers" if the U.S.-led coalition left Iraq.

Harith al-Ubaidi, of the Sunni Arab Iraqi Accordance Front headed by Adnan al-Dulaimi, said in a sermon that Sunnis were "hand in hand" with Shiites against the attack outside a Karbala shrine.

"We also demand that the occupier get out, because he is the reason behind every crime," al-Ubaidi said at the Umm al-Qura mosque, Baghdad headquarters of the Sunni Association of Muslim Scholars, which is believed to have ties to insurgents.

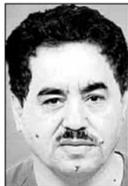
Hundreds of worshippers demonstrated after prayers to denounce a raid on the mosque Sunday by U.S. troops. The mosque is in al-Adel, where American journalist Jill Carroll, a 28-year-old freelance reporter for The Christian Science Monitor, was kidnapped Saturday.

# Opening arguments begin for accused spy

By ASHLEY M. HEHER  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## INDIANAPOLIS

A Palestinian man accused of conspiring to sell U.S. intelligence secrets to Saddam Hussein's government told jurors Tuesday he was secretly working for the U.S. government and may be confused with his dead identical twin.



SHAABAN

"I have served this country with all my heart," Shaaban Hafiz Ahmad Ali Shaaban said during animated opening statements delivered through interpreters in U.S. District Court.

"... I refuse to say I am one person with my brother. I refuse to answer for him on his behalf, and the evidence will show that."

Prosecutors said they would prove that Shaaban, 53, maintained multiple identities, intimi-

"I refuse to say I am one person with my brother. I refuse to answer for him on his behalf, and the evidence will show that."

Shaaban Hafiz Ahmad Ali Shaaban  
Indianapolis resident accused of being an Iraqi spy, on his identity being confused with that of his dead identical twin

dated a witness and tried to broker a \$5 million deal with the Iraqi intelligence service to sell the names of 60 U.S. agents who were working in Iraq or who were to enter the country before the 2002 invasion.

"(Iraqi) intelligence officers found a person in the U.S. who wanted to help the government of Iraq, and they found the defendant, Mr. Shaaban," said Sharon Jackson, an assistant U.S. attorney.

The case, which is expected to include tales of espionage, scores of wiretapped phone conversations and testimony from disguised witnesses, was not brought because of Shaaban's support for a Palestinian state and, in turn, Saddam Hussein, she said.

"The defendant is free to believe and advocate anything he wants," she said. "He is free to disagree with the U.S. for going into Iraq. He is not on trial here for his beliefs, he is on trial here for the actions he took."

Shaaban was working as a truck driver and living in Greenfield, about 20 miles east of Indianapolis, when arrested in March.

His trial began with jury selection Monday and is expected to take three weeks.

It will include testimony from a former agent for the Mukhabarat, the Iraqi intelligence service, who claims he arranged for Shaaban to travel to Baghdad in November 2002 to discuss the deal face-to-face.

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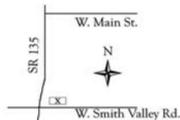
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# U.S. troops looking for tips often refused

## Soldiers find Iraqis friendly, tight-lipped

By NICK WADHAMS  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### MOSUL, Iraq

When Capt. Pat Flynn and his squad knock on doors in Mosul, Iraq, in search of intelligence tips, Iraqis often welcome them inside with chocolate candy and tea in tiny glasses. When he asks if they have been intimidated or threatened, they emphatically shake their heads "no." That's a bad sign.

"Ninety percent of them say it's the safest place in the world to live," said Flynn, 29, a platoon commander in the 172nd Stryker Brigade's 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment. "But we know that's a lie because it's that 10 percent that comes and tells you what's really going on."

That disconnect reflects the task the U.S. Army faces in Mosul, a city that has been hailed as a major success in recent months. Free to move around the city as never before, U.S. troops are realizing that they simply are no longer the main target.

Commanders with the 172nd Stryker Brigade, whose troops patrol Mosul, believe that since Dec. 15 elections, insurgents have shied away from U.S. soldiers with their heavily armored attack vehicles. In the meantime, they have begun to prey on civilians who are allowed one gun and 50 rounds of ammunition per household.

As evidence, U.S. military officers point to an apparent assassination campaign against neighborhood leaders called "mukhtars" and recent attacks on gas stations and tanker trucks, a tactic they suspect is tied to a government decision to raise fuel prices. The next step may be a wave of assaults against those elected in December and candidates in an upcoming local election.

"We have determined a significant change in who the insurgents are targeting," said Maj. Richard Greene, the executive officer of Flynn's unit. "Up to the elections, they were targeting the Iraqi police and the Iraqi army. They don't want to tangle with us."

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