

helped to carry out this kind of investigation.

The silver sort of lining of this particular cloud is that the occupation forces - the coalition forces - Britain and the United States - are democracies, free press. It was the American press, it was the British press that actually exposed what was going on in Abu Ghraib and there are mechanisms through which people can seek compensation, can take people to court, can ask investigation going on. So at least there is some positive sides to the story.

Bridget Kendall: Well I believe that we can now rejoin General Kimmitt on the phone, he's on the phone to us now from Baghdad. Are you there General Kimmitt?

General Kimmitt: I sure am.

Bridget Kendall: Good of you to rejoin us. We've got another caller on the line who'd like to put a question to you, it's Sher Yar in Singapore. Go ahead with your question.

Sher Yar: Thank you very much. Could I ask the General that I understand that the Secretary of State Colin Powell insists on American control of US army and UK Prime Minister indicates that the army will be under the control of new democratic government. My question is: What will be the position of coalition forces in new democratic set up in Iraq?

Bridget Kendall: A question about the handover General Kimmitt - what will be the state of the coalition forces after June 30th?

General Kimmitt: Well after June 30th we will stay here as invited guests of the people of Iraq. We certainly expect that they will recognise - and they've expressed to us time after time that they recognise that there will be some period of time before the Iraqi security forces are capable of handling both the internal security and external security of this nation and we'll work in a partnership with the people of Iraq, with the Iraqi security forces, to continue to train them, to equip them, to field them, to employ them until a day when we can slowly start reducing our forces and their capable forces can take over the security file.

Bridget Kendall: What about this question that's been troubling a lot of people - who will have final political control over any future operations - another Falluja for example - will the new Iraqi government be able to veto that?

General Kimmitt: Well as you certainly know when we pass over sovereignty it won't be at half measure - we are turning sovereignty to the people of Iraq. We're turning over sovereignty to the government that will be established in Iraq. And those status of forces arrangements we're doing some of those discussions now. There certainly will be the capability for us to conduct missions here but there will also be the capability for the government in Iraq to have a voice in that process.