

# Gruesome fate of Saddam sons shown in US pictures

By David Blair in Baghdad

Pictures of the contorted, bloodied faces of Saddam Hussein's sons were released Thursday as American officials sought to convince a sceptical Iraqi population that Uday and Qusay were dead.

The four graphic pictures, broadcast on coalition-controlled Iraqi television and around the world, showed the macabre results of the six-hour gun battle when US troops stormed the brothers' hideout in Mosul.

Both Uday, 39, and Qusay, 36, appear to have head wounds. John Sawers, Britain's envoy in Iraq, said Uday might have committed suicide by shooting himself in the head.

Uday, identified by his baldness, had suffered

especially severe facial injuries.

The deep wound on the left side of his face left his teeth damaged, preventing a complete match with his dental records.

Unusually, both brothers had thick beards. They might have grown these in an attempt at disguise.

Before deciding to release the pictures, US officials had to weigh up concerns that doing so would encourage the display of bodies of dead Americans in future conflicts.

During the Iraq war, images of captured and dead American personnel were broadcast on Middle Eastern television.

The Hussein brothers' photographs were shown yesterday on al-Jazeera and al-Arabia, two satellite

channels with wide audiences in Iraq.

Members of the country's new Governing Council were also taken to view the bodies in the morgue at Baghdad international airport.

Mr Sawers told The Daily Telegraph that the nature of Uday's injuries raised the possibility of suicide. "He had a bullet wound in his face, entering by his mouth and exiting through the back of his head," he said.

"Whether he committed suicide we don't know."

It seems possible Uday placed a gun barrel in his mouth and pulled the trigger, perhaps in the last moments of the Mosul siege, as US troops were closing in under cover of an intense bombardment.

Mr Sawers described how the coalition's most

important captive, Abid Hamid Mahmoud al-Tikriti, Saddam's former presidential secretary, identified Uday's body.

After Saddam's eldest son was shot and critically wounded in 1996 a titanium pin was fitted in his leg.

Mr Sawers said: "The first thing Mahmoud said when he was taken to the body was 'show me Uday's leg'."

"So the leg was uncovered... you could see the evidence of a titanium pin. They took an X-ray and there was the pin. As soon as Mahmoud saw the leg, he said, 'that's Uday'."

Mr Sawers said other figures from the former regime were thought to be hiding near the brothers in Mosul and troops continued to surround the

area.

"I'm clear that Saddam's days are numbered," he said.

Mr Sawers believes that the deaths of Uday and Qusay will demoralise the gunmen who launch daily attacks against coalition forces and killed another three US soldiers near Mosul yesterday.

The brothers' passing is of immense symbolic value.

The coalition will exploit this victory to regain the aura of invincibility from which it benefited during the war but has lost while grappling with the problems of peace.

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## Public's trust in Blair hit by Kelly affair

By Toby Helm in London

Tony Blair's reputation for strong leadership has been shattered by the David Kelly affair, with almost two thirds of voters believing that he heads a Government that has lost control of events.

As the Prime Minister returned to Downing Street Thursday to try to calm the crisis caused by Dr Kelly's apparent suicide, a YouGov poll for The Daily Telegraph showed that trust in Mr Blair was ebbing away.

It showed that the Tories had stretched their lead to three points, up one from last month when they overtook Labour for the first time in a decade. They are on 37 per cent, Labour 34 and the Liberal Democrats 22.

Even more worrying for the Prime Minister was the number of voters who no longer believed that his Government was strong enough to handle the challenges it faced and who questioned his honesty.

Sixty-one per cent of voters said the

Government seemed to have "lost control and be at the mercy of events": 65 per cent said it did not know where it was going; and 47 per cent said they did not believe a word Mr Blair said.

More voters favoured Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, as his successor than all of the other potential challengers put together.

One of the few plus signs for Labour was that 46 per cent of the voters surveyed thought it had done a good job on the economy, bolstering Mr Brown's reputation.

The figures are based on a sample of 2,219 electors polled on-line between July 22 and 24.

The dramatic loss of faith in Mr Blair is reminiscent of the latter years of John Major's premiership when his government lurched from crisis to crisis.

In January 1997, four months before Mr Blair came to power, he taunted Mr Major: "I lead my party; he follows his." That was seen as a defining moment in his campaign to enter No 10.

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## Germans go west in search of jobs and prosperity

As Europe's biggest economy stumbles increasing numbers of people are emigrating, reports Kate Connolly in Berlin

Merlind Mucke is packing her suitcases and is about to emigrate to America. "Anyone who has legs and sense is leaving Germany right now," she said.

The 31-year-old biochemist, who will take up a research post at Harvard University in two weeks' time, added: "I could stay here but the prospects are fairly grim and the mood is depressing."

Miss Mucke, a Berliner, and her five-year-old daughter, Hannah, are among a new wave of Germans who are turning their backs on their economically downcast country and searching for opportunities abroad.

Although Germany remains a wealthy country packed with well-paid jobs, the options have narrowed for a significant number of people.

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## I'm ready to fight, governor at bay tells Terminator

By Hugh Davies in Los Angeles

Governor Gray Davis of California gave notice Thursday that he would "fight like a Bengal tiger" to hang on to his job in the state's first gubernatorial recall election, a swift campaign that promises to be a bare-knuckle epic.

Republicans are preparing "T3 in '03" T-shirts, a reference to the film Terminator 3, in the hope of its star, Arnold Schwarzenegger, 55, entering the fray.

Mr Davis said he would confront any "I'll be back" Terminator with zeal, raising the spectre of 1966 when another Democrat sitting in Sacramento, Pat Brown, ridiculed the notion of a 55-year-old actor taking his job, and Ronald Reagan won by a million votes.

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## Deaths give rise to new round of conspiracy theories in Iraq

By David Blair in Baghdad

Unless the ghosts of Uday and Qusay Hussein walk hand-in-hand through Baghdad, many Iraqis will refuse to believe they are dead.

On the streets of the capital, the release of macabre photographs of the two corpses was greeted with deep scepticism.

After suffering decades of propaganda under Saddam Hussein, many people refuse to believe anything they learn from any news media.

Instead, they believe reliable information

comes only from word of mouth, passed on from friends and relatives.

This provides fertile ground for the wildfire spread of rumour and conspiracy theory. Less than 48 hours after the deaths of the brothers in Mosul, the first conspiracy theories about this event were born in the capital, 250 miles to the south.

Sitting in a teahouse in Karrada, Ali Subhi al-Bedrani, 31, explained that the corpses on display to a worldwide audience of millions were actually doubles of Uday and Qusay.

"They are not in Iraq," he said emphatically.

"They are in Syria. They left their doubles behind. They have doubles just like Saddam had doubles and so the Americans killed the wrong people."

Asked for evidence, Mr al-Bedrani, a fisherman, said his source was a friend of a friend whose distant cousin, Ali, once served as Uday's personal secretary. He believed this tenuous line of communication provided more reliable information than anything on television or radio.

Other men in the teahouse disagreed with Mr al-Bedrani. Saadoun Wadi, 58, said talk of doubles was fanciful. But he was convinced the pho-

tographs could not be real and both Uday and Qusay were alive. "They are in America with their father," he said.

There is a widely held belief in Iraq that Saddam and America have a long and close friendship. This theory, which some highly educated Iraqis subscribe to, originates from America's open backing for Saddam in the 1980s and its conspicuous failure to help the uprisings of 1991 that came within an ace of toppling the dictator.

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## US guide to the great unwashed

By Philip Delves Broughton in Paris

In this black year for Franco-US relations, an American book originally called 112 Gripes About the French has become a surprise best-seller in France.

First published in 1944 for issue to American troops in France after D-Day, it tries to explain the cultural differences between the two countries to GIs appalled by hosts they considered dirty, dishonest and deviant.

The book consists of a list of complaints, each accompanied by a patient explanation of why the French are as they are and whether or not the complaint is valid.

Complaint number 61, for example, reads: "The French are immoral. They are morally rotten."

The anonymous author replies: "Like many other European peoples, the French are much less puritan in their attitudes, courtship and behaviour."

Complaint 59 is: "The French drink too

much."

"That's what they think of us," says the author. "But, you very rarely see a Frenchman drunk. They have never liked cocktails and don't particularly like whisky. On the other hand, they drink wine, and with reason. Their vines and wines are among the best in the world."

Complaint 34 is: "What have these blasted frog's leg eaters ever done for the world?" This is followed by a list of French writers, inventors, thinkers and artists.

Number 42 is: "Their toilets are appalling." "True" concedes the author.

Number 45 says: "The French don't wash." "True again," says the author. "They don't wash often enough." But he blames the wartime soap shortage.

After months of transatlantic name-calling over the war in Iraq, the book, translated into French under the more upbeat title Nos Amis les Français, has tapped into a new fascination with Franco-American relations.

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## Infertility 'will not be a problem in next decade'

By Roger Highfield in London

The ability to grow artificial eggs and sperm in the laboratory will come in around a decade, marking the end of infertility, a leading expert predicted Thursday, 25 years after the first test-tube baby was born.

Recent experiments on mice have shown that it is possible to make synthetic sex cells, a feat that could also open the way for homosexual couples to have children that are genetically their own.

The claims were made by Prof Alan Trounson, of the Monash Institute of Reproduction and Development in Victoria, Australia.

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## Mercenaries may be key to oust Taylor

By Anton La Guardia in London

The internationally backed war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone gave the green light Thursday for mercenaries to arrest President Charles Taylor of Liberia if they can raise their own funds for the operation and deliver him across the border.

"We would not turn down anybody legitimate - whether government, international organisation or private company - who can deliver Charles Taylor or any other fugitive to justice," said Alan White, the court's chief of investigations.

But while encouraging bounty-hunters, Mr White made clear he was offering no payout. "We won't pay anybody. We're not in a financial position to do that and would not engage in that anyway."

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## Family at war wins ruling that an earl's castle is not his home

By Becky Barrow in London

A 60-year-old aristocrat found himself Thursday facing eviction from his family castle - the Oxfordshire seat of the Earls of Macclesfield for nearly three centuries - after losing a bitter fight with relatives.

It follows more than two decades of acrimonious dispute between the earl, who holds one of Britain's oldest titles, and his uncle, brother and cousin over Shirburn, described during the 17-day High Court hearing as "a sleeping beauty of a castle".

Judge Kim Lewison acknowledged "the great distress" to Lord Macclesfield after all his relatives united against him and his second wife to remove them from Shirburn, his family seat since 1716.

Lord Macclesfield, who faces a legal bill of pounds 1.2 million and has nowhere else to live, said: "It is tragic that this has been brought about by members of my family."

"I have made many proposals to try to settle with them over the years, but nothing could be agreed and therefore proceedings were inevitable.

"You cannot live with uncertainty in a place like this. It is not good for the castle or the people involved with it."

The case is a sad demonstration of the destructive powers that property which has been in a family for generations can wield. Lord Macclesfield's brother, David, described the litigation as a tragedy and the judge said: "I agree with him."

Proving the extreme hostility between the family members, who all still live in various houses on the Shirburn estate in Watlington, Oxfordshire, the judge said Lord Macclesfield's

evidence had been "coloured by years of dispute".

But the judge reserved biting criticism for Robert Parker, who he said had allowed his evidence to be "coloured by a palpable dislike of his cousin [Lord Macclesfield]".

Mr Parker was "prone to convenient lapses of memory", "economical with the truth" and somebody whose evidence could not be relied upon "except where it is corroborated or is inherently probable".

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The corpses of Qusay, the younger son of Saddam Hussein on left and Uday eldest son on right released by US military authorities in Baghdad July 24, 2003. — (Reuters)