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 NW, 3 m/s

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## Basra warrant for two UK soldiers

By: BBC+ Aljazeera on: 24.09.2005 [08:36 ] (77 reads)



(5427 bytes)

### Basra warrant for two UK soldiers

Petrol bombs were thrown at British armoured vehicles on Monday. A judge in the southern Iraqi city of Basra has issued an arrest warrant for two British soldiers. They are wanted over the death of an Iraqi civilian and the injury of an Iraqi police officer in a confrontation on Monday, the judge said.

### A Ministry of Defence spokesman said a warrant would have no legal basis.

On Monday, UK troops freed the soldiers - widely believed to be undercover SAS officers - from Iraqi custody after storming a Basra police station.

### Soldiers' 'immunity'

The MoD said it was aware of reports about the arrest warrant but that it could not confirm it had actually been issued.

How Basra drama unfolded  
 Timeline: UK troops in Iraq

British forces spokesman Major Steve Melbourne said the two men had immunity from prosecution under an arrangement between the Iraqi government and coalition forces.

"They have no legal basis for the issue of these warrants," he told BBC News.

"What we will do is we'll continue to work closely with the Iraqis who actually have the investigation team down here in Basra now, and also with the Iraqi government.

"This has started and we'll see what comes from that into the events of Monday night."

However, the judge told the BBC they were not convinced the two men were British and therefore would not be immune from arrest and possible prosecution in Iraq.

BBC correspondent Richard Galpin said that if the men were found guilty they could face imprisonment.

### **'No co-operation'**

It was widely believed that the soldiers on an intelligence mission in the city when they were challenged by Iraqi police officers, our correspondent said.

Iraqi police and the interior ministry say that the soldiers opened fire when challenged.

News of the warrant follows a week in which authorities in Basra said they would not co-operate with UK troops.

Basra's governor, Mohammed al-Waili, said there would be no co-operation until there was an apology for the raid to free the soldiers.

The UK has defended its action, saying the soldiers were handed to militiamen by rogue elements in the police, but Interior Minister Baqir Solagh Jabr has denied this.

British troops have reduced their presence on the Iraqi city's streets.

On Wednesday, Iraqi Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari and UK Defence Secretary John Reid said the unrest had not strained relations between the two countries.

[link](#)

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### **Iraqi judge: Re-arrest British soldiers**

Saturday 24 September 2005, 12:22 Makka Time, 9:22 GMT

Basra officials have boycotted working with British forces

An Iraqi judge has issued arrest warrants for two British undercover soldiers who were freed after a controversial British raid in the city of Basra, an Iraqi lawyer said.

Judge Raghieb Hassan accused the men of killing an Iraqi policeman and wounding another carrying unlicensed weapons and holding false identification, said Kassim al-Sabti, the head of the lawyers syndicate in the southern city, on Saturday.

Britain's Ministry of Defence said on Saturday the warrants had no legal basis.

"All British troops in Iraq come under the jurisdiction of Britain," a defence spokesman said in London.

The whereabouts of the two soldiers was not clear.

Basra authorities had said British troops killed two Iraqi police during the raid.

British forces mounted a bid to free the two soldiers on Monday, by surrounding the police station where they were being held with several tanks and armoured vehicles.

But a crowd quickly gathered, angered by the death of the Iraqi policeman.

Five Iraqi civilians were killed and three British soldiers were wounded as the crowd threw a petrol-bomb at an armoured vehicle.

Breakout.

Later, British forces returned and armoured vehicles flattened cars parked nearby as they

broke down the walls of the jail.

Iraqi authorities said the jail and police station were demolished.

The two soldiers were later freed from a private house nearby, where British military authorities believed they were being held by a local militia.

Monday's flare-up has harmed the relationship British forces were able to build with local Iraqis in and around Basra, a relatively stable city compared with other parts of Iraq.

Officials said Basra's governing council stopped all cooperation with the British until they apologise, guarantee that similar actions are not taken again and provide compensation for damage inflicted during the operation.

#### Investigation

An investigation into the events leading up to the rescue is under way by Iraqi authorities and the British military.

Iraqi police said the police station was destroyed in the British attack

"We will continue to work closely with the Iraqis and the inquiry which the Iraq government has begun into the events of Monday," the British defence spokesman said.

Britain's secretary of defence said he stood by the actions of the forces on the ground.

"They did what they judged was appropriate at the time and I commend them for the swift and decisive action in very difficult circumstances," John Reid said.

[link](#)

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#### Immunity

by Zoraida on 24.09.2005 [09:08 ]

They cannot have immunity that non wore the military dressed.

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Сеп 14 . Five by car  
bomb in central  
Baghdad

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принимает  
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e-gold

shot dead in Taji

Sep 12: Two Sunni clerics in Baquba

Sep 13: Two by bomb in bus in Hilla

Sep 13: Body of former judge found in Sadr City, Baghdad

Sep 13: Two truck drivers in Dora, Baghdad

Sep 13: Two Sunni clerics in Baquba

Sep 12: Two police in Wasiti, Kirkuk

Sep 12: Two by car bomb, Mansour, Baghdad

Sep 12: Six killed in fighting in Tal Afar

Sep 11: Four bodies found in Qaim

Sep 10: One in crowd in Latifiya

Sep 10: Off-duty policeman in Kirkuk

Sep 10: Mayor of Al-Yarmouk district, Baquba

Sep 09: 2 by bomb between Yusufiya and Mahmoudiya

Sep 10: Oil Ministry employee, Al-Bayaa, Baghdad

Sep 10: Four shot dead in market, Dora, Baghdad

Sep 10: Four shot dead in Aswad, nr. Baquba

Sep 09: Three by suicide truck bombs, Mahawil

Sep 09: Policeman in Al-Rabie St., Baghdad

Sep 09: Four by roadside bomb, Saydehah, Baghdad

Sep 09: Four by car bomb in Al-Mashrou

Sep 09: 2 police in ambush near Iskandariya

Sep 09: Eighteen bodies found near Iskandariya

Sep 09: Woman by car bomb, Doura, Baghdad

Sep 08: 2 or 3 bodies found Rustumiya,

kidnapped and killed in  
Tikrit