



Iraqi translator tells US soldier's hearing of gruesome murder

5 hours ago

CAMP SPEICHER, Iraq (AFP) — An Iraqi translator told a US soldier's pre-trial hearing on Sunday about the gruesome murder of a detainee who was shot and later had his face disfigured by an incendiary grenade.

The hearing of Staff Sergeant Hal Warner entered its second day with testimony from the translator who testified about the brutal killing of Iraqi detainee Ali

Mansur Mohammed in May.

Warner has been charged, along with First Lieutenant Michael Behenna, with premeditated murder, as well as assault, making a false official statement and obstruction of justice.

The hearing is being held at this military base near Tikrit, the hometown of executed dictator Saddam Hussein. Behenna's pre-trial hearing is scheduled for September 20.

The translator, whose name was not revealed for security reasons, told the hearing that Mohammed was first shot and later had his face disfigured by a thermite grenade.

The murder was allegedly committed on May 16 under a bridge in the northern oil refinery town of Baiji, after the two soldiers left their base with Mohammed to set him free at a checkpoint.

"Lieutenant Behenna started talking with Ali Mansur and Sergeant Warner followed them," the witness said.

"Behenna and Warner started taking off Ali Mansur's clothes with their knives. They then cut his handcuffs."

Behenna ordered the detainee to sit, the translator said.

"He (Behenna) asked him a question. You have to tell me what you know," the witness who had translated Behenna's question to the detainee told the hearing.

"Then Behenna pulled the trigger. Warner was further down from the scene. He (Behenna) shot him once, then twice and we could hear Ali Mansur's last voice," the witness said, testifying in English.

He said after the shooting, Warner "took the grenade from his pocket, pulled the safety ring, walked around and put the grenade under Ali Mansur's head."

"Then they hid his clothes and Behenna and Warner went back."

On Saturday, two US soldiers from the same battalion had also testified against Warner.

Corporal Cody Atkinson said that Behenna and Warner, armed with a grenade, took Mohammed out of the vehicle and under the bridge.

Mohammed was initially believed to have been freed along with another detainee at a checkpoint, but he was allegedly held longer in captivity and his naked and badly burnt body was found the next day under the bridge.

The charges state that Warner and Behenna shot Mohammed and set his body on fire by using a thermite grenade which burns fiercely.

"We all thought that we were going to jail for this. Sergeant Warner told us to write that Ali Mansur had been released," Atkinson told the hearing on Saturday.

When Atkinson was asked whether Warner told him Behenna killed Mohammed, he answered "Yes."

Another soldier, Sergeant Milton Sanchez, testified that Behenna told him Mohammed was a "bad guy."

"I know he (Behenna) was mad. He did not think that we should release him. He thought we were wrong to drop this detainee," Sanchez said.

While Warner sat silently throughout the entire session on Saturday, a few metres (yards) away Behenna, 25, took notes and later quietly slipped out of the room afterwards, an AFP correspondent reported.

The US military in Iraq has been rocked by a series of scandals.

The most serious charges of unlawful killings came when a group of marines was accused of murdering 24 Iraqi civilians in the town of Haditha in November 2005 after a roadside bomb killed a comrade.

Eight marines were charged the following year, but most were either acquitted or had the charges withdrawn before court martial.

Search and browse **4,500 news sources** updated continuously.[News archive search](#) | [Advanced news search](#) | [Blog search](#)

- > **Top Stories**
- World
- U.S.
- Business
- Elections
- Sci/Tech
- Entertainment
- Sports
- Health
- Most Popular

[News Alerts](#)[Text Version](#)

Standard Version

[Image Version](#)[RSS](#) | [Atom](#)[About Feeds](#)[Mobile News](#)**Top Stories**Auto-generated **10 minutes ago**

[Search for Hurricane Survivors Continues as Recovery Begins](#)

Washington Post - 1 hour ago

Category 2 storm comes ashore on Galveston Island, where officials brace for potential catastrophe. Widespread damage, flooding reported in Houston area.

[Video: Hurricane Ike Evacuees Are Anxious to Go](#)[Home](#) [AssociatedPress](#)[It's race against time to save Ike stalwarts](#) [The Associated Press](#)

[CBS News](#) - [USA Today](#) - [Los Angeles Times](#) - [Voice of America](#)
[all 13,578 news articles »](#)

[ABC News](#)

[In grieving Simi Valley, tragedy touches many](#)

Los Angeles Times - 5 hours ago

A frequent passenger on the route, Jerry Romero, 43, leaves a note for friends at the Simi Valley Metrolink station, letting them know he is alive.

[California train wreck caused when engineer failed to stop, say ...](#) [New York Daily News](#)

[NTSB: Too Soon to Tell What Caused Metrolink Train](#)[Collision](#) [MyFox Los Angeles](#)

[The Associated Press](#) - [San Jose Mercury News](#) - [Boston Globe](#)
 - [Chicago Tribune](#)

[all 5,690 news articles »](#)[CTV.ca](#)

[Russian Plane Crashes, Killing 88](#)

New York Times - 44 minutes ago

By CLIFFORD J. LEVY MOSCOW - An Aeroflot flight crashed in a central Russian city on Sunday shortly before landing, killing all 88 passengers and crew on board, officials said.

[Russian jet crash kills all 88 on board](#) [AFP](#)[Russian plane crashes, killing all 88 aboard](#) [International Herald Tribune](#)

[Times Online](#) - [United Press International](#) - [Washington Post](#)
 - [Bloomberg](#)

[all 1,379 news articles »](#)[CTV.ca](#)

[Website says BofA will lead Lehman buyout](#)

[Reuters](#) - [all 1,690 news articles »](#)

[Did Tina Fey out-Palin Palin on 'Saturday Night Live'?](#)

[Chicago Tribune](#) - [all 1,110 news articles »](#)

[The Cloud's Chrome Lining](#)

[Newsweek](#) - [all 439 news articles »](#)

[David Foster Wallace, RIP](#)

[Chicago Tribune](#) - [all 460 news articles »](#)

[OSU's lament: 'Every big game we end up blowing it'](#)

[USA Today](#) - [all 2,204 news articles »](#)**In The News**[Sebastian Vettel](#)[Tina Fey](#)[Italian Grand Prix](#)[Indian Mujahideen](#)[Reliant Stadium](#)[Karol Bagh](#)[Mr. and Mrs.](#)[Big Brown](#)[Ryder Cup](#)[Fannie Mae](#)**Comments by People in the****News** New!

World »**[Police detain suspects after 5 blasts](#)****[in New Delhi](#)****International Herald Tribune - 2 hours ago**

International Herald Tribune, AP NEW DELHI: Police officers carried out raids across New Delhi on Sunday, detaining several people believed to be connected to a series of explosions in the capital over the weekend that killed at least 21 people and ...

[Suspects sought in India bombings](#) United Press International[New Delhi bomb blasts kill at least 18](#) Los Angeles Times[AHN](#) - [Reuters UK](#) - [Radio Australia](#) - [BBC News](#)[all 836 news articles »](#)[Monsters and Critics.com](#)**[Saakashvili "planned S. Ossetia](#)****[invasion" : ex-minister](#)****Reuters - 44 minutes ago**

By Brian Rohan PARIS (Reuters) - Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili had long planned a military strike to seize back the breakaway region of South Ossetia but executed it poorly, making it easy for Russia to retaliate, Saakashvili's former defence ...

[Russian Forces Leave Parts of Western Georgia Ahead of](#)[Deadline](#) Washington Post[Russian Troops Take Down Some Georgia Checkpoints](#) New York Times[International Herald Tribune](#) - [AFP](#) - [The Associated Press](#)- [United Press International](#)[all 5,714 news articles »](#)[ABC News](#)**[NZ firm warned of China milk risk](#)****BBC News - 2 hours ago**

A Chinese firm accused of selling milk powder that has made babies unwell was warned in August over the safety of its product, its partner and co-owner says.

[Video: With Children Sick, China Pulls Tainted Milk](#) AssociatedPress[China inspects dairy regions after tainted milk](#) The Associated Press[Xinhua](#) - [Reuters](#) - [AHN](#) - [New York Times](#)[all 2,507 news articles »](#)[BBC News](#)**Business »****[Website says BofA will lead Lehman buyout](#)****Reuters - 1 hour ago**

NEW YORK (Reuters) - A financial website said a deal has been reached to split beleaguered Lehman Brothers into two entities, with a "bad bank" taking the toxic, real-estate assets amounting to around \$85 billion and Bank of America taking the lion's ...

[Will Lehman be forced to break up?](#) MarketWatch[Solving Lehman](#) Forbes[Washington Post](#) - [International Herald Tribune](#) - [New York Times](#)- [Wall Street Journal](#)[all 1,690 news articles »](#) [LEH](#) - [PINK:LBHYZ](#) - [BAC](#)[Times Online](#)**U.S. »****[McCain-Palin crowd: 23000, or a third that size](#)****Los Angeles Times - 7 hours ago**

By DON FREDERICK AND ANDREW MALCOLM, TOP OF THE TICKET One of the many, many imprecise aspects of daily journalism is estimating a crowd size -- especially when the gathering is large and sprawling.

[Video: Palin: Tax Relief for All Americans](#) AssociatedPress[John McCain Lies His Way to the White House](#) Gayapolis[Reuters](#) - [The Associated Press](#) - [Nevada Appeal](#) - [The Moderate Voice](#)[all 1,995 news articles »](#)**[Offshore Drilling Is Coming to a Vote](#)****Washington Post - 8 hours ago**

By Paul Kane Congressional Democrats, balancing political reality against a policy they have long opposed, are on the cusp of approving legislation that would open the Atlantic and Pacific oceans to oil drilling as close as 50 miles offshore.

[Offshore drilling bill whiffs on its mission](#) DetNews.com[More drilling won't lower gas](#) Hattiesburg American[The Associated Press](#) - [Denver Post](#) - [Republican & Herald](#)- [New York Times](#)[all 1,934 news articles »](#)[Washington Post](#)**[Memorial Unveiled in Tears,](#)****[Triumph Pentagon Site Unveiling](#)****[Draws ...](#)****Washington Post - 7 hours ago**

The Pentagon Memorial to victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks was dedicated Thursday. The two-acre site is the nation's first major permanent Sept.

[Video: Bush Remembers 9/11 Attacks in Moment of](#)[Silence](#) AssociatedPress[At new memorial, Bush comforts friends, family](#) Houston Chronicle[The Associated Press](#) - [Atlanta Journal Constitution](#) - [Los Angeles Times](#)- [FOXNews](#)[all 1,286 news articles »](#)[Washington Post](#)**Elections »****[Did Tina Fey out-Palin Palin on](#)****['Saturday Night Live'?](#)****Chicago Tribune - 3 hours ago**

Ever since Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin was announced as Sen. John McCain's running mate, people have remarked on her strong resemblance to former "Saturday Night Live" head writer Tina Fey.

[Global warming makes Tina Fey SNL Clinton-Palin parody](#) Boston Globe[SNL: Girls who wear Tina Fey glasses](#) The Star-Ledger - NJ.com[WNBC](#) - [ABC News](#) - [Huffington Post](#) - [FOXNews](#)[all 1,110 news articles »](#)[The Gazette \(Montreal\)](#)

[Mortgage Bailout Lowers Rates](#)

Wall Street Journal - 10 hours ago

By AMY HOAK The government takeover of mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac has pushed mortgage rates lower, a boon for some home buyers and for homeowners seeking to refinance, but it is not automatically going to make home loans easier to ...

[How Washington Failed to Rein In Fannie, Freddie](#) Washington Post

[New York Times](#) - [Indianapolis Star](#) - [MarketWatch](#) - [HeraldNet](#)

[all 9,558 news articles »](#)  [FNM](#) - [FRE](#) - [OTC:CMX](#)



[Washington Post](#)

[Ike's aftermath: The return of \\$4 gas](#)

CNNMoney.com - 1 hour ago

Gas prices poised to climb towards record levels again as hurricane hits center of nation's oil refining base; Ike could also cost insurers up to \$18 billion.

[Gas prices rise as storm takes toll on refineries](#) Buffalo News

[Gas spikes 20 cents here since Friday](#) Richmond Times Dispatch

[The Associated Press](#) - [Bluefield Daily Telegraph](#) - [al.com](#)

- [Belleville News Democrat](#)

[all 1,386 news articles »](#)



[Washington Post](#)

[Sci/Tech »](#)

[The Cloud's Chrome Lining](#)

Newsweek - 21 hours ago

By Brian Braiker | NEWSWEEK With the formal beta launch of Chrome, Google is trying to redraw the browser-war battlelines. But with Microsoft's Internet Explorer dominating 72 percent of the market share, why take them on—especially considering IE's ...

[Update: Google's Chrome: More Than A Browser?](#) eFluxMedia

[Firefox 3.1 Adds 'Porn Mode' Private Browsing](#) InformationWeek

[SunJournal.com](#) - [CNET News](#) - [Atlantic Online](#) - [Washington Post](#)

[all 439 news articles »](#)



[NewsOXY](#)

[Xbox 360 Price Cut Spurs Sales](#)

PC World - 1 hour ago

Microsoft last week was quick to remind cohorts that price drops work, days after the company slashed the price of the Xbox 360 for a second time last Friday.

[NPD: Video Game Industry Decreased In](#)

[August](#) eFluxMedia

[Madden '09 owns, 360 moves back in front of PS3 in sales](#) Ars Technica

[Wall Street Journal](#) - [CNET News](#) - [CRN](#) - [GameSpot](#)

[all 314 news articles »](#)



[Product Reviews](#)

[New Seinfeld, Gates Microsoft ad kinda sorta makes sense](#)

Los Angeles Times - 18 hours ago

When last we saw new friends Jerry Seinfeld and Bill Gates, in the first installment of the new Microsoft ad campaign, they were leaving a shopping mall where they'd run into each other at a



[The Age](#)

[To defeat Palin, ignore](#)

[her](#)

New York Daily News - 6 hours ago

The Democrats' Palin problem won't be going away any time soon. And it could derail Barack Obama's fight against Republican John McCain - unless Dems summon the discipline to ignore the GOP vice-presidential candidate's celebrity and instead focus like ...

[Palin: Obama regrets not picking Hillary](#) Christian Science Monitor

[Clinton fulfilling new role with gusto](#) Boston Globe

[AFP](#) - [Voice of America](#) - [Asbury Park Press](#) - [guardian.co.uk](#)

[all 1,226 news articles »](#)



[Washington Post](#)

[How Obama can win the campaign? Ask the media](#)

Christian Science Monitor - 1 hour ago

By Jimmy Orr | 09.14.08 If Obama campaign honchos David Axelrod and David Plouffe are worried about the next steps for their candidate, help is on the way.

[Willie Brown: How does President Palin sound?](#) San Francisco Chronicle

[McCain Barbs Stirring Outcry as Distortions](#) New York Times

[Fort Worth Star Telegram](#) - [Los Angeles Times](#) - [FayObserver.com](#)

- [Portsmouth Herald News](#)

[all 2,574 news articles »](#)

[Entertainment »](#)

[David Foster Wallace, RIP](#)

Chicago Tribune - 1 hour ago

I was about to go to bed when I read the terribly sad news that novelist/essayist David Foster Wallace was found dead in his California home at age 46 after apparently hanging himself.

[Writer David Foster Wallace found dead](#) Los Angeles Times

[Postmodern Writer Is Found Dead at Home](#) New York Times

[Gothamist](#) - [PopMatters](#) - [People Magazine](#) - [eFluxMedia](#)

[all 460 news articles »](#)



[The Money Times](#)

[Camera-bugged Kanye West is unlikely to face felony rap](#)

New York Daily News - Sep 12, 2008

BY NANCY DILLON LOS ANGELES - Kanye West may have snapped on the paparazzi, but his bad boy behavior may not rise to the level of felony, a law enforcement source said.

[Video: Kanye West Arrested at LAX](#) AssociatedPress

[Councilmen request that LAX evaluates its handling of paparazzi](#) Los Angeles Times

[TMZ.com](#) - [Reuters](#) - [Chicago Tribune](#) - [China Daily](#)

[all 1,270 news articles »](#)

[Burn After Reading' Never Ignites](#)

Washington Post - Sep 12, 2008

Brad Pitt, George Clooney and Frances McDormand star in this Coen brothers movie about a pair of gym employees who discover the secret memoirs of a CIA agent (John Malkovich).



[Canada.com](#)

discount shoe store.

[Microsoft Launches 2nd Seinfeld Salvo](#) Adweek

[Bill Gates is no George Costanza](#) CNET News

[CRN](#) - [InformationWeek](#) - [Ars Technica](#) - [TG Daily](#)

[all 132 news articles »](#)

Sports »

[OSU's lament: 'Every big game we end up blowing it'](#)

USA Today - 45 minutes ago

By Kelly Whiteside, USA TODAY LOS ANGELES - Ohio State senior left tackle Alex Boone was one of the last players to leave his locker room following his team's 35-3 loss to No.

[Best introduction](#) The Plain Dealer - cleveland.com

[Buckeyes' loss to USC very similar to '07 title defeat](#) FOXSports.com

[FanHouse](#) - [Los Angeles Times](#) - [New York Times](#) - [ESPN](#)

[all 2,204 news articles »](#)



[New York Times](#)

[It's an opportunity - for the Patriots](#)

Boston Globe - 5 hours ago

By Bob Ryan Schadenfreude is the German word to describe the phenomenon of taking pleasure in someone else's suffering. From the moment America saw Tom Brady limp off the field last Sunday, America has been awash in schadenfreude.

[Pressure? New Pats QB Cassel jumps into Brady's MVP](#)

[shoes](#) USA Today

[With Tom Brady out, Bill Belichick's brain battles Brett](#)

[Favre ...](#) New York Daily News

[Boston Herald](#) - [Hartford Courant](#) - [Houma Courier](#) - [New York Times](#)

[all 180 news articles »](#)



[New York Daily News](#)

[Notre Dame gets its revenge against Michigan, 35-17](#)

Los Angeles Times - 7 hours ago

In a driving rain, the Irish get 147 yards and two touchdowns from Oaks Christian High's Jimmy Clausen, avenging last year's embarrassing 38-0 shutout at Ann Arbor.

[No. 1 USC 35, No. 5 OHIO STATE 3](#) The Plain Dealer - cleveland.com

[Giveaway: Mistakes, not Irish mystique, doom UM](#) Detroit Free Press

[Chicago Tribune](#) - [CBS News](#) - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) - [ESPN](#)

[all 916 news articles »](#)



[Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#)

['Burn After Reading': Mixed Nuts, By Kurt Loder](#) MTV.com

[Burn After Reading](#) Chicago Sun-Times

[Sunday Paper](#) - [JustPressPlay](#) - [New York Times](#) - [eFluxMedia](#)

[all 1,288 news articles »](#)

Health »

[5 Pioneering Scientists Win Lasker Medical Prizes](#)

New York Times - 7 hours ago

The Lasker Awards this year went to, from left, Akira Endo of Japan; David C. Baulcombe of England; and three Americans, Gary B. Ruvkun, Stanley Falkow and Victor R. Ambros.

[Stanford 'microbe hunter' Stanley Falkow wins Lasker](#)

[Award](#) San Jose Mercury News

[Bay State researchers share 'America's Nobel Prize'](#) Boston Globe

[eFluxMedia](#) - [Washington Post](#) - [Reuters](#) - [Worcester Telegram](#)

[all 66 news articles »](#)



[AZoNano.com](#)

[Health Highlights: Sept. 14, 2008](#)

U.S. News & World Report - 1 hour ago

Two isolated cases of a type of the salmonella bacterium known as Salmonella Schwarzengrund in humans has caused a Pennsylvania pet food manufacturer to recall a number of dry dog and cat food brands nationwide.

[Mars Petcare,US: recall of some dry pet foods](#) The Associated Press

[Mars Recalls Cat, Dog Food Made At Pennsylvania Plant](#) Tampa Tribune

[Associated Content](#) - [WTVG](#) - [Consumer Affairs](#) - [WCTV](#)

[all 301 news articles »](#)



[CBS News](#)

[Walk urges support for people with HIV/AIDS](#)

Rapid City Journal - 6 hours ago

By Barbara Soderlin, Journal staff Sunday, September 14, 2008 The second annual HIV/AIDS walk brought about 50 people out to Memorial Park on a blustery Saturday afternoon to support programs for people who are HIV-positive and social equality for gays ...

[Homosexuals, Blacks Bear the Heaviest Burden of HIV](#)

[Infections](#) eFluxMedia

[Study Confirms That Black Men Are More in Danger from](#)

[HIV](#) ToTheCenter.com

[AHN](#) - [New York Times](#) - [U.S. News & World Report](#) - [Washington Post](#)

[all 117 news articles »](#)



[Canada.com](#)

International versions of Google News available in:

- [Argentina](#) - [Australia](#) - [België](#) - [Belgique](#) - [Botswana](#) - [Brasil](#) - [Canada English](#) - [Canada Français](#) - [Chile](#) - [Colombia](#) - [Cuba](#) - [Česká republika](#)
- [Deutschland](#) - [España](#) - [Estados Unidos](#) - [Ethiopia](#) - [France](#) - [Ghana](#) - [India](#) - [Ireland](#) - [Italia](#) - [Kenya](#) - [México](#) - [Malaysia](#) - [Namibia](#) - [Nederland](#)
- [New Zealand](#) - [Nigeria](#) - [Norge](#) - [Österreich](#) - [Pakistan](#) - [Perú](#) - [Philippines](#) - [Portugal](#) - [Schweiz](#) - [South Africa](#) - [Suisse](#) - [Sverige](#) - [Tanzania](#) - [Türkiye](#)
- [Uganda](#) - [U.K.](#) - [U.S.](#) - [Venezuela](#) - [Zimbabwe](#) - [••• \(China\)](#) - [••• \(Hong Kong\)](#) - [•• \(Japan\)](#) - [•• \(Korea\)](#) - [••• \(Taiwan\)](#) - [לְאִרְשֵׁי \(Israel\)](#) - [Ελλάδα \(Greece\)](#)
- [يبرعنا امل اعلنا \(Arabic\)](#) - [Россия \(Russia\)](#) - [••••• \(India\)](#) - [••••• \(India\)](#) - [••••• \(India\)](#)

The selection and placement of stories on this page were determined automatically by a computer program.

©2008 Google - [About Google News](#) - [Blog](#) - [Help Center](#) - [Help for Publishers](#) - [Terms of Use](#) - [Google Home](#)



Hosted by Google

Copyright © 2008 AFP. AFP text, photos, graphics and logos shall not be used for commercial purposes, reproduced, published, broadcast, rewritten for broadcast or publication or redistributed directly or indirectly in any medium. AFP shall not be held liable for any delays, inaccuracies, errors or omissions in any AFP content, or for any actions taken in consequence. AFP materials may not be stored in whole or in part in a computer except for personal non-commercial use. As a newswire service AFP does not obtain release from the subjects, individuals, groups or entities contained in its photographs, graphics or quoted in its text. Further, no clearance is obtained from the owners of any trademarks or copyrighted material where the marks and material are included in AFP photos or content. You shall be solely responsible for obtaining any and all the necessary releases from whatever individual or entity is necessary for any of your uses of AFP material. You agree to indemnify AFP from any losses, damages and expenses (including reasonable attorney fees) it incurs as a result of any claim based on your use of its materials in violation of these terms.