Leaked US military helicopter video footage, published on the WikiLeaks website on Monday, has shed light on the circumstances of the killing of two Iraqi journalists in July 2007. Reuters’ photographer Namir Noor-Elden and his assistant Saeed Chmagh were shot dead during a military operation. The leak has sparked a fresh round of criticism over the US military’s conduct in Iraq.

The leaked video footage, with accompanying radio messages among the US troops involved, is further evidence of the criminal character of the US-led invasion and occupation of Iraq. The US military previously attempted to cover up the incident, challenging Freedom of Information requests made by Reuters. The news agency’s demand for an independent investigation was also rejected. An internal military investigation conducted in 2007 exonerated the troops involved in the incident, concluding that the force used was justified and within the rules of engagement. The leaked video footage was recorded by at least one Apache helicopter. Media outlets have reported that US military officials have acknowledged that the material is genuine. According to WikiLeaks, several military whistle-blowers provided the web site with encrypted video, which its staff was subsequently able to decrypt. The leak will no doubt further fuel military hostility toward WikiLeaks. A March 2008 classified Pentagon report (which was itself leaked to the web site) declared that "It's not a war, but a massacre in Gaza," says American political scientist P-9.

Leaked video shows US military killing of two Iraqi journalists

By Patrick O’Connor

Leaked US military helicopter video footage, published on the WikiLeaks website on Monday, has shed light on the circumstances of the killing of two Iraqi journalists in July 2007. Reuters’ photographer Namir Noor-Elden and his assistant Saeed Chmagh were shot dead while on assignment in eastern Baghdad. They were among 10-15 Iraqis killed and badly wounded in the incident, including two young children and other civilians targeted as they