

Saddam mourned on death anniversary

by UPI

BAGHDAD -- Thousands of Iraqis attended memorial services Monday for Saddam Hussein, the first anniversary of the former Iraqi president's state execution. The largest gathering was in Saddam's hometown of Tikrit, where Sunni Muslim clerics, former members of Saddam's Baathist party and thousands of supporters observed the anniversary of his hanging death in Baghdad, Iraq's Alsumaria news service said. Saddam was captured from an underground hideout by U.S. troops on Dec. 29, 2003. He was put on trial for the execution deaths of about 150 Shiite boys and men in the town of Dujail after a foiled assassination plot in 1982. He was found guilty and hanged on Dec. 30, 2006, by hooded Iraqi guards in Baghdad. Iraqi Interior Ministry spokesman Brig. Abdul Karim Khalaf said security forces had been placed on alert for potential clashes between supporters and protesters. Radio Free Europe reported some 2,000 Sunnis also held a memorial Saturday in Amman, Jordan.

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