

Mass grave, torture facility found in Iraq

by UPI

MUQDADIYA, Iraq -- A mass grave with 26 bodies and a torture center were discovered in Iraq by coalition forces, the U.S. military said Wednesday. The complex, which included a bed connected to an electrical system and chains hanging from walls and ceilings, was found north of Muqdadiya in an area believed to be an al-Qaida in Iraq stronghold, CNN reported. "Evidence of murder, torture and intimidation against local villagers was found throughout the area," the military said in a statement. The facility was found Dec. 8-11 while troops were conducting an operation called Iron Reaper, during which 24 suspected terrorists were killed and 37 suspects were taken prisoner, CNN reported. The bodies found in the mass grave appeared to have been dead six to eight months. Some of the bodies may belong to Iraqi police, according to a military video of the scene. In addition, the coalition forces found and destroyed several weapon caches, including anti-aircraft weapons, rifles, pistols, machine guns, grenades, a surface-to-air missile launcher, mines, pipe bombs, mortars and homemade explosives.

Copyright © 2007, by United Press International. All Rights Reserved.

Mass grave, torture facility found in Iraq by UPI