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Middle East News

Death squads operate unchecked in Iraq: UN

Mar 22, 2006, 17:07 GMT

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New York - A United Nations report Wednesday raised concern about human rights in Iraq, citing suspicions that death squads acting 'within the structures' of the interior ministry had carried out killings in and around Baghdad.

The report by the UN mission to Iraq accused Iraqi security forces, particularly police and special forces, of collusion with militias to commit human rights violations.

It pointed to 'many bodies' found since January that bore hallmarks of extrajudicial executions. It said US-led multinational forces in Iraq had arrested 22 special police commandos riding in a van with a man they were going to execute.

'Allegations that death squads operate in the country grew stronger following the discovery by the multinational forces and Iraqi security forces of a suspicious group acting within the structures of the ministry of interior,' noted the report by the UN mission in Iraq.

It said the Iraqi government promised to investigate.

The report said the human rights situation in Iraq is a matter of 'serious concern' and had worsened after the bombing of the holy Shiite mosque in Samarra on February 22, which triggered killings, abductions and retaliation against Sunni mosques.

It also questioned the legality of detentions of suspects by the multinational forces and Iraq's ministries of defence, interior and labour and social affairs.

The US-led multinational forces are detaining more than 14,220 people of the total of 29,565 reported by the ministry of justice at the end of February.

'Overcrowding and the lack of of judicial oversight remain problematic,' the report said.

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Davol White

Mar 23rd, 2006 - 23:31:20

I'm reminded of a story currently disappeared beneath the carpet, back in August I believe, when the people in Basra were up in arms about the capture of British soldiers at a local police checkpoint they had put up in response to 'insurgent attacks'. These British soldiers were dressed as Arabs riding in a car full of guns and explosives. The Basra police had them in the local jail until the British army drove a tank into the jail to free them. Needless to say many captured insurgents in the jail also got away. I wouldn't be shocked to eventually find out that the American plan for this war all along was to split Iraq into 3 countries after a bloody Civil war. Then whatever atrocities the Iraqi's commit against themselves will serve as a perfect distraction from any human rights abuses we might be guilty of. Honestly consider this. Does 2000 death squad executions a month in Iraq really sound like we are handing Iraq over to the Iraqi's? This cuts to the chase of why we are never going to succeed here. Never mind the fact that the preemptive party who starts a war without any good reason and without truly engaging the support of we the people doesn't deserve to succeed. Just in case I'm the only one who will say it, I'd like to say that Bush's pre-emptive war doctrine should not only be ridiculed as anathema, and the worse idea any American President ever had, but Bush should also be in prison for such an awful idea that many Americans

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like myself were raised to believe was why Hitler was such a bad man. We fight this war with bad karma and that can't end good.

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