

Iraq 'Baathist plotters' released

By [Global Research](#)

Global Research, December 20, 2008

[Al-Jazeera](#) 20 December 2008

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [US NATO War Agenda](#)

Around two dozen Iraqi security and police officials arrested on charges of plotting a Baathist coup have been released, the interior ministry has announced.

Jawad al-Bolani, the interior minister, told news agency AP on Friday that nineteen detainees had been released from custody and charges dropped against another four suspects.

Al-Bolani said that a judge had issued "an order to release all of them because they are innocent", adding there was no evidence they conspired to restore the Baath party to power.

The Iraqi minister provided no other information.

Earlier on Friday, al-Bolani told a press conference that the charges were baseless and politically motivated by those trying to undermine the interior ministry.

Speaking before the detainees were released, Abdul-Karim Khalaf, a spokesman for the Iraqi interior ministry, said a number of people had been arrested following a tip-off that they were members of al-Awda - or "Return" - a Sunni underground movement founded in 2003 with the aim of restoring Saddam and the Baath party to power.

"So far, charges have not been raised against anybody," he said, saying it was normal to detain people in relation to matters of national security.

"Such behaviour is not confined to Iraq only, it may happen anywhere in the world. When an issue threatens the security of a country, measures like the ones we did would be taken," he said.

Over a period of five days, dozens were rounded-up on conspiracy charges - including several high-ranking officials.

However, other Iraqi officials vigorously denied those arrested were involved in plotting a coup.

Brigadier-General Alaa al-Taei, the interior ministry's head of public relations, said those detained were not accused of planning a coup, but of planning to burn down the ministry in a possible attempt to destroy evidence against them.

The original source of this article is [Al-Jazeera](#)

Copyright © [Global Research](#), [Al-Jazeera](#), 2008

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Global Research](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca