

Iraqis gain legal custody of Saddam, trial won't be for months

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — The United States turned Saddam Hussein and 11 of his deputies over to Iraqi legal custody on Wednesday, an official said, the first step toward trying the former dictator on charges expected to include the massacre of Kurds in 1988 and the invasion of Kuwait two years later.

Saddam will remain in an American-controlled jail guarded by Americans until the Iraqis are ready to take physical custody of him. That is expected to take a long time,

and a trial isn't likely for several months.

The defendants were informed individually of their rights, an international official said on condition of anonymity. An Iraqi judge witnessed the proceedings.

There was no official confirmation from Iraqi authorities, though Prime Minister Iyad Allawi had said that the legal transfer of the 12 defendants would take place Wednesday. They were to appear in court on Thursday for a formal reading of the

charges.

"The first step has happened," Salem Chalabi, the director of the Iraqi Special Tribunal that will try Saddam, told The Associated Press. He refused to elaborate. "I met with him (Saddam) earlier today to explain his rights and what will happen," Chalabi said.

The crimes against humanity for which Saddam is expected to be tried include the 1988 chemical weapons massacre of Kurds in Halabja, the slaughter of Shiites

during a 1991 uprising in southern Iraq, the 1990 invasion of Kuwait and the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

The legal transfer means that Saddam and the others are no longer prisoners of war — subject to rights under the Geneva Conventions — but criminal defendants whose treatment will be in accordance with Iraqi law.

Already there are pretrial negotiations over permitting Saddam's foreign legal team to work in Iraq, whether to televise the proceedings

and whether to reinstate the death penalty, which was suspended by American occupation chief L. Paul Bremer. Mouwafak al-Rubaie, Iraq's new national security adviser, said Wednesday that the Iraqi Special Tribunal would be able to impose the death penalty. He said Saddam would not be allowed to turn the trial into a political game, by calling witnesses such as U.S. President George Bush or British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

"Saddam Hussein will be under

the legal control of Iraqi law," he told British Broadcasting Corp. radio. "He is going to be tried according to the Iraqi criminal code."

The process of preparing for Saddam's trial came at an extremely difficult time. U.S. administrators turned over power to a sovereign Iraqi government only Monday. Allawi's government faces a relentless insurgency, and 160,000 U.S.-led foreign troops will remain.

Iraqi officials insist Saddam and the others will get fair trials.

Teenager must decide if he loves alcohol or his girlfriend more

DEAR ABBY: I have been seeing "Gil" for a little over seven months. I love him, but he drinks a lot. A couple of nights ago he called me, roaring drunk. I told him he needed to stop drinking.



Abigail Van Buren
• Dear Abby

He swore on the love he had for me that he would quit, and asked me how long I wanted him to stop for. I asked him to stop for one month. I told him that if he drank during the 30 days, I'd break up with him.

Now Gil says that the promise he made doesn't count because he was drunk when he made it.

He says he would never have made such a promise if he'd been sober. He told me he could quit for a month if he wanted to, but he doesn't want to stop.

I don't think this is fair to me because he swore on the love he has for me.

Ron walked out on Anita, and she turned and told the children — ages 11 and 12 — that it was their fault that their daddy left.

They have since moved back with their mother, but they continue to cry and worry because of what Stepmommy Dearest said. (She had also hit my niece with her fist and lied about it when confronted.)

How can I help the children to adjust and understand? They are precious young people who badly need stability in their lives.

tative and her libido is shot. I'm really suffering. I want a wife, not a sister.

I love her dearly, but had I known this was going to happen, I might not have married her. Is there any alternative to splitting up?

— DESPERATE IN ARI-ZONA

DEAR DESPERATE: Yes, and it involves your wife being willing to level with her gynecologist about the disappearance of her sex drive since she stopped taking the Premarin.

Women have been helped by using small doses of testosterone, but this is something that needs to be determined by a physician.

DEAR M.S.: I applaud your determination and perseverance — and that's no B.S. Readers all over the country have written to offer advice and emotional support. Read on for some samples:

DEAR ABBY: When I was 15 I announced at the dinner table that I was going to college. My parents said I should forget it because they didn't have the money.

I said, "If I want to go to college, I'll find a way." And I did! It was the most empowering thing I have ever done.

Please tell "Depressed" that no dream is too big. I am now a trained professional with a graduate degree.

— DID IT IN MARIETTA, GA.

DEAR DID IT: Bravo!

DEAR ABBY: My husband, Phil, and I were the first in our families

to receive university degrees.

We did it together, living in a one-room apartment near campus living on \$90 a month from Phil's G.I. Bill. We ate lots of macaroni and cheese, attended a church within walking distance (we had no car), and graduated in three years with bachelor of science degrees.

Later, we earned M.A.E. degrees by going to the university on Friday and Saturday nights. (I graduated with honors.)

There is nothing as costly as NOT getting an education.

The best advice I can offer from the perspective of my own education, and that of the hundreds of college students I have taught, is this:

- (1) Believe in yourself and do your best.
- (2) Be enthusiastic and make friends.

(3) Wring from your college experience every opportunity to learn the basics in your chosen field, and attend the elective seminars — the all-campus lectures — to broaden your horizons.

(4) Learn to disagree without being disagreeable.

(5) Recognize learning as an introduction to learning more on your own.

(6) You owe it to yourself, your children, your employer and your community to GO FOR IT!

— M. BALLOU, Ph.D., Ed.D., PAST PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

DEAR DR. BALLOU: You have my respect and admiration. Wouldn't it be wonderful to know how many thousands of young people your letter has inspired today?

Should I keep my word and end the relationship if he drinks? He's only 17, and I don't want him to ruin his future.

— SAD IN TEXAS

DEAR SAD: He may be only 17, but your boyfriend is already a problem drinker.

He may care for you, but it appears he loves his alcohol more.

Much as you might wish to, you can't save another person; you can only save yourself.

If you're as intelligent as I think you are, you'll keep your word and end the romance so you won't ruin YOUR future.

DEAR ABBY: My niece and nephew were living with their father, "Ron," and their stepmom, "Anita."

— DOTING AUNT IN ALABAMA

DEAR DOTING AUNT: What your niece and nephew need in their lives, even more than words, is continuity. Assure them that you will be there for them as long as they need you. Praise them for their good qualities.

Explain that regardless of what may be said in the heat of anger, adults rarely end their marriages because of anything a child may have done.

Have their father repeat what you have said. From your description of the stepmother, everyone will be better off with her out of the picture.

DEAR ABBY: Our marriage was wonderful until my wife cut back on her Premarin. Now she's argumen-

DEAR ABBY: Please urge "Depressed About the Future" to complete her education. I, too, was a younger child (fourth out of five) and only the second of 27 grandchildren to go to college.

My mother ordered me not to talk about college around my siblings, and my brother said I was a snob for wanting a better education. I am so glad I didn't listen to them.

Both of my parents told me how proud they were of me when I received my first degree. And as adults, one sister has earned two B.A.s, and another sister and brother have taken many college classes.

The brother who called me a snob is now in college at age 54. He still teases me about being "Susie Coed," but he loves college and regrets not having gone sooner.

— B.S., M.S., FROM OHIO

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