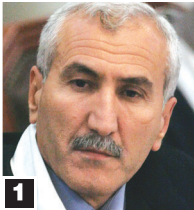


Iraqi judges face government pressure

The latest chief judge in the twin trials of Saddam Hussein is the fourth appointed by the U.S-backed Iraqi High Criminal Court. The prime minister abruptly sacked his predecessor saying he had abandoned his neutrality, while two others resigned alleging government interference

CHIEF JUDGES



Rizgar Amin,
48, *Ethnic Kurd*

**Oct 19, 2005 –
Jan 14, 2006:**

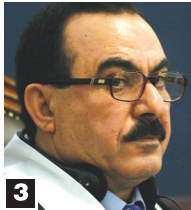
Resigned citing government interference undermined court's neutrality and objectivity



**Rauf Rashid
Abdel-Rahman,**
64, *Kurdish*

Jan 23 – Aug 14

Resigned after being criticised for being *"too soft"* on defendants by tolerating their outbursts in court



**Abdullah
al-Amiri,** 54,
Shiite Arab

Aug 21 – Sep 19

Sacked by government for *bias* after recent statement that Saddam was *"not a dictator"*



**Mohammed
al-Uraibiy,**
Shiite Arab

Sep 20 –

New judge ejects Saddam from genocide trial – defence team storms out in protest