

## Iraqi troops in fierce battle in Basra

*by UPI*

BASRA, Iraq -- Gunmen and Iraqi troops engaged in a fierce battle in the predominately Shiite town of Basra in southern Iraq. The official Kuwaiti news agency said Friday there is an unknown number of casualties, including civilians. KUNA said the battle was ongoing as of midday Friday and reported witness accounts of damage to civilian and government vehicles.

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