

Chronology of Events in Iraq, April 2003*

April 1

Saddam's Fedayeen put on the front line to prevent desertion. (Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party newspaper *Brayati*)

After the surrender of a large number of officers and soldiers on the front-line areas to peshmarga forces, Iraqi authorities brought a large number of party and military officials to the front-lines to prevent soldiers from escaping to Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq. They have organized death squads to execute those whom they suspect of planning to desert. In another step, the regime has brought Fedayee Saddam and placed them at front lines in confrontation areas. It was reported that, after withdrawing from Arbil plain towards Pirde (Altun Kopri), the regime brought a considerable number of Fedayee Saddam to the area. The source added that the forces of Fedayee Saddam had been authorized to kill any soldier who tries to escape to Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq.

Iraqi forces shell areas under Kurdish control. (Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party newspaper *Brayati*)

After Iraqi forces pulled out of Bardarash heights, the peshmerga moved towards those positions to observe the withdrawal process and check the evacuated hilltops and positions of the government military. Government forces shelled with artillery and mortar both Bardarash villages, hitting and damaging the Kurdistan School in Azadi District and a number of citizens' houses in the township. There were no casualties among the civilians.

Civilians forcibly recruited in Mosul. (Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party newspaper *Brayati*)

It was reported that the Iraqi government has forced every family in Mosul city to fill 80 sacks with earth to build mounds. The government forces has taken by force one member of each family in Dubardan village on behalf of the Quds Army and are taking them to the battlefronts.

April 2

Mosul governor, Ba'th Party official reportedly go into hiding. (Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party newspaper *Brayati*)

The government departments in Mosul are closed. Both the governor of the city and the ruling party chief go into hiding in a different district each night.

* *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.*

Iraqi Kurdish security authority questions Ansar combatants' families. (Iraqi Kurdish newspaper *Hawlati*)

After the peshmargas of Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and its allies gained control over the areas of Biyarah and Hawraman, the families of the armed Islamists returned to the town Halabjah. PUK security at Pebaz has started to question the families and relatives of the combatants. The questioning comes after the PUK regional government declared amnesty to the combatants of Ansar al-Islam (Supporters of Islam in Kurdistan, SIK) before the start of the recent attack against them. The questioning is held also with members of the Islamic Group (Komal-e Islami) and the Islamic Movement in Kurdistan (IMIK).

Around 140 officers and men defect to Kurdish region. (Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party newspaper *Brayati*)

It was reported that the Iraqi regime withdrew its military forces from Awena boundaries towards Qarachogh area and left a quantity of munitions behind. The regime also withdrew its forces from Kalak boundaries towards Khazir and from Girchbar. The high street of Fayidah and the areas surrounding it were also subjected to intensive bombardment. The regime's officers and soldiers on a daily basis attempt to save themselves by reaching Iraqi Kurdistan. It was reported that on 23 March and 2 April 2003, 132 soldiers and high-ranking officers within the Iraqi army surrendered to the KDP Peshmerga Forces.

April 3

More than 4,000 people arrives in Kurdish region from government areas. (Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party newspaper *Brayati*)

The committee for the reception of people displaced from government-controlled areas in Khabat Administrative District stated that they received 195 families in March, totalling 1,254 people; including 291 people from Baghdad, Kirkuk and other towns. The rest are the entire population of Lajan, who evacuated their village. According to this statement, if these people have relatives in northern Iraq, they are free to choose where they want to stay. If not, they are helped by the committee and sent to Soran camp, which has been established for them by the KDP regional government. The committee's Qushtapah branch received 2,675 people, who have also been resettled.

U.S. army moves into Najaf. (Reuters)

After battling pro-Baghdad loyalists, U.S. troops have moved into the centre of Iraq's holy city of Najaf, allegedly bolstered by an edict from a top local Shi'ite Muslim leader Ayatollah Sistani urging people not to interfere with them.

Security forces reportedly deployed in Baghdad to prevent defections. (Kuwaiti news agency Kuna)

Special security members were widely deployed in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, at the "Zayunah" suburb in particular, where senior army officers and intelligence members reside. It was reported that these security forces are monitoring current moves by senior officers to prevent their escape from Iraq or their seeking help from the

coalition forces attacking the country. A number of senior officers were reportedly arrested after attempting to escape collectively from the capital to neighbouring countries.

April 4

Iraqi northern forces retreat towards Mosul. (Reuters)

U.S. air strikes and Kurdish Peshmerga militia are forcing Iraqi troops to pull back along the road towards the city of Mosul, after 24 hours of heavy bombing. The retreat from the strategic village of Kalak, overlooking two bridges connecting Arbil, main city in the Kurdish-ruled zone, with Mosul, began on the night of April 2-3, when Iraqi troops pulled back around seven km, after around 10 days of sustained bombing.

April 5

U.S. soldiers, tanks enter Iraqi capital. (CNN)

U.S. soldiers and tanks are operating inside Baghdad, 17 days after the war in Iraq began, US Army sources said. Huge explosions and multiple flashes of light were heard and seen over mostly blacked-out Baghdad, hours after thousands of Iraqis fled the capital. Much of the fighting on the ground centered around Baghdad's international airport, secured by coalition troops a day earlier in a bloody assault that left hundreds of Iraqi soldiers dead. Pentagon officials said it was difficult to shut down Iraqi state television because "it has a very redundant system, starting with fixed sites, to include mobile vans that it uses to put out its signal."

Street by street fighting in Kerbala. (Reuters)

U.S. army troops are fighting street by street battles with Iraqi paramilitaries in the central city of Kerbala in an attack aimed at protecting the backs of U.S. forces moving into Baghdad. Iraqi fighters took up positions on rooftops in the narrow streets of this city and opened fire with rocket propelled grenades and assault rifles. U.S. planes and troops hit back with laser-guided bombs, artillery and heavy arms fire.

U.S. troops capture headquarters of Republican Guard division. (Associated Press / AP)

U.S. Army soldiers captured the headquarters of the Republican Guard's Medina Division in Suwayrah town about 50 kilometers southeast of Baghdad. Two tank companies and an infantry company of the 3rd Infantry Division rolled through the headquarters unopposed and quickly took over the entire base. It appeared that the Republican Guard defenses had completely collapsed.

April 6

US pushes Iraqi opposition group out of Amara. (Reuters)

A local militia opposed to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein took control of the southeastern city of Amara but a CIA officer told them to withdraw under threat of bombing, opposition officials said. The militia of several thousand armed men, led by a man by the name of Abu Hatem Mohammed Ali, captured the headquarters of the governorate, without support from U.S. forces, opposition leader Kanan Makiya reported. He described Abu Hatem as a well-known guerrilla leader, a longtime contact of the opposition Iraqi National Congress (INC) and a man known to the Pentagon. "He was then told by a CIA officer that he had to vacate that city ... He was threatened with bombing and strafing of the building, the compound he took over, so he decided it would be better to be wise and he did withdraw in fact," he added. An INC official in the Gulf said there had been a problem coordinating with the U.S. units in the field and with the INC leadership, which moved to the southern town of Nassiriya under leader Ahmad Chalabi.

Fighting causes evacuation of Syrian Red Crescent camp. (International Federation of Red Cross / IFRC)

A camp established by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) to accommodate people fleeing Iraq was evacuated because of the threat to security caused by continued fighting on the other side of the border with Iraq. The Al-Bukamal camp is located only a few hundred metres from the border, along the Euphrates River. Seven foreign workers who had been sheltered in the camp for the past five days had to leave the site in a bus chartered by the International Organisation for Migrations (IOM).

One hundred Iraqi troops reportedly surrender to Kurdish forces. (Iranian news agency IRNA)

One hundred of Iraqi soldiers have surrendered to the Kurdish forces during a conflict in northern Iraq. It was reported that the Iraqi forces, including two commanders, 46 soldiers, 45 NCOs and seven high-ranking officers, have yielded to the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) forces in frontier of Pir Dawud region near Arbil and Mosul. It was also reported that the Zorgezraw, Pir Dawud, Shaykh Shirwan and Herveh regions are currently under the control of KDP forces.

UNHCR protests reported Jordanian deportation of Iraqis back to Iraq. (AP)

The U.N. refugee agency protested the reported forced return of 27 Iraqis from Jordan to Iraqi soil, saying no one should ever be deported to a country at war. The report did not specify the reasons for the deportations several days ago across the desert border between Jordan and Iraq, said Peter Kessler, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. "Even if they've broken a law, no one should be returned to Iraq at this time," he said. Any lawbreaker should be detained in Jordan until security is restored to Iraq, he said. An estimated 350,000 Iraqi exiles live in Jordan, most having arrived since the 1990-91 Gulf War, most of those illegally. Some had been persecuted by the Iraqi government, and others were seeking to escape the hardships under U.N. economic sanctions imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Kessler, at a daily U.N. news briefing, also expressed concern about Jordanian delays in processing claims for political asylum made by more than 20

people, all or almost all believed to be Palestinians, who have been kept in the "no man's land" between Iraqi and Jordanian border posts after fleeing Iraq. He said some have been in an unsuitable makeshift camp in the border zone for up to five days.

April 7

Coalition forces enter Baghdad. (Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty RFE/RL Iraq Report)

U.S.-led forces have entered central Baghdad, securing one presidential palace and entering at least one other. "We have seized the main presidential palace in downtown Baghdad.... There are two palaces down there and we are in both of them," a U.S. military spokesperson said. Other reports indicate that Iraqi forces are blocking many Tigris bridges and defending key ministries with rocket-propelled grenades.

Basra descends into chaotic scenes of lawlessness. (Agence France-Presse / AFP)

Basra descended into chaotic scenes of lawlessness, with crowds of men and women taking out their anger at years of neglect by Saddam Hussein's regime by looting the southern Iraqi city. The university, ministry buildings, official offices and houses of members of the ruling Baath party all became fair game for thousands of residents, who started looting once British tanks had entered the city. The vacuum of authority created by the troops' arrival was total and nothing in the city of two million people was sacred.

Iraqi opposition force in Southern Iraq. (BBC)

US forces have begun to airlift Iraqi opposition fighters into southern Iraq. The deployment will move about 1,000 men to a base in southern Iraq controlled by coalition forces. The force is under the control of the Iraqi National Congress and its leader, Ahmed Chalabi, who will accompany his troops into Iraq. Its stated aims are: "To assist liaison between coalition forces and leaders of the Shia Muslim population in southern Iraq; to help coalition forces in the area clear remaining resistance from militias loyal to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, and restore security." The fighters were volunteers "from all over", including expatriates arriving from the United States.

Iran says Iraq-based armed opposition defecting in face of US-led occupation of Iraq. (AFP).

Scores of militants from Iran's Iraq-based armed opposition have allegedly defected and returned home in the face of the US-led onslaught of their Baghdad backers, Intelligence Minister Ali Yunesi said. British and US troops have yet to overrun any of the People's Mujahedeen's (PMOI) Iraqi bases, Yunesi said, but Iranian border forces had already received a flood of "repentant" militants from the group which is reviled by both Iran and the Iraqi opposition for fighting alongside the Baghdad regime in the past. "For instance recently around a hundred members of the group handed themselves over to the Islamic Republic authorities." Yunesi promised that the regime would not press criminal charges against repentant opposition members, although they would have to respond to any civil suits. They "can enter Iran without fear, but if they have civil cases, they will have to settle them," he said.

U.K. reportedly offering amnesty to Iraqi General. (RFE/RL Newswire)

The British government has reportedly offered amnesty to an imprisoned Iraqi brigadier general who provided British forces with key information about the Hussein regime. The officer, described as the most senior Iraqi officer in southern Iraq, asked British forces to rescue his family, which was in hiding from Iraqi Ba'ath Party forces in Al-Basrah. The general reportedly provided British forces with numbers and positions of regular Iraqi Army troops, as well as Ba'ath Party activities in Al-Basrah. He also told the British that he defied a Ba'ath Party order to push his troops south at the beginning of the conflict and took them into Al-Basrah instead in an attempt to protect them.

April 8

Iran helps Coalition forces to wipe out Ansar al-Islam from Northern Iraq. (AFP)

US forces have wiped out an Islamist in northern Iraq with help from their Kurdish allies -- but also their Iranian foes who have sealed off the Islamist militants' only exit. US special forces set out from Halebja in Iraqi Kurdistan with Kurdish fighters to track down militants of the Ansar al-Islam (SIK) group who might have survived the bombing and the onslaught on their stronghold. The US forces kept mum on the location of their hunting ground, but a Kurdish official said it was a mountainous region on the border with Iran because "they have nowhere else to go" after the Islamic Republic "closed its border." All the villages along the wide road leading to the Iranian pass have been "cleaned up," he said. US missiles demolished blockhouses previously used by Ansar al-Islam (SIK), to keep Kurdish forces at bay. Caves that could be used as hideouts were inspected and emptied, and Ansar's headquarters were painted with the colors of the PUK. Among those said to be at large are the two leaders of the group, Abdullah Aishafey and Tahseen Ali Abdulaziz, hiding with followers in the mountains.

Kurdish men killed in Mosul and Kirkuk by the Ba'ath militia. (Kurdistan Democratic Party TV Station Kurdistan Satellite Television KurdSat)

It was reported that several Kurdish citizens in Mosul and Kirkuk have been shot in recent days. It was reported that an armed murder squad led by police officer Wadi and the head of Guwer Administrative Subdistrict look for Kurdish citizens, arrest them, and lead them to an unknown fate.

Iraqi Kurdish forces to protect possessions of Arabs in Kurdish villages. (Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party newspaper *Brayati*)

After peshmerga forces and the coalition forces advanced towards the areas that were previously government control, most of the Arabized villages and areas have come under the control of ruling Kurdish parties. The people who have been expelled from these areas returned to their villages. The people of Kaprana, Kharand, Abu-Shiba, Abu-Jardah, Gamesh Tepe and Tarash villages have returned to their villages. Arabs in the area have been evicted. They left behind their possessions behind. In order to protect these possessions, a committee of the Peshmerga Forces was set up to look after the possessions in the evicted areas.

Iranian armed opposition group said to be patrolling Iraqi town. (Iranian newspaper *Jomhuri-ye Eslami*)

Reports from the town of Mandali in Iraq state that the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (PMOI) is moving about in the town and carrying out patrols using military vehicles and carrying weapons, and that they are also helping Iraq's border guards.

April 9

Looting breaks out in Baghdad as vestiges of government authority collapse. (AP)

Widespread looting broke out in several parts of Baghdad as vestiges of government authority appeared to have collapsed. Crowds of Iraqis made off with items ranging from jeeps to computers and furniture from military installations, government buildings and research institutions. Gangs of youths roamed the streets and there was little sign of the army, police, the ruling Baath party or militiamen. Youths of about 15 or 16 walked menacingly clutching Kalashnikovs. Gunshots sent motorists and pedestrians rushing in all directions.

As Baghdad falls, Ba'ath leaders disappear. (US newspaper *Washington Post*)

Secret CIA and military teams in Iraq and surveillance devices set up to monitor Saddam Hussein's inner circle reported that nearly the entire Iraqi leadership had vanished. U.S. military commanders said they suspected that some leaders had headed to Hussein's hometown of Tikrit for a final bloody showdown and that others had fled to Syria. Dogged fighting by Iraqi forces at Qaim, near the Syrian border, has led some U.S. and British officials to suspect that Iraqi troops there may be protecting important Iraqi leaders or family members, although it was not clear whom. As Baghdad slipped from Hussein's control, covert CIA and Special Operations teams dedicated to killing or capturing the Iraqi president and senior leaders discovered that the Baath Party leaders, Republican Guard leaders, troops and high-level government officials they had targeted were not at their usual posts. Even the information minister, who had been briefing journalists with outlandish versions of daily events, did not go to work.

Iraqi Ambassador al-Duri says the Iraqi government has fallen. (BBC)

The Iraqi ambassador to the UN Mohammed al-Douri has said "the game is over", referring to the war in Iraq. It was the first admission from any Iraqi Government official that coalition forces have largely overwhelmed Iraqi resistance. The ambassador said he could not comment on the situation of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein because he had no "relationship with Saddam". "I have no communication with Iraq," Mr Douri said. Earlier, he said he had been unable to contact any government officials "for a long time".

AP report of the same news on April 11: U.S. Army General Tommy Franks, commander of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), told his troops that the regime of Iraqi President Hussein has ended. In an order to unit commanders, Franks said, "The Saddam regime has ended, is over, and [coalition forces] will stay until there is a

free government." The order calls for the reopening of schools, businesses, and government offices, and bans public looting and the public display of weapons by Iraqis. Franks also announced that food coupons and medical and clothing vouchers will be honored. The order also laid out new rules of behavior for U.S. troops in the capital, Baghdad.

Tribal Chief appointed governor of Maysan. (Al-Jazeera Satellite TV)

The head of the Al-Bahadil tribe in Al-Amarah has been appointed as the temporary governor of Maysan by the town's citizens. There has been no confirmation that Isma'il Kazim al-Sa'd Khan has accepted the position.

Red Cross suspends Baghdad operations. (Reuters)

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said it had temporarily suspended humanitarian operations in Baghdad because the situation in the city was "chaotic and unpredictable." The agency said a Canadian staff member had been missing since April 8 afternoon and was feared seriously wounded but that it had not been able to search for him. The ICRC said it feared that Vatche Arslanian, 48, had been wounded when a vehicle in which he was traveling with two other ICRC staffers came under fire. The other two escaped. "Given the chaotic and totally unpredictable situation in the city, getting from one place to another involves incalculable risks," the ICRC said in a statement.

Al-Zaman newspaper arrives in Iraq. (RFE/RL Newsline)

The London-based "Al-Zaman" daily announced that it began distributing papers in southern Iraqi cities. According to the announcement, the "Al-Basrah Edition" of "Al-Zaman" is distributed in Al-Basrah, Al-Zubayr region, Umm Qasr, Al-Faw, Al-Tanumah, Al-Nasiriyah, and Al-Samawah. "The newspaper's aim is to reach all Iraqi regions, and reporters in Al-Basrah have already started supplying the newspaper with news items and creative writings from Al-Basrah," the announcement noted. The daily is headed by the former editor of the Iraqi daily "Al-Jumhuriyah," Saad al-Bazzaz. The Al-Basrah edition boasts 20 color pages.

Kurdish party occupies Kirkuk. (BBC)

US-backed Kurdish forces have occupied the centre of the northern city of Kirkuk, a day after the regime of Saddam Hussein collapsed in Baghdad. It was reported that while there were still pockets of Iraqi resistance, but the army appeared to have fled the city. Kurdish commanders said that their fighters had entered Kirkuk in disguise overnight and started an uprising.

Turkish TV station CNN Turk and RFE/RL Newsline report of the same news on April 10:

Jalal Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), said that Kurdish forces have begun withdrawing from the Iraqi city of Kirkuk. Talabani claimed residents of Kirkuk began an uprising on 9 April that led to a withdrawal of Iraqi forces from the city. U.S. forces said they were unprepared to enter Kirkuk, so Talabani sent some 1,200 Kurdish troops into the city in an effort to secure it and prevent looting and chaos, Talabani said. Some 2,000 U.S. forces have subsequently arrived in the city, and Talabani said he ordered 600 Kurdish troops to withdraw on 11 April. The remaining Kurdish forces will withdraw once the United States has secured the city, Talabani added. He reiterated his intent to withdraw his forces once

the city is secured by coalition forces in a statement read on KurdSat television on 10 April.

April 10

Al-Sistani's agent rejected installing tribal leaders in Basra. (Lebanese Hezbollah TV *Al-Manar*)

Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani's agent in Basra, Shaykh Said al-Sa'adi, rejected installation of tribal leaders proposed by the Americans to keep the security in Basra. Shaykh Al-Sa'adi, who supervises a mosque and a *Husayniyah* in the city, demanded that elements from Islamic parties, which had the experience and the capacity, should assume these roles. He said that we refused all tribal leaders and not only the proposed Al-Sa'adun tribe.

Supreme Council of Islamic Revolution declares resistance to U.S. military rule. (IRNA)

Leader of the Supreme Council of Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim said that the SCIRI would confront the leadership of a U.S. military officer in Iraq's post-Hussein interim administration. Al-Hakim expressed concern that the U.S. plan could trigger a civil war in Iraq, and he called on the Iraqi opposition groups to meet and debate Iraq's future.

Iraqi Shi'ite Leader Abdul Majid al-Khoei Assassinated in Najaf. (Reuters).

Senior Iraqi Shi'ite leader Abdul Majid al-Khoei and his aide were assassinated in an attack in the holiest shrine in the central Iraqi city of Najaf, members of his family foundation stated. Ali Jabr of the London-based Khoei Foundation said Abdul Majid, who is the son of the late leader of Iraq's Shi'ite Muslim majority, was killed at the Grand Imam Ali Mosque in Najaf. Khoei's aide Haidar Kelidar was also killed. Iraqi dissidents abroad say Abdul Majid's rapid return to Iraq -- and the United States' obvious backing for him -- had sparked intense criticism from other Iraqi Shi'ite dissidents eager to assert their authority after the fall of Saddam. Khoei is the son of Ayatollah Seyyid Abdulqasim Musawi al-Khoei, who died in 1992 after being placed under house arrest after Saddam crushed a Shi'ite uprising after the 1991 Gulf War. Abdul Majid al-Khoei is a key aide of Iraq's leading Shi'ite leader Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani. Ayatollah Sistani, whose followers pay him religious taxes and look to him for spiritual and practical guidance, is the supreme religious authority in Najaf.

Qatari Al-Jazeera satellite TV report of the same news on April 12: The nephew of Iraqi Shi'i leader Abd-al-Majid al-Kho'i has said that armed men killed six people during the assassination operation of Al-Kho'i that took place in Imam Ali Bin-Abu-Talib Mosque in Al-Najaf. He added that that the US forces are stationed outside the city and do nothing to restore order and security. Al-Kho'i, citing Al-Najaf inhabitants, said that the killers of Al-Kho'i control the town centre and the mosque, describing the security situation as extremely bad.

Iraqis resist Kurdish advance in northern Iraq. (BBC).

Kurdish troops have taken the town of Tuzkhurmat, and another one called Jalula. The local Kurdish commander has said the Iraqis are putting up fierce resistance. The

assumption is that these Iraqi forces are cut off from any kind of communication with the rest of Iraq, and are terrified they will be slaughtered.

Iraqi opposition group allegedly arrests "Al-Qa'idah elements" in Al-Kut. (London-based newspaper *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*).

The Iraqi opposition National Accord Movement said some members of the movement had arrested "a number of Al-Qa'idah elements ". The movement said that the arrests took place in the city of Al-Kut (southeast of Baghdad). The Movement promised that it would "give evidence of how Al-Qa'idah and Arab fundamentalists entered Iraq" based on the "confessions" of those arrested.

April 11

Turkoman Front accuse the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan for killing Turkomans in Kirkuk. (Turkish TV station NTV and RFE/RL Newsline)

Mustafa Ziya, a representative of the Iraqi Turkoman Front (ITF), accused PUK forces of killing Turkomans inside Kirkuk. Ziya told a news conference that Kurdish forces from the PUK have killed a number of prominent Turkoman leaders and said that at least 50 Turkomans were killed after they were falsely identified as "collaborators" who had worked for the Iraqi regime. Ziya also charged the PUK forces with setting historic buildings on fire and confiscating documents and automobiles belonging to the Turkoman residents of Kirkuk. Meanwhile, PUK representative to Turkey Bahruz Galali has denied the charges, saying that the ITF's claims are "propaganda" aimed at disrupting relations between Turkomans and Kurds. "Those behind these incidents have a plan. They are trying to find a pretext to enable the Turkish Army to enter the region," Galali added.

Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan newspaper *Kurdistani Nuwe* report of the same news on 13 April: In a response to the statement by a number of officials of the Turkoman Front, Irfan Kirkukli, head of the Iraqi Turkoman People's Party said: "Those who are saying that Turkomans are persecuted by the Kurds are simply lying. These attempts are similar to those of the Ba'th regime, which has tried for years to cause enmity between Kurds and Turkomans in Kirkuk." He said their party entered the city of Kirkuk two days ago with PUK peshmargas, "who were welcomed by the people of Kirkuk, including the Kurds and Turkomans. So far there has been no problems between the Kurds and Turkomans."

Iraqi refugees in Iran storm their embassy in Tehran. (IRNA and RFE/RL Newsline).

Approximately 60 Iraqis who were chanting "Death to America," "Death to Saddam," and "No to Colonialism, No to Ba'ath Party" forced open the gates of the Iraqi Embassy in Tehran and entered the compound. The protestors tore up photos of Saddam Hussein, destroyed furniture, and broke windows, as police tried to disperse people outside the embassy. They also made off with embassy documents. The protestors displayed photos of Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) leader Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim.

US calls Iraqi police back to work. (RFE/RL Newsline).

It was reported that U.S. forces have called on Iraqi police and city workers to return to their posts in an effort to keep municipal services up and running and to provide a sense of order in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad. International press reports indicate that the situation in Baghdad has worsened, with the looting of hospitals and utter lawlessness.

Situation in Mousul. (AFP and RFE/RL Iraq Report).

Kurdish forces have reportedly taken control of central Mosul. The troops entered the city following a withdrawal of Iraqi forces on 10 April. "People in Mosul, including the commanders of the 5th Corps of the Iraqi Army, the governor, and the heads of important families sent a delegation to Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) head Mas'ud Barzani to ask him to use his good offices with the Americans for a peaceful surrender of the city without any more fighting," KDP spokesman Hoshyar Zebari said.

CNN reported that neither Kurdish nor coalition forces are visible in the city center, and international press reported widespread looting. Al-Jazeera reported that Mosul University and other public institutions are being looted. In a local hospital, patients were removed from their beds and the beds stolen. It was reported that Kurdish forces are manning checkpoints outside the city and also participating in the looting.

Al-Jazeera satellite TV report of the same news: Mish'an al-Juburi, member of the Iraqi Opposition's Coordination Committee in Mosul said: "There are looting operations. I am trying to impose order with the help of the special forces... I have 500 persons, most of them from Mosul and the others from my own forces. We are heading towards other government buildings to restore law and order." Al-Juburi said that he had come from Dahuk city and added: "There were hundreds of armed men led by Shaykh Ibrahim al-Atallah, a tribal chief of the Al-Juburi tribe, whose members exist all over Iraq. They were waiting for me before we entered the town. They wanted to help restore law and order."

Iraqi Kurdish combatants reportedly killed in fighting with Iranian opposition forces. (Iraqi Kurdish newspaper *Hawlati*).

A number of peshmargas of the Communist Party of Kurdistan and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan have been killed in heavy fighting between joint peshmarga forces and Iranian opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (PMOI) forces in Imam Ways village, Sharaban region. The heavy fighting took place on 11 April when PUK and Communist Party peshmargas, who were advancing to take more areas in the Garmiyān region, found the Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq forces blocking their advance. Eight Communist Party peshmargas and a number of PUK peshmargas were killed. The Kurdistan peshmarga forces have been trying to avoid fighting, and on several occasion they sent delegations to the Mojahedin-e Khalq, urging them to surrender to Kurdistan peshmarga forces. However, they did not heed to this demand, saying they would only surrender to UN agencies, and not to Kurdistan peshmarga forces.

April 12

Mujahedeen says 18 fighters killed in clashes in Iraq. (AFP).

The Iranian armed opposition group, the People's Mujahedeen Organisation of Iran (PMOI), said 18 of its fighters had been killed in Iraq this week by alleged Iranian government forces who had entered the country. The group said another 43 fighters were wounded and several others missing after clashes on April 10-11 near camps in Al-Khalis, Jalula and Al-Muqdadiah. Iranian forces "entered Iraqi territory and captured parts of the Iraqi border town of Khanaqin and surrounding areas," the PMOI statement said. It claimed that Iranian forces had moved 46 army and elite Revolutionary Guards brigades, equipped with tanks and missiles, to the border with Iraq.

Associated Press (AP) report of the same news on April 14: An Iranian opposition group based in Iraq has lost 10 of its fighters in clashes with Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guards who crossed into Iraq, where the group is based. The People's Mujahideen said that Iran's Supreme National Security Council had ordered its revolutionary guards, intelligence forces and mercenaries to attack the group. Ten mujahideen were killed during the clashes in three towns on April 13. Earlier, the group said Iranian-backed forces inside Iraq killed 18 mujahideen members and wounded 43 others in central Iraq near the Iranian border on April 11-12. State-run Iranian television reported that "tens" of mujahideen fighters had been killed in clashes with Iraqi fighters near Khaneqin, about 145 kilometres north of Baghdad. A day earlier, state TV also reported fighting between mujahideen and Iraqi fighters on April 10-11 in Al-Saadiyah, a desert region some 160 kilometres north of Baghdad. It said five Iraqis were killed when one of their patrols was attacked late on April 11.

Iranian Press Service (IPS) report of the same news on April 13: Mojahedeen Khalq Organisation (PMOI) confirmed they have lost at least 18 of their members, with 43 other wounded after some of their bases in Iraqi Kurdistan was attacked by forces they claimed were Iranian Revolutionary Guards. But the Iranian Radio and Television said the attackers were "Iraqi Muslim combatants" who attacked the "terrorist group" near Kerkuk, "killing scores of them", adding that the bodies of PMOI terrorist members still lie in their camp. Before the arrival of Kurdish and U.S. forces in the oil-rich city, the people of Kerkuk had already killed some PMOI members, and their bodies were lying alongside the bodies of Iraqi intelligence (Estekhbarat) agents, the state-run Radio reported.

Jalal Talebani, the leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), announced that the second phase of PUK attacks against the PMOI would start soon. It was reported that some members of the PMOI had started negotiations with Mr. Talebani and American commanders in the region to surrender and being moved either to Iran or another country of refuge. In a letter signed by 30 PMOI members to Talebani, they called on him to stop attacking, promised to surrender, blaming their leader, Mas'ood Rajavi and other Organisation's high-ranking officials for the tragic situation, stating that Mr. Rajavi and some of his closest colleagues had already fled Iraq to an undisclosed destination.

April 12

Saddam Hussein's science adviser surrenders. (AP).

Saddam Hussein's science adviser surrendered to U.S. military authorities, insisting that Iraq had no weapons of mass destruction and the U.S.-led invasion was unjustified. Lt. Gen. Amer al-Saadi became the first of the 55 most wanted Iraqi figures to go into coalition custody. He had been wanted because he was a special weapons adviser to Saddam and oversaw Iraq's chemical program in the past. He is believed to have in-depth knowledge of other weapons programs as well.

Iraq's Ba'ath members needed for food, aid, power. (Reuters).

U.S.-led forces and humanitarian agencies said they needed Saddam Hussein's old civilian administrators and networks to safely bring food, water and medicine to struggling Iraqis. A spokesman for U.S.-led forces in Kuwait said they were interviewing former civil servants to see if they were suitable to help provide police services, and get water treatment and power plants back on line from Basra to Baghdad. The Red Cross said they were facilitating dialogue between U.S.-led forces and civilian administrators to restore law, water and power in the country. The U.S. forces spokesman said top members of the Baath party, such as police generals who surrendered in Baghdad, may not be suitable to return to their old jobs if they are tainted by allegations over their activities under Saddam. "I think what we are talking about now are people we would classify in as low level civilian administrators," he said. The UN World Food Programme said it intended to use the oil-for-food network formerly run by Iraq's trade ministry to ship out hundreds of thousands of tonnes of food to people low on supplies since the U.S.-led invasion to topple Saddam began on March 20.

April 13

Iraqi refugees at Iranian border. (IRNA).

Some 1,000 Iraqis from various cities sought refuge in Dehloran border strip. Secretary of the Iraqi crisis headquarters in Ilam Ali Zeynivand said that the Iraqis who have settled inside the Iraqi soil and in border areas called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide them with humanitarian aid. He said Iraqi refugees in this region suffer from lack of food and medicine.

Water, services restored to camps in Iraqi Kurdish areas. (Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party newspaper *Brayati*).

With the aim of reactivating basic services for the people residing between Dilziyan and Ashkawtan camps, the Water Directorate of Arbil villages has set up 456 toilets and 320 baths in both camps. Dilziyan and Ashkawtan camps were built in Soran Governorate for the displaced people who came from areas controlled by the Iraqi regime, and its soldiers and high ranking officers who surrendered to the peshmergas.

Policemen from Arbil sent to towns newly under Kurdish control to restore order. (Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party newspaper *Brayati*).

KDP's Arbil Police Directorate stated that a number of officers and policemen were sent to Makhmur, Dibagah, Pirde and Guwer to establish law and stability in all these towns and cities of Arbil governorate, "to protect people's properties and to maintain law."

April 14

U.S. forces overrun Saddam loyalists in Al-Tikrit. (AP).

U.S. Marines overrun loyalists staging a last stand at Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, ending the major combat phase of the Iraq war. Saddam's presidential palace was seized without a fight, the military said, and large numbers of U.S. troops were in central Tikrit by afternoon. Unlike other major cities, many portraits, banners and statues of Saddam remained undamaged. U.S. forces to the south and west of the city had created checkpoints to prevent regime leaders from escaping. US military spokesperson said initial fighting had been fierce, but there was no information on casualties. At a checkpoint in the north of the city, U.S. troops stopped and searched vehicles, looking for weapons.

Baghdad neighborhood falls to clerical rule. (AP).

A Baghdad district that is home to 2 million Shiite Muslims has practically seceded from the rest of Iraq. Led by local clerics, Saddam City now runs its own police force, hospitals, clinics and food distribution centers. Ali al-Gharawi, 22, also said that he and other Saddam City leaders take their orders from the "al-hawza al-ilmiyah," the Arabic phrase for the top Shiite clerics of Najaf.

Syria to stop accepting fleeing Iraqis. (AFP).

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has promised his country will stop fleeing Iraqis from crossing its border, British Prime Minister Tony Blair told the House of Commons. "I spoke with President Bashar al-Assad over the weekend and he assured me that they would interdict anybody who's crossing over the border from Iraq into Syria," Blair said.

Iran will not allow Iraqi leaders to enter that country. (IRNA).

Iran said it will arrest and prosecute any element of Iraq's Ba'ath regime, including its leaders, who possibly cross into the Iranian territory. "If they want to come legally, we will naturally reject it, but if they come illegally, we will try them because of the crimes they have committed against our people," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi said.

Studies at schools, universities in Iraqi Kurdish region to be resumed. (Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party Kurdistan Satellite TV).

Following the relative normalization of the situation and the end of the threat to the Iraqi Kurdistan region, and with the aim of resuming the educational process, the Chairmanship of the Council of Ministers of the Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party regional government decided that education at nurseries and all schools, institutes and

universities in the region to resume as from 14 April. The Chairmanship of the Council of Ministers called for the evacuation of all the schools which have been lived in by the displaced people.

U.S.-Iraq joint police patrols begin. (AP).

US Marines began handing out leaflets in Arabic and English asking residents not to leave their homes between evening prayers and morning prayers. "To avoid placing coalition forces in a position where we must make a distinction between you and terrorist or criminal elements during a time of limited visibility, please do not leave your homes during this time," the leaflets said. The leaflets warn people to avoid carrying anything that looks like a weapon and to pull to the side of the road to let convoys pass. Joint patrols with Iraqi police and U.S. troops got off to a rough start as the Iraqis and Americans dealt with language difficulties and other problems. In the western sector of Baghdad, where the U.S. Army is in control rather than the Marines, a few Iraqi police were allowed to go out on patrol on their own, their white cars flashing their lights. Some Iraqi neighborhoods have started their own patrols, reporting to U.S. troops if they see suspicious activity, U.S. officials said. American forces were still dealing with resistance in some parts of the city. The fighters, often Syrians and other foreigners, were operating individually or in small clusters, U.S. officials said.

April 15

Syrian exiles leaving Iraq "stranded" on Syria-Iraq border. (Al-Jazeera).

Some Syrian political refugees are reportedly gathering in Al-Qa'im area on the Iraqi-Syrian border. They include a large number of families - men, women and children. They said they were regarded as proteges of the Iraqi regime. They demand some sort of understanding of their problem by the Syrian government. They say that they have sent a message to the Syrian government, but have received no answer. People in Al-Qa'im are sympathizing with them, hosting them in their homes and offering them food and shelter until their problem has been resolved.

Jordan not granting asylum to "any Iraqi officials". (London-based newspaper *Al-Hayat*).

A Jordanian official stated that his country "will not grant political or humanitarian asylum to any Iraqi officials and particularly the top-ranking leaders". He said that "a decision has been made at a high level in this regard, and none of them will be allowed to enter Jordan in any capacity".

Iraqis in Al-Nasiriyah demonstrate against opposition meeting. (Al-Jazeera satellite TV).

The Iraqi opposition meet in Al-Nasiriyah in the light of the boycott of the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq. More than 20,000 Iraqis demonstrated in Al-Nasiriyah in the morning against the Iraqi opposition meeting, which was called for by Washington. The demonstrators issued a statement affirming that this meeting does not represent them. The demonstrators said that the Al-Najaf religious seminary "has been and continues to be their legitimate and actual representative, and the one that

expresses their will at every forum and assembly”. The demonstrators also voiced reservations about some members of the municipal council that was formed by the US forces.

Tikrit tribes clash with Kurdish infiltrators. (Al-Jazeera satellite TV).

It was reported that fighting flared up between the Tikrit tribes and armed Kurdish groups, which tried to infiltrate into the city for looting. The fighting resulted in the killing of two people from both sides. Also, 25 Kurdish gunmen have been captured. The US troops prevented journalists from entering the region because of the continuing fighting and acts of sabotage in the region.

Iraqi tribal leader agrees to become Al-Samawah governor. (Egyptian news agency MENA).

Shaykh Sami Azari al-Ma'jun, leader of Bani-Hashim tribe, said his brother Hajim has accepted his designation by members of their clan to serve as the governor of Al-Samawah city in central Iraq.

Coalition forces bomb Iranian Mujahedeen inside Iraq. (AFP).

Coalition air forces have bombed camps of Iranian rebels inside Iraq and some of them were expected to surrender soon, the chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff said. "We did bomb some PMOI camps," said General Richard Myers. "We are still pursuing elements ... inside Iraq. It's possible some may surrender very soon to coalition forces." Myers, who did not say when or where the air strikes occurred, said it was too soon to say what effect those actions might have on US relations with Iran.

The Times report of the same news on April 16: Heavy air raids struck PMOI bases on April 4 and 5, causing a “handful of casualties”, a British diplomat said. “The PMOI’s support network with Saddam’s forces has gone and there’s not much of their infrastructure left,” the British diplomat said. He also rejected as “propaganda” PMOI claims that Iranian forces had crossed the Iraqi border, killing 18 of its fighters. The future of several thousand PMOI fighters thought to be in Iraq is uncertain. Many were said to have left before the war or to have defected.

RFE/RL Iran Report report of the same news on April 21: U.S. Defense Department officials said in "The New York Times" of 17 April that American ground forces are trying to pursue and detain members of the Iraq-based Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (PMOI), whose bases have recently been targeted by U.S. air raids. The bombings have received scant public attention. An anonymous senior American military officer said the U.S. "bombed the heck" out of two PMOI bases, one of which was Camp Ashraf, which is 60 miles north of Baghdad. Other PMOI facilities are Camp Alavi, about 65 miles northeast of Baghdad, and Camp Anzali, about 80 miles northeast of Baghdad. U.S. officials explained the PMOI was bombed because it is an extension of the Iraqi military and is a security force for the old regime. "These forces were fully integrated with Saddam Hussein's command and controls and therefore constituted legitimate military targets that posed a threat to coalition forces," an anonymous White House official said.

Mujahedeen refugees stranded at Jordan border. (AFP).

More than 70 members of Iran's opposition People's Mujahedeen (PMOI), including a prominent Iranian singer, have been stuck for more than 48 hours in no man's land on Jordan's border with Iraq. "More than 70 Mujahedeen who carry refugee cards from France, Germany, Canada and the United States are stranded in the no man's land two kilometers from Jordan's Al-Karama border post," an NGO official said. Among them is singer Ashraf Sadat Mortezaei, 77, known by the stage name "Mazrieh," and Ali Mostashari, a political science professor at a Paris university, the official said. "Twenty-eight of these Iranians claim to have French refugee documents but we are not sure that these documents are valid and we cannot verify them until the UNHCR provides us with lists," a diplomatic source stated. "Sending them back to Iran is out of the question but unless we can verify the lists we cannot know whether or not they are political refugees in France," the source said.

The NGO official said many of the Iranians do not have valid documents. On April 13, the UNHCR urged the Jordanian authorities to allow those blocked at the border to be transferred on a temporary basis to a refugee camp set up in Rweished, the Jordanian border town near Al-Karama. A Jordanian official said the authorities were first waiting for a commitment from the embassies concerned that they will take the necessary measures to repatriate these refugees, before allowing them into the country. "Third country refugees must be repatriated to their host country or their country of origin in line with the agreements reached with them," said the Jordanian.

April 16

Iraqi Kurdish police officers reportedly killed in Kirkuk. (Iraqi Kurdish newspaper *Hawlati*).

The forces of the PUK Ministry of Peshmarga and Ministry of Interior are searching and returning looted goods that belong to government departments and citizens. The Sulaimaniya-based regional government's minister of interior, Faraydun Abd-al-Qadir, said that four policemen and an officer had been killed in the course of protecting the properties of the state and citizens in the city of Kirkuk and its environs. The Arbil (KDP) Security Department has seized 200 cars and several government generators and goods, which were looted in the cities of Mosul and Kirkuk and brought to Arbil by the looters. Some of the good have been returned to their owners, and those that belong to the Iraqi government department have been handed to the KDP regional government. Some of the goods, which have been looted from Mosul University and brought to Arbil, have been returned to Mosul University by a delegation from Salah-al-Din University in Arbil.

April 17

Iran-based opposition forces reportedly enter Iraq. (Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Watan*).

It was reported that especially the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) encourage groups of persons to enter Iraq's Al-Kut Governorate. According

to reports, elements of SCIRI's Badr Brigade have entered certain areas in Al-Kut in civilian dress and have mingled with the population. Their number is estimated at 9,000.

Multi-ethnic committee set up to restore services in Kirkuk. (Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party satellite TV).

In the presence of the coalition forces representative and Kurdish factions, a committee comprising Kurds, Arabs, Turkomans, Assyrians and Chaldeans was formed at a meeting held at the Kirkuk Governorate building. The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) representative in Kirkuk, Kamal Kirkuki, said that the meeting was held in response to a call by the coalition forces for the setting up of a provisional committee to oversee administrative affairs in Kirkuk and to set up specialist subcommittees later.

US forces find 25 political prisoners in Baghdad dungeons. (AFP).

US forces have helped find more than two dozen Iraqi political prisoners in underground cells in a suburb of Baghdad, the self-proclaimed governor of the capital said. He said that 25 prisoners were found in underground cells run by the intelligence and security branch of Saddam Hussein's regime in the suburb of Qazimiya. There was no word on their condition.

April 19

Iraqi Finance Minister arrested by Iraqi police. (AP).

Iraqi police arrested Saddam Hussein's former finance minister - one of the 55 most-wanted members of the ex-regime - and turned him over to the U.S. Marines, the Central Command said. Hikmat Mizban Ibrahim al-Azzawi, who also served as a deputy prime minister, was apprehended in Baghdad, the Central Command said in a written statement. U.S. forces nabbed Saddam's half brother and personal adviser, Watban Ibrahim Hasan al-Tikriti. Another half brother, Barzan Ibrahim Hasan al-Tikriti, was arrested by U.S. Special Forces on April 17. Samir Abd al-Aziz al-Najim, the Baath Party Regional Command Chairman for east Baghdad, was handed over by Kurds near the northern city of Mosul. Central Command said that it had detained Khala Khader al-Salahat, a member of the Abu Nidal organization.

Kurdish forces release Iraqi prisoners of war. (Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party newspaper *Khabat*).

Iraqi military prisoners, who surrendered to KDP peshmerga forces during the Iraq war, were released in Soran, under the official supervision of the northern Iraq regional government in cooperation with a Swedish non-governmental organization Qandil. During the operation 796 prisoners including officers, ranking officers and soldiers were returned in three convoys back to Kirkuk, Mosul and Baghdad after they had been housed in Soran camp.

April 20

Jordan refuses asylum to Iranians. (Reuters).

Hundreds of Iranian Kurds have fled to the Jordanian border from a refugee camp in central Iraq because they fear their lives are in danger, a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said. Spokesman Peter Kessler said Jordan was refusing to grant asylum to the Iranians and to smaller numbers of Palestinians, more than 1,000 in total, who were now stranded in a no-man's land on the Iraq-Jordan border. He said the number of Kurdish Iranian refugees arriving from al-Tash camp, about 120 km west of Baghdad, had tripled in the last two days. "These are people running for their lives. This is a sign that security is insufficient in some parts of the country," Kessler said. On April 19 alone 450 Iranians arrived along with 120 Palestinians in the area close to Iraq's Treebel border post. Kessler said the U.S. army had an obligation as an occupying power under international law to bring order to Iraq. "This kind of chaos and lawlessness in Iraq has to be halted. The U.S. army as an occupying power has to halt the intimidation, whether against Arabs in the north, or Palestinians in some parts of Baghdad, or ethnic Iranian Kurds," he said. Kessler said UNHCR was not sure what had sparked the exodus from al-Tash, which holds more than 12,000 Iranian refugees, mostly ethnic Kurds. Some refugee accounts cite threats to their lives from local Iraqis and others say they fled deprivation. Some aid workers said U.S. forces who took over the Iraqi border post after the collapse of Saddam Hussein's rule had brought the refugees to the area. Aid workers and officials said some of the Iranians were members of the Iranian opposition group Mujahideen e-Khalq (PMOI) -- also known as the People's Mujahideen -- who had been sheltered by Saddam's government. Aid workers said the Iranian opposition activists sought refuge in Jordan to escape an uncertain fate in the new Iraq. The Palestinians, who have lived for decades in Iraq, fled after attacks by armed Iraqis in the Baladiyat neighbourhood of Baghdad, the aid workers said.

Kessler urged the authorities to allow the refugees temporary asylum in a camp erected 60 km inside Jordan for third-country nationals fleeing Iraq. "We have agreed with Jordan that any refugees should be given temporary asylum. We ourselves do not accept they stay for 50 years and become like Palestinian refugees," Kessler said. Information Minister Mohammad Adwan said that the Kingdom's refusal to allow asylum was a long standing policy to prevent any new refugee influx. But the authorities were coordinating with U.N. agencies to end their plight.

April 21

Iran military chief demands US extradite PMOI leader. (AFP).

The head of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards demanded the US extradite the head of the Iraq-based People's Mujahideen (PMOI) to show it is sincere in "combatting terrorism". "We know that the US has listed the PMOI as a terrorist organisation, so in order to prove it is sincere in the war against terrorism, the US has to hand over the PMOI's leader to us," Yahya Rahim Safavi said. "Since the US has trapped them and until the time the US hands them over to us, anything they do against Iran, the US bears responsibility," he added.

Iraqi-based PMOI fighters agree to cease-fire. (AP).

Iranian opposition group PMOI that has conducted attacks against Iran from its bases in Iraq has agreed to a cease-fire and has begun moving its vehicles into U.S.-controlled areas, a U.S. military spokesman said. The move by the Mujahedeen Khalq came after the U.S. military bombed the militia's bases and worked to negotiate the surrender of its members. A US military spokesman said members of the PMOI militia were moving their vehicles into temporary military facilities around Baqubah. The status of the individual fighters wasn't clear, particularly whether they would formally surrender or just be allowed to "melt away," as many Iraqi fighters have been allowed to do.

U.S. newspaper *The New York Times* report on the same news on April 29: American forces in Iraq have signed a cease-fire with an Iranian opposition group the United States has designated a "terrorist organization", and expect it to surrender soon with some of its arms, American military officials said. Under the deal, signed on April 15 but confirmed by the United States Central Command only on April 28, United States forces agreed not to damage any of the group's vehicles, equipment or any of its property in its camps in Iraq, and not to commit any hostile act toward the Iranian opposition forces covered by the agreement. In return, the group, the People's Mujahedeen, which will be allowed to keep its weapons for now, agreed not to fire on or commit other hostile acts against American forces, not to destroy private or government property, and to place its artillery and antiaircraft guns in nonthreatening positions. An American military official said the group could provide intelligence regarding Iranian government activities both in Iraq, and in Iran itself.

A spokesman for the Central Command, in Doha, Qatar, who was responding to a reporter's inquiry, issued a three-sentence statement today that provided the basic outlines of the cease-fire. A senior military officer said he expected the accord to be followed in the next few days by a formal capitulation agreement, and he indicated that the group would eventually have to give up some of its arms. One motivation for allowing the People's Mujahadeen to keep some weapons, officials said, was to leave in place a balance of power between the group and the Iranian-backed fighters known as the Badr Brigade. Muhammad Mohaddessin, a top People's Mujahadeen official, said in a telephone interview from Paris that "this cease-fire agreement gives us the right to keep our weapons in noncombat formations and the right to defend ourselves" against attacks from Iranian-backed forces. None of the group's members had been taken into custody by American forces, Mr. Mohaddessin said. The statement issued by the Central Command said the cease-fire had been signed by "a coalition forces commander and a Mr. Mahdi Baraie of the National Liberation Army of Iran," the armed wing of the Mujahadeen organization.

Graves of nearly 1,000 Iraqi political prisoners discovered. (AP).

Nearly 1,000 political prisoners lie buried in secret graves at a cemetery on the western outskirts of Baghdad, the cemetery's manager and a gravedigger said, while displaying remains of the corpses. "They are all political. Ten to 15 bodies would arrive at a time from the Abu Ghraib prison and we would bury them here," he said, adding that the last corpse interred there was number 993. Next to that plot were six empty graves. He said all the dead that arrived during the last three years he worked at the cemetery were aged between 15 and 30, men and women who had been shot or

hanged. "They were all youths. The civilians were hanged. Sometimes a soldier would come through and they were all shot. I could distinguish them by their uniforms," he said. There are no names at the grave sites. "There are another five cemeteries in Baghdad with secret grave sites so in this city alone there are about 6,000 political corpses. In every cemetery in Baghdad you'll find the same."

Shi'ite group protest detention of their leader in Baghdad. (Reuters).

About 2,000 Iraqi Shi'ite Muslims staged an anti-American protest in Baghdad, saying U.S. troops had arrested one of their leaders. Shi'ites said their leader Muhammad al-Fartusi [head of the office of the former higher Shi'i authority Muhammad al-Sadr] had been detained but gave no details. U.S. military officials were not immediately available for comment. Fartusi is believed to be close to a radical faction alleged to have been involved in killing moderate Shi'ite cleric Abdul Majid al-Khoei earlier this month in the city of Najaf.

Muhammad Hamza al-Zubaydi arrested. (AP).

Muhammad Hamza al-Zubaydi, known as Saddam Hussein's "Shiite Thug" for his role in Iraq's suppression of the Shiite Muslim uprising of 1991, was arrested, the U.S. Central Command said. Al-Zubaydi, a former member of Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council and former regional commander of the central Euphrates district, was no. 18 on a list of the 55 most wanted figures from Saddam's regime. Al-Zubaydi also presided over the destruction of the southern marshes in the 1990s, an action aimed against Shiite "Marsh Arabs" living there. Also, it was announced that Iraq's minister of higher education and research, Abd al-Khaliq Abd Al-Gafar, had been apprehended.

Radio Sumer replaces Radio Tikrit. (BBC Monitoring).

A station identifying as Radio Sumer was heard in place of Radio Tikrit from 19:10 to 21:00 gmt on 21 April. Radio Tikrit could not be traced, although it had been heard by BBC Monitoring the previous day, on 20 April. The location of the studios and transmitters of Radio Sumer and Radio Tikrit is unknown. The programming of Radio Sumer was in the same style as Radio Tikrit and would appear to be a direct replacement. It included a satirical song in a rap-style, which had previously been aired on Radio Tikrit. In addition to the mediumwave transmission on 1584 kHz, Radio Tikrit had recently been traced on a Eutelsat Hot Bird satellite at 13 degrees east. That signal was replaced by Radio Sumer on 21 April.

Al-Mudarrisi, other Shi'i clerics detained. (Al-Jazeera satellite TV).

Azhar al-Khafaji, secretary-general of the National Iraqi Islamic Front, in Kuwait commented on the arrest of Ayatollah Al-Uzma Muhammad Taqi al-Mudarrisi, an Iraqi religious authority. Al-Khafaji said: "The fact is that Al-Mudarrisi left Tehran as part of a big delegation to return to the homeland. Yesterday morning, he left Khanaqin for Baghdad en route to Karbala. Five kilometres before reaching the city of Ba'kubah, his convoy was checked and questioned by forces in that area. A group of the convoy was detained in two vehicles and taken to an unidentified destination. Ayatollah Al-Uzma Izz-al-Din Muhammadi, Ayatollah Husayn al-Rabadi, Ibrahim Shubbar, and Dr Ibrahim al-Mutayri, secretary-general of the Islamic Action Organization, and several other clergymen accompanied Al-Mudarrisi." Asked about

those responsible for Al-Mudarrisi's arrest, he maintained that the area between Khanaqin and Ba'kubah included several checkpoints, some of which "belong to the National Democratic Union and the Kurdistan Democratic Party". He added: "Regrettably, the forces that intercepted the convoy have not been identified."

Al-Jazeera satellite TV report of the same news on April 22: Iraqi Shi'i sources have said that Ayatollah al-Uzma Muhammad Taqi al-Mudarrisi and around 60 of his followers were found, without giving any details.

Kurdish leader meets Arab tribal leaders. (Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan newspaper *Kurdistani Nuwe*).

In a series of his meetings with the heads and shaykhs of Arab tribes, Jalal Talabani received at Dukan summer resort in the presence of Shaykh Muhammad Shakali, a number of heads and shaykhs of Arab tribes in Kirkuk, Diyala, Daquq, Dozkhurmatu and other PUK-controlled areas of Iraq. The group consisted of the head of representatives of Azza tribe, Albumu Faraj tribe, Rabi' tribe, Bani Temimi tribe, Janabiyin tribe, Dilemi tribe, Ubed tribe, Jibur tribe, Al-Azzawi tribe and other tribes.

April 23

Jordan allows refugees into Al-Ruwayshid border camp. (Egyptian news agency MENA).

The Jordanian government allowed 270 Iraqi, Palestinian and Syrian refugees to enter Al-Ruwayshid camp, said spokesman for the UNHCR. In press statements, the UN official said that the Jordanian government will make the refugees sign a memo that will oblige them to leave the camp once the Iraqi crisis is settled. UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) sources said the agency sent a team to the camp to study the conditions of the Palestinian refugees there.

Iraqi refugees in Saudi Arabia are returning home. (KUNA).

Work is underway to facilitate the return of some 5200 Iraqi refugees housed in Rafha refugee camp in northern Saudi Arabia since 1991, a senior Saudi military official said. Director of Joint Forces and Refugee Affairs Major General Atiyah AL-Touri said that Saudi Authorities are liaising with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees regarding the repatriation of Iraqi refugees in Rafah to their country.

Iranian opposition reportedly captures 4 Revolutionary Guards in Iraq. (Reuters).

An Iraq-based Iranian opposition militia said it had captured four Iranian Revolutionary Guards after an attack on its positions in a border area. In a statement issued by its Paris office, the People's Mujahideen (PMOI) said the four were commanders of Revolutionary Guards forces which fled after the clash near Mandali. There was no immediate reaction to the Mujahideen report from Iranian officials or U.S.-led forces.

April 24

New KDP-backed party said established in Mosul. (Egyptian news agency MENA).

A new party was set up in this northern Iraqi city under the title of "The hero of the two rivers", supported by the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) to help rebuild post-war Iraq. However, Turkish officials say that the new party includes members of Turkey's banned Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

April 25

55 'most wanted' Iraqis. (US newspaper *USA Today*).

The following are the 55 members of Saddam Hussein's regime listed as "most wanted" by U.S. Central Command. 1 Saddam Hussein, President of Iraq, head of military; 2 Qusay Hussein, Saddam's son, military and security commander; 3 Uday Hussein; Saddam's son, commander of paramilitary Saddam Fedayeen; 4 Abid Hamid Mahmud, Presidential secretary; 5 Ali Hassan al-Majid, Presidential adviser, former southern regional commander; 6 Izzat Ibrahim, Vice chairman of governing Revolutionary Command Council, northern regional commander; 7 Hami Abd al-Latif Tilfah, Director of Special Security Organization, which provided Saddam plainclothes security; 8 Kamal Mustafa Abdallah, Republican Guard secretary; 9 Barzan Abd al-Ghafur Sulayman Majid, Commander of Special Republican Guard; 10 Muzahim Sa'b Hasan, Air defense force commander, taken into custody on April 23; 11 Ibrahim Ahmad Abd al-Sattar Muhammad, Armed forces chief of staff; 12 Sayf Al-Din Fulayyih Hasan Taha, Republican Guard Forces Command chief; 13 Rafi Abd al-Latif Tilfah, Director of Directorate of General Security, which repressed political opposition; 14 Tahir Jalil Habbush, Director of Iraqi Intelligence Service, which conducted counterespionage, interrogation; 15 Hamid Raja Shalah, Air force commander; 16 Abd al-Tawab Mullah Huwaush, Director of Organization of Military Industrialization, which developed weapons; 17 Aziz Salih, Baath Party regional militia commander; 18 Muhammad Hamza Zubaydi, Central Euphrates regional commander, taken into custody on April 27; 19 Sultan Hashim Ahmad, Minister of Defense; 20 Ayad Futayyih Khalifa, Chief of staff of Al Quds paramilitary force formed to counter civilian unrest; 21 Zuhayr Talib Abd al-Sattar, Director of Directorate of Military Intelligence, which monitored outside military threats and officers' loyalty, taken into custody on April 23; 22 Abd al-Baqi Abd al-Karim Abdallah, Baath Party regional command chairman; 23 Muhammad Zimam Abd al-Razzaq, Baath Party regional command chairman; 24 Samir Abd al-Aziz, Baath Party regional command chairman, taken into custody April 17; 25 Yahya Abdallah, Baath Party regional command chairman; 26 Nayif Shindakh Thamer, Baath Party regional command chairman; 27 Sayf al-Din, Baath Party regional command chairman; 28 Fadil Mahmud Gharib, Baath Party regional command chairman; 29 Mushin Khadr, Baath Party regional command chairman; 30 Rashid Taan Kazim, Baath Party regional command chairman; 31 Uгла Abid Saqr, Baath Party regional command chairman; 32 Ghazi Hammud, Baath Party regional command chairman; 33 Adil Abdallah Mahdi, Baath Party regional command chairman; 34 Husayn Al Awawi, Baath Party regional command chairman; 35 Khamis Sirhan al Muhammad, Baath

Party regional command chairman; 36 Sa'd Abdul-Majid al-Faisal, Baath Party regional command chairman; 37 Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Baath Party deputy chairman; 38 Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi vice president; 39 Rukan Razuki Abd al-Ghafar, Chief of Tribal Affairs; 40 Jamal Mustafa Abdallah, Deputy chief of Tribal Affairs, taken into custody on April 20, turned over to coalition on April 21; 41 Mizban Khadr Hadi, Member of governing Revolutionary Command Council, military commander in Central Euphrates region; 42 Taha Muhyi al-Din Maruf, Vice president, Revolutionary Command Council member; 43 Tariq Aziz, Deputy prime minister, taken into custody on April 24; 44 Walid Hamid Tawfiq, Governor of Basra region; 45 Hikmat Mizban Ibrahim, Deputy prime minister of Economics and Finance Ministry, taken into custody on April 18; 46 Mahmud Dhiyab, Minister of Interior; 47 Amir Rashid Muhammad, Former oil minister; 48 Muhammad Mahdi, Minister of Trade, taken into custody on April 23; 49 Husam Muhammad Amin, National Monitoring director; 50 Sab'awi Ibrahim Hasan, Baath Party leader, Saddam's half brother; 51 Watban Ibrahim Hasan, Baath Party leader, Saddam's half brother; taken into custody on April 13; 52 Barzan Ibrahim Hasan, Baath Party leader, Saddam's half brother, taken into custody by April 16; 53 Huda Salih Mahdi Ammash, Baath Party Youth and Trade Bureau chairman; 54 Humman Abd al-Khaliq Abd, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, taken into custody on April 19; 55 Amir Hamudi Hasan, Presidential scientific adviser, taken into custody April 12.

U.S. Forces Capture Key Iraqi Intelligence Official. (US newspaper *Congress Daily*).

An Iraqi intelligence official has been captured by U.S. forces. Farouk Hijazi, who most recently served as Iraq's ambassador to Tunisia, was once a senior official in Saddam Hussein's intelligence service, is "the biggest catch so far," former CIA Director James Woolsey said.

Kurdish KDP delegation discusses ties with Arab tribes near Kirkuk. (Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party newspaper *Khabat*).

A high level delegation of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, headed by Muhsin Dizayee, members of the political bureau, the central committee and the party's cadres visited the large tribes in Hawijah and Makhmur districts. The Shaykh Sami al-Asi and other shaykhs and members of the Ubayd tribe received the KDP delegation. The aim of the visit was to strengthen the relations between the neighbouring Ubayd and Kurdish tribes. Shaykh Nayif, the chief of the Jibur tribe, also welcomed the delegation. Other tribes in Makhmur and Bakirt/Qaraj districts, namely Al-Ta'i, Al-Lihab, Al-Zammar, Al-Rashid, Sambas, Sab'awi, Jibur and others were also visited. KDP delegation said their policy was to protect the rights and dignity of all citizens, including the Arab tribes.

April 26

Kurdish police sent to maintain security in Kirkuk. (Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party newspaper *Brayati*).

Interior Ministry has started work after its reopening to normalize the situation in Kirkuk and to maintain the security of its citizens. Interior Ministry has sent 1500

officers, ranging from policemen, traffic wardens and security officers, from Arbil to the city of Kirkuk.

Worker-Communist Party of Iraq's "Radio Bopeshawa" back on air. (Worker-Communist Party of Iraq web site and BBC Monitoring)

“Ila al-Amam” (Forward) Radio (“Radio Bopeshawa”), voice of the Worker-Communist Party of Iraq, started its experimental transmission on two shortwave bands: 49 metres, corresponding to 5000 kHz, and 41 metres, corresponding to 7000 kHz. The radio will transmit daily from 15:00 Iraq time for one hour only. It will transmit for half an hour in Arabic and half an hour in Kurdish. The transmission will cover the areas of Arbil, Kirkuk and Mosul. The same programme will be repeated between 09:00 and 10:00 the next day.

[**BBC Monitoring note:** The radio was not monitored on the abovementioned times and frequencies when checked on 4 and 5 May. In February 2002 the WCPI web site had carried an announcement saying: "For better radio transmissions and more appropriate broadcast times, Radio Bopeshawa has stopped transmitting its programmes for the time being." The station was first monitored on 14 February 2001 from 1500 to 1600 gmt on 9450 kHz. A station called the "Voice of the Worker-Communist Party of Iraq" had been monitored on 4000 kHz from 3 May 1999 until Radio Bopeshawa came on the air in February 2001.]

April 27

Baghdad's 'Mayor' Arrested. (AP).

The U.S. military arrested a political figure in Baghdad, Baghdad “mayor” Mohammed Mohsen al-Zubaidi. Al-Zubaidi was a returned exile associated with the opposition Iraqi National Congress who had declared himself mayor of Baghdad without sanction from U.S. occupation authorities. U.S. Central Command accused him of "subversion." His activities, including designation of "committees" to run city affairs, had allegedly complicated the efforts of postwar U.S. civil administrator Jay Garner to reorganize political life. A U.S. military spokesman said al-Zubaidi was arrested "for exercising authority which was not his." Central Command accused al-Zubaidi and his associates of "obstructing the normal means of governance for their own self-interests," particularly by claiming control over the power company and other utilities. In a statement, the command said it warned al-Zubaidi to stop his actions. "He instead ... continued his subversive actions," it said.

Al-Jazeera satellite TV report of the same news: The local council of Baghdad administration headed by Al-Zubaydi issued a statement, saying that the coalition forces arrested Al-Zubaydi because he disbursed salaries with cost-of-living increases to a number of Iraqi employees upon the recommendations of financial committees, dignitaries of Baghdad and other specialized committees. The statement noted that those people helped restore some services to the city of Baghdad. The statement called for the release of Al-Zubaydi.

Former Iraqi government officer arrested. (AP).

Central Command announced that Lt. Gen. Hossan Mohammed Amin, the Saddam government's chief liaison to U.N. weapons inspectors, was taken in U.S. custody.

April 28

Iraqi killed in Baghdad rally said led by Muslim Brotherhood. (Al-Jazeera satellite TV).

An Iraqi citizen was killed and four others were wounded during a demonstration in which more than 7,000 Iraqis participated. The demonstrators, who passed through the streets of the city, protested against the US presence in the wake of the killing of 15 Iraqis by the US occupation forces' fire. The demonstration was led by the Muslim Brotherhood in its first appearance after the collapse of the Iraqi regime.

All-Tikrit defies ban on Saddam birthday party. (UK newspaper *The Guardian*).

The street corners of Tikrit were decorated with homemade shrines to Saddam Hussein, small portraits decked with flowers lying on the pavements. The US had banned all birthday celebrations at Saddam's birthplace and former powerbase, but throughout the town residents marked the former President's 66th birthday with quiet defiance. Some held parties at home, placing lighted candles next to his portrait. Others, unable to hold a mass demonstration, challenged the Americans with small protests all round the city. In a more aggressive display of dissent, a dozen Iraqis confronted the US 4th Infantry Division.

Forty Iranians arrested by Iranian opposition group in Iraq. (Iranian news site *Baztab*).

It was reported that Mojahedin Khalq Organization's (PMOI) military police posts have been stationed along the road from Khaneqin to Ya'qubiyah. These forces have arrested more than 40 Iranians in recent weeks and handed them over to US army. American forces have freed most of these individuals who had entered Iraq for pilgrimage.

Iraq political meeting opens in Baghdad. (AFP).

A US-led meeting bringing together hundreds of Iraqis of all political stripes opened as part of plans for a post-Saddam Hussein government. The retired US general running post-war Iraq, Jay Garner told the delegates he and his staff would be giving them the tools and resources to restart the process of government." The meeting started with a reading of the Koran and a brief address by US special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, before Garner spoke. Meanwhile thousands of Iraqi Shiite Muslims were in the streets of the Iraqi capital in a mass rally to demand a separate national congress to chart the nation's political future. The United States has not set a date for when it will hand over power to a future government and many Iraqis have been calling for US troops to pull out of the country as soon as possible. Among the delegates on hand for the meeting were representatives of the Iraqi National Congress as well as the main Shiite faction, the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, which boycotted the first such meeting two weeks ago.

April 29

70 children abducted by organised crime groups. (*Business Times*).

The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) disclosed that about 70 children were abducted recently from the Al-Rahman Institute of Abandoned Children here at gunpoint by organised crime groups. Unicef officer Hatim George Hatim said organised crime groups attacked, looted and damaged the institute located in Al-Rashid. The institute had about 120 children. The groups were likely to send out these children as beggars or use them in sex trade, Hatim said. Unicef, with the help of the local community, managed to get back 34 children. He said 26 children, aged between nine and 18, were still categorised as missing.

Former Iraqi oil minister arrested. (AP).

The former Iraqi oil minister, Amir Rashid Muhammad al-Ubaydi, has surrendered to the U.S.-led coalition forces, the U.S. Central Command said. Al-Ubaydi was listed as Number 47 on the coalition's list of the 55 most-wanted officials from the Saddam Hussein regime and was denominated as the six of spades in the deck of cards issued to coalition forces to identify top regime members.

Basra governor surrenders to Iraqi National Congress officials. (Al-Jazeera satellite TV).

A spokesman for the Iraqi National Congress has said that Basra Governor Walid Hamid Tawfiq al-Tikriti gave himself up along with his father to INC officials and US troops at the INC headquarters in Baghdad. Walid al-Tikriti is number 44 on the US list of wanted members of the former Iraqi regime.

Education resumes in Baghdad. (UN OCHA Integrated Regional Information Network / IRIN).

After a closure of six weeks, one of the first primary schools in Baghdad to reopen its doors after the war welcomed back its pupils. About 30 of the school's 1,300 pupils turned up on the first day. Fears about the continuing insecurity in the city and difficulties getting to school were reasons why not everyone would return to school for some time. The school had buses, but could not operate them because there was no fuel. Many of the school's rooms had broken windows caused by bomb blasts nearby, and it still had no electricity. Moreover, all 52 teachers were working without pay and had no idea when they might get their wages.

April 30

US forces kill civilian demonstrators in the town of Falluja. (Amnesty International).

The town of Falluja, west of Baghdad witnessed another incident which resulted in the death of 3 civilians and the wounding of a further 8. This latest shooting occurred whilst townspeople were demonstrating about the shooting of Iraqi civilians by US troops on April 28 night. Between 13 and 17 civilians were shot dead and more than 70 were wounded then, when soldiers occupying a local school fired on demonstrators protesting against the US presence in Iraq. US troops say that they came under fire

after asking a group of about 200 people to disperse, and had to respond. Local residents state that approximately 200 unarmed people were protesting and carrying pictures of former President Saddam Hussein.

U.S. troops raid house in Saddam's hometown, arrest local Ba'ath Party figure. (AP).

Heavily armed troops of the 4th Infantry Division raided a house in Saddam Hussein's hometown and arrested a local Baath Party official accused of trying to run a "shadow regime" opposing coalition forces. U.S. troops refused to release the name of the official, citing security. Three men were led from the house blindfolded and with their hands bound behind their backs.

Iraqi Turkoman Front radio, TV stations launched in Kirkuk. (Iraqi Turkoman Front newspaper *Turkomaneli*)

"Turkomaneli TV" and radio was launched in Kirkuk. A delegation of the Iraqi Turkoman Front information office, led by Isam Tarzi Bashi, opened the radio station on 12 April and the TV station on 30 April.

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