

Iraq: Outburst of Bombings Sweeps Through Baghdad Neighborhoods
Duraïd Adnan, The New York Times
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Twelve explosions hit Shiite neighborhoods in Baghdad within 40 minutes on Monday, killing at least 37 people and wounding more than 100, security and medical officials said. In one attack in the Husseiniya area in northern Baghdad, a homemade bomb exploded near a restaurant, followed by a car-bomb blast

Other car bombs exploded in markets and garages in the neighborhoods of Baya, Saydia, Obaidi, Kamb Sarah, Zafaraniya, Baghdad Jadida, Elam and Bab al-Sharji, striking shoppers and other pedestrians and turning the streets of Baghdad into a chaos of casualties, ambulances, police patrols and blaring alarms.

At a checkpoint in Elam, a frustrated security officer was overheard talking to his men after a blast involving a Kia minibus. "I told you this morning to search for a Kia," he said. A police officer responded: "We did search them all. What can we do?" As ambulances sped by, a taxi driver waiting at the same checkpoint said life was worse now than under the former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. "Hundreds are dying every day," he said angrily. "Everything was better when Saddam was here. Now it's just a city of the dead and the visitors to their graves."