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Multiple bomb blasts kill 57 in Iraq

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Fifty-seven people have been killed and scores of others injured in multiple bomb explosions in the Iraqi capital city of Baghdad, an official says.

Ziad Tariq, spokesperson for the Iraqi health ministry, said people 57 were killed and 176 were injured in 10 bombing attacks that rocked nine neighborhoods of the capital on Thursday morning.

The attacks were carried out in the Allawi, Bab al-Muatham and Karrada districts of central Baghdad, the Adhamiyah, Shuala and Shaab neighborhoods in the north, Jadriyah in the east, Ghazaliyah in the west and Amal and Dura in the south.

The deadly incidents in Iraq took place at a time that the country is experiencing a critical situation.

On Monday, the Iraqi interior ministry issued an arrest warrant for Vice President Tariq al-Hashemi after three of his bodyguards made confessions of taking orders from him to carry out terrorist attacks in the country over the past years.

Hashemi has denied allegations of involvement in acts of terrorism.

The Iraqiya party, which holds 82 of the 325 seats in the Iraqi parliament, issued a statement on Saturday, saying the bloc “is suspending its participation in parliament from Saturday and calling for the opening of a round-table to find a solution that will support democracy and civil institutions.”

The bloc accuses Maliki of “monopolizing all decision-making.”

On Wednesday, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki warned that he would appoint new cabinet ministers if the current ministers from the Iraqiya party do not attend cabinet sessions.

The Iraqi premier has also called on different political groups help resolve the crisis in the country.

Iraqiya is a political coalition of Hashimi's Renewal List party, the Iraqi National List led by former Prime Minister Iyad Allawi and the Iraqi Front for National Dialogue led by Saleh al-Mutlaq.