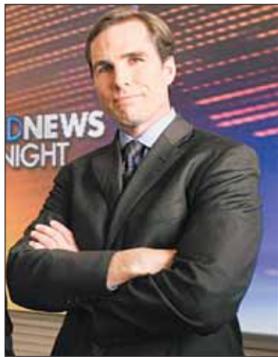


## THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM



News anchor Bob Woodruff, at ABC headquarters on Dec. 5., and a cameraman were injured Sunday in an explosion in Iraq. Their conditions have improved and they could be headed to the United States today.

## Injured journalist could be in U.S. today

### Newsmen were hurt by bomb

By DAVID BAUDER  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### NEW YORK

ABC News anchor Bob Woodruff, seriously hurt by a roadside bomb in Iraq, has shown signs of improvement and may be airlifted to the United States as soon as today, the network's news president said Monday.



A hospital official said body armor likely saved the journalist's life.

Cameraman Doug Vogt, also hurt in the explosion, is in better shape than Woodruff, but doctors were pleased with how both handled the transfer to a U.S. military base in Germany, said ABC News President David Westin.

"We have a long way to go," Westin said. "But it appears that we may have also come some distance from yesterday."

Vogt was filming a stand-up report with Woodruff and both were standing in the open hatch of an Iraqi military vehicle when the bomb went off. They underwent surgery in Iraq before being flown to Germany.

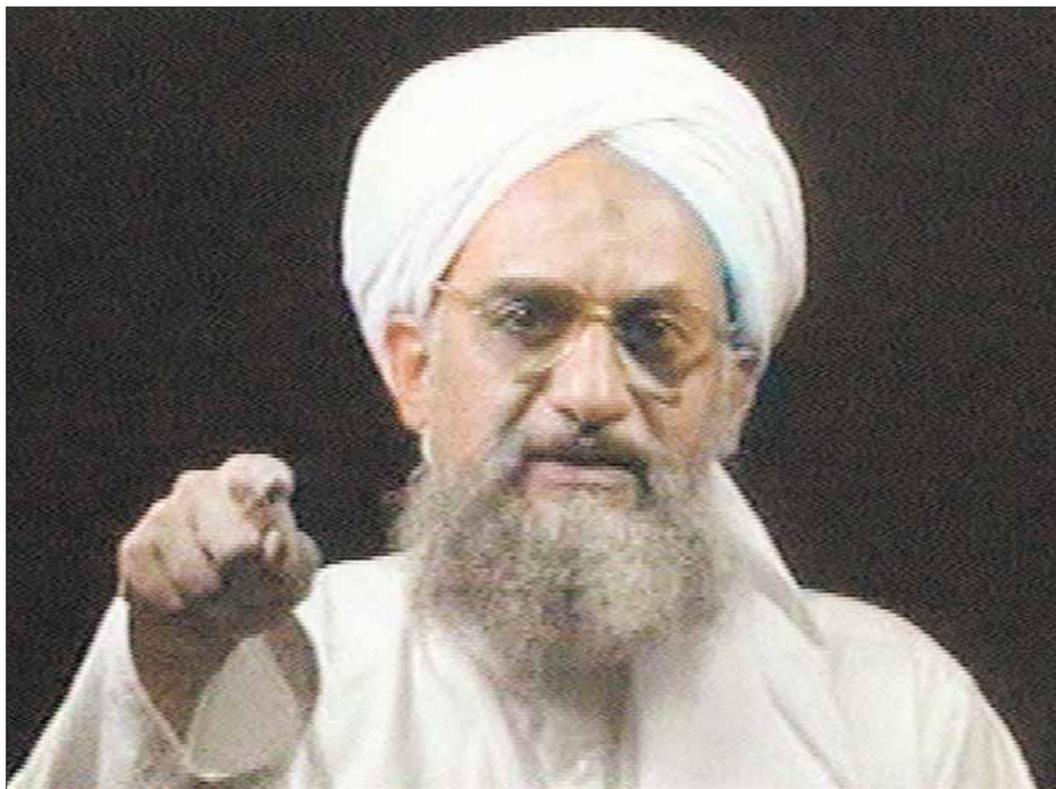
"They're both very seriously injured, but stable," said Col. Bryan Gamble, commander of the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in western Germany. He said both men were heavily sedated and under the care of the hospital's trauma team.

Woodruff, the new co-anchor of "World News Tonight," had serious head wounds and broken bones, and Vogt also suffered head injuries, ABC News said. The network said the men's wives were at the hospital and talking with doctors Monday.

Former "NBC Nightly News" anchor Tom Brokaw said Monday that he had spoken with Woodruff's wife, Lee.

"The doctors had told them once they arrived that the brain swelling had gone down. In Bob's case, that had been a big concern. Yesterday they had to operate and remove part of the skull cap to relieve some of the swelling," Brokaw said on NBC's "Today" show.

Woodruff and Vogt, an award-winning cameraman, were embedded with the 4th Infantry Division and traveling in a convoy with U.S. and Iraqi troops near Taji, about 12 miles north of Baghdad when the device exploded. An Iraqi soldier also was hurt.



In this image from television transmitted by the Arabic news network Al-Jazeera on Monday, Al-Qaida's top deputy leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri, gestures while addressing the camera. Al-Zawahiri threatened a new attack in the United States in the videotape.

# Bush called 'butcher' for Pakistan bombing

## Al-Qaida's No. 2 man threatens attack on United States

By NADIA ABU EL-MAGD  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### CAIRO, Egypt

In a new video aired Monday, al-Qaida's No. 2 Ayman al-Zawahiri mocked President Bush as a failure in the war on terror, called him a "butcher" for killing innocent Pakistanis in a miscarried airstrike and chastised the United States for rejecting Osama bin Laden's offer of a truce.

Al-Zawahiri, wearing white robes and a white turban and speaking in a forceful and angry voice, also threatened a new attack in the United States, "God willing, on your own land."

The video, broadcast on Al-Jazeera TV a day before Bush delivers his State of the Union address, provided the first concrete evidence that al-Zawahiri was still alive after the Jan. 13

airstrike in eastern Pakistan that targeted him but killed four other al-Qaida leaders and 13 villagers.

The message came on the heels of a Jan. 19 audiotape by bin Laden, the al-Qaida leader's first tape in more than a year.

Bin Laden said his followers were preparing an attack in the United States and offered the Americans a conditional truce, though he did not spell out terms.

A U.S. counterterrorism official, who spoke on condition of anonymity in compliance with office policy, said there is no reason to doubt the authenticity of the al-Zawahiri video, which U.S. intelligence officials were analyzing.

The counterterrorism official noted the video was disseminated quickly, demonstrating al-Zawahiri's ability to

get his message out even faster than bin Laden. That suggests the two are not hiding together and bin Laden may be in a more remote location than his deputy, the official said.

The Homeland Security Department had no immediate plans to raise the nation's terror threat levels because of the Zawahiri tape. "Not at this time," spokesman Russ Knocke said.

"The al-Qaida leader is clearly on the run and under a lot of pressure," White House press secretary Scott McClellan said in response to the video.

McClellan said the United States has brought many of the terrorist group's leaders to justice.

"We continue to take the threat seriously and continue to pursue all those who seek to do us harm."

#### WHAT ZAWAHIRI HAD TO SAY

**To Bush:** "Bush, do you know where I am? I am among the Muslim masses, enjoying God's blessing of their support, care, generosity and protection."

**To Americans:** "... to the American people, who are drowning in illusions. I tell you that Bush and his gang are shedding your blood and wasting your money in failed adventures."

**On Bush's actions:** "Bush, you are not only defeated and a liar, but, with God's help and might, a failure. You are a curse on your own nation and you have brought and will bring them only catastrophes and tragedies."

## Officials confirm Iraqi bird flu death

By YAHYA BARZANJI  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### RANIYA, Iraq

Battered by rampant violence and political instability, a new threat in Iraq was confirmed Monday, the first case of the deadly bird flu virus in the Middle East.

A 15-year-old Kurdish girl who died this month had the deadly H5N1 strain, Iraq and U.N. health officials said. The discovery prompted a large-scale slaughter of domestic birds in the northern area where the teen died as the World Health Organization formed an emergency team to try to contain the disease's spread.

"We regretfully announce that the first case of bird flu has appeared in Iraq," Iraqi Health Minister Abdel Mutalib Mohammed told reporters. "The results show infection with the deadly H5N1."

World Health Organization officials confirmed the finding, though it was not immediately clear how the girl, Shangen Abdul Qader, who died Jan. 17 in the northern Kurdish town of Raniya, contracted the disease.

Health teams cordoned off areas in and around Raniya on Monday and began Iraq's first bird slaughter as the government pleaded to the WHO to help pre-

vent a large-scale outbreak.

But there were fears they might be too late.

Health officials are investigating the death of the girl's uncle, Hamasour Mustapha, 50, on Friday after showing symptoms similar to bird flu. At least two other people have been admitted to a hospital in Sulaimaniyah, 160 miles north-east of Baghdad, with similar symptoms. Another 30 samples from northern Iraq are also being tested for bird flu.

WHO is readying an emergency team to carry out epidemiological tests and examine Iraqis exhibiting bird flu-like symptoms, spokesman Dick Thompson said.



An Iraqi villager follows his ducks Monday in Raniya, 217 miles north of Baghdad, Iraq. A case of bird flu was confirmed Monday by Iraqi and U.N. health officials.

# Clashes occur outside Baghdad

## Al-Jazeera video shows kidnapped U.S. reporter

By PAUL GARWOOD  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### BAGHDAD, Iraq

The U.S. journalist Jill Carroll, weeping and veiled, appeared on a new videotape aired Monday by Al-Jazeera, and the Arab television station said she appealed for the release of all Iraqi women prisoners. Elsewhere U.S. troops fought with insurgents west of Baghdad.



CARROLL

Carroll, 28, was crying and wore an Islamic veil as she spoke to the camera, sitting in front of a yellow and black tapestry. The Al-Jazeera newscaster said she appealed for U.S. and Iraqi authorities to free all women prisoners to help in winning her release.

The U.S. military released five Iraqi women Thursday and was believed to be holding about six more. It was unclear how many women were held by Iraqi authorities.

Carroll, a freelance reporter for the Christian Science Monitor, was seized Jan. 7 by the previously unknown Revenge Brigades, which threatened to kill her unless all women prisoners were released. Al-Jazeera did not report any deadline or threat to kill her Monday.

U.S. troops clashed throughout the day with insurgents west of Baghdad in Ramadi, capital of the insurgent-ridden Anbar province, and began when gunmen fired at least five rocket-propelled grenade rounds and rifles at U.S. Army soldiers, a military spokesman said.

"The soldiers returned fire and called in a jet nearby to attack the insurgents' position with their main gun," Marine Capt. Jeffrey S. Pool said.

Two insurgents were killed, but there were no U.S. casualties, he added.

## Saddam vows to boycott trial

The Associated Press

#### AMMAN, Jordan

Saddam Hussein and his lawyers will boycott the next session of the deposed leader's trial in Iraq to protest what they say is the bias of the new chief judge hearing the case, Saddam's chief lawyer said Monday.

"There is an unanimous decision by the defense team to not attend Wednesday's hearing because of the comedy we witnessed in yesterday's trial," Iraqi lawyer Khalil al-Dulaimi said as he arrived in Jordan from neighboring Iraq.

Chief judge Raouf Rasheed Abdel-Rahman cracked down Sunday in a chaotic trial session, ordering one of Saddam's co-defendants and a lawyer expelled from the courtroom. The entire defense team left in protest and Saddam was escorted out after a shouting match in which he yelled, "Down with America!"

Court officials said Abdel-Rahman acted within the law when he ordered Saddam, another defendant, and a defense lawyer out for insulting the court or arguing with him.

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#### VOLUME

Volume 43, No. 169

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The Daily Journal is an award-winning newspaper published daily except Sundays and Christmas at 2575 N. Morton St., Franklin, IN 46131.

Founded in 1963, the Daily Journal is owned by Home News Enterprises L.L.C. and is one of Indiana's most widely recognized and honored community newspapers.

The Daily Journal is committed to responsible reporting, professional business practices and dedicated community service.

The newspaper is a member of the Associated Press, Hoosier State Press Association, Inland Press Association and Certified Audit of Circulations.

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#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

P.O. Box 699  
Franklin, IN 46131  
letters@thejournalnet.com

#### MANAGEMENT TEAM

**Publisher**  
Jeffrey W. Owen 736-2744  
jowen@thejournalnet.com

#### Editor

Scarlett Syse 736-2749  
syse@thejournalnet.com

**Assistant managing editor**  
Michele Holtkamp-Frye 736-2774  
mholtkamp@thejournalnet.com

**Assistant managing editor**  
Jennifer L. Gaskin 736-2721  
jgaskin@thejournalnet.com

**Circulation director**  
Mike Warren 736-2711  
mwarren@thejournalnet.com

**Delivery manager**  
Bruce Powell 736-2702  
bpowell@thejournalnet.com

#### Advertising director

Christina Cosner 736-2750  
ccosner@thejournalnet.com

#### Administrative manager

Linda Wirey 736-2751  
lwirey@thejournalnet.com

#### Information technology manager

Kathy McDermott 736-2782  
kmcdermott@thejournalnet.com

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