

EYE ON IRAQ

September 20, 2005

The Iraqi people, with help from coalition nations, continue to succeed in reconstruction, economic development and fighting terrorism

The aftermath of a car bomb targeted at Islamic worshippers exiting a Shi'ite mosque in Tuz Khormato



Iraqi citizens protest the suicide car bombings in Baghdad

AQI targets Muslims; Iraqis protest terrorists

A terrorist detonated a car bomb in a group of Islamic worshippers exiting a Shi'ite mosque in Tuz Khormato, 210 kilometers north of Baghdad, after they finished midday prayers Friday, killing at least 10 and wounding 21 others.

The attack was deliberately timed to target worshippers leaving the Hussainiyat al-Rasoul al-Azam Mosque. This latest attack comes on the heels of a call for war against the Shi'ites by al-Qaeda in Iraq. AQI, as many call it, has declared a holy war, leaving many Iraqis to question the true intentions of AQI. Many say AQI members' logic doesn't hold up since they seem content in their "holy war" to kill fellow Muslims in front of mosques and sometimes even in them.

AQI followers claim they started their latest campaign of terror and hatred in retaliation for the Iraqi Security Forces' highly successful routing of terrorists in Tal Afar. Many others believe their intentions are much more centered around stopping ISF efforts to provide all Iraqis with a safe environment not just for the upcoming referendum but for the future of Iraq in general.

Many residents in Tuz Khormato remain undaunted, determined to defy AQI efforts at intimidation and show at the polls next month to exercise their right to vote.



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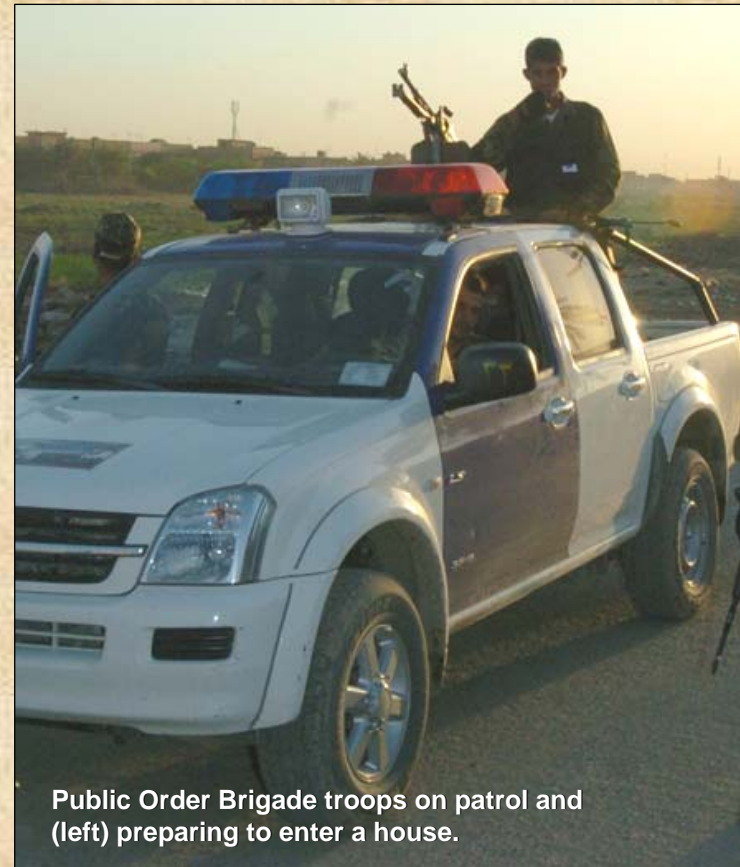
Iraqi Security Forces disrupt insurgent plans, confiscate weapons

Iraqi Security Forces searched houses and fields in Zafaraniya Sept. 14 to flush out terrorists and bring safety to law-abiding residents.

The Iraqi soldiers moved through many neighborhoods during the early-morning mission, searching for illegal weapons, propaganda and other contraband. They discovered several minor weapons violations and detained a man hiding a 60 mm mortar round in a plastic bag under his bed.

The operation, conducted by the Iraqi Public Order Brigade, was designed to disrupt anti-Iraqi activity in the area so all the residents will feel safe casting their votes in the Oct. 15 constitutional referendum.

The vigilance of the ISF and its discoveries of large stockpiles of weapons will continue to deplete terrorists of the tools they use to kill and maim innocent Iraqis.



Public Order Brigade troops on patrol and (left) preparing to enter a house.



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Government Officials Travel Iraq To Discuss Constitution

On Sept. 13, National Assembly members Abbas Al-Bayati, Mr. Hajji Rasheed, Ismail Hadidi and the Prime Minister's advisor, Basan Rodha, all attended a town hall meeting in the Kirkuk Provincial Council chambers.

The room was filled with local citizens, government workers, and members of the media. The officials explained the importance of the Constitutional Referendum and brought the message that the most important vote the Iraqi people would ever participate in is set for Oct. 15, when they vote for their Constitution.

After the meeting, Kirkuk Chief Council member Rizgar Ali hosted a press conference attended by Abbas Al-Bayati and Mr. Hajji Rasheed. As members of the National Assembly, they wanted to make sure that Iraqis across the land were familiar with the Constitution.



National Assembly members at the Kirkuk Provincial Council chambers



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