

The U.S. Invasion and Occupation of Iraq and The Human Cost to the Iraqi People

The biggest cost of invading Iraq will be the tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of innocent Iraqi civilians who will lose their lives to massive bombardments, military invasion, and occupation of their cities and homes. According to a recent U.N. report (Dec.2, 2002):

- "In the early stages there will be a large segment of the population requiring treatment for traumatic injuries." [para 23]
- "As many as 500,000 people could require treatment to a greater or lesser degree as a result of direct or indirect injuries." [para 23] This is based on World Health Organization estimates of 100,000 direct and 400,000 indirect casualties.
- "In the likely absence of a functioning primary health care system in a post conflict situation," those particularly affected will be 4.2 million children under five, one million pregnant and lactating women, two million internally displaced civilians, and an unknown number of infirm, chronically ill and elderly. [para 24]
- "It is estimated that the nutritional status of some 3.03 million people countrywide will be dire and that they will require therapeutic feeding (according to UNICEF estimates). This consists of 2.03 million severely and moderately malnourished children under five and one million pregnant women." [para 27]
- "Damage to the electricity network will result in collateral reductions in capacity in all sections, particularly water and sanitation as well as health." As a result, "39 percent of the population will need to be provided with potable water." [para 28]
- "It is estimated that there will eventually be some 900,000 Iraqi refugees requiring assistance, of which 100,000 will be in need of immediate assistance." (para 35]

So we must ask ourselves:

- Why isn't the mainstream media talking about these disastrous consequences?
- Aren't Iraqis human beings?
- Hasn't the U.S. government killed enough innocent Iraqi civilians, mostly women and children, through twelve years of economic sanctions?
- Are all these foreseeable human disasters just "collateral damage"?

It seems that humanity and fairness have no place in U.S. foreign policy. Apparently the promotion of U.S. interests justifies the mass starvation and killing of hundreds of thousands of innocent people in the past 12 years and in the upcoming invasion. All of this will take place in the name of "preventing mass destruction in the future," and this horrendous crime will be called "defense of civilization, humanity, democracy, security, and peace." This is not "war on terrorism," it is terrorism, plain and simple. Supporters of peace and justice across the globe must stand up to this open aggression, terror, invasion, and occupation.