

Sawa Coverage of Saddam Hussela

Sawa at 10 UTC (6:00am Washington time)

12-14-03

6:00-6:15am: (pop music)

(6:15am) News started at scheduled time 6:15am

Male voice – Mohamed Attia: We start our newscast amid media news about capturing Saddam Hussein by the Coalition forces. We have on the phone our correspondent in Kirkuk, Adnan Hady:

Q: Is there any confirmation of capturing Saddam? The Pentagon did not confirm?

A: News agencies did not have any confirmations from any official sources; neither the Americans nor the Kurdish parties confirmed that.

The circulated news reported that the National Kurdish Union, headed by Galal Talbani, was able to arrest Saddam Hussein in Tikreet. Others are saying that he was captured in Samara however Galal Gohar, Secretary-General of the National Kurdish Union in Kirkuk, said he has no official information on that news story, and he cannot deny or confirm it. Dr. Barham Saleh, head of the civil administration of the Kurdish province, will deliver a speech on that development through the Kurdistan Satellite Channel in about thirty minutes.

Q- Adnan, the news story circulated by the Iranian News Agency is quoting Galal Talbani, leader of the Kurdish National Union. Is he physically in Tikreet or in Iran?

A- There is no information on the whereabouts of Galal Talbani.

Q- Are there any indications in the Iraqi streets to believe the news story?

A- No.

Announcer - Thanks Adnan.

At the end of the regularly scheduled newscast a female announcer said:

"And now we return to the news story that media outlets are repeating about a possibility of capturing Saddam Hussein. Although the Pentagon did not confirm this news item, a

number of Kurdish leaders in northern Iraq confirmed that the Coalition forces will announce the news about his capture in the coming hours. Kurdish leader Galal Talbani told the Iranian News Agency that Saddam Hussein has been arrested by the Americans in his hometown of Tikreet. Media outlets showed pictures of jubilant Iraqis over this development. Of course we will provide you with the latest as we receive it.

(Music again until 6:45)

(6:45 – News headlines – for one minute)

-Kurds are confirming that the Coalition forces will announce the capturing of Saddam Hussein in Tikreet in the coming hours

-Other headlines

(Music again)

Sawa at 11 UTC: (7:00am EST)

Bremer's press conference commenced at 7:00am EST

(Pop music)

7-7:15 music as usual – no breaking for news

7:15 scheduled newscast – Al-Alam Al-An (the world today)

Host: Right now the Chairman of the CPA in Iraq, Paul Bremer, is holding a press conference attended by some members of the Iraqi Council where he announced or even confirmed the arrest of Saddam Hussein yesterday evening 15 miles away from Tikreet. You can hear now sounds of gun shots by citizens of Baghdad, where we have with us our colleague Emad Al-Khafagi along with some Iraqis in the street.

Emad: People are very happy as you can hear, what do you think of Saddam's capture?
(inaudible)

Men on the street: " I cannot describe my feeling; it is a great occasion for all the Iraqis. It is the beginning to build a new Iraq. (Similar statements from 2 other Iraqi men.)

Host (Attia): Here now are parts of the Bremer press conference. Mr. Adnan Bagagi (with no proper introduction) said that the state of fear and persecution is gone. Iraq today is jubilant and we are looking forward to national reconciliation in Iraq as well as

freedom and equality. He announced on behalf of the Iraqi governing council that all the Iraqis are going forward to restore their sovereignty and power soon so Iraq can play its natural role in the Arab world and the international community.

Now we have Shayma Al-Hudeina, our stringer in Kuwait. How would you describe the feelings of the Kuwaiti people? (Q&A)

Back to Baghdad with Sawa correspondent to talk on the attacks against the US forces.

The host then said that General Ricardo Sanchez said that Saddam cooperated and did not resist.

Back and forth with Kuwait stringer and Baghdad, Al-Hilla correspondents with no acts from the press conference at all. (Lost contact with both correspondents)

Host: Mr. Nasser Al-Sander, member of the Iraqi Governing Council confirmed the capture of Saddam Hussein (voice actuality of Mr. Nasser talking about the impact inside Iraq.)

Host: We expect Insha'Allah (God willing) that the terrorist attacks on the Coalition forces will decline. Concerning that we have now General Wafiq Al-Samarrae:(voice actuality explaining the impact of Saddam's capture on the attacks against the coalition forces.)

We have few seconds left; we end this newscast with the sweets that are being distributed in Baghdad. Goodbye.

(Back to pop music at about 7:29!)

7:45 - another on minute & 10 seconds of news headlines.

(Back to pop music!)