

Iraq official's brother among 22 kidnapped

by UPI

BAGHDAD - Iraqi Parliament Speaker Mahmoud Mashhadani's brother was among 22 people kidnapped this week by militants, a report said.

The Kuwait news agency KUNA quoted the Iraqi Accord Front, Mashhadani's party, claimed as saying the abduction occurred earlier this week in eastern Iraq.

The party said masked gunmen kidnapped Mohammad Mashhadani Wednesday in the capital and are holding him at an undisclosed location.

Meanwhile, an Iraqi police source told KUNA militants Tuesday created a fake checkpoint outside Baghdad and used the site to kidnap 21 civilians.

The source said the civilians were then taken by the militants to a region controlled by members of the Islamic Iraq State.

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