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Sunday: 51 Iraqis Killed, 95 Wounded

By [Margaret Griffis](#)

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In a still developing story, a significant number of worshippers were killed in an operation that liberated dozens of hostages at a Baghdad church. At least **51 Iraqis were killed and 95 more were wounded** not only at the church but also in an uptick of violence that greeted the new week. The casualty toll is expected to rise.

In **Baghdad**, gunmen [killed two policemen and wounded eight others](#) when they tried to [storm the stock exchange](#) using grenades or even a [car bomb](#). The perpetrators then [took refuge](#) inside a **Catholic** church in *Karrada*, where they held scores of hostages. Although details are unclear, nineteen **nuns** were [released](#) early in the day as the gunmen [demanded](#) the release of al-Qaeda members in Iraq and Egypt. One witness [said](#) the gunmen did not have Iraqi accents, bolstering the claim that they wanted Egyptian as well as Iraqi detainees released. At least [37 more people were killed](#), including a [priest](#), either after security forces stormed the church or [earlier in the ordeal](#). Some estimates place the death toll even higher. At least [56 people were also wounded](#) and about [120 hostages were freed](#). The fate of gunmen is unclear, but they may all be dead, either from their own suicide vests or killed by security forces. **U.S. forces** said that only [air support](#) was provided during the operation, but American troops were [reported](#) on scene as well.

Elsewhere in the capital, [six people were killed and four more wounded](#) when a bomb at a garage exploded in a northern neighborhood. A blast [wounded three people](#), including a civilian, in *Saidiya*. Separate bombs in *Doura* [wounded five more Iraqis](#).

In **Mosul**, a [suicide bomber killed one policeman and wounded seven more](#) in *Bursa*. Mortars [wounded four soldiers](#) when they landed at an army base. [Three civilians were injured](#) in a *Tahrir* roadside bomb blast, while in *Tel al-Rummam* another bombing left [three policemen with injuries](#).

A sticky bomb planted on an Awakening Council member's car in **Taji** [killed him and wounded three bystanders](#).

A sticky bomb in **Baquba** [wounded the husband](#) of a Diyala council member.

A roadside bomb targeting a former State of Law party M.P. in **Khalis** [killed his office manager and wounded a guard](#).

[Two teenage brothers were found shot to death](#) in **Wujaihiyah**.

A suspected al-Qaeda emir was [captured](#) in **Qara Tappa**.

Twenty-three suspects were [arrested](#) in **Karbala**.

A suicide bomber wounded 32 people in **Istanbul** in what Turkish officials believe was a **Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK)** [attack](#).