

Challenges facing Iraq five years after invasion

SECURITY

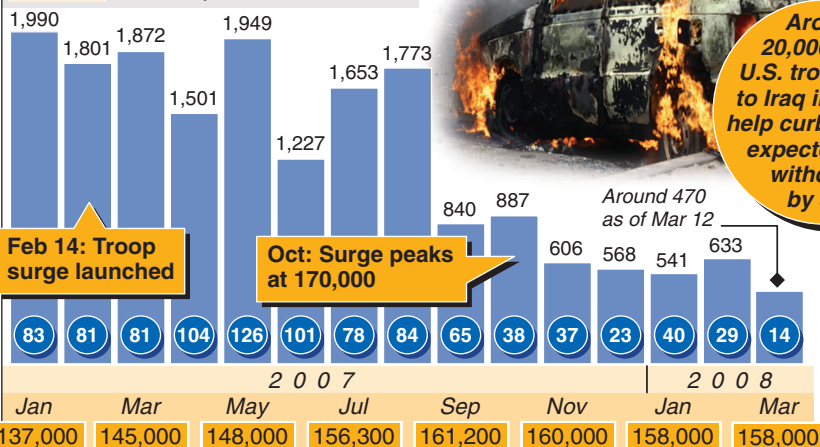
Violence is down 60% since last June, but top U.S. commander in Iraq, **General David Petraeus**, says security gains can be easily reversed

SUNNI ARAB INSURGENCY

Sunni Arab tribes and some nationalist insurgent groups have joined so-called **Awakening Councils**, taking up arms against Al Qaeda. But Al Qaeda has regrouped in north and continues to stage large-scale suicide bombings

CASUALTIES AND TROOP SURGE

■ Civilian deaths* ○ U.S. fatalities**
 000,000 U.S. troop levels



*Iraqi ministries of interior, defence and health **www.icasualties.org

AWAKENING COUNCILS

80,000 volunteers tasked by U.S. army to man checkpoints and provide vital intelligence. **Warned that they could rebel, Iraqi government has agreed to integrate 20% into police force**

REFUGEES

UN estimates that out of 2 million people who fled Iraq, only 36,000 have returned since security improved. There are also 2.2m people displaced internally

MEHDI ARMY

Radical Shia cleric **Muqtada al-Sadr** has committed his feared **Mehdi Army** militia to ceasefire through to August.

However, disaffected Mehdi Army soldiers are reportedly being recruited by Iraqi fighters trained in – and loyal to – Iran, with orders to continue attacks on U.S. forces

ECONOMY

IMF expects higher oil output to push Iraq's GDP by 7% this year, from 1.3% in 2007. **But unemployment is still high and UN says that 4m people suffer from food shortages**



LEGISLATIVE PROGRESS

Although **Nouri al-Maliki's** government has recently tried to push through laws to assist reconciliation among Iraq's Sunni and Shia Arabs and Kurds, progress has been tenuous

LEGISLATION: ☒ PASSED ☐ PENDING

☒ Law easing restrictions on former members of **Saddam Hussein's Baath Party** holding public office

☐ Framework for foreign oil firms to operate in Iraq and to determine share of revenues from oil reserves

☐ Law on provincial powers, key to holding provincial elections, vetoed by Iraq's presidency council

KIRKUK

UN special envoy to Iraq trying to reschedule delayed referendum to determine status of oil-rich city of Kirkuk, claimed by Kurds, Arabs and Turkmen

