

Chronology of Events in Iraq, January 2004*

January 1

Body of former Baath party academic found in Mosul. (Agence France Presse / AFP)

The bullet-riddled body of an academic affiliated to the deposed Ba'ath regime was found in the city of Mosul, a day after he was abducted from his home, police said. The body of Dr Abdul Jabbar Mustafa, dean of the political science faculty at Mosul University, was found in the Kafaat district of central Mosul. Police said Mustafa, who was abducted by unknown elements from his home, had not held a senior position in the Ba'ath party. The police, already investigating a series of similar murders in the city, had launched an inquiry into the latest death.

Three dead as ethnic violence rages in Kirkuk. (AFP)

Two Kurds were found stabbed to death in Kirkuk and an Arab was killed in clashes with police as ethnic tensions boiled over again in Kirkuk. The violence flared the day after three people were killed and dozens more wounded when clashes erupted between Kurdish fighters from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and Arab and Turkmen demonstrators in Kirkuk. "Unknown attackers stabbed two Kurds to death and threw their bodies near a bridge in the centre of the city," Kirkuk police chief Turhan Yusef said. A Sunni Arab man was killed and two others injured by security forces in the south of the city where armed Arabs and Turkmens were trying to attack Kurdish targets, police said.

High-ranking Kurdish military commander assassinated in Arbil. (Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party *Kurdistan Satellite TV*)

A number of armed persons opened fire at the deputy battalion commander in the Arbil Command of the Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), Shirwan Karim Sa'idi, and killed him.

January 2

Iraqi civilian dies in roadside bomb explosion. (Australian Broadcasting Corporation / ABC)

A roadside bomb has killed an Iraqi civilian near the northern city of Kirkuk.

* *Disclaimer: Reports contained in this document are selected from publicly available resources and edited by country experts. The information provided here is not, and does not purport to be, either exhaustive with regard to conditions in the country of origin surveyed, or conclusive as to the merits of any particular claim. Further information may be obtained from BO Ankara.*

January 3

Kurdish authorities arrest cell suspected behind Arbil attacks. (Iran-based radio station *Voice of the Mujahidin*)

The KDP authorities have announced that they arrested a cell suspected of carrying out a large number of acts of violence in Arbil recently, including a recent suicide attack against the Interior Ministry building in which five persons were killed and 101 others were wounded. Karim Sinjari, Minister of Interior in the cabinet affiliated with the KDP, said that the defendants admitted that they carried out a large number of attacks and assassinations targeted against several personalities. They also allegedly confessed to having drawn up a plan to assassinate officials working at official agencies. Security sources in Arbil said nothing about the identities of the persons arrested or about the parties that finance such attacks. An official at the Ministry of Interior said that the investigations under way revealed that there are cells working for the remnants of the defunct regime, not to mention "a group of fundamentalists", as he put it.

Two Iraqis killed, Jordanian wounded in Mosul car blast. (AFP)

Two Iraqis were killed and a Jordanian was wounded when their car exploded in the northern city of Mosul. "Two Iraqis were killed and a Jordanian, Ezzedine Ahmad Ibrahim, 25, was wounded when their car ... exploded in the city's eastern Ansar district," said the police.

Iraqi police chief in Tikrit says US troops killed family in car. (Qatari *Al-Jazeera* satellite TV)

Chief of the Iraqi police in the Tikrit area, who is investigating the killing of four Iraqis from the same family in their car, has said that soldiers from the US 4th Infantry Division opened fire at the car, which aroused their suspicions when it tried to overtake their military convoy along the road. The US forces have denied responsibility for the incident.

US forces raid Kurdish party offices in Kirkuk (Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty RFE/RL *Iraq Report*)

U.S. military officials reported that soldiers in the city of Kirkuk raided the offices of the two Kurdish political parties that play an important role in supporting U.S. transition efforts. They raided the offices of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) after receiving intelligence that those groups were violating restrictions on the possession of weapons. US military said soldiers found assault rifles, rocket-propelled grenades, and rockets in the KDP offices, where they arrested an unidentified senior party member. Assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades were found also in the nearby PUK headquarters.

January 4

Iraqi official shot dead in Basra. (*Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Radio*)

Zaki al-Khatib, head of the Municipal Council of the Abu al-Khasib district, Basra, was shot dead by unidentified persons who were riding in a civilian car.

British soldiers killed Iraqi prisoner. (UK newspaper *The Independent*)

Eight young Iraqis arrested in Basra were kicked and assaulted by British soldiers, one of them so badly that he died in British custody, according to military and medical records. Amnesty International has urged its members to protest directly to Tony Blair about the death of Baha Mousa, the son of an Iraqi police colonel, and to demand an impartial and independent investigation into the apparent torture of the Basra prisoners. A major at 33 Field Hospital outside the southern Iraqi city said that one of the survivors suffered "acute renal failure" after "he was assaulted ... and sustained severe bruising to his upper abdomen, right side of chest, left forearms and left upper inner thigh". British military authorities have offered Mr Mousa's relatives \$8,000 in compensation, providing they are not held responsible for his death, but the young hotel receptionist's family plans to take the Ministry of Defence to court. His body was returned to them, covered in bruises and with his nose broken, after he and seven colleagues were arrested by British forces in Basra in September 2003 and held in military custody for three days. A death certificate provided by the British Army states that Baha Mousa had died of "asphyxia". A restricted medical document from a British hospital says a surviving prisoner, Kifah Taha, suffered his injuries "due to a severe beating".

Iraqi Sunni leader says "thousands" of Sunnis "armed and ready". (Lebanese *LBC Sat TV*)

An Iraqi Sunni group, dubbed *Al-Fatah al-Mubin* [the decisive victory] movement - stating that it will become the army corresponding to the Shi'i Al-Mahdi Army in the Al-Sunni triangle - warned that it will resist the US occupation if things do not change and if Sunnis continue to be marginalized in Iraq. Shaykh Salih Muhammad al-Abdallah, vice-president of the movement, said that his movement includes thousands of volunteers, adding that the movement is armed and ready. He said more than 3,000 members belong to the movement, including members of the disbanded armed forces as well as other Iraqi citizens.

January 7

US kills two Iraqi civilians in Al-Fallujah. (Qatari *Al-Jazeera* satellite TV)

An Iraqi mother and father supporting five children were killed when a US tank opened fire towards their home on the outskirts of the city of Al-Fallujah. An eyewitness said the parents were killed after their home was hit by US tank fire. Reports said it seemed the US troops were retaliating to an earlier attack launched by armed men resisting the US occupation.

Kurdistan Socialist Party office attacked in Kirkuk. (Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party *Kurdistan Satellite TV*)

A number of armed persons attacked the headquarters of the Kurdistan Socialist Party in Kirkuk with RPGs and machine guns on the night of 6-7 January. One person was injured in the attack.

Displaced Kurds reportedly evicted by police, coalition forces. (Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party newspaper *Khabat*)

Qurya District Police jointly with the coalition forces in Kirkuk have been pouncing on the Kurds in Kirkuk a few times daily. They had been expelled from the city by the Ba'ath Party, and now they have returned and live on a minimum subsistence level and without any services in the Amn Mansur housing complex. The Qurya Police attacked the IDPs again and destroyed their household items and gave them 72 hours to leave Kirkuk.

January 8

Policemen and civilians killed, injured in insurgency attacks. (Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party *Kurdistan Satellite TV*)

A number of other armed persons opened fire on the security forces guarding Kirkuk oilfields. The attackers killed Captain Uthman Ahmad and wounded three other people.

In another incident, a number of unidentified assailants opened fire on a police check point, killing a policeman and a civilian on the main road between the administrative districts of Al-Hawijah and Bayji.

January 9

Insurgents attack police forces in Karbala. (Associated Press / AP)

Insurgents attacked Iraqi police forces in the city of Karbala, police officials said. One rocket-propelled grenade slammed into Hay al-Moalemeen police station, boring a hole in the wall but not penetrating the building.

Explosion near Shiite Muslim mosque kills up to five after Friday prayers in Baqouba. (AP)

An explosion ripped through a busy street as worshippers were streaming out of a Shiite Muslim mosque after midday prayers, killing up to five people and wounding dozens of others, doctors and officials said. A police investigator said officers defused a car bomb in front of another Shiite mosque two kilometers away, and that it appeared a coordinated attack. The police said faulty wiring prevented the bomb from going off. Several people said relations between Sunnis and Shiites are good and there is regular intermarriage.

January 10

Iraqi Ministry of Displacement and Migration formed. (RFE/RL *Iraq Report*)

Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) administrator L. Paul Bremer signed CPA Order Number 50 formally establishing the Iraqi Ministry of Displacement and Migration. Muhammad al-Atib will serve as interim minister. The ministry "shall be responsible for all matters pertaining to Iraqi refugees and displaced persons, including but not limited to matters associated with their

repatriation, relocation, resettlement, and reintegration," the order states. It will reportedly work closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration. The ministry will also be responsible for policies and programs relating to all non-Iraqi refugees residing in Iraq, including Palestinian refugees. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs was formally responsible for Palestinian refugees through its Palestinian Affairs Office, according to the order.

Six killed, 11 injured in armed clash between protesters and British and Iraqi security forces in Amarah. (AP)

British troops and Iraqi police fired at armed, stone-throwing protesters in Amarah, killing six people and wounding 11, according to witnesses and officials. A British military spokeswoman said shots were heard coming from among hundreds of protesters who had gathered in front of the office of the U.S.-led coalition to demand jobs, and that Iraqi police, thinking they were under attack, opened fire. At the same time there were "reports of small explosions in the crowd," said the spokeswoman. British soldiers moved in with armored vehicles to support the police, and assailants in the crowd lobbed three explosive devices at them, believed to be hand grenades, she said. The shootings appeared to sober the crowd, which then dispersed, the spokeswoman said. But some assailants returned in the afternoon and threw two explosive devices at the armored cars. Soldiers shot the man, and believe they wounded him. She said they had reports of five deaths and one person injured. Al-Zahrawi Surgical Hospital said six people were killed and they were treating 11 wounded protesters. There were no reports of casualties among the police, and the British spokeswoman said no soldiers were injured. The protesters were demanding that coalition authorities keep a promise to give unemployed people jobs by the beginning of January.

January 12

Diyala assistant governor escapes assassination attempt. (Lebanese LBC Sat TV)

It was reported that Aqil Hamid al-Adili, assistant to the governor of Diyala, escaped an assassination attempt in the city of Saysaban, which is located between Balduz and Kan'an. Al-Adili's convoy was attacked by RPG rockets. Al-Adili and his escorts escaped the assassination attempt.

January 13

Iraqi Kurdish Parties agree to unified administration. (RFE/RL Iraq Report)

Iraq's two main Kurdish parties, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), have reportedly reached an agreement to merge the administrations of their two regional governments in northern Iraq. The parties will now run the three northern provinces of Arbil, Dahuk, and Suleimaniya under a unified regional administration. Officials said that a few details still need to be worked out, including the assignment of ministerial posts and the establishment of a unified judiciary. The plan calls for a rotating Kurdish presidency,

which will first be chaired by the PUK. The new cabinet will consist of 14 ministries, six run by KDP officials, four by PUK officials, and four by officials from the Kurdistan Communist Party, the Islamic Union, the Turkomans, and the Assyrians.

U.S. troops kill child, driver in firing after roadside bomb claims soldier's life. (AP)

U.S. soldiers opened fire at a car in the Iraqi capital, killing the driver and a 10-year-old boy, moments after an Army vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb, relatives said.

Two policemen killed in northern Iraq. (AFP)

Unknown assailants driving in a taxi shot dead two policemen in Mosul, police and hospital staff said. Two men in a taxi opened fire on a pair of policemen in Tahrir district. One died instantly and the other was seriously wounded, said the police. Another Iraqi policeman was also killed when a man grabbed his gun and shot him and fled the scene, police said.

Former Iraqi Ba'th Party members hand over weapons to US forces. (Qatari Al-Jazeera satellite TV)

Former Ba'th Party members have handed over an amount of weapons to the US forces in the town of Tall-afar in the city of Mosul. The weapons which have been handed over to the US forces by some Ba'athists in the town of Tall-afar north of Mosul do not constitute a large amount, but this move could have implications, especially since this initiative has been taken by Ba'th Party supporters. They are considered the party responsible for leading the resistance against the occupation forces. Seven hundred weapons pieces have been handed over to the US forces, most of which are semi-automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenades which have been posing the greatest danger to US patrols and its military helicopters.

The Ba'thists who have begun to collaborate with the US forces are categorized as holding second, third and fourth positions in the ranks of the Ba'thist Command. Meanwhile, the commands of the first rank are totally denied assuming any position at the level of government or public institutions.

January 14

Suicide car bomb attack in Iraqi town kills three, injures 29. (AFP)

A suicide car bombing outside a police station in Baquba killed at least two people as well as the bomber and injured 29. The attack occurred at about 8:30 am when a green Toyota forced its way into a guarded street where the civil emergency police unit and municipal government offices are located.

Governing Council condemns revenge acts on former Ba'thists. (Voice of the Mujahidin)

The Governing Council has emphasized that it is opposed to any vindictive measures by individuals against members of the defunct Ba'ath Party. Governing Council Spokesman Hamid al-Kafa'i said the council denounces and condemns any individual violent measures against the Ba'th members. The spokesman said that those who carry out such actions should be brought to account in accordance with the law. He

explained that those who committed crimes during the previous regime should be questioned by the law, which will punish them. Al-Kafa'i said that the issue of de-Ba'athification does not mean acts of vengeance against former Ba'athists or encouraging acts of violence against them, but it is a civilized process that aims at cleaning all sectors of society and state from the ideas which the Ba'ath Party was based on.

January 15

3 killed as university bus runs over anti-tank mine near Tikrit. (AP)

An anti-tank mine planted along a road in this central Iraqi town destroyed a University of Tikrit bus that drove over it, killing two students and the driver while seriously injuring another person, the U.S. military said. The blast destroyed the front half of the university bus as it was travelling on bypass road west of Tikrit while returning students home.

January 16

Two policemen injured in attack in Mosul. (AFP)

Two Iraqi policemen were seriously injured in an attack in Mosul, a police officer said. Gunmen in an unmarked car fired on the men outside the home of General Hashem Ahmed al-Kutashi, a district police chief in Mosul.

One killed, five injured in Baghdad bomb blast. (AFP)

A 15-year-old boy was killed and five people injured when a bomb exploded on a busy street in central Baghdad as US soldiers and Iraqi police were trying to defuse it. Haidar Khodayr, 15, had been playing football in an abandoned lot with friends when people spotted a bomb hidden in a garbage bag on Haifa street. Five others were wounded, two of them seriously.

January 17

Iraqi women protest at Islamic Shari'ah law (London-based newspaper Al-Hayat)

A meeting of the Advisory Committee for Women's Affairs in Baghdad had turned into a protest against the introduction of the Shari'ah law. It was chaired by Iraqi Minister of Municipalities and Public Works Nisrin Barwari. "I was more hurt by the way in which the decision was taken rather than by its substance," Barwari said. According to Maysun al-Dalmuji, the chairwoman of the Independent Iraqi Women's Grouping and candidate to the post of under secretary at the Ministry of Culture, the Council's vote on the law was held "during a lunch break and did not last more than five minutes". "The law was approved by only 11 members of the 21 members of the Governing Council who were present," she added.

January 18

Twenty-three killed, 95 wounded in Baghdad suicide bombing. (AFP)

The death toll rose to 23 and the number of wounded to 95 in a suicide car bombing that ripped the front gate of the US headquarters in Baghdad, according to the US military and Iraqi hospitals. The US military spokesman identified the wounded in US hospitals as 22 Iraqi civilians, four US civilian contractors and two US soldiers.

Iraqi Shiites hold protest in Baghdad. (AP)

Tens of thousands of Shiite Muslims marched peacefully in Baghdad to demand an elected government, as U.S. and Iraqi officials prepared to seek the U.N. secretary-general Kofi Annan's endorsement of U.S. plans for transferring power in Iraq. Huge crowds of Shiites, estimated by reporters at up to 100,000, marched about five kilometers to the University of al-Mustansariyah, where a representative of Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani delivered a speech. Al-Sistani, the country's most influential Shiite leader, has rejected a U.S. formula for power transfer through a provisional legislature selected by 18 regional caucuses, insisting on direct elections instead.

Iraqis protest in Al-Amarah to back snap election calls. (Qatari Al-Jazeera satellite TV)

Hundreds of residents of Al-Majarr al-Kabir, south of Al-Amarah, demonstrated in support of Grand Ayatollah Al-Sistani who called for holding general elections to form a transitional national council in the country. The demonstrators, who represent the Iraqi political spectrum and the various religious authorities, threatened to resort to violence against the coalition forces in the event that Al-Sistani's demands were not met.

UK officers confirm killing of Iraqi liquor sellers in Basra. (Egyptian news agency MENA)

A cleric denounced liquor trade and all the harms and disgrace it brings to the society. These remarks came at a time when killings of liquor sellers occurred in Basra. Shaykh Abu-Salam, the official in charge of the Martyr Al-Sadr office, said "in Islam, continued selling of liquor after advice necessitates killing", adding his followers, however, do not kill persons selling liquor because they know this is against the Iraqi law. British officers and Basra police officials affirmed the killings but did not mention specific numbers.

Iraqi professor killed. (US newspaper *Los Angeles Times*)

Abdul Latif Mayah was gunned down only 12 hours after advocating direct elections on an Arab television talk show. Mayah was the fourth professor from Baghdad's Mustansiriya University to be killed in the last eight months, his death the latest in a series of academic slayings in post-Hussein Iraq. "After the assassination of Dr. Abdul Latif, we feel that all of us are targeted," said Ahmed Arrawi, a colleague of Mayah. He said he and other academics would think twice before making controversial statements. Mayah was a longtime pro-democracy activist who had been jailed by Saddam Hussain after calling for elections in 1996. He had received anonymous death threats for several weeks, friends and family said, and began traveling with a

bodyguard. As he drove to work Monday, his Mitsubishi sedan was stopped by unidentified men.ayah, the bodyguard and a colleague were ordered out of the vehicle. The gunmen opened fire only onayah, and he died at the scene. One local media report said he was shot 32 times. In calling for quick elections,ayah was opposing the United States, which has proposed a caucus system to choose the country's new leaders.ayah, a Shiite and a former low-level member of Hussain's Baath Party, "was supporting Sistani," said Jabber Habib, a political scientist at Baghdad University. "Had he not supported Sistani, he would have been killed by the other side."

January 20

Dozens of Iraqi women demonstrate in Baghdad against threat to their rights. (AFP)

Dozens of Iraqi feminists urged chief US administrator Paul Bremer not to ratify a Governing Council decision to turn the clock back on their rights and repeal long-standing secular family laws. Demonstrators from seven women's rights groups gathered in Baghdad's Firdos Square to denounce last month's decision under a huge banner proclaiming "together for equality and respect". After an earlier demonstration on January 13, the current chairman of the Governing Council, Adnan Pachachi, promised to review the matter.

Iraqi group deplores "terrorist acts"; supports Al-Sistani's call for elections. (Lebanese LBC Sat TV)

General Command of the National Army for the Liberation of Iraq has deplored what it described as "terrorist acts", the latest of which was the explosion that took place in Karradat Maryam area in Baghdad, that targeted the state, including the Jordanian Embassy, UN headquarters, police stations, residential compounds and places of worship. The statement added that the National Army for the Liberation of Iraq did not oppose Al-Sayyid al-Sistani's call for holding elections to choose a transitional government, but not under the current security and administrative situation.

Committee to settle property conflicts formed (Iraqi newspaper Al-Mada)

Governing Council has set up a commission to settle disputes over property resulting from the former regime's indiscriminate seizure of real estate belonging to the citizens.

Residence permits for some Arab residents issued. (Iraqi newspaper Al-Sa'ah)

It was reported that the Ministry of Expatriates as saying that the Citizenship and Civil Status Directorate has issued temporary six-month residence permits to 15,000 Arab residents.

Professional killed in al-Qurnah. (Iraqi newspaper Al-Shira)

It was reported that unknown persons assassinated Iraqi aviation expert Engineer Majid Hannun while on his way to work in Al-Qurnah Airport.

Babil University students complain of threats. (Iraqi newspaper *Al-Mu'tamar*)

Babil University students complain that party politics in the university campus have become unbearable and that the university vice-president had to resign owing to threats. They also complain that threats reached the Faculty of Fine Arts from a religious committee in the university.

Assyrian language to be introduced in schools. (Iraqi newspaper *Al-Shira*)

Education Ministry decided to introduce the Assyrian language in schools as of the scholastic year 2004-2005.

UNHCR agrees with Iraq on relocation of Palestinians in Iraq. (Iraqi newspaper *Al-Shira*)

Iraq and UNHCR reached an agreement under which UNHCR will rent buildings to resettle Palestinian families. Iraqi officials say that Iraq has so far received 600,000 dollars to resettle 158 out of the 410 families that were forced to vacate their homes.

January 21

Iraqi Kurdish women demonstrate against threat to their rights. (AFP)

Thousands of Kurdish women marched in Suleimaniyah against an interim Governing Council decision to repeal long-standing secular family laws. At the same time, about 500 veiled women gathered in the Shiite Muslim holy city of Najaf to support the decision. Some 5,000 women marched in the city of Suleimaniyah, said organisers from the Kurdistan Women's Union, affiliated to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

Shiites march in Baghdad to demand execution of Saddam. (AP)

Shiite Muslims marched through Baghdad for a second day, this time demanding the execution of Saddam Hussain. Five thousand people joined the march that wound its way from Sadr City to Firdous Square, the central plaza where Saddam's statue was pulled down April 9, marking the end of the Baathist regime.

January 22

Two Iraqi policemen, civilian killed in ambush. (AFP)

Two Iraqi policemen and a civilian were killed by assailants who ambushed a patrol north of the town of Fallujah, police said. "Unknown attackers in a car fired at a police patrol vehicle, killing Lieutenant Hakam Hilmi instantly and 2nd Lieutenant Ibrahim Khaled," police said. Three other policemen travelling in the convoy were wounded in a blaze of gunfire, he added. "A civilian whose identity is not yet known was also killed when gunfire hit his car as it came down the road at the time of the attack," police said, adding that the attackers escaped.

Iraqi Communist Party HQ bombed. (Qatari *Al-Jazeera* satellite TV)

Two Iraqi Communist Party members were killed in a bomb explosion. The bomb was remotely detonated at the entrance to the party's headquarters in the Baghdad Al-Jadidah area in the Iraqi capital. The explosion caused grave damage to the building.

January 23

Assailants kill 4 Iraqi women working for U.S. (US newspaper *The Washington Post*)

The shooting deaths of four Iraqi women, who were being driven to their jobs as cleaners at a U.S. military base, have heightened official concerns about attacks against Iraqis who cooperate with or are employed by U.S.-led occupation forces. The incident happened near the city of Fallujah, in which gunmen followed a van carrying nine women to work and opened fire. The women were said to be Armenian or Assyrian Christians from Baghdad.

Iraqi women protest decision to introduce Shar'iah into family law. (United Arab Emirates *Abu Dhabi TV*)

Iraqi women have staged mass demonstrations in all Iraqi governorates, from the north to the south, in protest against decision No 137 issued by the interim Iraqi Governing Council [IGC], which stipulates the implementation of Islamic law in civil status affairs, contrary to the previous law. The demonstrators considered the decision as unfair to women, claiming that it consecrates sectarianism and division inside Iraqi families.

January 24

Four killed, four wounded in Samarra truck bomb attack. (AFP)

Four people were killed and four wounded when a truck bomb exploded outside a courthouse in the Iraqi city of Samarra, a local official said. An Iraqi official said the target might have been members of the city council who were to meet at the same time in a nearby building and US forces said they are stepping up security around the council.

Policeman killed, another wounded in Mosul attack. (AFP)

An Iraqi police officer was killed and another wounded when their patrol pick-up truck came under attack in the city of Mosul, local police said. Unknown gunmen fired from a car at police driving in a pick-up truck in the al-Wahda district at 11:30

am. "The police shot back. One policeman was killed and a sergeant was wounded. We think the two attackers were also hurt," police said.

Iraqi informer's family is marked for death. (UK newspaper *The Guardian*)

The families at the top of Saddam's powerful abu-Nasir tribe, who still swear allegiance to the dictator, have promised to exact revenge on the Zaidans, the family of Nawaf al-Zaidan, who informed U.S. soldiers in July 2003 that he had been sheltering Uday and Qusay, the two sons of Saddam Hussain. His four brothers, Sabah, Salah, Wadhah and Moeyd, have now disappeared from Mosul and have sought shelter in the Kurdish town of Arbil.

Displaced Kurdish families to return to Kirkuk, says Kurdish official. (Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party *Kurdistan Satellite TV*)

Kirkuk Administrative Council member Dr Kamal Kirkuki said that a decision had been taken to return all the Kurds, who have been forcibly expelled from their homes of Kirkuk. The Arabs, who were settled in their place by the former regime due to the the Arabization policy, would return to their original areas. Both sides would be compensated for the loss and harm they suffered.

January 25

Police officer shot dead in Samawah. (Kyodo News)

An Iraqi police officer was shot dead while driving a car in the city of Samawah where an advance team of Japanese ground troops is deployed. Residents who witnessed the shooting said that around 2:45 p.m. Saturday a passenger car approached a small truck, which was on its way to a police station, on a road in the northern part of the city. Three men in the car fired automatic rifles at the police officer in the driver's seat.

Roadside bomb kills Iraqi; taxi driver shot dead in Kirkuk. (Qatari *Al-Jazeera* satellite TV)

An Iraqi police officer and a taxi driver were killed and others were injured in two separate incidents in the Kirkuk. The officer was killed by a roadside bomb on the Kirkuk-Dibis road and the driver was killed when US forces opened fire at him as he tried to overtake a US military convoy in Kirkuk.

Six Iraqi policemen killed in two attacks. (Qatari *Al-Jazeera* satellite TV)

Six Iraqi policemen were killed and others were wounded in two separate attacks with rockets and machine guns. The attacks targeted the Al-Jazeera police station, north of Al-Ramadi, and a checkpoint manned by Iraqi police at the eastern entrance of the city.

January 26

Two Iraqis killed, two injured in Baghdad explosion. (AFP)

Two Iraqis were killed and two injured when an improvised bomb exploded on a busy highway in Baghdad, an Iraqi civil defence officer said. The bomb detonated next to a minibus in the southern Dura area of the city, killing a passenger who was stepping down from the vehicle and one more on board, said Iraqi Civil Defence Corps officer Mustafa Tarek. Another passenger and the bus driver were also injured in the blast at 11:00 am.

January 27

Blast in Khaldiya kills at least three American troops, Iraqi civilian. (Arab news site *Al-Bawaba News*)

A huge blast near Khaldiya has killed at least three American troops and one Iraqi civilian, the U.S. military said. A roadside bomb went off close to a passing U.S. military convoy west of Baghdad, and a second bomb exploded when reinforcements arrived, damaging vehicles and inflicting several casualties, witnesses said. An eyewitness said he saw a U.S. military vehicle on fire after the first explosion. As more American forces came to the site of the attack, another bomb went off, setting fire to another vehicle, he added. In response, the US troops fired randomly, he said, and claimed that many Iraqis were killed.

Arab tribes rally against Kirkuk's inclusion in Kurdish region. (AFP)

Some 250 Arab tribal chiefs marched through Kirkuk to oppose Kurdish demands for the city to be included in an expanded Kurdish autonomous region. The lunchtime demonstration grouped together leaders from the region's main Arab tribes - the al-Jubbur, Shammar, al-Obeid, al-Bayati and al-Saadun. "We are here today to say we are against federalism and that Kirkuk is an Arab town," said one of the organisers, Aggar Jabbar al-Sumaydai, a Arab member of the province's US-appointed interim leadership.

Policeman, assailant killed in attack on police station in Haditha. (AFP)

An Iraqi policeman and an assailant were killed in an attack on a police station in Haditha. It was reported that four armed men stormed the station at around 3:30 pm to free a relative detained there. The attack resulted in a shootout during which one of the attackers, named Awad Ibrahim, was killed and another wounded. Policeman Falah Hassan Hrat was also killed.

Two CNN employees killed in Iraq ambush. (Qatari *Al-Jazeera* satellite TV)

It was reported that two of CNN employees in Iraq were killed and a cameraman was wounded in an ambush. It explained that a driver and a translator who were on their way back to Baghdad from southern Iraq were killed when a convoy of cars in which they were riding came under fire.

Iraqi Governing Council issues law to form court for Saddam trial (Kuwaiti news agency Kuna)

Iraqi Justice Minister Dr Hashim al-Shibli announced the issuance of a law on the formation of a court to try the deposed Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and other former Iraqi officials. The Iraq Governing Council (IGC), the minister said, was currently working on forming the legal boards, public prosecution and other legal assistants for the court.

January 28

At least four killed in Baghdad blast. (AP)

A car bomb exploded in front of a hotel used by Westerners in central Baghdad, partially destroying the three-story building and killing at least four people, officials said. Three burned out cars were seen in front of the Shaheen hotel, only their metal skeletons remaining. The U.S. military command and Karadah police chief said three Iraqis were killed. At least 17 people were admitted to four hospitals.

Constitutional Monarchy Movement HQ in Mosul attacked by gunmen. (Iranian Arabic language television news channel *Al-Alam*)

It was reported that the headquarters of Sharif Ali Bin-al-Husayn, chairman of the Iraqi Constitutional Monarchy Movement, in Mosul had come under attack by unknown gunmen, one of whom is thought to be employed at Sharif Ali Bin-al-Husayn's headquarters. Two people were wounded in the attack and were taken to hospital.

January 29

One Iraqi killed, 11 wounded in two attacks. (Al-Bawaba News)

In one incident, a member of the Iraqi Civil Defence Corps (ICDC) died and another was injured in an attack near Kirkuk. According to ICDC, unknown assailants fired rocket-propelled grenades at a checkpoint in the village of Al-Muradiyah, 83 kilometres south of Kirkuk at 6:30 am.

Shi'i leader Al-Sadr given 48 hour to release prisoners. (Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party *Kurdistan Satellite TV*)

Iraqi Governing Council [IGC], after a meeting attended by the Iraqi Interior Minister Nuri Badran, set up a committee of three members as well as a representative from the Interior Ministry. The committee has given Muqtada Al-Sadr a 48-hour deadline to dismantle their court and prison and to release their prisoners.

Decision to repeal Iraqi Personal Status Law put on hold. (Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan *KurdSat TV*)

After widespread dissatisfaction expressed by the Iraqi women organizations against the Iraqi Governing Council Decision 137, which abolished the Personal Status Law, and the support for women's rights from some Iraqi Governing Council members, a number of political parties and religious scholars, it was announced in Baghdad, a month after Decision 137 was issued, that the decision had been put on hold. The source noted that a new decision to annul Decision 137 would not be issued.

However, Decision 137 would not be implemented in line with some guidelines that would be issued by the Ministry of Justice.

At least 10 wounded in blast in Baquba. (Reuters)

An explosion hit an Iraqi security patrol in the town of Baquba wounding at least 10 people, two of them seriously, local police and doctors said. The blast struck members of the Iraqi Civil Defence Force as they were conducting an early morning patrol through the town. Police at the scene said the blast appeared to have been caused by an explosive device detonated remotely as the patrol was passing. Doctors at a nearby hospital said 10 people had been admitted, two of them with serious injuries.

January 30

Gunmen kill three Free Iraqi Army members in Mosul. (Qatari *Al-Jazeera* satellite TV)

Three members of the Free Iraqi Army were killed and a fourth was wounded in Mosul. Army sources said unidentified gunmen opened fire on the soldiers while they were heading towards the US forces command headquarters in the Al-Arabi neighbourhood in the city.

January 31

Car bomb attack in Mosul kills nine. (Reuters)

A car bomb exploded outside a police station in the northern Iraq city of Mosul, killing at least nine people and wounding 44, police and hospital officials said. A suspected car bomb detonated in or near an Iraq Civil Defence Corps and Iraqi police facility in Mosul at approximately 11:00.

Blasts in Baghdad neighborhood kills six. (Chinese Xinhua News Agency)

A series of explosions rocked a crowded Baghdad neighborhood of Baladiyyat at night just on the eve of *Eid al-Adha*, or Feast of the Sacrifice, a major Muslim festival, killing six people, witnesses and hospital source said. Local witnesses said that the blasts were made by mortar attack and at least six people were killed and some 15 people were wounded in the blasts. It was reported that the blasts hit the Baladiyyat neighborhood where more than 1,300 Palestinian refugee families live.

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Country of Origin Information Team
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