

Iraq Since 2003 - The Reality

© 2011 – 5th in a series

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This series is taking particular note of the failure of the main stream misleadia to inform the American people, and with this final column in this series we continue this examination.

In a 14-month period, there were more reporters killed in Iraq than the entire Vietnam War, and most of these reporters were independent journalists, it's called *shooting the messenger*. And it's generally NOT done by Iraqi forces. It's actually to the benefit of Iraq if American's can actually see what is occurring, can see what they are paying for, can see what they are responsible for. These independent journalists risk their lives to go to Iraq and give us objective news, and now, many of them are dead.

Al Jazeera, a very respected news agency in the middle east who has come under considerable criticism by Arab leadership for the honest reporting, gave the coordinates of their office in Iraq to the Pentagon. Yet, a strafing by American air forces killed one of their journalists. Was giving their location to the Pentagon a mistake? Was the Pentagon putting Al Jazeera journalist's on notice?

And on the very same day, a United States tank shot at the Palestine Hotel where over 100 international journalists were staying. The blast killed two news cameramen. Who would think that the United States military would fire a tank cannon at an international hotel filled with journalists and other innocent people? There were claims that the tank was taking gun fire, yet there is a video of the tank covering the period several minutes before it fired as well as the moment the tank fired, and this video clearly shows that the tank was not under fire.

The Palestine Hotel is the *journalists hotel*, therefore, may we ask if the United States military was sending a clear signal. The message sent by the American military is that "we will make your life more hazardous."

In all the discussion surrounding the war in Iraq, there is no discussion about who is going to be killed, who is going to be blinded, how many children are going to lose their limbs. There is no main stream humanity showing us what the result of this war is, or will be. As American television portrays war, it's all about us, about what happens to us, about the dangers to us, about our needs, and anybody else does not matter, only us.

And this is where we have the potential to loose our humanity, thinking only of ourselves and no one else. Our television never tells about the innocent people and many children who are dying, all paid for with our money and carried out by a government for which we have responsibility. We've typically do no hear about the 100,000 dead Iraqi civilians, we never heard that fifty-percent of the Iraqi population are children, which, by percentages, would mean that fifty-thousand Iraqi children are dead. Is this really what we Americans want? Is this who we have

become?

Have we heard about the use of prohibited weapons, the cluster bombs and depleted uranium? Have we given consideration to how we would react or behave or feel, if it were our children growing up in towns in which depleted uranium, the size of dust particles, is all around? My research suggests that if just one “alpha particle emitter” gets in our body, we’re in for a host of health problems.

While one might conclude that war news hinges on a *matter of taste*, it is not the job of the journalist to withhold truthful information because the taste may be a bit sour, it is his job to present the facts and raw data in context and allow the viewer to make his own judgment about “taste.”

If we American’s, for one week, watched news footage of dead babies and children laying on the ground, women with their limbs blown off, would we then demand an end to the war and killing of Iraqi’s who had not caused us any harm until we invaded their country, because it’s happening. And it’s happening in our name. Is war really an answer to conflict, or is it a mechanism to benefit the already wealthy, and we have been psychologically profiled (brainwashed) to participate?



Little Iraqi girl, victim of war

In the case of the tsunami we saw the wave as it began flooding the towns and cities, we saw the destruction of homes and living quarters, we saw the contamination of fresh drinking water, we saw the destruction of the food supply, we saw the dead, and we saw the orphans wandering the streets. We saw all of that because the main stream misleadia actually did their job. And all throughout this world, people opened their hearts and their pocket books to help, simply because the media focused their cameras where it mattered. This is the proper role of the media, and no one brought up an issue of “taste.”

In Falluja, Iraq, over 60% of the dead are women and children. If we have the resources and time, we can see the graves for ourselves. If a journalist sees a child with no head, what does he say? If he sees a child with no brain, what does he say? Well, if he is one of the many main stream misleadia journalists, he says nothing. Thus he completes his job for the corporate masters, and sanitizes the war so that we’ll keep paying and not demand an end. All justified by the phrase “vigilant resolve”.

During the siege of Falluja, it was practice for American military to detain any journalist not reporting the *government line*. From this we can see our government’s support of our Constitution and the first amendment’s guarantee of *free speech*. The founding fathers of the united States of American found this to be so important, they made it the first amendment to the constitution.

By virtue of our actions in the middle east, we may well be creating the civilizations we fear, and will someday engulf us all. One-hundred-thousand Iraqi men, women and children dead, and

climbing.