

Maliki reportedly preparing for amnesty

by UPI

BAGHDAD - Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki is preparing to grant amnesty to thousands of detainees, a government spokesman said Friday. Sadeq al Rukabi, a Maliki advisor on political affairs, announced that Maliki and Midhat al Mahmoud, head of the Supreme Judiciary Council, met to discuss the legal framework for amnesty, the Iraqi television network Alsumaria reported. One question is whether parliament will have to pass an amnesty law. Abbas al Bayati, who serves on a parliamentary defense committee, said that the constitution bans amnesty for those charged with crimes against the Iraqi people without special legislation. Officials estimate that 8,000 detainees now being held in Iraqi prisons without being convicted of any crime might be eligible for amnesty.

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