

## Gunman kills two, wounds six in U.N. building shooting

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — An Iraqi who shot his way into a United Nations building in Baghdad on Wednesday said he wanted an end to the international embargo against his country and denied shooting the two people killed during his takeover.

Two Food and Agriculture Organization staffers were killed, and six people were seriously wounded, said Amir A. Khalil, director of FAO operations in Baghdad. He said the gunman held a U.N. consultant hostage at the FAO building's reception desk for more than two hours.

Khalil said the other wounded included two U.N. staffers and four Iraqi government guards. A seventh casualty, a U.N. worker, was hurt trying to jump from a window of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization building, Khalil said in a statement.

"The dead and wounded remained in the corridor of the second floor for many hours," Khalil said. He identified the dead as Yusuf Abdilleh, an administrative officer from Somali and Marweyan Mohammed Hassan, a data base operator from Iraq.

The gunman, Fowad Hussein Haydar, denied shooting anybody in an unusual press conference given in a Baghdad police station hours after the event.

"I haven't shot anyone. When I left the building they told me two people were dead," Haydar said.

"True, I fired at random. But the operation lasted more than two hours and there was heavy fire," he said, referring to the gunfire from Iraqi guards.

Haydar, 38, said his aim was to take Khalil hostage and then negotiate his demands.

"The reason is the embargo, the death and murder of thousands of Iraqi children and elderly," he said. "I wanted to relay a message, to explain the tragedy."

Haydar said sanctions, which have impoverished millions of Iraqis, have driven him to the point of despair and warned that there are millions of people like him in the country ready to do the same.

The handcuffed Haydar appeared composed and peaceful. He stressed he was not recruited by any party to carry out his operation.

"I know I will be sentenced to death, but I am not sorry," he said.

In New York, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan condemned the attack.

"The secretary-general deeply deplores the senseless loss of life of two FAO colleagues in Baghdad," said U.N. deputy spokesperson Manoel de Almeida e Silva.

The executive director of the U.N. Office of the Iraq Program, Benon Sevan, said from New York that the gunman first tried to enter the U.N. compound at the Canal Hotel and was turned away by security guards.

"Then he managed to enter the FAO offices in Baghdad, and he took hostage about 50 people," Sevan said. "He had two machine guns and made some demands."

"There were four demands, one being that there should be regular flights between Amman and Baghdad, the second being that all allied airstrikes should stop and that there should be compensation for the victims of

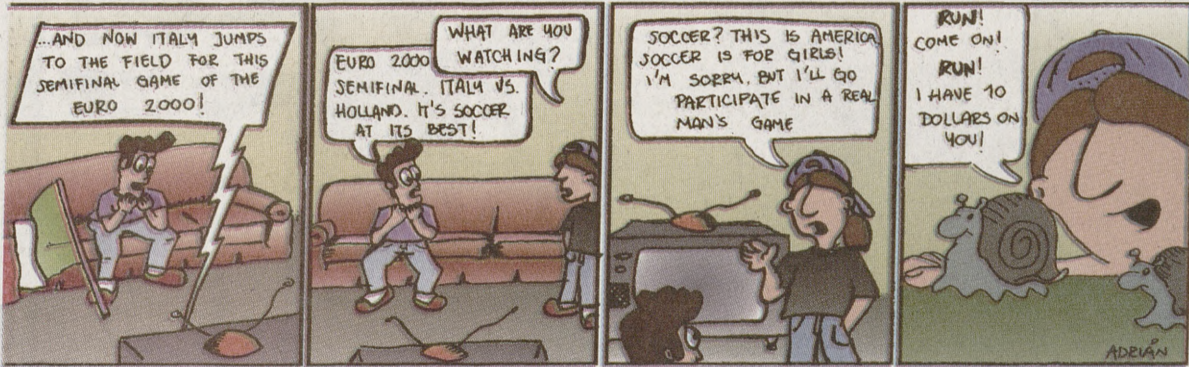
sanctions and the fourth being that there should be a monument erected before the U.N. headquarters for the Iraqi children," Sevan said. Sevan said Iraqi forces "have been fully operative."

Khalil, the FAO representative, has been among the most outspoken critics of the U.N. economic sanctions on ordinary Iraqis.

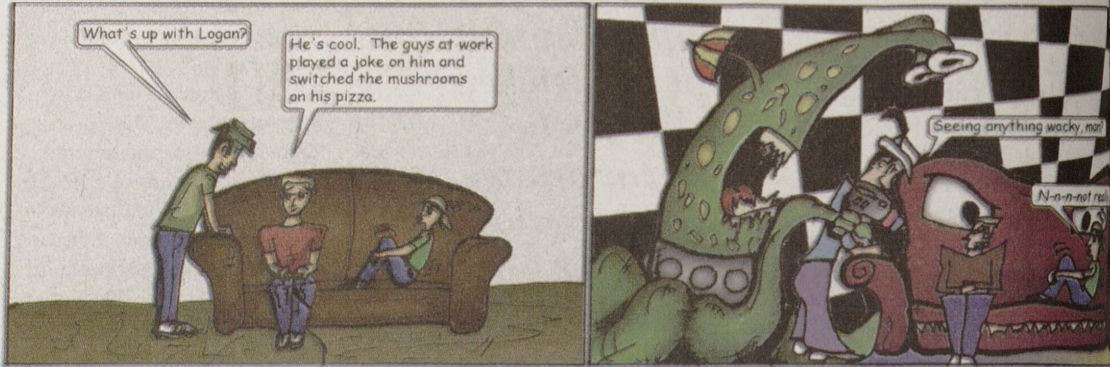
Khalil has pushed the sanctions committee to release holds on agricultural supplies, vaccines and irrigation equipment that are crucial to helping Iraq feed itself, but members of the sanctions committee could have military uses. The United States has been the most active among sanctions committee members at blocking supplies to Iraq.

Sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait have crippled the Iraqi economy.

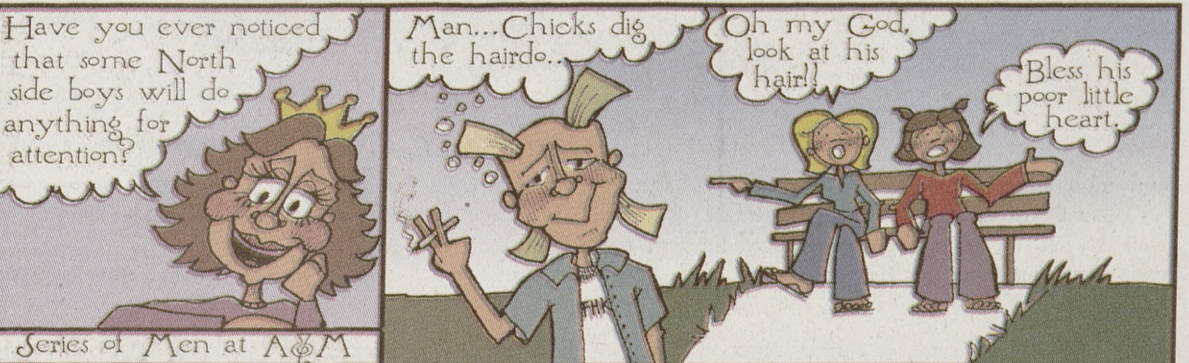
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