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# U.S. Tries to Stop Iraq Killing

## More troops placed in Baghdad

(AP) -- A series of bombings and shootings killed at least 33 people in Iraq Tuesday, most in the Baghdad area, as more American soldiers patrolled the streets of the capital in a make-or-break bid to quell sectarian violence.

Nearly 60 people were wounded in the blasts, police said. The explosions began when three bombs went off simultaneously near the Interior Ministry in central Baghdad, killing 10 people and wounding eight, police Lt. Bilal Ali Majid said.

Two more bombs ripped through the main Shurja market, also in cen-



An Iraqi policeman inspect the site of a bomb blast, in Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday. (AP photo)

tral Baghdad, killing 10 more civilians and wounding 50, police Lt. Mohammed Kheyoun said.

At least 13 other people were killed or found dead Tuesday, most in the Baghdad area, where tension

between Sunnis and Shiites runs the highest.

The violence underscores the security crisis facing Baghdad, which prompted American commanders to send more U.S. soldiers

to the capital in a renewed bid to curb sectarian killings and kidnappings.

U.S. officials said the latest phase of the security operation was launched Monday "to reduce the level of murders, kidnappings, assassinations, terrorism and sectarian violence in the city and to reinforce the Iraqi government's control of Baghdad."

A U.S. statement said about 6,000 additional Iraqi troops were being sent to the Baghdad area, along with 3,500 U.S. soldiers of the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team and 2,000 troops from the U.S. 1st Armored Division, which has served as the theater reserve force since November.

Other violence is believed carried out by criminal gangs and freelance gunmen settling personal scores.

## Sheehan Kicks Off Protest

(AP) -- Roadside camping and parking bans are constitutional, a federal judge ruled Monday, blocking protesters from pitching tents

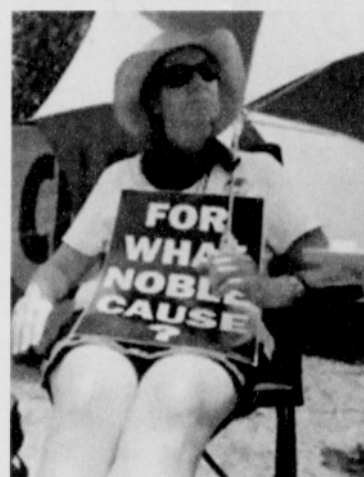
or placing portable toilets in ditches near President Bush's Texas ranch.

Last fall, county commissioners banned roadside camping and parking after Cindy Sheehan's small group of protesters swelled to several thousand people on weekends and locals complained of the noise, traffic and odor from portable toilets.

Sheehan and a handful of anti-war activists sat in chairs across from a roadblock near Bush's ranch

again Tuesday, where she also released 18 balloons with postcards saying she wanted to meet with the president.

Sheehan, whose son was killed in Iraq, kicked off her summer protest Sunday on a 5-acre lot she bought last month. The land near downtown is more than 7 miles from the ranch, much farther from the group's second protest site, a 1-acre lot a sympathetic landowner let the group use until recently.



Anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan

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## Bush Advisor Pleads Guilty

### Blames phony returns on stress

(AP) -- A former White House adviser pleaded guilty to theft Friday, briefly breaking into tears as he tried to explain to a judge why he made phony returns at discount department stores while making \$160,000 a year working as a top aide to President Bush.

"Something did go very wrong," Claude Allen said.

Allen, 45, pleaded guilty in Montgomery County Circuit Court in Rockville, Md. to one misdemeanor count of theft under \$500. He was sentenced to two years of supervised probation and ordered to pay a \$500 fine.

Allen must also pay \$850 in restitution to Target Corp. and per-



Claude Allen

form 40 hours of community service.

Allen did not directly say why he

made thousands of dollars worth of fraudulent returns to Target and other stores last year.

But he and his wife, Jannese, described the stresses he faced last fall, working long days following the Hurricane Katrina disaster, sleeping just two hours each night. The couple and their four children moved four times in three months, at one point living out of boxes in a friend's basement.

"I lost perspective and failed to restrain myself. At the time, I did not realize or fully appreciate what was going on," said Allen. "These factors do not excuse my behavior ... but they were certainly a part of what happened."

Allen was President Bush's domestic policy adviser until he abruptly resigned in February, saying he wanted to spend more time with his family. The resignation came after he was arrested in January leaving a Gaithersburg Target store with merchandise that authorities said he didn't pay for.

## Urgent Plea for Crisis Volunteers

If you become a victim of sexual assault or domestic violence, who will be there for you? If a child in your neighborhood becomes a victim of child abuse or neglect, who will be there for him or her?

The answer for many women and children in Vancouver is that a YWCA volunteer will be there. However, that requires a lot of volunteers from diverse backgrounds.

The Clark County YWCA currently needs adults to serve as sexual assault victim advocates for adults and youth, domestic violence victim support group facilitators, court advocates for abused and neglected children and volunteers to help incarcerated women transition back into the community.

Other opportunities include volunteering in the Y's Care preschool classroom, mentoring young people who are aging out of foster care, assisting with fund raising and special events, and working behind the scenes to keep the agency functioning smoothly.

For more information, contact Al Flory at 360-696-0167 or [aflory@ywcaclearcounty.org](mailto:aflory@ywcaclearcounty.org).

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