

## Bomb strikes Baghdad; 5 civilians killed

*by UPI*

BAGHDAD -- A roadside bomb killed five Iraqis in Baghdad Thursday, a day after another bomb left two U.S. soldiers dead in Nineveh province. Kuwait's KUNA news agency said Thursday's blast also left nearly a dozen people injured in the capital's Al-Bonook district. The U.S. military said in a statement Thursday that the two G.I.s killed Wednesday were attached to Task Force Iron and had been riding in a vehicle that was struck by a roadside bomb. Two other soldiers were wounded. The deaths brought October's U.S. fatality count to 39, CNN said. Elsewhere, KUNA said three suspected al-Qaida fighters were killed in a security sweep in the northern city of Kirkuk, while police in Mosul reported the grisly discovery of eight charred corpses in two locations, some of whom appeared to have been police officers. Despite the latest deaths, Iraqi officials say the number of civilians killed in October showed a marked decline. The Iraqi Health Ministry said 758 civilians died last month compared to 884 in September and 2,076 in January, the Los Angeles Times reported Thursday.

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