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## Weather

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## UK denies storming Iraqi jail to free soldiers

By: Reuters on: 19.09.2005 [23:12 ] (213 reads)

(3217 bytes)



### UK denies storming Iraqi jail to free soldiers

British forces have freed two undercover soldiers from jail in Basra after a day of rioting in the Iraqi city that was sparked when the soldiers fired on a police patrol.

An Iraqi Interior Ministry official says British forces stormed the jail using six tanks and that dozens of Iraqi prisoners escaped during the raid.

But Britain's Ministry of Defence says the release of the two soldiers had been negotiated and it did not believe the prison had been stormed.

"We've heard nothing to suggest we stormed the prison," a ministry spokesman said.

"We understand there were negotiations."

Lisa Glover, spokeswoman for the British embassy in Baghdad, says three people have been wounded in the operation to free the soldiers.

She did not give further details of how the soldiers were freed.

The events in the mainly Shiite city are likely to worsen relations between British forces responsible for security in southern Iraq and the local population.

Police and local officials say the two undercover soldiers were arrested after opening fire on Iraqi police who approached them.

They say the men were wearing traditional Arab headscarves and sitting in an unmarked car.

"They were driving a civilian car and were dressed in civilian clothes when shooting took place between them and Iraqi patrols," an official in Basra said.

Mohammed al-Abadi, an official in the Basra governorate, says the two men looked suspicious to police.

"A policeman approached them and then one of these guys fired at him. Then the police managed to capture them," Mr Abadi said.

"They refused to say what their mission was. They said they were British soldiers and (suggested) to ask their commander about their mission."

Tank ablaze

Furious crowds pelted British armoured vehicles with rocks and petrol bombs after the shooting incident.

A British soldier was engulfed in flames as he scrambled out of a burning tank during the rioting.

He was pelted with stones by the crowd.

The tank tried to reverse away from trouble after it was attacked by Iraqis flinging petrol bombs, burning furniture and tyres.

Iraqis had driven through the streets with loudhailers demanding that the

undercover Britons remain in jail.

Basra, capital of the Shiite south, has been relatively stable compared with central Iraq, where Sunni Arab insurgents have killed thousands of Iraqi and US troops, officials and civilians with suicide attacks, roadside bombs and shootings.

But relations remain tense between the British military and some local groups.

British Defence Secretary John Reid confirms in a statement that the two undercover soldiers are back with British forces, but sheds no light on their mission or how they were released.

"The situation in Basra is currently calmer after a day of disturbances," he said.

"At this stage it is not possible to be certain why these disturbances began."

The main ally of the United States, Britain said on Sunday it would if necessary increase the number of troops in Iraq, where it has about 8,500 soldiers.

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6 comments

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**It wasn't us**

by insider on 19.09.2005 [23:33 ]

Honest Guv, We were just walking past the jail when the wall fell down and all these guys came running out..

**insider**

by Neyaz on 20.09.2005 [01:04 ]

LOL...thats a good one Insider!

**This prove they where MI5/MI6**

by Spies\_and\_Traitors\_will\_be\_Shot on 20.09.2005 [01:29 ]

"British forces have freed two undercover soldiers from jail in Basra"

They had to free them, or else the truth would come out.

notice, they are freeing them after they shot at other soldiers and had bombs in the car.

This is the smoking gun ladies and gentlemen.

**The english**

by ohm on 20.09.2005 [01:50 ]

2 and a half years on and still seen and treated as an occupier, Brits must be proud of all their worthless accomplishments in IRAQ. Get the fuck out !!! Nobody gives a shit what your doing or what you say you are doing in IRAQ. leave by the back door and dont bid farewell and take the clabs with you

**undercover Brits not MI 6**

by verve on 20.09.2005 [02:10 ]

They are FRU, they just arrived from N. Ireland, have been in country for a few months. Typical m.o., stir up sectarian hatred, sure hope the Iraqis are a lot smarter than the shit-for-brains paddys that sold out to the crown for a few fake sheckles.

**sorry, FRU,**

by verve on 20.09.2005 [02:17 ]

Forces Recovery Unit, British military intelligence set up to infiltrate and extract information, few

hits were carried out on either side (prod/mick) in Ireland without their knowledge. Evil bastards, wish the Iraqi cops had shot first and answered questions later. Oh well, there'll be a next time.

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