

For Immediate Release
09/11/2005

CIVILIANS KILLED AND INJURED FOLLOWING US BOMB ATTACK ON AL- BAEDA VILLAGE, WESTERN IRAQ

Doctors for Iraq has received reports that more 30 civilians, mainly women and children were killed and unconfirmed numbers injured in a bombing attack by US/ Iraqi soldiers in the village of Al – Baeda, western Iraq on October 31st 2005.

The village is situated in the deep west of Iraq, near the city of Al –Qaim on the Iraqi/ Syrian borders. Al Baeda is one of a number of villages in the area that has received an influx of hundreds of refugee families fleeing the city of Al Qaim that has been attacked by the military on numerous times in the past two months.

The lack of medical facilities in the area and the damage to the infrastructure, roads and bridges has made it more difficult for civilians to access hospitals in the area

Doctors for Iraq is deeply concerned about civilian casualties and injuries in this latest attack where the military has not been able to distinguish between civilians and armed groups. Doctors for Iraq has received reports that heavy bombs were dropped on Al Baeda, and Al-Karabla villages. Similar bombs have been used in previous attacks on Al Qaim and other villages in the area.

Doctors For Iraq has seen footage and photos showing the destruction caused by similar bombs in an attack on the city of Al- Qaim causing widespread destruction. In one instance documented evidence shows how the force of an explosion in Al Qaim had created a five hundred-metre radius crater with a depth of five to six metres around where the bomb had been dropped.

Doctors for Iraq is deeply concerned about the use of such special heavy bombs in densely populated civilian areas which is a fundamental breach of the Geneva Convention in relation to protecting civilians in a conflict area.

Ends

For more information about the medical humanitarian needs contact press.officer@doctorsforiraq.org or salam.obaidi@doctorsforiraq.org