

REPORT

**EVALUATION OF THE ATTACKS ON THE CIVILIAN POPULATION OF
BAGHDAD CARRIED OUT BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND ALLIED COUNTRIES BETWEEN 20
MARCH AND 15 APRIL 2003**

26 April 2003

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This report is dedicated to 'Abu Abdala' and Jaled, Iraqi functionaries and our dearest friends, who, beyond their obligations, putting our safety before their own and that of their families, took care of us at all times until they saw us depart from a Baghdad that was, by then, under occupation.

That we were able to return safe and sound, and so can bear witness to what we experienced during the war, is essentially due to them. Their attitude exemplifies the dignity and honour that characterises the Iraqi people.

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PRESENTATION

The current report relates 42 documented cases of attacks on the Iraqi civilian population carried out by the Anglo-American forces in the metropolitan area of Baghdad between 20 March and 5 April 2003, mostly by aerial bombing and missile strikes, but also land-based attacks that took place during the initial phase of the occupation of the city. These cases have been documented on the ground by the Spanish Brigades group that was present in the Iraqi capital from the beginning of the war until 9 April, when US troops entered the area of the city where we were staying.¹ Also included are reports of nine hospital visits, with testimonies of attacks that have not been sufficiently identified (Appendix II).

‘Brigades to Iraq Against the War’

Our presence in Baghdad (initially nine people, subsequently seven²) was the result of the ‘*Mohammad Belaidi*’ *Brigades to Iraq Against the War* initiative, mounted by the State Campaign for the Lifting of Sanctions Against Iraq (“*Campaña Estatal por el Levantamiento de las Sanciones a Iraq*”; CELSI).³ Weekly from 16 February, until the start of the Anglo-American invasion, groups from the different Spanish Autonomous Communities travelled to Iraq with the dual aim of expressing the opposition of the majority of our citizens to the war and their solidarity with the Iraqi people, and at the same time of condemning the support of the Spanish government for the warlike plans of the United States of America and Great Britain against Iraq. During this period, five brigades from Catalonia, Andalusia and the Canaries, Asturias and Galicia, Madrid and Castile, and the Basque Country and Cantabria, made up of an average of 25 brigade members, in addition to professionals from the media, guaranteed a permanent presence in Iraq of men and women citizens of the Spanish state. This was the most important international initiative in extent and duration undertaken against the invasion of this country.

Once the war began the Spanish Brigades group who decided to remain in Baghdad formed the most numerous international contingent in the country.⁴ The *Iraq Peace Team* group, an initiative of the US organisation *Voices in the Wilderness*, whose headquarters are in Chicago, likewise maintained a group of 17 people of various nationalities in Baghdad throughout the war, with whom we were in permanent contact.

Material and methods

¹ Throughout the war the brigade stayed in the *Hotel Cedar*, on the left, or east, bank of the river Tigris, known as ar-Rasafah (opposite al-Karj, the right, or west bank), in the north-east of the city, between al-Fatah Square —where the National Theatre and the twice-bombed Iraqi Air Ministry are situated— and Aqba bin Nafi Square, near Inner and Outer Karrada Streets. A first column of tanks and US troop carrier vehicles were parked between the two squares in the early afternoon of 9 April.

² The final group of seven brigade members consisted of Javier Barandiarán, José Bielsa, Belarmino García Villar, Teresa Tuñón Álvarez, María Rosa Peñarroya, Ana María Rodríguez and Carlos Varea. Manuel Fernández González and Imanol Tellería left Baghdad on 31 March.

³ The *Brigades to Iraq Against the War* bore the name of Mohammad Belaidi, an Algerian mechanic and Arab socialist, who arrived in Madrid shortly after the start of the military uprising against the Republic and became a volunteer in the air squadron commanded by André Malraux. Belaidi died on 27 December 1936, shot down by Nazi fighter planes over the Teruel Sierra in the plane in which he served as a machine-gunner. This episode was narrated with great intensity by André Malraux in his book *Days of Hope*. More information about this initiative is available at: <http://www.nodo50.org/csca/agenda2003/brigadas.html>

⁴ There was no internationalist presence in the other cities of the country, such as Basra, which was nevertheless visited by the Madrid-Castile brigade ten days before the beginning of the invasion.

All cases of attacks on the civilian population recorded here were gathered directly by the Brigades group during their stay in Baghdad, through the completion of 114 questionnaires by surviving victims of these attacks or their relatives who were direct witnesses. All were civilians⁵. Only in the case of some attacks that have been previously documented by the brigade, have we included in this report some of the data from the same event collected by the *Iraq Peace Team* group, with whom we exchanged information during our time in Baghdad during the weeks of the war.⁶

At the end of this report, the cases of attacks herein are compared with those collected by the British initiative known as the *Iraq Body Count Project*, which attempts to establish, from data originating essentially from the media, the level of fatalities throughout the whole of Iraq that were due to the Anglo-American invasion.⁷

Two sources of information have been directly employed in drawing up this report: the hospitals and the actual places where the attacks took place. Firstly, from the onset of the bombing, each morning we visited at least one or two of the capital's hospitals that were receiving the dead and injured from the attacks, in an attempt to obtain a random sample that would allow significant conclusions to be drawn concerning the distribution of the attacks on the ground and their characteristics. The five hospitals that were regularly visited —approximately 10% of the 40 there are in Baghdad— were:

- a) Al-Kindi Hospital, in the Palestine district, to the east of the city, on the left bank of the River Tigris (300 beds).
- b) Al-Yarmuk University Hospital (1,200 beds), between the Ma'amun, Yarmuk and Qadisiya districts, south Baghdad, on the right bank.
- c) Saddam Hospital Complex (four specialist hospitals each with around 600 beds), in the Aiwadhiya district, in the north of the city, on the left bank.
- d) Al-Nouman Hospital, in the Aadamiya district, next to that of al-Kadimiya, in the north-west of the city, on the left bank.
- e) Saddam City Hospital, in the neighbourhood of the same name, in the north-east of the city on the left bank of the Tigris.

These five centres adequately cover the entire area of Baghdad.

The information collected from these hospitals visited included statements of the injured themselves or of their relatives, in the case of serious injury or if minors were involved, and data from hospital records. All of this information was obtained thanks to the collaboration of the Iraqi health staff. The fact that various members of our brigade have training in the area of healthcare allowed the accurate characterisation of the information provided by Iraqi professionals. In the cases of the attacks outlined below it may be appreciated that, on occasion, the personal details of the victims, the time of the attack or other data of interest are missing. This is due to the fact that the interviews with the injured or those accompanying them, and with the hospital's health staff, were habitually conducted within a few hours of the attack victim's admission, under conditions that, out of consideration for those affected, or because of the stress we ourselves were under, at times made the thorough gathering of all the data impossible.

⁵ The questionnaire included: first and family names of the person interviewed; age; sex; profession or level of formal education; date of admission, hospital and reference doctor; injuries; place, date, time and circumstances of the attack in which the person was injured; other family members or neighbours injured or killed in the same attack; other relevant information.

⁶ "Civilian Casualties and Infrastructure Damage in the 2003 U.S.-Led Attack on Baghdad. March 20-April 1, 2003". *Iraq Peace Team*, 4 April, 2003, Baghdad.

⁷ The website may be found at: <http://www.iraqbodycount.org/>.

Therefore, when possible, the information collected in the hospitals was completed during more prolonged interviews with the affected families, carried out collectively several days after the attack had taken place, usually in relatives' houses where they had been taken in. This allowed us to show our concern for the recovery of the injured or the mourning of the dead, away from the inevitable stress of the hospital visits. It was common practice of the Iraqi doctors to discharge rapidly those without extremely serious injuries, even if they had recently been operated upon, so that beds could be freed each day for the newly injured from the continuous attacks that Baghdad experienced.

Secondly, this immediate and direct information from the victims was complemented by the data provided by the residents of the places bombed. We would customarily visit these places a few hours after the attack and would sometimes return on subsequent days in order to interview the neighbours of affected families we had not been able to locate in our hospital visits.

The reconstruction of the stories of the families of the bombing victims was laborious and occasionally fruitless. Due to the systematic destruction of the telecommunications centres in most of neighbourhoods of Baghdad (which, like that of Aadamiya, were sometimes bombed three days running) and the impossibility of summoning ambulances to collect the victims, when an attack took place, families and neighbours would take the injured and dying to different hospitals. As these were also unable to communicate with one another, they could not inform family members about their respective admissions.

The information below should not be considered to be an exhaustive record of the cases of attacks against the civilian population of Baghdad carried out by the Anglo-American forces. Rather, it should be regarded as a significant report of their breadth, systematic nature and severity with respect to the number of civilian victims and material damage caused by the Anglo-American attacks.

As we have stated, this report covers the first 17 days of bombardments and ground attacks in the Baghdad area.⁸ Until Thursday 3 April we were able to travel outside of Baghdad, even to the south-western outskirts where the attempted US penetrations took place. On the same day we visited the previously bombed village of Yisridial. From that date until Wednesday 9 April we could still cross to the other side of the city (al-Karj, on the right, west bank), which by then was partially under US occupation.

However, after 4 April, the highly intense battles, first to take Saddam International Airport (situated in the south-west of Baghdad) and later to occupy the neighbourhoods of the right bank of the Tigris, completely paralysed the hospitals on both sides of the city, making it impossible to carry out our task of gathering detailed information about the victims during the final days of the assault on Baghdad. Also, from 3 April, the whole of Baghdad was left without electricity due to the bombing of at least four of the electricity generating stations on the outskirts. This made the work in the hospitals even more difficult, since this relied on insufficient generators to cope with the increasingly intense level of activity.

On our final visit to al-Yarmuk Hospital on 4 April we were informed that the number of injured admitted had increased five-fold during the previous few hours. Our own perception of the intensity of battle and the subsequent statements of those who had suffered directly leads us to state that the occupation of the south-west of Baghdad caused a very large number of civilian victims, to which must be added that of the members of the militia and soldiers who took part in the defence of Baghdad.

In our visits to the hospitals of Baghdad during the three weeks of the war, we encountered at all times a professional body of selfless, attentive and extremely efficient health workers, despite

⁸ The first bombing of Baghdad was carried out at 0540 on the morning of Thursday 20 March 2003.

the precariousness of their circumstances imposed by 12 years of international sanctions and the serious situation produced by the continuous attacks against the city and the destruction of its civil infrastructure.

A permanent attack on Baghdad

As this report demonstrates, the bombings and missile strikes were carried out continuously from the first days of the invasion, throughout the night and early morning, against all neighbourhoods, suburbs and towns of the metropolitan area of Baghdad, covering an area of 50 kilometres diameter in which 5 million inhabitants live.

A few days after the beginning of the war, Baghdad's anti-aircraft sirens ceased to work through a loss of efficiency resulting from the continuous nature of the bombings. The absence of its own operative aircraft and the very limited anti-aircraft defences meant that the USA and Great Britain were able to bomb Baghdad with total impunity. In broad daylight it was possible to observe how the fighter-bombers struck the city's neighbourhoods time after time, producing a strange screeching sound, dropping their cargo of luminous and clearly visible bombs. Likewise, the sound of the US *super bombers* flying low over the city was clearly audible, especially during the early hours of the morning. The memory repeats of visiting the hospitals and feeling the explosion of bombs and missiles nearby, which made the windows and walls shake in the wards where those injured in previous attacks lay.

As the days went by, the number of fatalities and the severity of the survivors' wounds grew: if the first injuries were the result of the collapse of buildings, we can state that as the war went by the majority of new injuries were due to the effects of the extremely deadly shrapnel and of fire. Descriptions of those affected and of the Iraqi health workers confirm that fragmentation (cluster) bombs were used, as indicated in this report.

We asked all those interviewed in the hospitals —the injured or their relatives— if there had been any government building or military installation near the place affected that could explain the attack. We checked this information in our visits to the attacked places: only exceptionally may it be considered that some of the damage to the Baghdad civilian population reported here was a consequence —“collateral damage”— of an attack on adjacent official installations or the result of ground battles.⁹

DOCUMENTED ATTACKS ON THE CIVILIAN POPULATION¹⁰

1.- Al-Qadisiya (22 March)

The district of al-Qadisiya is situated in the south-west of the city, near the Island of Umm al-Janazir, in the meander formed by the river Tigris. In the early morning (precise time not specified) of 22 March at least one missile destroyed four houses and damaged a further nine in a block about 100 metres behind al-Yarmuk University Hospital, in streets 26 and 24, sector (*mohalla*) 602. We noticed that the explosion had left a crater approximately 40 metres in diameter and 10 metres deep, which had become flooded due to the breakage of the plumbing of the volatilised house. In al-Yarmuk Hospital we visited Jhalima (an old woman, whose family name and age are not recorded) and her 28-year-old son, Ahmed Abel-Daayem, who had

⁹ This report does not include the descriptions of the brigade's visits to destroyed governmental buildings. These can be read in its daily dispatches from Baghdad, which are reproduced at <http://www.nodo50.org/cscs>.

¹⁰ Photographs are available that identify many of the injured who were interviewed and whose statements document the cases of attacks recorded below.

shrapnel injuries to his right leg. The total number of those injured and killed in the attack is not known.

2.- Al-Sha'ab (24 March)

At 0030 a projectile struck the house of Munib Abed Hamid (m¹¹), 33 years old, a mechanic by profession, in the district of al-Sha'ab, north Baghdad. Munib Abed himself, his wife and one of his children were injured. Munib Abed, who we visited twice, spoke to us on 30 March in al-Kindi Hospital and on 5 April in al-Nouman hospital. He had shrapnel wounds to both legs and his abdomen, with a perforated intestine that required a reparative laparotomy.

3.- Aadamiya (24 March)

At 1255 a projectile (almost certainly a missile) destroyed two adjoining houses on the block known as Raagba Jatum (numbers 7, 11, 13, 14 and 15 of street 5), in Shammasiya, in the neighbourhood of al-Camp, in the district of Aadamiya.¹² Two other dwellings suffered serious damage, and had to be abandoned due to the danger of their collapse.

We visited the place the day after, observing the rubble of both houses and gaining access to the house behind, where numerous blood stains could be seen on the floor and walls of the lower rooms. Ahmed al-Jatid and two unidentified members of his family died in house number 13 while they were watching television, according to the statement of his brother, Mohamed al-Jatid. Mr Hussan al-Azawi, a neighbour from the street, a teacher of Fine Arts who speaks Spanish, and whose house was also damaged, told us that one of the female victims, a widow (name not recorded), died in this place. She looked after her seven children, and was a household worker. One of her sons, Akil Halil, was injured in the attack. We attempted to visit him but in the end were unable to find him.

We made a second visit to the bombed area on 4 April. Through the mediation of Hussan al-Azawi we met the following injured people:

- Badria Hassan (f), 75 years old: with superficial wounds to her abdominal wall produced by fragments of glass.
- Yassem Fahari (m), 60 years old, retired: with wounds to the left leg caused by glass fragments, which made it impossible for him to walk.
- Safia al-Naimi (f), 52 years, wife of Yassem Fahari: injured in the left eye by glass, causing complete loss of vision, and with wounds to the left leg that made it impossible for her to walk.
- Sinam Fahari (m), 31 years, civil servant, son of Yassem and Safia: with head injuries caused by glass.

4.- Saddam International Airport (24 March)

One of the first bombardments of Saddam International Airport—in the south-west of the city— led to the injury of FayeZ Zuher, a civil engineer, as he was working. He had two shrapnel injuries to the thorax. Time of attack not recorded.

5.- Central Baghdad (25 March)

At 1000 the central al-Andalus Square (left bank, an-Nidal Street) was bombarded, causing the injury of Massen Yusef (m), 30 years, and Ali Abdelham (m), 32 years, both civil servants, who

¹¹ Hereafter, m: male, f: female.

¹² The term “district” refers to the biggest urban division in Baghdad, and includes several neighbourhoods.

were at work at the time of the attack, according to their own statements made during our visit on 31 March to al-Kindi hospital. Both had serious burns, and had been admitted to the burns unit.

6.- Al-Yusifia (25 March)

Twenty members of the Muhammad family were injured in a bombardment in al-Yusifia on 25 March, a suburb in the south of Baghdad, according to the statement made by Yassim Muhammad, a 75-year-old farmer, during the interview with him in al-Yarmuk Hospital on 29 March. He had a pneumothorax that required draining.

On 1 April we found his daughter, Saadia Yassim Muhammad, 31 years of age, in the same hospital. She was wounded in the pelvis and back by shrapnel.

7.- Al-Rashid (25 March)

An attack with cluster bombs destroyed seven houses within an area of 300 metres, causing four deaths (names not recorded), according to what we were told at the site of the attack, in al-Rashid, a central neighbourhood in west Baghdad, on the right bank, near the neighbourhoods of al-Mansur, al-Ma'amun and al-Yarmuk.

On 29 March, we visited Nagar Amair, a young woman of 25 years, in al-Yarmuk Hospital. She had been injured in the thorax by shrapnel during this attack.

8.- Yisridial (25 March)

Yisridial is a village situated 12 kilometres to the east of Baghdad, in the district of Nahrawaan, near the Diyala bridge, on the road to al-Kut. It is an area of irrigated crops (corn), palm groves, and cattle farming, crossed by one of the channels of the Tigris, with isolated and paired houses. One of these houses belonged to Hachemi Abdullah (m), a 60-year-old qualified electrician. At 1630 on 25 March at least one projectile hit his house, where he and 20 members of his family were present. Of these, four were killed and ten were injured. Those killed were:

- The wife of Hachemi Abdullah (name not recorded).
- His daughter, Hanna Hachemi.
- His granddaughter, Sahra Adnane, 8 years old.
- Nada Najim, 18 years old, wife of Khaled Ajim, nephew of Hachemi Abdullah.

The injured included three of Hachemi Abdullah's grandchildren, who we visited in al-Kindi Hospital on 31 March:

- Nada Adnane (f), 14 years old: with shrapnel injuries to both arms, trunk and face.
- Rana Adnane (f), 9 years old: with shrapnel injuries to the left arm.
- Muhammad Adnane (m), 4 years: with shrapnel injuries to the head and left ear.

Other injured people, visited in the family home of Mr Mushair, Hachemi Abdullah's brother-in-law, on 2 April, were:

- Samir Mushair (m), 26 years old, veterinary surgeon: with broken right arm and multiple injuries to the head, trunk and extremities.
- Riad Mushair (m), 27 years old, office worker: with shrapnel wounds to his right hand.
- Ahmed Mushair (m), 18 years old, student: with broken right arm and shrapnel wounds to the head.
- Rasha Mushair (f), 20 years old, student of Administration: with shrapnel wounds to the head, left hand and right leg.

- Omar Mushair (m), 13 years old, schoolboy: with shrapnel injury to the right elbow.
- Khaled Ajim (m), 23 years old, office worker in an electricity company: with shrapnel injury to the head.
- Hachemi Abdullah, himself: with shrapnel injuries to his head, right knee and left leg.

Subsequently, on 3 April, we visited Hachemi Abdullah's home in Yisridial. It is a two-storey building. The upper floor was found to be completely demolished, the staircase leading up to it completely covered by rubble. We were informed that this was where Hachemi's wife had died. The doors and windows were missing. The ceiling of the main bedroom of the house had a hole about three metres in diameter and the crater in the ground produced by the explosion could clearly be seen. Another hole with similar characteristics had been made in the roof of the porch, suggesting that the house was struck twice.

In the next-door house, where Ahmed Hassan, Hachemi Abdullah's nephew, and his family live, the couple and their children told us that on the afternoon of the attack they heard two explosions and described how the injured were rescued and taken away.

9.- Al-Sha'ab (26 March)

At 1130 two projectiles exploded on the avenue of shops of this large district in the north of the city, crossed by the road from Mosul to Sulaymaniyah. Fifteen people died in the attack and 50 were wounded. We visited the place a few hours after the attack and on the following day. The avenue is approximately 75 metres wide. We saw a hole in the central reservation and another next to the houses on one of the pavements. There were several burnt-out vehicles. The shops on both sides of the street had had their metal doors torn off and destroyed by the shrapnel, and in many of them the effects of fire were visible. We entered the first floor of one of the affected buildings. The doors and windows of two of the houses that look out onto the street had been destroyed. Shrapnel holes in the walls and ceiling were visible. A large number of household fittings were found destroyed on the floor. One of the bedrooms had been on fire and a pile of burnt clothing was visible. The two houses in the area behind had all their windows broken and we saw a burnt bedroom. The breakage of the plumbing had caused the houses to flood. In the next-door hallway we observed a pool of blood. The neighbours told us that it was from one of the fatally injured victims, who had been hit in the head by a piece of shrapnel. At that spot they showed a piece of brain that had been recovered.

Sala Myeed, an engineer and resident of the neighbourhood, witnessed the attack. He told how Um Juana, a pregnant woman, was burnt to death on the second floor of one of the buildings. Marwwan Nasweer, a medical student, reported that two men died as they were working in an electrical shop. Three more men lost their lives in the *Edilme* restaurant: Abu Hassan, 45 years and father of five children, Manikit Hamoud (m), 17 years of age, and Saliyah Nouri (m), 28 years old. Sarif Albari (m), 36 years old, and his son Safe, 11, died in a garage that was completely destroyed by fire. Safa Issan (m), 17, and Marwan, a child aged 12, died alongside their father (name not recorded) as they were driving along the avenue in their car.

In subsequent visits to hospitals, we interviewed two of those injured in this attack:

- Hassan Mayeb (m), 55 years old, retired: he left his house just at the moment of the explosions, which, he told us, happened 15 and 30 metres away from him, respectively. He lost three toes of one foot. The interview was conducted on 30 March in al-Nouman Hospital.
- Medi Ahmet (m), 32 years: lost his left leg at the hip. We visited Medi on 31 March in al-Kindi Hospital.

10.- Al-Rashid (26 March)

A cluster bomb —according to the description of those affected by the attack— killed the mother and wounded the three sisters of Omar Ahmed, a 5-year-old boy, who suffered abdominal trauma. We visited Omar in al-Yarmuk Hospital on 29 March, on which day we were assisted by Dr Ahmed Abulah.

In the same attack, Ahmed Assad, a boy of 8 years, suffered shrapnel injuries to his neck, stomach and right leg. He told us that also injured were his father (who lost a foot), mother and his 16-year-old sister (who had shrapnel injuries in her chest wall and back). We did not manage to record their names.

11.- Al-Yusifia (26 March)

A new raid (time not recorded) on this southern suburb of Baghdad with cluster bombs caused four deaths and injured 26 (names not recorded). One of these was Salaam Ahmed (m), 40 years old, who had sustained an abdominal wound from shrapnel that required a laparotomy and that had left him in a critical condition. We visited Salaam in al-Yarmuk Hospital on 29 March.

12.- Al-Sha'ab (28 March)

At midday a projectile again destroyed a building in this district in north Baghdad, injuring all of its occupants. One of them was Georgis Bashar (m), a 35-year-old shopkeeper, who suffered shrapnel injuries to his arms and legs. We visited Georgis in al-Nouman Hospital on 30 March.

13.- Shu'ala (28 March, first attack)

At 1600 a projectile struck the centre of the al-Naser market in this outlying suburb to the north-west of the city, killing 53 people. We visited the site on 29 March. It is a highly populated and poor neighbourhood, with old houses, and a mainly Shi'ite population. The explosion left visible traces on the ground, in the place where the stalls are situated: the crater in the asphalt was one metre deep and three metres in diameter.¹³ The nearby, single-storey buildings, with their small shops, showed countless holes from shrapnel and all their doors were destroyed. On one side of the square, next to the houses, we noticed not only pools of blood but also human remains that had become stuck to a lamppost by the impact of the shrapnel that, according to the neighbours, destroyed the head of one of the victims.

Subsequently, we visited al-Nur Hospital in the same small neighbourhood, where 45 of those injured in the attack had been admitted and 41 dead bodies had been received. Dr Mahmud Shihab reported to us that 30 surgical operations had been carried out (during which three of the patients died) and during the visit some of the injured were still in the operating theatre. He also told us of the death in the attack of 25 children who had been playing football next to the market at the instant of the explosion. He told how most of the injured were children and old people, wounded by shrapnel. In the hospital we interviewed:

- Saddam Ezien (m), 20 years old, who lost his arm left when he was buying fruit in the market.
- Zaina Kadhea (m), 14 years old, with leg and head wounds and a broken arm.
- Raison Zait Mohamed (m), 55 years old, with a broken arm.

According to Dr Shihab, other injured people had to be diverted to al-Kadimiya Hospital due to the seriousness of their injuries.

¹³ According to journalistic sources, the explosion could have been due to a HARM (*High Speed Anti-Radiation Missile*) missile, manufactured by the Texas company *Raytheon*, or to a laser-guided *Paveway* bomb.

14.- Shu'ala (28 March, second attack)

Dr Ibrahim Sayid Ahmed, from al-Nur Hospital, told us that on the same morning (precise time unknown) of 28 March a second bomb had fallen on the same district of Shu'ala. Of the five children in one house, two had died as the result of the impact of the projectile. Two of the injured children were in the hospital: Sajad Mohamed, three years of age, and Saja Jaafar, two years old. We do not have the personal details of the other killed and injured.

15.- Ahel (28 March)

At 2100 on 28 March, a bombardment caused nine deaths in Ahel (site not found), as Alia Winiur (f), 53 years of age, related to us in our visit to al-Yarmuk Hospital the following day. In addition to Alia, her sister was also injured. We do not know the personal details of the rest of those injured and killed in the attack.

16.- Al-Sha'ab (29 March)

At 1630 on 29 March a missile injured eight people in a new attack in this district in the north of the city. One of these was Aamar Abdel Karim (m), a 29-year-old self-employed worker, who was injured at home. He suffered abdominal trauma that required a laparotomy. We interviewed Aamar in al-Nouman Hospital on 30 March. We do not know the personal details of the other people injured in this attack.

17.- Al-Qahira (29 March)

At 1630 Kasem Mishnawa (m), a 40-year-old shopkeeper, was wounded in the street of this central district in the north-east of the city, close to Mustansiriya University. He had shrapnel injuries to his back and arm. We visited Kasem in al-Nouman Hospital on 30 March.

18.- Palestine (29 March)

At 1600, Omar Rassed (m), an 18-year-old university student, was injured as he was walking along the street. He sustained injuries to his abdomen and right arm and suffered a pneumothorax. We visited Omar in al-Kindi Hospital on 31 March. The district of Palestine is situated in the east of the capital.

19.- Sumer (29 March)

At 1600, as he was waiting for a taxi, Nayaf Muhammad and his wife were caught up in an explosion in the Sumer district, in the south-east of the capital, on the right bank of the river. Nayaf Muhammad (m), 50 years old, who we interviewed in al-Kindi Hospital on 31 March, had shrapnel injuries to his right arm and abdomen.

20.- Yisridial (29 March)

A refuge was hit by a missile at 1700, causing the injury of Rana Tale, a 10-year-old girl. She sustained shrapnel wounds to her back and head. We visited her in al-Kindi hospital on 31 March. Another person, whose name was not recorded, was slightly injured in the same incident.

21.- Palestine (30 March, first attack)

Three teenagers, secondary school students, were injured as they were playing outside their house in the Palestine district at 1800 on 30 March. We visited them in al-Kindi Hospital the day after the attack:

- Ahmed Younis (m), 15 years old: sustained shrapnel injuries to both legs, with a fracture of the right tibia. His brother Ibrahim was also slightly injured but did not need to be admitted to hospital.
- Omar Taleb (m), 15 years of age: suffered shrapnel injuries to the right leg and left eyebrow.
- Ali Abid (m), 14 years: suffered a compound fracture of the left tibia.

22.- Palestine (30 March, second attack)

In a second attack on the Palestine district at 2000 on 30 March, a missile killed the mother, and injured the father and four children of the Said family as they were resting in their caravan in the street of the same name as the district, next to the *Iktical* school. We found the injured members of the Said family in al-Kindi Hospital on 31 March:

- Said Shatti (m), 60 years old, chauffeur: suffered abdominal trauma and an unspecified bone fracture.
- Rana Said (f), 5 years old: suffered shrapnel injuries to the right arm and face, and injuries to both eyes.
- Mustafa Said, 7 years old: with shrapnel injuries of the right arm.
- Yafar Said, an 8 year-old boy: with shrapnel injuries to his head.
- Sheima Said, a 10-year-old girl: with shrapnel injuries to both legs.

We do not know the name of the mother killed in the attack.

23.- Safaraniya (30 March)

At 0600 a bombardment destroyed four houses near the Diyala bridge, in Safaraniya, a southern suburb of the capital (district 50, street 23, house 8), causing the death of 18 people and the injury of three, from three families:

- The Ismayal family, of which the father, his two wives, three daughters and one son died. Another daughter and two sons were wounded, one of whom, Ali, we met in the burns unit of al-Kindi Hospital on 31 March. Ali (m) was 12 years old and had third degree burns to 35% of his body (thorax and abdomen). Both his arms were completely burnt and required amputation at the shoulder, and his lungs were damaged by smoke inhalation.
- The Taher family, of which the mother, Azhar Ali Taher, 33 years of age, two daughters and one son all died. Another son was also injured.
- The Sabah family, all of whose members were killed: Sabah Eadan Karbeet (h), 42, the sons Husham, Malek and Ali Sabah Eadan, 10, 7 and 4 years old, respectively, and their 14-year-old sister Nora.
- Two other people also died in this attack, but their personal details could not be collected.

Ali's aunt, Jamila Abbas, who was not in the house at the time of the bombardment told us about the attack. The Hospital Director, Dr Osama Saleh, provided us with photographs taken by the health staff of the injured and dead from this attack upon their admission to al-Kindi.¹⁴

24.- Al-Amin (31 March)

Between 1430 and 1500 at least one missile launched from an aircraft hit this poor neighbourhood on the south-western outskirts of Baghdad. At the spot where the incident took place the neighbours told us that they had seen the missile or bomb explode in the air and fragment into other bombs, which destroyed a total of seven houses. They showed us various

¹⁴ Published in *Interviú* magazine with text by the brigade members in that week's edition.

pieces and fragments of the missile with the following inscriptions: *X2N8902, MADE IN USA, 8642. RADOM NOT PAINT, SEASTROM, RESEAR 01 1365S, YAW A2MP3 9003 ASS and MFR 9621.*

Haeden Abdul Mohamed lost three of her sons in the attack: Mohaned (m), aged 18, Mohamed, a teenager of 13, and Ahmed Abdul Hussein, 7 years of age. Haeden told us that one of his sons died while he was on the way to his uncle's house, another was in the doorway of the house and the third was in the patio. He mentioned that there were also many injured. For his part, Ali Nassar Abrid, a teenager of 13 years, informed us that he had been sleeping on the second floor of one of the houses and was woken by the bombardment to find himself covered with blood. Further, Mustafa Abdul Husein, a 5-year-old child, was hospitalised with serious shrapnel injuries to the abdomen.

Another of the bombs fell on the house next door to the home of Fadel Abdelaziz, a 43-year-old man, a carpenter by profession, who was alone at home at that moment and who we interviewed in al-Yarmuk Hospital on 1 April. Fadel suffered shrapnel injuries and perforation of the small intestine and colon, which required a laparotomy and a colostomy. He told us that he did not know the fate of his neighbours.

25.- Shorta Rabaa (31 March)

At 1100 on 31 March, Aamer Yassim and his son were injured as they were driving in their car in Shorta Rabaa, in the south-west of the capital. Aamer, 50 years old, suffered a perforated small intestine and colon and a ruptured liver. We visited Aamer in al-Yarmuk Hospital on 1 April.

26.- Al-Sweeb (31 March)

A bombardment demolished six houses at 0330, in the village of Sweeb on 31 March. The following day we met the following people in al-Yarmuk Hospital who had been injured in this attack:

- Adra Ismail Abder Rhouda, a 6-year-old boy: with burns to his face, wounds to both eyes and multiple injuries. Six members of his family (names not reported) were killed.
- Fatima Ali Abder Rashoud, an 11-year-old girl: had erosion on her head and multiple injuries. Two of her cousins were also injured: Hussein Ali Abder Rashoud, 17, who had an injury to his skull, and Abder Rashoud Ali Abder Rashoud, 12, with wounds to the left ear and left leg. Fatima's mother told how she had felt the explosion of two or three missiles that had penetrated the ground and that there were bodies that had still not been found.

27.- Al-Baya (31 March)

A missile injured three children as they were playing football in the neighbourhood of al-Baya, near that of al-Amil, both in the al-Jazair district, in the south-east of the city. One of these children was Muhammad Kadum Ali, 9, who sustained pelvic injuries from two pieces of shrapnel, and who we met in al-Yarmuk hospital on 1 April. We do not know the time of the attack.

28.- Fdeilia (31 March)

Fdeilia is a small neighbourhood in north-east Baghdad. It is a densely populated and poor area, with a Shi'ite and Kurd majority, made up of single-storey adobe houses and yards for livestock (cattle and goats), and unsurfaced streets without drains. On 31 March, at 1500, a missile exploded in one of its narrow alleys, causing the death of seven people and injuring at least 80

others. We visited the place a few hours after the attack, in the early evening.¹⁵ A two-metre diameter crater could be seen above the medium-sized sewer running down the middle of an alley no more than five metres wide. On the wall opposite the point of impact could be seen innumerable shrapnel holes and we observed a pool of blood that we were told came from an animal. On the side nearest the explosion were two of the most damaged houses. One of them included the patio wall that gave on to the destroyed street, and the stairs to the roof of the house. The patio was full of domestic equipment holed by missile shards, as were the entrance doors to the two rooms that made up the house. Much of the house next door had been demolished by the explosion (kitchen, toilet and part of a bedroom).

We met some of those injured in this attack on 2 April in al-Kindi Hospital:

- Yasi Hamed (m), 25 years old, who was in the street at the moment of the explosion: he had shrapnel injuries to the left hand and abdominal trauma. His 11-year-old son (name not reported) died in the attack.
- Massim Ahmed (m), 33 years of age, who was at home: he had shrapnel injuries to the axillary region, outer ear and chest wall. Massim lost two sons and a daughter (names not recorded), while his wife —according to the doctor who was assisting us— was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit on the day of our visit.
- Soomer Sheiss (f), aged 55, who was injured while at home, suffered traumatic amputation of the first and second fingers of her left hand. One son and seven of her nieces and nephews were injured: Fátima Abbas, Fatima Fadel, Heider and Haura Kamel, and Abbas, Mariam and Yassem Mohsen:
- Fatima Abbas, a 10-year-old girl, who was in the street at the time of the explosion and suffered shrapnel injuries to her right leg, which required amputation below the knee.
- Fatima Fadel (f), 10 years old, who was at home when the missile struck: she had a fractured tibia and fibula. Fátima lost her mother, grandmother and sister in this attack, while another brother was wounded (personal details not known).
- Heider Kamel, a 10-year-old boy, who was playing in the street when the attack happened, suffering a broken tibia and fibula. His sister Haura Kamel, 6 years, was slightly injured.
- Abbas Mohsen, a boy of 3, who was also playing in the street at the time of the explosion, received shrapnel injuries to his right leg.
- Mariam Mohsen, a girl of 9 years and sister of the above. She was also playing in the street when the missile struck, and suffered a broken left tibia and left fibula. Mariam was admitted to hospital in a state of hypovolaemic shock. Her 4-year-old brother, Yassem Mohsen, was also injured in this attack, but was not found in this hospital on the day of the visit.

29.- Abu Dshir (1 April)

Around 1730, an attack killed three children (names not recorded) and injured Muhammad Jamal, a 6-year-old boy, and his brother (personal details not recorded), as they were playing on the stairs of their home, in the district of Abu Dshir, two kilometres from ad-Dora, in the south-east of the city, on the right bank of the Tigris. We visited Muhammad in al-Yarmuk Hospital on 3 April: his intestine had been perforated by shrapnel and required a laparotomy and a colostomy.

30.- Al-Suera (2 April)

This rural area in south-west Baghdad was bombed on 2 April at 0500 in the morning, killing 48 people, whose personal details were not recorded. One of the injured was Samer Hamza, a child of 10 years, who we visited in al-Kindi Hospital on the day of the attack. He had a broken left

¹⁵ Returning to Fdeilia at night, the brigade witnessed a big explosion in an unidentified district in the north of the city.

humerus. Samer's father told us that three other members of the family had been admitted to as-Sisia Hospital (50 kilometres from the capital) and did not know the whereabouts of the rest of his family.

31.- Saddam City (2 April)

Saddam City (or Thawra, *Revolution*) is a populous district with a Shi'ite majority, situated in the north-east of the city. It was bombarded at 1030 on 2 April. A few hours later we visited the Saddam City hospital, where we gathered information from some of those injured in this attack:

- Muktada Ibrahim, a 3-year-old boy whose mother, Hana Asem, informed us that he was in the doorway of his home at the moment of the attack: he had a compound fracture of the left tibia due to being struck by shrapnel.
- Ali Karim Snawa (m), 16 years old, cousin of Muktada: suffered a compound fracture of the tibia and fibula.
- Hamze Yassem, an 11-year-old boy: suffered shrapnel injury to the left leg.
- Ayad Muhammad Yassem, another boy of 11 years, who was in the doorway of his home at the time of the attack: injured in the right gluteus by a piece of shrapnel.
- Yaberia Kokes (f), 50 years of age, who was walking along the street towards the market, when she sustained a shrapnel injury to the right knee.

32.- Ad-Dora (2 April)

In al-Yarmuk Hospital on 3 April, the mother of Fahad Ossai, who was injured in the previous day's attack on the district of ad-Dora, in the south of the city, told us that the first strike by two missiles happened that day (time not recorded), causing many deaths and injuries. When neighbours and Civil Defence volunteers arrived to help the injured there was a new bombardment, on this occasion with cluster bombs, according to the description given.

We registered the following injuries:

- Fahad Ossai (m), 17 years old: with severe abdominal trauma abdominal multiple-organ damage and several shrapnel wounds. When we arrived at the ward, his state was critical.
- Walid Abbas (m), 32 years old, Civil Defence volunteer, was injured while saving others injured in the first explosions: he had a broken right femur and shrapnel injuries to both legs.
- Salah Rajim (m), 33 years old, also a Civil Defence volunteer, injured in the same circumstances as the above: he had shrapnel injuries to the left hip and both legs.
- Bessam Muhammad (m), a 23-year-old university student, was injured as he was walking near his home: he had shrapnel injuries in both legs.
- Ali Muhammad (m), an 18-year-old office worker, brother of Bessam, was injured with him: he had shrapnel injuries to the chest and left leg.
- Naama Saad (m), a 25-year-old civil servant, who was working when he received a blow to the head from a fragment of shrapnel.

33.- Al-Sweeb (2 April)

A new bombardment of this rural area at 1530 wounded Ali Saad, a 6-year-old boy, who we visited in al-Yarmuk Hospital on 3 April. Ali had shrapnel injuries to both legs.

34.- At-Turaz (2 April)

This suburban area in south-east Baghdad was bombed at 1700, with the injury of four members of the Abdel Khader family. We visited them in al-Yarmuk Hospital on 3 April:

- Abdelkhader Salum (m), 48 years old, who suffered traumatic amputation of his right leg when he was on the stairs of the house. He was in the operating theatre at the time of our visit.
- Anan Abdelkhader (f), 18 years old, who was in the kitchen of the same house: she had shrapnel injuries to the left leg.
- Afrha Abdelkhader (f), 20 years old, who was also in the kitchen: she had shrapnel injuries to both legs.
- Rasha Abdelkhader (f), 19 years old, present in the kitchen during the attack: she had shrapnel injuries of the abdomen, which were being operated on at the time of our visit.

35.- South Baghdad (3 April)

Ali Karim, a 32-year-old cameraman for Iraqi television, was driving his vehicle with three companions on the Diyala road, returning to Baghdad having left his family in a town on the southern outskirts of the city. Around 2300 a missile exploded by the side of the road, injuring the vehicle's four occupants. One of them was in the Intensive Care Unit on the day of our visit to al-Kindi Hospital, on 4 April, where we interviewed Ali, who had lost his left leg and had sustained shrapnel injuries of the jaw and right foot.

36.- Al-Yusifia (3 April, first attack)

In the first registered case of a ground attack on the outskirts of Baghdad, the vehicle in which Abbas Zenchel (m), a 45-year-old civil servant at the Ministry of Housing, was travelling with a male companion, was machine-gunned by US soldiers at the Suera-al-Yusifia crossroads, 40 kilometres from Baghdad. His companion (name not recorded) was killed, while Abbas was hit by a bullet in the abdomen. He told us that he walked for five kilometres in his injured state until he was picked up by civilians and taken to hospital.

37.- Al-Yusifia (3 April, second attack)

The village was bombed at midnight. On 4 April in al-Yarmuk Hospital we interviewed Jabar Hammas (m), a 67-year-old farmer, who had been injured while tending his livestock. He had shrapnel injuries to the abdomen and thorax and broken ribs. Jabar knew neither the circumstances nor the whereabouts of his family. He described the attack as "a rain of little bombs", from which we deduce that these were cluster bombs.

38.- Surroundings of Saddam International Airport (3 April)

In a night-time bombing raid (time not recorded) on Saddam International Airport, Uiam Abis, a 21-year-old woman, and her father, whose name was not recorded, were injured in a nearby residential area. Her brother, whose name was not recorded, died in this attack. We visited Uiam in the Saddam Hospital Complex on 6 April: she had a perforated small intestine that required a laparotomy.

39.- Raduania (3 April)

In our visit to the Saddam Hospital Complex on 6 April we met Amar Sein, a young man of 19 years, who had been seriously injured in a bombardment on Raduania, a neighbourhood near the airport. Amar had second and third degree burns to 65% of his body, a haemopneumothorax and shrapnel injuries to all four extremities. Amar Sein's brother and two of his cousins, whose personal details were not recorded, died in the bombing.

40.- Surroundings of Saddam International Airport (4 April)

Demonstrating the ferocity of the battles to take the airport, a bombardment took the lives of the entire family of Nasda Ali, a girl of 8: her parents, six sisters and three brothers. We met Nasda in the Saddam Hospital Complex during our visit on 6 April. She had shrapnel injuries to her abdomen, which required a laparotomy, her head (frontal region) and left arm. The health workers in the hospital told us that they could not discharge Nasda because she had nowhere to go. During her time in hospital, she was kept company by members of the nurses' families. The head nurse, Alia Saleh Salem, told us that there were increasing numbers of cases of patients who had lost their entire family or their home, for which reason they had to remain in the hospital.

41.- Furat (5 April)

After the taking of Saddam International Airport, during the US forces' penetration attacks into the city's interior, a bombardment of Furat at 1700 injured three members of the Mahmoud family, who were at home at the time. We met them in our visit to the Saddam Hospital Complex on 6 April:

- Jadida Faras, 55 years old, mother of the family: she had superficial shrapnel wounds to the abdomen and both legs.
- Israa Mahmoud, a young woman of 17 years, daughter of the above: she had a shrapnel injury to the abdomen and a perforated small intestine that required a laparotomy.

The health staff informed us that the second injured daughter, Ama Mahmoud, had been admitted to al-Kindi hospital.

42.- Baghdad Djidida (5 April)

In an attack on Baghdad Djidida (*New Baghdad*), in the south-east of the capital, two residents (names not recorded) died and Hamida Gdeir (f), 40 years of age, was injured. We visited her in the Saddam Hospital Complex on 6 April. She had shrapnel injuries to the abdomen that required a laparotomy, and to her legs and jaw. She also had a broken left wrist.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Number of attacks

From the 114 individual questionnaires of injured people, this report documents 42 attacks carried out by the Anglo-American forces in the metropolitan area of Baghdad over the 17 days between 20 March and 5 April 2003. This represents an average of two or three attacks per day. The attacks occurred at all hours of the day and night. Those that took place from 5 April onward are not included. These were carried out in order to take the south-west of the city and were without doubt the most intense, and necessarily would have caused a very large number of injuries and deaths of civilian residents in those neighbourhoods.

Spatial distribution of attacks

As the report shows, the entire metropolitan area of Baghdad was heavily bombarded, in neighbourhoods in the urban area of the city and the suburbs on its outskirts and, in some cases, nearby towns. Appendix I lists 28 places attacked by means of aerial bombardment, missile launches or that experienced ground fire.

Nature of targets

In no case, with the exception of the attacks on Saddam International Airport and its surroundings (four of the 42 cases presented here), could we identify any governmental or military installation near the sites that were bombed that could explain the attack.

Repeated attacks

Several instances of repeated bombardments of particular points in the city were recorded. Thus, the neighbourhood of al-Sha'ab was attacked four times in six days; in that of al-Yusifia we registered four attacks in 10 days, two of them on the same date (3 April); in that of Palestine we have data on three bombings on 29 and 30 March.

Type of weapon employed

The attacks reported here were by aerial bombardment, the launch of cruise missiles, and ground attack.¹⁶ Despite having witnessed *Apache* helicopter gunship attacks on the morning of 9 April in our residential area, we did not record any testimony indicating that there had been any victims resulting from the use of this type of weapon.

Of the testimonies of the victims and survivors of the bombings and the health service personnel, it may be considered plausible that the Anglo-American force used, at least on the five occasions recorded here, fragmentation or cluster bombs, which are banned under international law.¹⁷

Ages of the injured

The injured people interviewed had the following age distribution:

Age group	Number of injured	%
Younger than 16	39	38.23
16–25	23	22.55
26–35	17	16.66
36–45	7	6.86
46–55	10	9.80
56–65	3	2.94
66–75	3	2.94

Demographically, Iraq is a young country. This partially explains why the group with the highest percentage of injured were those younger than 16 years of age. However, classes throughout the country were suspended two days before the start of the war, for which reason it was common to see boys and girls playing in the streets of Baghdad. It should be remembered that some of the most deadly attacks affected precisely groups of boys and girls who were playing in the streets of very densely populated neighbourhoods, such as that registered against the market in Shu'ala on 28 March.

¹⁶ The fighter-bombers employed were the *F-18*, *F-16*, *F-14*, *F-15* and *F-17* (anti-radar) of the USA, and the *Tornado* and *Harrier* of the United Kingdom. The intercontinental *super bombers* employed by the USA were the *B-52*, *B-1* and *B-2* (anti-radar).

¹⁷ The law applicable in armed conflict prohibits the use of weapons that, by nature, are of indiscriminate effect. Each one of the cluster bombs —also known as fragmentation bombs— contains more than 200 small bomblets, the size of a canned drink, that may scatter over an area equivalent to that of a football pitch. If they do not explode, they will act as land mines.

ESTIMATION OF FATALITIES: COMPARISON WITH DATA OF THE 'IRAQ BODY COUNT PROJECT'

We have completed a total of 114 questionnaires of injured people. From their direct testimonies or those of their families, and the information provided by the health service staff in the hospitals visited, we have been able to document a total of 204 fatalities and 583 injured in the attacks described in this report, all of them civilians. The average per attack was 4.53 dead and 12.95 injured. Particular attention is drawn to the annihilation of entire families in several cases and the large number of orphans.

The US Defense Department has announced that it will not provide a final estimate of the number of civilian and Iraqi military victims.¹⁸ The final official Iraqi tally of civilian deaths—1,254—was made on 3 April,¹⁹ in other words, before the final assault on the capital and the most intense attacks and battles.²⁰ For its part, by 25 April the *Iraq Body Count Project* initiative had established a minimum of 1,930 and maximum of 2,377 civilian deaths, based on data obtained essentially from the international media.²¹ During the period covered by this report (20 March to 5 April), the *Iraq Body Count Project* reported 14 attacks (six of which were unspecified), with a minimum total of 180 deaths and a maximum of 215, according to the different agencies and media reporting the attacks:

- 21 and 22 March, bombing of unspecified government buildings: between none and three dead.
- 24 March, missile attack in the neighbourhood of al-Azamiyah, west Baghdad: five dead.
- 24 March, unspecified attack at midday, north Baghdad: five dead.
- 26 March, attack with two missiles at midday in al-Sha'ab: 14 or 15 dead.
- 26 March, air strike, Baghdad (unspecified): 21 dead.
- 27 and 28 March, air strikes against the al-Alwya communications tower: seven dead.
- 28 March, air strike on the al-Naser (Shu'ala) market: between 34 and 62 dead.
- 28 and 29 March, air strikes on Baghdad (unspecified): six dead.
- 29 March, missile attack in the area of al-Janabiin: 20 dead.
- 30 March, missile attack in Zafraniya (or Safaraniya): six dead.
- 31 March, air strike in the neighbourhood of al-Amin: six dead.
- 31 March and 1 April, air strikes on Baghdad (unspecified): 24 dead.
- 2 April, aerial bombardment of the Baghdad Trade Fair and Iraqi Red Crescent Maternity Hospital: 27 dead.
- 3 April, air strikes on Baghdad (unspecified): 27 dead.

Of the 42 attacks documented in this report only five have also been recorded by the *Iraq Body Count Project*. That of 24 March on al-Azamiyah (a generic denomination for the districts in the north-west of the city) undoubtedly correspond to the missile strike on Aadamiya (case number 3), for which we have recorded four deaths in our report, one fewer than those indicated by the *Iraq Body Count Project*. Also well identified are those of 26 March on the al-Sha'ab district (case 9) and of 28 March on the al-Naser market in Shu'ala (case 13). In the first, the fatality count (15 dead) in our report coincides with the maximum claimed by the *Iraq Body Count Project*, and in the second it is between the minimum and maximum (53 dead). Al-Sha'ab suffered at least three other attacks on subsequent days, which are not recorded on the *Iraq Body Count Project* website.

¹⁸ Reported in *El Mundo* 16 April 2003.

¹⁹ *El País*, 13 April 2003.

²⁰ Al-Yarmuk Hospital was bombarded during this phase.

²¹ <http://www.iraqbodycount.org/>.

Equally well identified, is the bombardment of 30 March of the southern suburb of Safaraniya (Zafraniya in the *Iraq Body Count Project* database), although the figure provided by our report—which we believe to be well supported by the testimonies of the surviving family members and by the health staff at al-Kindi Hospital—is three times that cited by the *Iraq Body Count Project*: 18, as opposed to 6, dead.

We have equally well documented the aerial bombardment on 31 March of the neighbourhood of al-Amin, adjacent to al-Yarmuk, in the south-west of the city. Journalistic sources cited by the *Iraq Body Count Project* reported six fatalities in al-Amin, while our report states three. That day we registered an attack on a neighbourhood very close to al-Amin, in al-Baya (case 27), on the other side of the airport motorway, a repeatedly attacked area, but did not record any fatalities. As we do not know the time when the attack on al-Baya occurred we cannot tell whether it was the same bombardment.

Conversely, we are not aware of the very deadly missile strike on the area of al-Janabiin (20 dead) on 29 March recorded by the *Iraq Body Count Project*, perhaps because it is a site outside Baghdad, whose location we have not been able to establish.

Excluding the aforementioned attacks on Aadamiya and al-Sha'ab, the total count of deaths due to unspecified aerial attacks on 24 and 26 March presented by the *Iraq Body Count Project* is higher than that documented in our report: respectively, 21 and six on the first of these days, and five and none on the second. The balance for 31 March and 1 and 3 April that appears in the *Iraq Body Count Project* likewise exceeds the tally documented here: 51 and 16 victims, respectively. On the other hand, the figure in our report is higher for 28 and 29 March: 11 dead on 28 March and none on 29 March, and six on both days, respectively (not including the attack on the al-Naser market).

Finally, although we visited the spot near the Baghdad Trade Fair Hall that was bombarded on 2 April — a maternity hospital of the Iraqi Red Crescent situated over the road from the exhibition hall— we were unable to document directly any injuries or deaths arising from the attack, while the *Iraq Body Count Project* claims that there were a minimum of five and a maximum of eight deaths.²² In this case, as with the attacks on the al-Alwya telecommunications centre recorded by the *Iraq Body Count Project*, we have not included in this report victims of strikes against government installations, even though, strictly speaking, these were civilian buildings.

In comparing the data presented in this report and those gathered by the *Iraq Body Count Project* it is worth considering two things. First, there were many strikes against residential areas of Baghdad that were not recorded by the international media or the humanitarian organisations present in the city during the three weeks of the war. Bearing in mind that in our visits we were able to cover scarcely 10% of Baghdad's hospitals, it is worth bearing in mind that the nearly 50 incidents presented in this report do not represent the magnitude of the attacks suffered by its inhabitants. It is true to say that our memory is that of a city constantly subjected to aerial bombardments and missile attacks, with a monotonous regularity of clearly perceptible explosions every few minutes, 24 hours a day, during every day that we stayed in Baghdad.

The second consideration, arising from the former, is that the number of fatalities reported here could be an underestimate, like that presented by the *Iraq Body Count Project*. The number of dead counted in this report from the direct testimonies of the injured, family members and neighbours (204) lies between the minimum and maximum values of the *Iraq Body Count Project* (180 and 215, respectively), despite the lower number of attacks reported on their website. In the visits to the sites attacked we were able to confirm, from the dimensions of the

²² See the dispatch of the brigade members for 3 April on the CSCA website: http://www.nodo50.org/cscs/agenda2003/con_iraq/cronica_4-04-03.html.

craters produced by the bomb and missile explosions, that the recovery and identification of the corpses was impossible. Equally, body parts that were impossible to assign to individuals accumulated in the hospital mortuaries. Furthermore, on many occasions the injured, family members and neighbours were unable to establish the fate of their loved ones or acquaintances after an attack: since the telephone lines were down, the impossibility of contacting ambulances after an explosion, with the aim of evacuating the injured together to the same hospital, made it impossible on those days to calculate the number of victims exactly, doubtlessly underestimating the true number of deaths. In summary, it will be difficult to establish the exact tally of victims of the attack and taking of Baghdad by the Anglo-American forces and its allies, as it will also be for the total for the country as a whole.

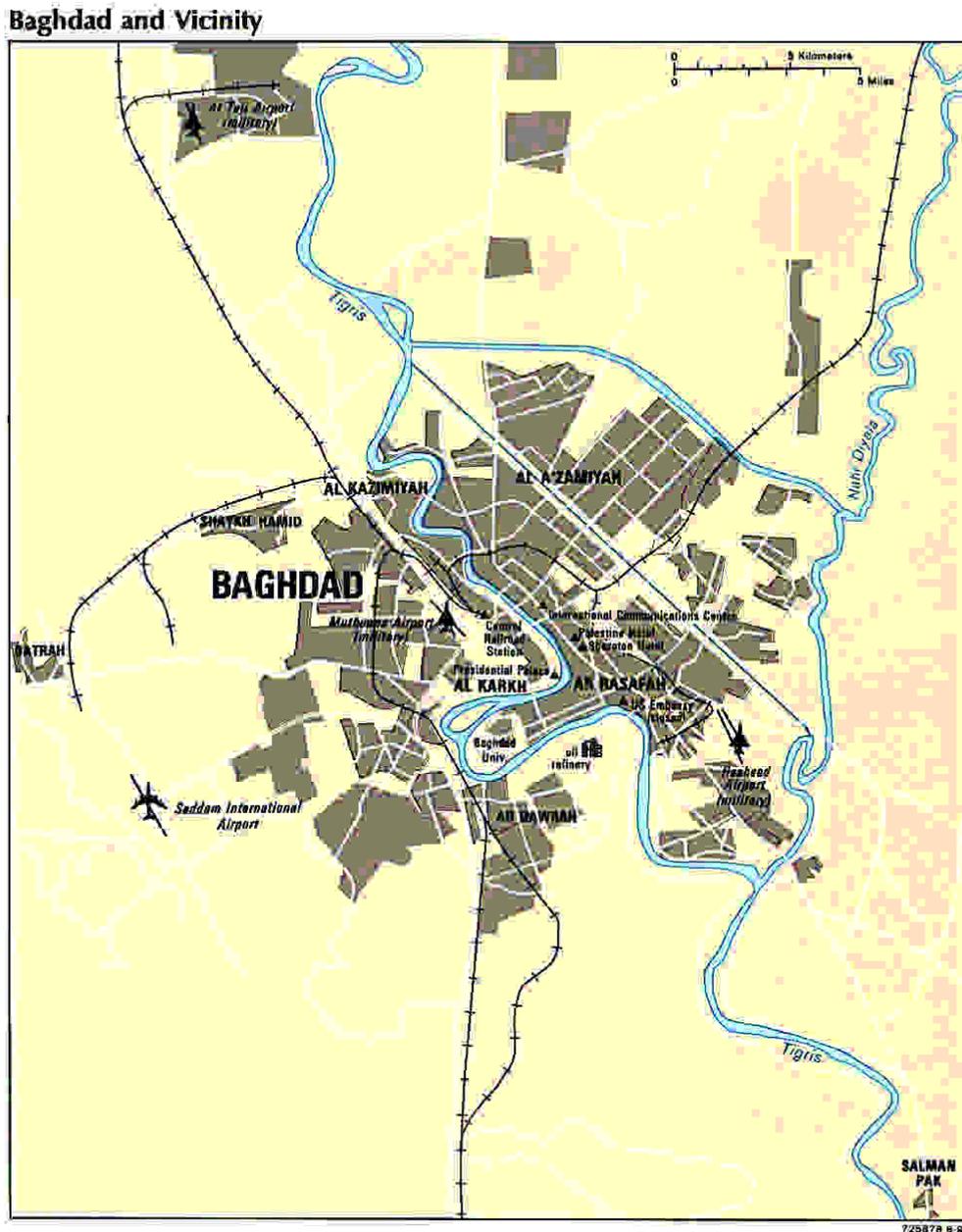
FINAL CONSIDERATION

It is our understanding, our belief being based on information additional to what emerges from this report, that the damage caused to the civilian population during the three weeks in which Baghdad was attacked was in no way due to mistakes, nor did it represent the “collateral damage” of a tactical *surgical* war, whose sole object had been the destruction of the city’s governmental and military infrastructure. Our opinion, then and now, is that the attacks were premeditated, designed to cause the greatest possible number of civilian victims, many being carried out repeatedly against densely populated and poor areas of the Iraqi capital. The logic of this conduct can only be explained by the deliberate will of the American and British political and military leaders to provoke terror and undermine the resistance of the Baghdad population.

As we are not experts in the area of Law, it is not our part to classify the facts presented here as constituting War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity. We offer this information so that those who are competent in such matters —especially lawyers and jurists— may proceed to indict for such crimes those civilian and military personnel responsible for the barbarism committed against the Iraqi people: firstly, the President of the USA, George W. Bush, the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and the Prime Minister of the Spanish Government, José María Aznar, who, by their political decisions, enabled the bombardments of Baghdad and the rest of Iraq to have the deadly character that we have endeavoured to establish herein.

MAP OF BAGHDAD AND OUTSKIRTS

The map includes some of the locations mentioned in the Report, but spelt differently: Al-Karkh (al-Karj in the Report: right bank of the Tigris or south-west of the city); Ar-Rasafah (left bank of the river or north-west of the city), where the brigade were staying, between the *Palestine* and *Sheraton* Hotels and the US Embassy, an area occupied by American troops on 9 April; Al-Azamiyah (generic name for the north-western districts of the city, including Saddam City); Al-Kazimiyah (al-Kadimiya in the Report, on the right bank of the Tigris, in the north of the city); Ad-Dawrah (ad-Dora in the Report, south-east of the city, where the electrical power station and refinery of the same name are situated). Observe the locations of Saddam International Airport, in south-west Baghdad, where the US forces would penetrate, and the Rashid Airport, in the south-east, where units of the Republican Guard were situated and heavily bombarded. The designation of 'right' —or south-west— and 'left' —or north-east— banks of the Tigris are assigned on the basis of the course of the river towards its delta.



APPENDIX I

RELATION OF NEIGHBOURHOODS, DISTRICTS, AREAS AND TOWNS OF BAGHDAD AND OUTSKIRTS THAT WERE TARGETS OF THE ATTACKS REGISTERED IN THE REPORT

1. Al-Qadisiya

District in the south-west of the city. Registered one attack on 22 March.

2. Al-Sha'ab

District in the north of the city. Registered four attacks on 24, 26, 28 and 29 March.

3. Raagba Jatum

District of Aadamiya, north of Baghdad. Registered one attack on 24 March.

4. Residential areas near Saddam International Airport

South-west of Baghdad. Registered three attacks on 24 March, and 3 and 4 April.

5. Al-Andalus Square

Central Baghdad. Registered one attack on 25 March.

6. Al-Yusifia

Suburb in the south of Baghdad. Registered four attacks on 25 and 26 March, and two on 3 April.

7. Al-Rashid

Neighbourhood in the west of the city. Registered two attacks on 25 and 26 March.

8. Yisridial

Town situated 12 kilometres east of Baghdad, district of Nahrawaan, on the Baghdad-al-Kut road. Registered two attacks on 25 and 29 March.

9. Shu'ala

Suburb on the north-west outskirts of the city. Registered three attacks, two on 28 and one on 29 March.

10. Ahel

Not located. Registered one attack on 28 March.

11. Al-Qahira

Central district in the north-east of the city, next to Mustansiriya University. Registered one attack on 29 March.

12. Palestine

District in the eastern area of the capital. Registered three attacks, one on 29 and two on 30 March.

13. Sumer

South-western district of the capital. Registered one attack on 29 March.

14. Safaraniya

Suburb in the south of the capital. Registered one attack on 30 March.

15. Al-Amin

Neighbourhood on the south-western outskirts of Baghdad. Registered one attack on 30 March.

16. Shorta Rabaa

Neighbourhood in the south-west of the capital. Registered one attack on 31 March.

17. Al-Sweeb

Village on the south-eastern outskirts of the capital. Registered two attacks on 31 March and 2 April.

18. Al-Baya

Neighbourhood in the al-Jazair district, in the south-west of the city. Registered one attack on 31 March.

19. Fdeilia

Small neighbourhood in the north-east of Baghdad. Registered one attack on 31 March.

20. Abu Dshir

District in the south-east of the city. Registered one attack on 1 April.

21. Al-Suera

Rural area 15 kilometres south-west of Baghdad. Registered one attack on 2 April.

22. Saddam City

Or al-Thawra, district situated in the north-east of the city. Registered one attack on 2 April.

23. Ad-Dora

District in the south of the city. Registered one attack on 2 April.

24. At-Turaz

Suburb in the south-east of Baghdad. Registered one attack on 2 April.

25. Diyala road

South Baghdad. Registered one attack on 3 April.

26. Raduania

Neighbourhood near the airport. Registered one attack on 3 April.

27. Furat

Neighbourhood in the south-west of the capital. Registered one attack on 5 April.

28. Baghdad Djidida

Neighbourhood in the south-eastern area of the capital. Registered one attack on 5 April.

APPENDIX II

HOSPITAL VISITS: CASES OF INCOMPLETELY DOCUMENTED ATTACKS

1.- 20 March: al-Yarmuk University Hospital

Dr Mohammed al-Wamas, Hospital Director, who accompanied us on this visit, informed us of the admittance in the morning of nine people injured in the first bombardment of Baghdad, which occurred at 0540. Five of them were members of the same family —among them a child who was still being breast-fed —who were having breakfast in their house at the time of the attack. Subsequently, 27 more injured people were admitted.

2.- 20 March: al-Kindi Hospital

We visited an injured 18-year-old, called Ahmed (m) (family name not recorded), who had shrapnel injuries to both legs. The patient himself told how other members of his family had been injured in the same attack, and that he knew neither their state nor their whereabouts.

3.- 21 March: al-Yarmuk Hospital

We were assisted by Dr Jamil al-Bayati. We visited two injured people: Rosal Mermoud, a 10-year-old girl who had a broken right arm and shrapnel injuries to her abdomen, requiring a laparotomy, and Jaled Saadra, a boy whose age was not recorded, who was injured while in the street with friends.

4.- 22 March: al-Yarmuk Hospital

Dr Mohammed al-Wamas, who assisted us once more, told us that on that day a missile exploded approximately 100 metres from the hospital (*see Documented Attacks*). During that day the hospital received around 100 injured people and one person who had died. We interviewed the injured from other attacks:

- Mohammed (m, family name and age not noted), injured in a bombing raid at 2100 in an unspecified area: he had shrapnel injuries to his left leg and underwent an operation.
- Faad (m, family and age not noted), injured at home at 2100: he had multiple shrapnel wounds.
- Naussed (m, family name not noted), a 17-year-old student, injured at home in an unspecified attack.
- Betriya (f, family name not noted), injured at 0530 in her home: suffered a broken tibia.
- Arafah Wader (f), young woman of 23 years: had broken tendons of one hand that required surgical repair.

5.- 22 March: al-Kindi Hospital

We were informed of 38 admissions.

6.- 24 March: al-Kindi Hospital

Dr Osama Saleh, Hospital Director, informed us that around 100 people had been admitted between 20 and 24 March. We visited the following injured people:

- Uissam Ahmedi (m), a young person of 15 years of age, injured in the Baghdad Djidida neighbourhood on an unrecorded date: he had a shrapnel injury of the abdomen, with a perforated intestine that required a reparative laparotomy and colostomy.
- Falah Asham (f), (age not registered): had shrapnel injuries to the head .

7.- 29 March: al-Yarmuk Hospital

Dr Ahmed Abulah, who assisted us, informed us that on that day 15 injured patients had been admitted. We visited the following injured people:

- Faaz Hashim (m), 42 years old, with shrapnel injuries of the leg and abdomen. Time of attack: 0800 (place not registered).
- Saad (family name not noted) (m), 36 years old, with shrapnel injuries to the abdomen and perforated small intestine that required a laparotomy. His sister was injured in the same attack, whose time and place were not recorded.
- Jesus Jazim (m), a 28-year-old student of the Babylonia University, with shrapnel injuries (unspecified attack).
- Jissiam Maner, a 7-year-old boy, injured by shrapnel in an unspecified attack.
- Manal (family not registered), a young woman, 28 years of age, and her husband, both with shrapnel injuries from an unspecified incident.

8.- 1 April: al-Yarmuk Hospital

We visited Haizer Faryan Shak (m), 38 years of age. We do not know the location of the attack, which occurred on 31 March at 2300. Haizer was at home when the glass from his windows burst in, and he was hit by a shard that cut through his external jugular vein and neck muscles.

9.- 6 April: Saddam Hospital Complex

We visited the following injured, although we do not know the circumstances of the attack they were involved in:

- Muhammad Sahar, an 8-year-old boy, injured on 1 April: his colon had been perforated by shrapnel, requiring a laparotomy.
- Yaser Mahmoud (m), a 20-year-old mechanic, injured as he was working: he had a perforation of the sigmoid colon that required a laparotomy and colostomy, and a haemopneumothorax.