

turn, do you see this as a change of strategy in Iraq that will be mirrored in Najaf? There have been attempts to establish a truce there.

Adel Darwish: Well I think what I have seen in the last recent trip to Southern Iraq - to Basra - and speaking to people there certainly there is a direction now that the areas which are trouble spots, isolate these areas. While isolating these areas put military pressure on the people who are creating trouble, try to reach some kind of political fusion - ceasefire - bring back, as the General said, people from the regular army who were working under Saddam, but not necessarily politically and ideologically motivated as the Baath party were.

While at the same time the areas being pacified and has been under control you throw a lot of money and investment into this area as some kind of an incentive, showing people that once the area's been pacified they can move forward and that would mean the population themselves turn against either foreign fighters or the remnants of the old regime or anybody carrying arms and causing trouble. But again this is a new tactic and it remains to be seen how successful it's going to be.

Bridget Kendall: Let's go to another caller now, we've got on the phone waiting to talk us Susie Ousanmas, who's in Ankara in Turkey. Susie, what would you like to say?

Susie Ousanmas: Well what I'd like to say is I'm trying to figure out of all the detainees that the Americans have how many of them are really terrorists and not victims of some sort of jealous or some tribal dispute, you know you want to get someone out of the way, you want to be jealous of somebody and you just tell them - this person has links with al-Qaeda and get them away for a couple of years. And I'm just wondering of all the number of people that the Americans have do they really investigate or are they just arresting these people on the word of a few neighbours that might not be so honest themselves about these things.

Bridget Kendall: This is always a problem isn't it Adel.

Susie Ousanmas: I think the Middle East is a big problem, I've been living here for 30 years and if you just want to make trouble for someone you just try to...

Bridget Kendall: Susie, let's put that point to Adel Darwish who's here in the studio, who has long experience of the Middle East.

Adel Darwish: Yes I think this is one of the questions which probably we'll not find the answer to maybe in my generation or so. As we have seen actually with the Guantanamo Bay, we have seen the British detainees who have been actually released recently and they've written a letter to President Bush and they're asking for an investigation and compensation.

And again that's one of the errors that has been committed - that the standing of the Iraqi army, the standing of the infrastructure of the tools and organisations of the Iraqi state which would have