

**'Fewer than 10' Iraqis detained;**

**Federal agents have questioned more than 1,800 immigrants from Iraq since the invasion began.**

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## **Body**

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**Federal agents** have **detained** a handful of Iraqi **immigrants** nationwide out of **more** than **1,800 questioned since** the U.S. invaded **Iraq**, the FBI said yesterday.

The ongoing "voluntary interviews" are part of a broad domestic security campaign, nicknamed Operation Liberty Shield, meant to guard against possible retribution for the U.S.-led war, officials have said.

It was unclear whether the arrests were connected to a separate search by the Department of Homeland Security for specific Iraqi nationals, said to number many **fewer** than the main targeted group.

Among the **1,800** Iraqi natives interviewed so far, "**fewer** than **10**" nationwide have been **detained** on undisclosed charges **since** Thursday morning, the FBI said. Officials would not say where the **detentions** occurred or why, or whether the people were foreign nationals.

The FBI says interviewees are free to refuse to answer **questions**. This does not apply to the separate search by the Homeland Security Department.

None has been **detained** so far among 200 **Iraqis** listed for interviews in Philadelphia, where local FBI officials had pledged not to arrest immigration-law violators they might encounter, said Linda Vizi, a local spokeswoman for the FBI.

No **detentions** have been reported in Western Pennsylvania, where 397 **Iraqis** were listed for interviews. Unlike in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh-based FBI **agents** said they might **detain** immigration violators, said Clifton Omar Slater of the Islamic Council of Pittsburgh.

The "voluntary interviews" were also targeting an unknown number of non-**Iraqis** and "Muslims of interest." Among the interviewees so far were two Palestinians in Philadelphia.

"I'm very thankful that we could work with the FBI, but I still think it was a waste of time," said Marwan Kreidie, president of the Philadelphia Arab-American Association.

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"I don't like interviews in general. There is potential for profiling, and they are potentially biased and harmful," he said.

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