

The Crumbling of the Last Pretext for War and the End of US Moral Mandate

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Anyone still doubting the inaptitude of this administration in running the country outside the neoconservatives' materialistic and ideological agenda ought to look at the recent events in Iraq. It is now clear that the only thing that was clear in the minds of the policy and decision makers of this administration was the use of the 911 attacks to invade Iraq and capture the oil wells and other spoils of war.

Last month, four individuals were killed by Iraqi fighters. After which, civilians from Fallujah mutilated their bodies in an outrageous display of anger. The civilian head of the occupation authority Paul Bremer III declared that those acts will not go unpunished. It would seem that his stay in Iraq taught him the language of revenge. About a week later, the US Marines placed the entire city of Fallujah under siege and began an air and ground assault on a city home to more than 300,000 people. According to military leaders, some of the bombs used to attack the city weighed 500 to 1000 pounds.

After a three week-long of bloody battles, 700 Iraqi civilians were killed, 1200 wounded, and—according to the spokesman for the American command, Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt—coalition combat fatalities for that week were 70 while putting the number of “insurgents at 10 times that number.” Kimmitt reiterated the coalition standing policy of not doing “body



^ Saddam's legacy (dug out mass graves)



^ US legacy (soccer stadiums turned into graveyards)

count of civilians” but disputed the numbers provided by Hospital officials and by five NGOs. The report by these non-governmental organizations also determined that out of the total number of victims, 243 were women and 200 were children.

Even if one were to give some credibility to the claim by Kimmitt that “the forces out in Fallujah have been tremendously precise, tremendously circumspect, and have not engaged in any violation of the laws of war,” the pictures shown on CNN and on all international media of a soccer stadium turned into a graveyard would definitely remind Iraqis of the pictures of mass graves containing the bodies of the victims of Saddam.

So if this was the intended response by the US to the killing of four people; then congratulations, mission accomplished. However, I doubt that the civilized world was looking for more gruesome pictures produced by this military machine. If that was not intended to be the final outcome, then I would spare you, great policy makers and leaders, the cruelty of detailing your failures.

It will need a genius to convincingly spin the events of April and early May of this year and the documented torture and murder of Iraqi prisoners and civilians in the hands of the US forces. Alternatively, it will need a pathetically scared people or rampant latent racism for a nation to see justification of the criminal actions. One after one, the pretexts and justifications of this illegal war were discredited by the policy and the actions of this administration. No WMD, no biological weapons programs, no massive celebration by the Iraqi people, no fledgling democracy in sight, and now no end to torture in prisons and in the streets.

Even the Arab street which is so used to torture and abuse by its own despotic regimes was shocked by the inhumanity of a liberating force. One year ago, it was inconceivable that you will here regimes of Sudan, Iran, and Syria, and Egypt condemning torture of prisoners in the hands of any world government. This month, I listen with disbelief the strong condemnations of the US government by such masters of torture. That is the legacy of this War president and that is the status of the US in the world today.