

SIFREP 12 CPA GENERAL COUNSEL'S OFFICE--AS LEGAL OFFICER
COVERING PERIOD 21 - 27 JUL 03

Section 22
Irrelevant

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10. Substantial progress was made on the facilities front in the detention issue with the first 400 cells at Abu Ghraib (AG) complete and only needing water and generator to go which will happen in the next two days. Russafa is also ready and 400 detainees were being moved out of Camp Vigilant into this facility. The 800th MP Bde Internment Facility (IF) now has the first 500 places ready to go. The mobile Investigating Judge scheme was put into effect but ran into trouble because bond arrangements not being available the IJs were reluctant to order release and IZ does not have a "time served" option. To resolve this, the MoJ will issue a directive enabling release without bond based on time served. In addition a JAG COL has been assigned to conduct file assessments on all the detainees and release any that do not warrant holding. Matters are now coming to a head however as the sweeps being conducted by the Coalition are netting, combined with criminal detainee action, around 200 people a day, 60% of whom have an MI hold on them. The reality this is creating is that we will not be able to close Camp Cropper and all our criminal detainee facilities are being turned into MI holding facilities. The MI hold internees go nowhere because MI does not have the assets to interrogate them. The Officer suggested that this required a show down with CJTF 7 Ops and C2 staff as this situation cannot go on. There needs to be set a much tighter criteria

for MI hold. MI have to be told that if they do not interrogate within two weeks internees will be sent to Camp Buca in Um Qasr and that will remain open as an MI facility. This is also relates to a poor approach to the counter insurgency campaign in that the indiscriminate or too widely focused sweeps are causing the resentment and in themselves promoting a tolerant background to the insurgents in those areas where the sweeps occur. The internees are not providing a good source of intelligence as they are not even being interrogated. The best sources of HUMINT in this environment are the walk-ins encouraged by faith in the coalition, construction of a good relationship with the community and mutual self interest. The deaths of Uday and Qusay have encouraged more of this kind of intelligence to come forward and the information concerning their location was provided by a walk in. A meeting was held on 27 Jul with Ops and C2 on this matter and a start was made on resolving some of these matters.

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12. Amnesty International produced another report on the activities of the CPA which contained a high content of legal comment as well as the usual "documentation" of complaints with respect to activities of the Coalition Force. Two meetings were held with Amnesty personnel to discuss the report and their legal comments were dealt with or explained with no difficulty. They appeared satisfied on this aspect. They were requested to attempt to make their allegations regarding abuses by the Forces better documented and submit supporting statements then we will undertake to investigate each matter.

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