

## THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM



AP PHOTO  
An Iraqi woman reacts following an explosion in Baghdad, Iraq, on Monday. A suicide bomber killed 10 people and wounded at least 40.

## Bomber kills 10 Iraqis in Baghdad

New footage aired of German hostages

By ROBERT H. REID  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### BAGHDAD, Iraq

A suicide bomber blew himself up Monday after joining a line of Iraqis waiting for government checks in a mostly Shiite district of Baghdad, killing 10 people and wounding about 40, including women and children.

The attack occurred as more than 70 people lined up at a bank to receive government checks to compensate for incomplete food rations. Police said the bomber, who wore an explosives belt, stepped into the line and detonated his explosives as security guards were searching people before letting them in.

Ten people were killed and at least 40 were wounded, Interior Ministry spokesman Maj. Falah al-Mohammedawi said. The wounded included three children and nine women, police said.

Late Monday, new television footage showed two hostage German engineers surrounded by masked gunmen. Al-Arabiya TV did not air audio from the tape but said the kidnappers warned the German government it was the final chance to meet their demands or the men would be killed.

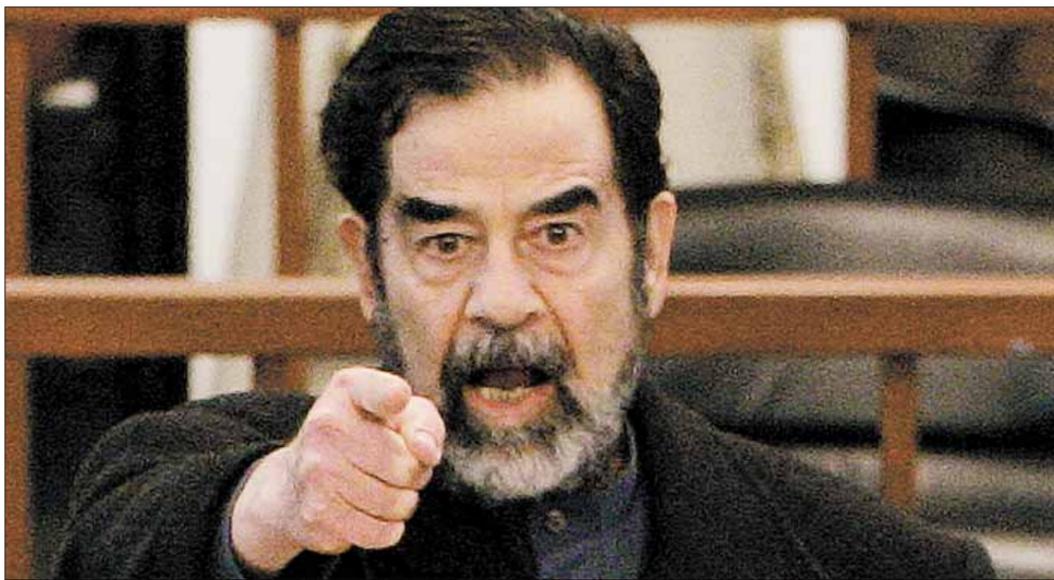
Thomas Nitschke and Rene Braenlich were seized last month in Beiji, 115 miles north of Baghdad. No new demands were made, and the kidnappers did not set a deadline, the TV station said. In an earlier tape, the previously unknown Tawhid and Sunnah group called for Germany to cut ties with the U.S.-backed Iraqi government.

On Sunday, Iraq's leading Shiite bloc picked Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari for another term, a major step toward forming a government. But Western diplomats cautioned the process of finalizing a new government has weeks if not months to go.

In a sign of the political difficulties ahead, Khalaf al-Ilyan, a senior official of a major Sunni Arab party, criticized al-Jaafari, calling his administration "the worst Iraq has so far experienced" because it failed to curb alleged human rights abuses by Shiite-led security services.

Violence is continuing in Iraq as political leaders try to form a new government to include all sectarian and ethnic communities, a move the U.S. hopes will help calm the Sunni-led insurgency so American and other foreign troops can begin heading home.

In addition to those slain in the suicide bombing Monday, at least 14 other people were killed nationwide.



AP PHOTO  
Former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein was forced to attend his trial inside the heavily fortified Green Zone in Baghdad, Iraq, on Monday. His lawyers are continuing to boycott the trial until the removal of the chief judge Rouf Abdel-Rahman.

# Saddam's trial resumes

Former Iraqi leader appears in slippers, criticizes Bush

By HAMZA HENDAWI  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### BAGHDAD, Iraq

Prosecutors produced documents and put former aides to Saddam Hussein on the stand Monday as they made their strongest attempt yet to link him directly to torture and executions.

The ousted president, who looked disheveled and arrived in his slippers, shouted "Down with Bush!"

The defendants have rejected court-appointed attorneys named to replace their own lawyers who walked out of the trial in January, and are

demanding the removal of chief judge Rouf Abdel-Rahman.

In Jordan, Saddam's chief defense lawyer said there were no plans to end the boycott.

After the raucous start, prosecutors tried to prove Saddam's role in a wave of arrests and executions that followed a 1982 attempt on his life in the Shiite village of Dujaal.

Twenty-six prosecution witnesses have testified since the Saddam trial began Oct. 19, many providing accounts of torture and imprisonment in the crack-down, but they could not

directly pin them on Saddam.

For the first time, the prosecution introduced documents and put two former members of Saddam's regime on the stand.

The witnesses included one of his closest aides, Ahmed Hussein Khudayer al-Samarrai, head of Saddam's presidential office from 1984 to 1991 and then again from 1995 until Saddam's ouster in 2003.

Screens in the courtroom showed a document in Arabic dated to 1984 reportedly written and signed by Saddam in which he ratified "the execution of the Dujaal criminals."

A handwritten note at the bottom was reportedly

by al-Samarrai.

Asked if the note was his handwriting, al-Samarrai, 62, said he could not be sure.

Abdel-Rahman, who took over in January as chief judge, rode out the hearing's initial chaos by being both tough and accommodating, allowing Saddam and his half brother, Barzan Ibrahim to talk, but interrupting them when they steered away from matters related to the case or if they spoke for too long.

Saddam and his seven co-defendants are on trial in the killing of nearly 150 Shiite Muslims in Dujaal. If convicted, they could face the death penalty by hanging.

## Salvaging courtroom mess brings differing opinions

By JAMES ROSEN  
MCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

### WASHINGTON

Curtis Doebbler is an American lawyer on Saddam Hussein's international legal defense team.

Michael Scharf, a Case Western Reserve University law professor and former State Department official, heads an international consortium of war crimes experts advising the trial's inexperienced Iraqi judges and prosecutors.

Saddam is accused of ordering the killings of more than 140 Iraqi Shiites in Dujaal, north of

Baghdad, to avenge an attempt on his life during a 1982 visit.

Doebbler and Scharf agree on only one thing about the nearly four-month-long trial of the deposed dictator: It's a mess.

Doebbler blames the U.S. government, which he accuses of running, and rigging, the trial behind the scenes, and of denying Saddam basic rights of due process. Scharf blames Saddam and his attorneys, who he says are intent on turning the trial into a circus.

After an 11-day hiatus, the trial resumed Monday.

The only way to save Saddam's trial, in Doebbler's

view, is to start over under United Nations control somewhere outside Iraq. "There's been a total disrespect for the right to a fair trial," he said.

"That can probably not be remedied except by a trial outside the country under U.N. auspices. Otherwise, I think this is nothing but a lynching mob."

Scharf said the trial should continue in Iraq because the Iraqi people have told pollsters in overwhelming numbers that Saddam should be tried and judged by his countrymen.

So Scharf is proposing a novel solution to the Iraqi Special Tribunal:

Place a TV in Saddam's cell, deliver a live video feed to it so that he can watch the trial in real time, and have a separate video feed back into the courtroom, showing him watching the trial on TV.

"That way we could see his facial expressions and have a virtual feeling of him being in the courtroom," Scharf said.

"If Saddam is not there, his victims won't feel the cathartic vindication of seeing him face his accusers. And the media would stop broadcasting the trial because there's no real interest in an empty courtroom. Saddam needs to be part of the show."

## Rumsfeld: Islamic terrorists unlikely to be safe in North Africa



AP PHOTO  
Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, left, walks with Moroccan Foreign Minister Mohammed Benaisa after arriving in Fez, Morocco, on Monday.

By ROBERT BURNS  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### IFRANE, Morocco

Winding up three days of talks with North African leaders, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Monday he is confident that al-Qaida and other terrorist groups will fail to find a haven in this Muslim region.

At a news conference after meeting with King Mohammed VI at his royal retreat in the Atlas Mountains, Rumsfeld was asked what risk he saw of Islamic extremist groups putting down roots in Morocco, Algeria or Tunisia.

"Each of those three countries are managing their internal affairs in a way that makes that an extremely low possibility," he

"Each of those three countries are managing their internal affairs in a way that makes (Islamic extremist groups finding safe haven) an extremely low possibility."

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia creating an environment inhospitable to terrorism

said. He said Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia had created an environment that's inhospitable to terrorism.

After the meeting with the king, Rumsfeld was flying back to Washington.

Morocco was the final stop for Rumsfeld on a five-day trip that began in Sicily for a NATO defense ministers meeting and included his first visit to North Africa as President

Bush's defense secretary.

Rumsfeld came to North Africa to try to strengthen U.S. military ties to Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. All three are viewed by the Bush administration as important allies in the global fight against terrorism, not least because they have spoken out publicly against Islamic extremism and terrorism.

Morocco is the United States' oldest ally in North Africa. The relationship began with a treaty

# Afghan fighting kills U.S. soldiers

Death toll hits 214 since start of fighting

By DANIEL COONEY  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### KABUL, Afghanistan

A bomb killed four U.S. troops when it hit their armored vehicle Monday in a volatile mountainous region in Afghanistan, the deadliest loss for the U.S. military in the country in four months.

Officials also said five Afghan members of a U.S.-backed militia also were killed in a firefight in the southern province of Helmand.

The violence was a reminder of the dangers thousands of British, Canadian and Dutch troops will face when they take over from U.S. forces in southern Afghanistan by midyear.

The four American troops were patrolling with Afghan soldiers along a valley road in Uruzgan province's Dihrawud district, a hotbed of the insurgency, when they were attacked, U.S. military spokesman Lt. Mike Cody said.

Shortly after the blast, militants opened fire with guns and rocket-propelled grenades. The troops fought back and called in attack helicopters and fighter planes to pound the militants' positions, a military statement said.

The names of the troops were withheld pending notification of their families.

The bombing raised the death toll of U.S. personnel in the Afghan conflict to 214 since the U.S. invaded the country in late 2001. The blast was the biggest loss of life for the U.S. military since late September, when five troops were killed in a helicopter crash.

Violence spiked across southern and eastern Afghanistan last year as militants stepped up their campaign against the country's U.S.-backed government. Some 1,600 people, including 91 U.S. troops, were killed, more than double the number in 2004.

In addition, the past four months have seen a spate of more than 20 suicide bombings, raising fears of Iraq-style bloodshed.

Fighting in Afghanistan has not let up this winter, unlike in previous years.

Despite this, U.S. military commanders and President Hamid Karzai say they believe heavy rebel losses in recent battles have reduced the insurgents' ability to carry out major assaults, pointing to the spike in suicide attacks and roadside bombings as evidence.

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