

and you're right - it was a failure of leadership.

Bridget Kendall: I would say that perhaps half the people who've been in touch with us have wanted to talk about this, perhaps not surprising given the material that's been made public. This is from Sahar in Amman in Jordan who asks: Do you think the Iraqis are going to forgive you Americans for what you've done? You've treaded on men's dignity.

General Kimmitt: And he's right. That has been one of our major concerns and we have a 135,000 American soldiers here that feel just absolutely down in the deep pit of their stomach, they're twisted, because they know every time they go out on the streets people are looking at them and wondering if those soldiers are capable of doing what the soldiers we saw in those photos did.

And what we've just got to do is demonstrate everyday forward that those pictures are not representative of the other 135,000 American soldiers that are doing their job proudly and treating the people of Iraq with dignity and respect.

Bridget Kendall: But do you think, given the scale of this - of what we've seen, that the Iraqis are going to forgive you, as Sahar asks?

General Kimmitt: Well I think it's precisely because the scale of this was so small that the people of Iraq will forgive us. This was only six or seven soldiers. It may get wider, it may get up to 20 soldiers but 20 soldiers out of 135,000, about 10 or 12 detainees out of the thousands that we've detained.

I think most of the people in Iraq recognise that that was an isolated incident, pray that was an isolated incident and our investigations continue to demonstrate that it was fairly isolated and not representative of the 135,000 soldiers out there doing the right thing under very tough circumstances every day.

Bridget Kendall: But can you say categorically General then, before these investigations are over, that it won't go beyond 20, that it doesn't go up a chain of command through military intelligence, civilian contractors who might have been involved for example?

General Kimmitt: Well first of all we have said it does go up the chain of command, it went all the way up to the Brigadier General who was commanding the 800th MP Brigade. And yes it went into the military intelligence and that's why we're conducting another investigation to determine how much of the military intelligence was involved.

And yes it could involve civilian contractors and that's why we're continuing the investigation to explore - we're going to go wide, we're going to go deep, we're going to look under every rock and find out just how far this went.

But all indications thus far is that this was limited, localised and again not representative of the