

So we're talking only about nine that are under investigation and you can be sure that those nine deaths while in detention will be thoroughly investigated and if any wrongdoing was involved it will be prosecuted and it will be taken in front of a court.

Bridget Kendall: Well this is a question, of course, which has concerned people, not just around the world, but in the United States too and we've also been out and about in Washington DC in the United States to see if people had questions they wanted to put to General Kimmitt and here's a question from Washington.

Clara Anamo: My name is Clara Anamo and I live in Washington DC. I would like to ask the General about how the military is going to handle compensation to the victims of the systematic abuse that we now have going on in American detention centres in Iraq.

Bridget Kendall: General Kimmitt.

General Kimmitt: Yeah, that's an interesting question because one of the things that we have learned this whole cultural norm of compensation. I know that these discussions are going on, back in Washington DC, regarding the compensation of victims of the abuse and as soon as those decisions are made in Washington DC we will execute those decisions quickly.

Bridget Kendall: This whole area though, of compensation and finding out what happened to prisoners, it comes back to this first question which was raised which is about the number of Iraqis who died, doesn't it? There's still not a clear estimate of how many there are - how can the Americans and the coalition partners possibly know specifically who has suffered what fate and therefore take appropriate action for it?

General Kimmitt: Well I know that Ambassador Bremer has taken the first step - he has set up a special compensation trust fund for the people of Iraq for the atrocities that were committed during the time of Saddam. I believe he's put already 25 million from the developmental fund for Iraq into this trust and I would expect that they will be considering compensation for post-Saddam period sometime in the future as well.

Bridget Kendall: But let's go now to a caller who's on the line from Norway. It's Steiner Almelid in Oslo and I understand that you are yourself a military man, is that right?

Steiner Almelid: Yes ma'am, I'm a former lieutenant colonel in the air force and I have worked extensively with intelligence and also with strategy at the top level in the Norwegian military.

I would first like to comment that I really appreciate General Kimmitt's comments because they're reflecting the ability to think about things before saying or giving a conclusion. This ability has been lacking from the political level, as I see it, and that's the sad part.