



Home News Canada AM Sports Entertainment TV Listings Contests CTV Store Local Stations Contact Us

Search Site ▶

Search Web [Sympatico.ca](#) [Google](#) powered by



Iraq

Updated

Red Cross horrified by number of dead civilians

Canadian Press

OTTAWA — Red Cross doctors who visited southern Iraq this week saw "incredible" levels of civilian casualties including a truckload of dismembered women and children, a spokesman said Thursday from Baghdad.

Roland Huguenin, one of six International Red Cross workers in the Iraqi capital, said doctors were horrified by the casualties they found in the hospital in Hilla, about 160 kilometres south of Baghdad.

"There has been an incredible number of casualties with very, very serious wounds in the region of Hilla," Huguenin said in a interview by satellite telephone.

"We saw that a truck was delivering dozens of totally dismembered dead bodies of women and children. It was an awful sight. It was really very difficult to believe this was happening."

Huguenin said the dead and injured in Hilla came from the village of Nasiriyah, where there has been heavy fighting between American troops and Iraqi soldiers, and appeared to be the result of "bombs, projectiles."

"At this stage we cannot comment on the nature of what happened exactly at that place . . . but it was definitely a different pattern from what we had seen in Basra or Baghdad.

"There will be investigations I am sure."

Baghdad and Basra are coping relatively well with the flow of wounded, said Huguenin, estimating that Baghdad hospitals have been getting about 100 wounded a day.

Most of the wounded in the two large cities have suffered superficial shrapnel wounds, with only about 15 per cent requiring internal surgery, he said.

But the pattern in Hilla was completely different.

"In the case of Hilla, everybody had very serious wounds and many, many of them small kids and women. We had small toddlers of two or three years of age who had lost their legs, their arms. We have called this a horror."

At least 400 people were taken to the Hilla hospital over a period of two days, he said -- far beyond its capacity.

"Doctors worked around the clock to do as much as they could. They just had to manage, that was all."

The city is no longer accessible, he added.

Click Here For...

▶ [Related Stories](#)

Advertisement

More Details

[Target Iraq: A CTV Special](#)

Related Stories

- [U.S. forces battle for Baghdad airport: reports](#)
- [Coalition might 'pause' before Baghdad: analyst](#)
- [Powell says U.S. must lead post-war effort](#)
- [Bush prepares troops for further sacrifices](#)

Web Exclusives



News

Top Stories

Canada

World

Iraq

Business

Sports

Entertainment

Health

Sci-Tech

Specials

Weather

Programs

Canada AM

CTV News with Lloyd Robertson

Documentaries

CTV Newsnet

Question Period

W-FIVE

21 ©

CTV News Team

Lloyd Robertson

Sandie Rinaldo

Hosts

Reporters

Web Team

Services

Daily Newsletter

Submit a Story

Wireless

CTV ▾
About CTV
Careers
Contact Us
Make Us Home
Transcripts
Advertise on Web
Advertise on TV

Red Cross staff are also concerned about what may be happening in other smaller centres south of Baghdad.

"We do not know what is going on in Najaf and Kabala. It has become physically impossible for us to reach out to those cities because the major road has become a zone of combat."

The Red Cross was able to claim one significant success this week: it played a key role in re-establishing water supplies at Basra.

Power for a water-pumping station had been accidentally knocked out in the attack on the city, leaving about a million people without water. Iraqi technicians couldn't reach the station to repair it because it was under coalition control.

The Red Cross was able to negotiate safe passage for a group of Iraqi engineers who crossed the fire line and made repairs. Basra now has 90 per cent of its normal water supply, said Huguenin.

Huguenin, a Swiss, is one of six international Red Cross workers still in Baghdad. The team includes two Canadians, Vatche Arslanian of Oromocto, N.B., and Cassandra Vartell of Calgary.

The Red Cross expects the humanitarian crisis in Iraq to grow and is calling for donations to help cope. The Red Cross Web site is: www.redcross.ca

 E-MAIL STORY	 PRINT STORY	 FEEDBACK
--	---	--

▲ [Back To Top](#)

[About CTV](#) | [Advertise on TV](#) | [Advertise on Web](#) | [Press Releases](#) | [Community Events](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#)

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Canada AM](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [TV Listings](#) | [Contests](#) | [Local Stations](#) | [Contact Us](#)

					globeandmail.com	globeinvestor.com	workopolis.com	
--	---	---	---	---	--	--	--	---

