US bans camera phones in Iraq
Correspondents in London
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Agence France-Presse

MOBILE phones fitted with digital cameras have been banned in US army installations in Iraq on orders from Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, it was reported.

Quoting a Pentagon source, The Business newspaper said the US Defence Department believes that some of the damning photos of US soldiers abusing Iraqis at Abu Ghraiib prison near Baghdad were taken with camera phones.

"Digital cameras, camcorders and cellphones with cameras have been prohibited in military compounds in Iraq," it said, adding that a "total ban throughout the US military" is in the works.

Disturbing new photos of Iraqi prisoner abuse, which the US government had reportedly tried to keep hidden, were published Friday in the Washington Post newspaper.

The photos emerged along with details of testimony from inmates at Abu Ghraiib who said they were sexually molested by female soldiers, beaten, sodomised and forced to eat food from toilets.