

# Suicide bomber hits Baghdad; seven U.S. troops die

## Attack targeted police patrol near Iranian Embassy

By SINAN SALAHEDDIN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**BAGHDAD, Iraq**  
A suicide car bomber killed at least three Iraqis Monday near the Green Zone housing the U.S. Embassy and Iraqi government, and the U.S. military said seven American servicemen died in roadside bombings.

The suicide bomber targeted a police patrol near the Iranian Embassy, which is close to the checkpoint into the Green Zone known as the "Assassins' Gate," said the top Baghdad police officer, Maj. Gen. Abdul-Razaq al-Samarie.

Two civilians and a policeman were killed and six Iraqis were wounded, including five policemen, al-Samarie said.

The U.S. military said that seven U.S. troops had been killed — a soldier in a roadside bombing in Baghdad on Monday, two



Iraqi soldiers and police investigate the wreckage of a suicide bomber's attack on Monday in front of the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq. The bomber killed at least three Iraqis near the Green Zone.

Air Force members in a blast near Taji north of the capital late Sunday, and four soldiers in a roadside bombing near the northern town of Hawijah on Friday.

Another car bomb exploded on a highway about 20 miles south

of Baghdad, killing one Iraqi civilian and wounding four others, said police Capt. Hussein Shamil.

Drive-by gunmen also killed a doctor who worked at the Iraqi Health Ministry as he drove to

work in Baghdad's Saydiyah neighborhood, police Capt. Qasim Hussein said.

Armed men, some wearing police commando uniforms, raided homes and a mosque in a predominantly Sunni Arab neighborhood

of northern Baghdad on Monday. They shot and killed three men on the spot and detained more than 20 others, police said.

Dozens of gunmen poured out of seven cars and barged into houses and a mosque, dragging men out of their beds and driving them away, said Maj. Falah al-Mohammedawi.

The killings and detentions threatened to worsen sectarian tensions in the capital, where Sunni Arabs accuse Shiite militiamen and security forces of assassinating and kidnapping Sunnis.

Hundreds of enraged, wailing Sunnis took to the streets in the neighborhood of Toubji, calling for revenge and firing guns into the air as groups of men carried coffins carrying those slain to a nearby cemetery.

The violence comes as Iraqi politicians try to form a national unity government including members of Iraq's main Shiite, Kurdish and Sunni Arab political parties.

The bulk of Iraq's insurgency has been linked to Iraq's Sunni Arab community, and involving it in the next government is seen as a way to reduce the violence.

## Still no word on fate of kidnapped journalist

U.S. and Iraqi authorities conducted joint operations in an intensive effort to free kidnapped American journalist Jill Carroll, 28, who was abducted Jan. 7 in Baghdad.



CARROLL

Carroll has not been heard from since her kidnappers released a videotape that was aired Jan. 17. It was accompanied by a threat that she would be killed if U.S. forces did not release all Iraqi women in military custody.

Iraqi Deputy Justice Minister Busho Ibrahim Ali said six of the nine women were expected to be freed later this week as part of a routine release planned before the kidnappers' ultimatum.

More than 250 foreigners have been taken hostage in Iraq, either by insurgents or gangs, since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam. At least 39 have been killed.

# Saddam case gets new judge one day before trial resumes

By HAMZA HENDAWI  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

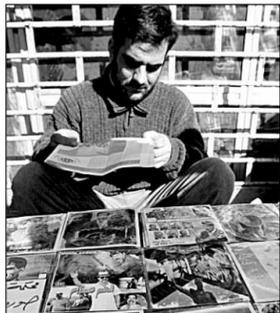
**BAGHDAD, Iraq**  
Court officials shuffled the five-member panel trying Saddam Hussein, naming a new chief judge and transferring another jurist off the case Monday, one day before the trial starts up again following a monthlong recess.

The changes raised new questions about the fairness of the process and provided yet more signs of disarray in a trial already marked by delays, assassinations and chaotic courtroom outbursts by the former Iraqi ruler.

The new chief judge will be Raouf Rasheed Abdel-Rahman, who like his predecessor is a Kurd. Abdel-Rahman serves on a backup panel and has been following the trial, officials said.

Rizgar Mohammed Amin submitted his resignation as chief judge Jan. 15 after complaints by politicians and officials that he failed to maintain control of the proceedings.

After Amin refused to withdraw his resignation, court officials had said he would be replaced by his deputy, Saeed al-Hammash, a Shiite. However, the government commission responsible for purging members of Saddam's Baath Party



A vendor sells videos of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Sunday in Baghdad, Iraq. Saddam's trial is due to resume today and with a new judge.

complained last week that al-Hammash should not serve as chief judge because of his former membership in the former ruling party.

Al-Hammash denied having joined the Baath party, and a U.S. official said Sunday that there was nothing in his background to prevent him from serving.

On Monday, however, court official Raid Juhi said al-Hammash was being transferred off the case entirely and that Abdel-Rahman would be the new interim chief

judge. Juhi insisted the move was not a result of the Baath membership allegation.

Saddam's legal team said it was more concerned about reported government pressure on the court than who serves as chief judge.

"We don't care who is the presiding judge," lawyer Khamis al-Obeidi said. "But we will pull the rug from under his feet if he succumbs to the influence of the government."

The latest changes add to the charged atmosphere surrounding the trial since it began Oct. 19 and may further raise questions about the fairness of the proceedings. Two defense lawyers have been assassinated and a third fled the country since the trial began.

"It is increasingly clear that this doesn't look like justice the way it's supposed to be rendered," said William A. Schabas, director of the Irish Center for Human Rights at the National University of Ireland. "The fact that judges in a trial resign for facts other than ill health is very disturbing."

Saddam and seven others have been accused in the deaths of about 140 Shiites following a failed assassination attempt in Dujail, 50 miles north of Baghdad. They could be hanged if convicted.

# Former NSA head defends spy program

By KATHERINE SHRADER  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**WASHINGTON**  
In defense of the National Security Agency's controversial surveillance program, the government's No. 2 intelligence official said Monday that the spy agency's operations are not a drift net over U.S. communities.

Gen. Michael Hayden, the former NSA director, described the four-year-old program as narrowly targeted, using the same tools and techniques employed to decide whether to drop a 500-pound bomb on a terrorist target.

Hayden now holds the second-ranking job in the Office of the National Intelligence Director, John Negroponte.



"Had this program been in effect prior to 9/11 ... We would have detected some of the al-Qaida operatives in the United States."

Gen. Michael Hayden  
Former National Security Agency director

"Had this program been in effect prior to 9/11, it is my professional judgment that we would have detected some of the al-Qaida operatives in the United States," Hayden said in an appearance at the National Press Club.

Hayden's comments came as the Bush administration kicked off three days of public events

aimed at defending the highly classified surveillance program.

First disclosed in December, the program approved by President Bush allowed the NSA to eavesdrop, without warrants, on communications of individuals within the continental United States, whose calls and e-mails were believed to have involved al-Qaida.

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