

Iraq to review all security firms

Iraq will review the status of all private security firms in the country after a shooting incident in Baghdad left eight civilians dead. The Iraqi government says it wants to verify whether such contractors are operating in compliance with Iraqi law

KEY INCIDENTS INVOLVING SECURITY CONTRACTORS

■ **Sep 2007:** Contractors working for U.S. security firm **Blackwater USA** kill eight Iraqi civilians in firefight in Baghdad. Iraqi government claims contractors fired "randomly at citizens" – Blackwater says guards acted only in self-defence

■ **May 2007:** Blackwater employee shoots and kills civilian deemed to be driving too close to firm security detail. Company says employee acted lawfully and appropriately

■ **Dec 2006:** Drunken Blackwater employee fatally shoots bodyguard for Shiite Vice President **Adel Abdul-Mahdi**. Blackwater arranges his return to U.S. – incident under investigation

■ **2006-07:** Two employees of U.S. firm **Triple Canopy** accuse supervisor of shooting at civilians for amusement. All three men fired for failing to report shooting incidents

CUSTERBATTLES

■ **2005-2006:** Former employees of U.S. firm **Custer Battles** accuse co-workers of firing indiscriminately at civilians and crushing car filled with children and adults while trying to make way through traffic jam. Company denies accusations

■ **Dec 2005:** Employees of London-based **Aegis Defence Services** post internet videos showing

company guards firing at Iraqi civilians. Aegis says shootings were within protocols allowing guards to fire on vehicles approaching too close or too quickly

■ **May 2005:** 16 security guards from U.S. firm **Zapata Engineering** jailed by Marines in Fallujah after allegedly firing on U.S. forces and Iraqi civilians. Men released after three days and sent back to U.S. – no charges brought

Source: Wire agencies

Picture: Associated Press

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