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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2004

## Good News in Iraq

by Michael in New York on 8/18/2004 12:40:00 PM

The New York Times reports that the rebel cleric Al-Sadr has accepted **truce terms** of the interim Iraqi government -- namely to leave the holy shrine and, perhaps, to convert his militia into a political organization. The bad news is that every time Al-Sadr resorts to violence and makes cynical use of holy shrines he grows in popularity, so he might very well do so again. But dealing with the interim government by negotiating and accepting their terms gives it the credibility it so desperately needs. Al-Sadr can't keep working with the Iraqi leaders and then pretend they're illegitimate. That's one good sign for long term stability as the January elections grow closer.



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JOHN'S PHOTOS



## HOT OFF THE WIRE

### Daily Kos

Goons at Cincinnati "tea party" bullied, intimidated media - WKRC-TV, the CBS affiliate in Cincinnati, reports that in March one of their reporters was forced to leave a so-called "tea party" protest after a small ...

9 minutes ago

### Think Progress

Senate Should Ignore Nutty Glenn Beck Conspiracy Theories And Appoint Harold Koh - Our guest blogger is Henry Fernandez, a Senior Fellow at the Center For American Progress Action Fund. As ThinkProgress recently noted, a small number of c...

13 minutes ago

### HuffPost Politics

ZP Heller: Why Dr. King Would Break the Silence on Afghanistan - We must invest in our own economic recovery and in fixing Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis.

17 minutes ago

### Firedoglake

Operation Stonewall Stalls Johnsen and Koh - While we wait for the last ballot count in the Franken-Coleman contest, I thought I'd tie in Operation Stonewall to the Republicans' bizarre and seemingly ...

19 minutes ago

### Paul Krugman

One more time - Brad DeLong is, rightly, horrified at the great Ricardian equivalence misunderstanding. It's one thing to have an argument about whether consumers are perf...

39 minutes ago