



Weekly Report

Iraq

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**MAY 11 - 18,
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- 1** Thousands flee Falluja
- 2** Iraq's Judiciary Chief visits Iran

Thousands flee Falluja

- Thousands of civilians have fled Falluja since the Iraqi government started shelling of the city May 4 to curb a Sunni uprising. At least 55 civilians and fighters have been killed since the shelling began.
- Mid-level security in Anbar province, where Falluja is located, confirmed that 'barrel bombs' made from high explosives, cement and metal parts packed into oil drums are being dropped in Falluja.
- Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and his generals are determined to retake Falluja from Sunni tribal chiefs and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.
- Source: Eye Witness News
<http://ewn.co.za/2014/05/16/Thousands-flee-Iraq-government-assault>

"More than 420,000 people have already escaped the two main cities of western Anbar province, Falluja and Ramadi, in fighting since the start of the year. Residents say the new pounding of Falluja's residential neighbourhoods appears aimed at driving out all remaining civilians in preparation for an all-out assault to defeat armed groups once and for all."

Source: Eye Witness News

Iraq's Judiciary Chief visits Iran

- Medhat al-Mahmoud, Iraq's Judiciary Chief was invited to Tehran May 17 for 4 days to discuss strengthening judicial ties with high ranking officials such as Amoli Larijani, President Hassan Rouhani and Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani.
- Ties between Iran and Iraq have grown since the fall of Saddam Hussein.
- Both countries hope to expand judicial cooperation, organize cross-border travel, and tackle illegal entries.
- Source: Fars News Agency
<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13930227000745>