

Iraq bans U.S. firm

The Iraqi government has cancelled the licence of the private security firm *Blackwater USA*, after it was involved in a gunfight in which at least eight civilians died



- **Blackwater has around 1,000 employees in Iraq, and at least \$800m in government contracts**

- **Around 25,000 private security contractors work in Iraq, guarding diplomats, reconstruction workers and government officials**

- **As many as 200 have been killed, including four Blackwater employees killed and mutilated by mob in Falluja in March 2004**

- **Many contractors accused of indiscriminately firing at U.S. and Iraqi troops, and of killing unknown number of Iraqi citizens who got too close to their heavily armed convoys**

- **Personnel have no combat immunity under international law if they engage in hostilities**