

## Bombings, fighting kill 12 in Iraq

by UPI

BAGHDAD -- Violence in Baghdad and northern Iraq killed more than a dozen people and injured at least 20 others, military officials said Monday. The Iraqi Interior Ministry said car bombs detonated at nearly the same time Monday near political offices in Baghdad killed at least six people and wounded 20 others, CNN reported. The explosions occurred as U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates left the capital. Among the wounded were six Iraqi army soldiers assigned to protect the Islamic Supreme Council headquarters. Officials said they were unsure whether the facility was the target but said the explosions were at the outer checkpoints of the office. A civilian was killed in another bombing Monday occurred in eastern Baghdad. In northern Iraq near the Syrian border, more than eight people died in Sunday during fighting between anti-insurgent militia and extremists, the U.S. military said Monday. Military officials said a Sons of Iraq compound came under attack with small-arms fire. The Sons of Iraq is a grass-roots, predominantly Sunni organization fighting anti-U.S. groups and al-Qaida in Iraq.

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