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War on Iraq



Marines Massacre Iraqi Civilians

By [Joshua Holland](#), [AlterNet](#). Posted [May 27, 2006](#).

A group of enraged Marines entered homes in Haditha and murdered their occupants, including children, in cold blood. And it's not an isolated incident.

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Last month, the details of a horrific atrocity emerged from Haditha, a town in Anbar province -- known as a hotbed of the Iraqi resistance.

In November, a roadside bomb killed Marine Lance Cpl. Miguel Terrazas, a 20-year-old Texan, on a road not far from Haditha. According to *Time* magazine, "The next day a Marine communique from Camp Blue Diamond in Ramadi reported that Terrazas and 15 Iraqi civilians were killed by the blast and that 'gunmen attacked the convoy with small-arms fire,' prompting the Marines to return fire, killing eight insurgents." Another military official later said the military command in Baghdad "knew of no civilian deaths in the engagement."

Marine officials have now confirmed that those accounts were false. What really happened, according to reports confirmed by the Pentagon, was this: A group of enraged Marines entered several homes in Haditha and murdered their occupants, including children, in cold blood. A video of the aftermath -- showing that the residents were unarmed when they were shot at point-blank range -- was obtained by *Time*.

According to MSNBC, the video was confirmed by the Marines' own investigation: "Military officials

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say Marine Corps photos taken immediately after the incident show many of the victims were shot at close range, in the head and chest, execution-style." Women and children were among the 24 civilians murdered: "One photo shows a mother and young child bent over on the floor as if in prayer, shot dead, said the officials. ..."

Last week, Rep. Jack Murtha, D-Pa., told reporters that "sources within the military" told him that "there was no firefight, there was no IED that killed these innocent people. Our troops overreacted because of the pressure on them, and they killed innocent civilians in cold blood."

According to the *Marine Corps Times*, up to a dozen soldiers face possible court-martial. Three officers were relieved of duty in April.

The media, hectored by the administration's charges that they don't report the illusory "good news" from Iraq, has shown little stomach for the story. In March, the *Washington Post* ran two brief stories on pages 10 and 15, respectively, about how the military was investigating an incident in which "civilians were killed in the cross-fire," and last week another on page 17. The *New York Times* reported the military's preliminary account about the "IED attack" back in November and ran a short piece on page 10 last week.

Most of the reporting has focused on Murtha, a former hawk who has become a vocal opponent of the war. It's a tidy storyline that reduces the horrific images of innocent children being blown away by vengeful Marines to a palpable and familiar partisan squabble.

But there's more going on than just the usual simplistic he said/she said reporting; the media's uncritical acceptance of the Iraq hawks' spin -- with notable exceptions like Knight-Ridder's Washington Bureau -- makes them complicit in crimes like those alleged in Haditha. The editors at the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* have the victims' blood on their hands, and they have no interest in turning Haditha into the Iraq war's [My Lai](#).

The storyline has provoked the expected reaction from the war's dwindling number of supporters. As writer Steve Benen, perusing the right-wing blogs, [noted](#):

"Some are calling Murtha 'dishonorable.' Others labeled him a 'traitor' and recommended that he be sent to 'jail.' Another added, 'Murtha has no honor left, no dignity, and will never be considered as a Marine except by his liberal buddies, who would hate him for wearing that uniform in the first place.'"

The other wholly predictable reaction was voiced by Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, who told reporters that the Haditha massacre was a case of a few bad apples, an isolated incident -- just as he had said after the abuses at Abu Ghraib were revealed. "I don't want the actions of one squad in one city on one morning to be used to symbolize or characterize or tar the actions of our great troops," he said.

But the truth is that the story is unique only in that the evidence that a terrible crime took place appears to be too great for "plausible deniability."

Consider just a few reports:

- A team of eight Amnesty International staffers [reported](#) on a host of abuses by coalition forces, including the killing of two unarmed kids -- one 12 years old -- during house to house searches.

"Many of the coalition soldiers and military police engaged in law enforcement do not have basic skills and tools in civilian policing," Curt Goering, a member of the Amnesty team in Iraq, noted.
- The Associated Press [reported](#) that "Iraq's U.N. ambassador accused U.S. Marines of killing his unarmed young cousin in what appeared to be 'cold blood'" during another house search in Anbar province. The ambassador, Samir Sumaidaie, wrote that the troops had smiled after the "killing of an unarmed innocent civilian." He believed it was "a crime that may be repeated up and down Al-Anbar."
- In early 2004, senior British commanders [condemned](#) "American military tactics in Iraq as heavy-handed and disproportionate." One officer told reporters "the view of the British chain of command is that the Americans' use of violence is not proportionate and is over-responsive to the threat they are facing. They don't see the Iraqi people the way we see them. They view them as [untermenschen](#)." (The [Brits have been accused](#) of [their own share of crimes](#) in Iraq.)
- In April of 2004, there were [widespread reports](#) -- in the foreign press -- that civilians were targeted during the "Siege of Fallujah." The Pentagon was outraged when journalists reported the number of civilians killed in the city. [One report](#) quoted Dr. Rafa Hayad al-Issawi, director of the city's main hospital, saying "the dead mostly included women, children and elderly." The Iraqi minister of health, Khudair Abbas, [confirmed](#) that U.S. forces had shot at ambulances -- in Fallujah and elsewhere -- and condemned the acts as possible war crimes. Snipers who served in Fallujah told the [Los Angeles Times](#) that "there might not have been such a 'target-rich' battlefield" since the World War II battle for Stalingrad.
- In March, Knight-Ridder [reported](#) that senior Iraqi police officials had accused U.S. soldiers of executing 11 Iraqi civilians, including four children and a 6-month-old baby, in a raid near the city of Balad. The local police chief, Col. Farouq Hussein, said that the civilians had all been shot in the head. "It's a clear and perfect crime," he said.

Journalists like [Dahr Jamail](#) and [Robert Fisk](#) have all reported on other instances of civilians caught in the sites of American gunners. And these stories don't capture the "collateral damage" done by [bombs](#) and [missiles](#).

None of this is to suggest that U.S. troops are a bunch of bloodthirsty maniacs. These are America's sons and daughters, members of the most highly trained military in the world. They've been put into a situation where they're under constant threat in a country where it's hard to tell the good guys from the bad. They've seen 20,000 of their buddies killed or injured, and according to a [recent poll](#), almost nine out of 10 believe the war in Iraq is "retaliation for Saddam's role in 9/11."

Ultimately, after Iraq's civilian population, those troops will pay the price for this war. Paul Rockwell, who interviewed a number of U.S. soldiers who claim to have committed atrocities in Iraq for the book "Ten Excellent Reasons Not To Join The Military," [wrote](#) that American troops are not only "expected to follow unlawful orders, they are also expected to bear lifelong burdens of shame, guilt and legal culpability for the arrogance of their own commanders -- who dispense life and death from an office computer."

Incidents like those alleged in Haditha, Ramallah and Fallujah are entirely predictable. In World War I, about four in 10 deaths were civilians; by World War II, civilians made up more than half of those killed; and in the post Cold-War era, about eight in 10 combat deaths have been among civilians. The ultimate moral tragedy is that while some number of soldiers may face prosecution, the real culprits won't be punished. There are just too many of them.

The guilty include not only the Bush administration's hardliners who conjured up this war, but also the Democratic hawks who enabled them and the media that spun their glorious war narrative and convinced so many ordinary citizens to jump on board. It's the Tom Friedmans and Kenneth Pollacks and Peter Beinarts, who only realized the Iraq war was a mistake when it proved to be as disastrous as every other "war of choice." They promised us a clean war; smart bombs would spare the innocent, a high-tech military would be finished in a fortnight and casualties on both sides would be limited.

Those of us who said that the war would be hell on Iraqis were called "pacifists" and "appeasers." The hawks got their war. Now we know that it's not a video game or glowing green explosions on CNN -- it's a bloody and uncontrolled mess and civilians are paying the price, as they always do.

[Joshua Holland](#) is an AlterNet staff writer.

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Most highly trained military in the world?

Posted by: fairywearsboots on May 27, 2006 12:59 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

Well, probably, concerning the use of their weapons.

"...and according to a recent poll, almost nine out of 10 believe the war in Iraq is "retaliation for Saddam's role in 9/11."

After three years of this miserable war they still believe this Bushshit? That's downright frightening, to say the very least.

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» [RE: Most highly trained military in the world?](#) Posted by: RoffleTheWaffle

» [No they don't](#) Posted by: lawstudent08

» [RE: No they don't](#) Posted by: nbrown

» [Yeah, attack the soldiers and ignore the ones who sent them there?](#) Posted by: thoughtcriminal

» [RE: Yeah, attack the soldiers and ignore the ones who sent them there?...but!](#) Posted by: Captainmagic

» [RE: Most highly trained military in the world?](#) Posted by: Abushite

» [RE: Most highly trained military in the world?](#) Posted by: Samantha Vimes

The Bushies need their noses rubbed in it

Posted by: Moonray on May 27, 2006 1:07 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

As a Vietnam veteran, I watched the run-up to the current war with a sickening sense of deja vu. And the premonition turned out to be all too accurate.

As bad as this latest atrocity is, it will serve some purpose if it causes more Americans to realize what is being done in their name.

But don't look to George W., Donald Rumsfeld or any other top Bushie for a display of genuine concern for the countless thousands being killed in Iraq. Bush, Rummy and the others invariably reply to such questions with a shrug, as if to say, "Well, that's the way it goes." Of course, none of them has ever heard a shot fired in anger, much less the anguished wails of a mother whose child has been killed in crossfire.

Of course, the MSM will have to be shamed by the blogosphere into covering this atrocity story even

minimally. The MSM doesn't like unpleasant stories about Our Beloved Military Forces.

The really sad thing is that not just these latest murdered folks will have died in vain; it's likely that all of those killed there in the past three years died for nothing as well.

Let's not forget to remind Bush, Rummy & Co. about those deaths in the years to come.

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» [When the only way we can feel good about ourselves is to make life a horror for everyone else...](#) Posted by: Sojourner

» [The fighting continues for those with nothing to loose.](#) Posted by: jreinhart1

» [A simple 'Amen' to that](#) Posted by: Sojourner

Finally some historical context, but for the crimes of the overclass, only for those of the grunts

Posted by: cry0fan on May 27, 2006 2:23 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

typical pseudoLeft, falling in line with the overclass idea of evil as being something from the masses, as opposed to being something from the overclass.

Why not put this Iraq war in historical context with respect to how those at the top manipulated the media and public prior to the start of the war, and compare that to past wars?

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» [RE: Finally some historical context, but for the crimes of the overclass, only for those of the grun](#) Posted by: Blanktivist

» [In a democracy, we're all to blame. Not to choose is still to have made a choice.](#) Posted by: Sojourner

» [A wise statement](#) Posted by: jreinhart1

» [Armchair journalist strikes again!](#) Posted by: churchofone

day0527

Posted by: day0527 on May 27, 2006 2:28 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

As one commenter has already mentioned, this incident might just let the nation know what is going on over there in the name of the American people. I am a Vietnam vet myself and was there not too far (Chu Lai) from where My Lai occurred. When they sent me over the first time, (same year as the Tet offensive) the steady beat from those in power (civilian and military alike) was "we are fighting them over there so we don't have to fight them here." (Sound familiar to the Iraq situation?) As extra

warmongering, the domino theory was thrown in also. The same war mongering was going on when they sent me back a second time. Those of us old enough to remember now know how the Vietnam war started: with fabricated reasons, such as the Gulf of Tonkin incident. When we sent our guys into Iraq, the drum beat was those alleged WMDs and the alleged imminent threat, now repainted by the administration as "taking democracy to Iraq." (There go those fabrications again!) There was no mention of democracy for Iraq in the run up to the war and we now know that the WMDs and imminent threat was just an excuse to lead this nation into an unnecessary war, already costing us the lives of over 2,400 of our finest, with thousands more maimed and had their lives ruined. This war is a trumped up war, being fought simply to satisfy the egos of this excuse for a president and his underlings! Now, he has told the West Point graduates that THEY will be in control when all this mess he has created is finally resolved. I fear that unless the American people wake up and put a stop to this man's ego trip, there will be another black granite wall in Arlington!

Retired Vietnam Vet

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» [The pentagon is killing our soldiers.](#) Posted by: jreinhart1

» [RE: day0527](#) Posted by: feller

» [RE: day0527](#) Posted by: day0527

» [RE: day0527](#) Posted by: babs

There's More to This Story

Posted by: StuartH on May 27, 2006 4:09 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

Even AlterNet wouldn't publish material about this until the incident that sparked this report ballooned to its present state.

I happen to have designed a website for a photographer who was a combat medic in Vietnam. His experience there caused him to create a career out of documenting human situations crying out for justice. But recently he and a freelance writer from Los Angeles raised money to rescue a little girl from the Anbar province. One little girl amidst all the carnage.

But if you read the blog from late last year carefully, what comes across is the experience in a landscape where the US military seems to be targeting residential neighborhoods and killing a lot of women and children. In the town where the little girl came from, a sniper's nest is set up on a high point and the victims are clearly visible pregnant women, children and old people as well as livestock.

<http://www.documentaryphotographs.com>

The whole landscape seems to be a killing field. My sense is that we need to pull out of there like yesterday.

We are not only not exactly winning the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people. We are fostering a whole generation of future terrorists whose lives will never be healed after their childhood friends were killed at a birthday party or some similarly incongruous visitation by battlefield death into childhood's happiness.

Apparently the right wing has gone insane and the media cannot face the morality questions. How can a soldier who comes back from duty as a sniper shooting innocent civilians like fish in a barrel be a normal adult? What are we doing to ourselves? What are we doing to people just like us in the Middle East?

Good Germans were those who had faith in their country and their leaders and turned their thoughts anywhere else but towards the questions they needed to ask.

Is the "Good German" syndrome what is happening here?

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» [Great post.](#) Posted by: jreinhart1

» [Both great posts.](#) Posted by: the poet

Truth or spin

Posted by: Somedaysoon on May 27, 2006 4:20 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

I'm sick and tired of people calling someone a traitor because he/she has either a difference of opinion or they speak the truth. When a person tells the truth it can never hurt our cause. We are big enough to take the truth and the consequences of our actions. But for whatever reason the GOP had rather smear the messenger than deal with the truth in an honorable way. Murtha speaks from his head and heart against a political world that favors only spin. I appreciate him for standing true to the truth.

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Support the Troops?

Posted by: kooz on May 27, 2006 4:47 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

Which ones? The ones who are crazed killers who love smokin hajis? Or rabid born again Christian zealots? Or perhaps the many rapists among them? Fuck the troops. It's time to take sides.

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[» RE: Support the Troops?](#) Posted by: famouspipeliner

[» RE: Support the Troops?](#) Posted by: koos

we never mean to kill good people

Posted by: Boronia on May 27, 2006 5:21 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

Assassinations that kill and maim beyond their intended target are a CIA staple, assisted by robotic planes and false information extracted by torture. The claim, "we never mean to kill good people", no longer applies, unless you believe that babies have criminal intent. So how shall we update this mantra for the third millennium? "We only kill good people when they are in the company of a bad person and we don't want to look them in the eye". This position is openly argued by political leaders and the New York Times. In January, when a CIA strike on Damadola village in Pakistan missed an Al Qaeda fugitive and wiped out five women and five children, there was not only a lack of an official apology but a rebuke to the weeping relatives. You shouldn't hang out with bad guys. While US Senator John McCain did apologize, unlike Bush, he didn't seem to mean it, "I can't tell you that we wouldn't do the same thing again". A New York Times editorial decided the Damadola strike had been "legitimately aimed". So there you have it. A pinheaded Goliath unleashes Hellfire missiles at an impoverished village in a friendly nation, liquidates children, and is defended by moderates. It doesn't make sense. If it is "legitimate" to kill innocents, then it is legitimate for bin Laden to strike the World Trade Centre. This is absurd. Therefore the argument is false.

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[» RE: we never mean to kill good people](#) Posted by: nbrown

[» So, "Opps" pretty well covers it?](#) Posted by: Sojourner

[» RE: So, "Opps" pretty well covers it?](#) Posted by: brunowe

[» RE: So, "Opps" pretty well covers it?](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

[» RE: So, "Opps" pretty well covers it?](#) Posted by: brunowe

[» You believe you can just "opt out" of responsibility for our government's actions?](#) Posted by: Sojourner

[» RE: You believe you can just "opt out" of responsibility for our government's actions?](#) Posted by: brunowe

[» RE: well...](#) Posted by: radnar

[» RE: we never mean to kill good people](#) Posted by: feller

Okay. . .

Posted by: owleyes on May 27, 2006 7:12 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

Is there any new information here? All Things Considered aired a report very similar to this article about four days ago. I though Alternet was supposed to be the place you could go to find out things the corporate media didn't want you to know. Is it true that Alternet really is only yesterday's news re-heated and dipped in pseudo-radical spin sauce?

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» [Nah, nah, I can be more radical than you?](#) Posted by: Sojourner

» [RE: Nah, nah, I can be more radical than you?](#) Posted by: owleyes

» [I used to be an NPR fan.](#) Posted by: Sojourner

» [RE: I used to be an NPR fan.](#) Posted by: owleyes

» [RE: Okay. . .](#) Posted by: the poet

» [RE: Okay. . .](#) Posted by: owleyes

More of the same.

Posted by: clp1024 on May 27, 2006 11:07 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

"according to reports confirmed by the Pentagon, was this: A group of enraged Marines entered several homes in Haditha and murdered their occupants, including children, in cold blood"

That statement is a downright bold faced lie, the pentagon has never confirmed that the civilians were killed in cold blood. The investigation is still under way and the pentagon has never released an official comment on this incident other than "still under investigation". Since we now know the author is willing to lie to incite the Bush-haters, why would you believe anything he say from this point forward?

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» [RE: More of the same.](#) Posted by: insulafortune

» [RE: More of the same...indeed!](#) Posted by: Jonnikhan

» [We did not create bin-Laden](#) Posted by: brunowe

» [RE: More of the same.](#) Posted by: day0527

» [RE: More of the same.](#) Posted by: Brown's mule

» [RE: Now that it is clear that there was official confirmation....](#) Posted by: ZPaul

» [Lame "gotcha" attempt](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

There is much much more beyond this story.

Posted by: jreinhart1 on May 28, 2006 6:13 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

Like Vietnam, this is hardly an isolated incident. Unfortunately, StuartH is correct that blogs have been no better than the MSM on stories like this that have been flooding out of the area, from white phosphorus, cluster bombs, high levels of collateral damage from air strikes, breaking down doors and gunning down families at night, prisons filled with innocent people becoming places of a turkey shoot for American soldiers, finding dead bodies of a mixture of sunni and shi'a civilians in open pits and road side areas. With the exception of some sites outside of the US, American blogs have been almost as bad as screening this type of information from the public.

Harry Milgram (LOOK UP HIS RESEARCH) proved that Americans would make good killers as 100% of the test group followed authorities and went all the way to killing innocent people when following orders. The Stanford psychological studies showed that even people that knew each other, when one group was allowed to act as guards, would become torturers within a few weeks without any guidance to do so on people they knew that were the inmates of this test.

Americans would make great SS men and fascists and that is exactly what is happening in places of high stress, in America but especially in war. My Lia was NOT AN ISOLATED INCIDENT!

Another UGLY FACT that these blogs leave out is the creation, funding and training of US death squads. The torture and razing of entire villages and towns is nothing new to US covert activities.

I find that the most disgusting part of this whole incident is that the American people are surprised! America cannot be a legitimate representative republic based on democratic ideals if the people are uninformed. To say that the US is anywhere near the country that we think we are is absurd, considering that Americans have lived in an information vacuum for the last 115 years which is reaching ever greater highs of propaganda the greater the technology becomes to inform. Our history is one of propaganda that would make Joseph Goebbels proud. Ironically, the CIA was created around the German propaganda machine and the people that the US snuck out of Germany to help create our NSA and CIA covert operations such as Klaus Barbie. Speaking of which, the US runs the majority of the distribution and money laundering of drug money around the world. For more information, read about Ralph McGehee and his CIABase of American activities abroad on his 25 years with the CIA and death squads and drug protection and distribution, or Katheran Austin Fits of Solari investments and her experience with the dark side of destroying our own communities to pad 401Ks through the drug trade. Sibel Edmonds has to keep quiet about just how bad the flow of money has become from illegal sources and the willingness of covert operations to get it.

Incredibly, the BBC has many documentaries on our behavior such as the four part documentary of US propaganda since WWI; Happiness Machines, The Engineering of Consent, There is a Policeman Inside All Our Heads, and Eight People Sipping Wine in Kettering. This is just one of hundreds of films and documentaries of American activities of which less than a dozen are from the US.

Tell'em what they want to hear is the motto of almost every thing in the US anymore. Packaged products as a result of focus groups and are little more than reinforcement for good behavior. People "choose" the products which they are nothing more than a target market for including our "leadership". Many Americans are living a life of slogans, cliches and talking points that have been created just for them. From TV ads for children to political ads for voters, it's much all the same.

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» [RE: There is much much more beyond this story.](#) Posted by: feller

Think about it

Posted by: ghoster on May 28, 2006 6:49 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

Well, if you step back from over hyping this and look at it, these kids are taken away from familiar environment, stripped and exercised till they don't think then they are taught to "Kill" and Kill again. Bond with your squad mates, and when one gets killed it is a loss, a heart rending loss. No what? It is predictable. When we returned from VN there was no camaraderie here, you never contacted your "buddies" you never told anyone you were a vet, not if you wanted a job. Just seems that you never got one if you mentioned it. This war, if you want to call it that, is just one more in a series of conflicts that the oligarchs want stupid, desperate people to fight for their resources.

What choices do these kids have in reality? College funds, what a load of crap, how many actually get to college after something like this? Nope, continuing to do the same thing, is going to get you the same outcome, time after time. 90% believe that they are fighting for something that happened to us on 9/11? Yeh, there is intelligent critical thinking. If you want to get scared, imagine that the high school down the street issued machine guns to those kids and told them to go out and patrol the area around the school. What do you think would happen? In the service they learn how to clean, care for their weapons. And use them against anyone in front of them that threatens them. Their goal is to get their ass home in one piece, and their buddies too. Nothing more, not defending freedom or any other BS that is sold to the american dumbasses watching the tube daily. Nope, dumbed down, and run on down to sign up for the tour of Iraq, coming soon Iran on the list. Get rid of all incumbents in Nov, and we might have a chance. Otherwise saddle up and get your war gear, this is going to last a long time.

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Check out the history of Lt. Calley to see that he eventually got an honorable discharge.

Posted by: Sojourner on May 28, 2006 7:37 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

At the first trial, he was sentenced and punished. The first appeal, during which he was incarcerated, lifted the deprivation of funds, etc. The second appeal, during which he was not incarcerated, sent him home for time-served with an honorable discharge.

Once people stop paying attention, the military takes care of its own. It's the same in all bureaucracies.

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Our Collective RESPONSE

Posted by: queerpower.blogspot.com on May 28, 2006 8:59 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

We have gone through this before!

Abu Ghraib, as mentioned in the article, was a previous incident which the U.S. government minimized as an "isolated incident".

Our cowardly corporate media decided to take the administration's stance word for word. One only hopes that now with dangerously low approval ratings across the board for Republicans, the media will be a bit more challenging.

For some reason, I'm not too encouraged that they will be more challenging. If not the mainstream media, the blogosphere must serve as an inadequate substitute. Let's face it, blogs have not replaced the media.

How can we exact pressure on media companies to become more independent and critical? That is the question beyond this current crisis, and it is a question that absolutely must be addressed.

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An email I sent to friends and family

Posted by: TDyl on May 28, 2006 9:34 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

Yup, OK, they're "only" soldiers without a unifying command or even a good reason to be there, but that does not, can never and bloody well does not give them any damn right whatsoever to abandon their humanity and go ape.

If all these worthless specimens get is the loss of a rank/stripe, several months in gaol and then multi-million dollar book and movie deals then I guess I will give up any hope I had for the future of our planet. We only have "enemies" because our politicians can't get on - we are all the same species for God's sake. Only several thousand people actually run the planet while the remaining 6 billion of us just want to try and get on with life without being trampled on by the pillocks that think they know what to do. We have seen them kow-tow to "big business" and start a chain reaction that may, according to James Lovelock, kill almost 85% of the population by the end of this century. It IS time to end this madness. I don't think Galloway was right when he was asked by a journalist about

whether or not it would morally justifiable to assassinate bliar (sorry, Blair, for those of you not used to my emails); what is morally unjustifiable is NOT assassinating bliar and shrubbie.

I've run out of steam now. These issues get me so mad that all I really feel left able to do is commit gross acts of violence upon those that seek to control and manipulate us in the name of their "greater good" ideas/ideals; when that happens I just reach a point where words no longer make any sense and I want to lash out.

Thank you for listening. Rant ends.

Chris/TDyl

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» [RE: An email I sent to friends and family](#) Posted by: TDyl

» [RE: An email I sent to friends and family](#) Posted by: lanA

» [Our enemy wins when we behave as he does.](#) Posted by: Sojourner

» [RE: Our enemy wins when we behave as he does.](#) Posted by: lanA

» [RE: An email I sent to friends and family](#) Posted by: feller

» [RE: An email I sent to friends and family](#) Posted by: dave236412

» [RE: An email I sent to friends and family](#) Posted by: feller

"SUCKER BAIT " FOR GEORGE W. BUSH

Posted by: SALLY EVANS on May 28, 2006 2:25 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

Our military use to serve an honorable profession before the stealth of the 2000 election by the fascist crooks of the "right". Now they are no more than sucker bait for Bush who delights in his blood-thirsty escapades! Anybody care to tell me that Bush is pro-life? That's just another of Bush's filthy LIES!

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» [US has abused use of force since WW II](#) Posted by: jreinhart1

» [RE: US has abused use of force since WW II](#) Posted by: dave236412

» [RE: "SUCKER BAIT " FOR GEORGE W. BUSH](#) Posted by: feller

» [RE: "SUCKER BAIT " FOR GEORGE W. BUSH](#) Posted by: lanA

[» RE: "SUCKER BAIT " FOR GEORGE W. BUSH](#) Posted by: feller

sigh.

Posted by: Erik1968 on May 28, 2006 2:29 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

We're not getting within 100 miles of the truth.

Anyone who believes that only 600 people were killed in Fallujah, a city of 200,000 that was reduced to rubble, is insane.

And that's the "truth" we're celebrating getting out. Wonderful.

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[» RE: sigh.](#) Posted by: Erik1968

[» Fallujah is a forgotten atrocity in the US](#) Posted by: jreinhart1

[» RE: sigh.](#) Posted by: joshua_holland@altnet.org

Moral relativism

Posted by: dave236412 on May 28, 2006 3:44 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

I think we need to co-opt some of the language of the right, specifically "moral values" and rage against "moral relativism." It's moral relativism to say, "it's wrong when they do it, it's right when we do it." It's moral relativism to dismiss moral outrage against these atrocities as merely coming from "liberals," and therefore invalid. We should pick up on the idea of "political correctness." It's political correctness to say, "to criticize the military, means you don't support the troops," or that "to criticize American foreign policy, means you hate America," or that "to criticize Christian fundamentalism, makes you anti-Christian," or that "to talk of poverty and class, is class warfare or Communism." Today, to maintain that compassion is a virtue, that peace and justice are ideals, earns you contempt and ridicule.

Every American soldier or marine involved in these crimes is personally responsible. It doesn't matter that they were acting on orders, or that they were not responsible for being sent to Iraq in the first place, or that they were misinformed. You have an obligation to disobey orders that are unlawful and immoral. You have an obligation to inform yourself as well as possible. If we don't hold individuals accountable for their actions, we will create a culture of impunity. That being said, Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, Rice, and the rest of the gang need also be held accountable. There are domestic laws under which they can be charged and receive a severe penalty, and they ought to. And the rest of the American people ought to acknowledge their complicity, and feel a sense of shame and humility.

"The worst crimes were dared by a few, willed by more and tolerated by all." - Tacitus

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[» In South Africa they sang, "Senzenina" "What have we done."](#) Posted by: Sojourner

Guilty! Guilty! Guilty!

Posted by: Tom Degan on May 29, 2006 12:53 AM [\[Report this comment\]](#)

It was bad enough that so many (although not most) people voted for a disgusting, incompetent, deranged, half-witted little piece of shit named George W. Bush in 2000. The very fact that alot of these same (although, again, not most) people repeated the sin four years later - yes, a vote for Bush was a sin against God - is difficult to comprehend.

The 2000 vote can be attributed to ingnorance. By 2004 it was obvious to anyone with half a brain where this this maniacal little Hitler-wannabe was going. If you voted for Bush the second time around, you are as guilty as he is for the war crimes that are now being visited down, in your name, without a shred of mercy, apom the men, women and little children of Iraq. You could have put a stop to it but you insisted on being a good little German...I mean, American.

One of my greatest fears is going to hell. I've tried to be a good human being, a good Christian and a good Catholic all of my life but in some respects I have failed. And yet I beleve that on judgement day I will at least be secure in knowing that, when it really counted, I refused to have anything to do with the corrupt and muderous agenda of the "selected" officials of my country and that I did everything humanly possible to stop it.

Pray for peace - like your life depended on it because just maybe it does.

Tom Degan
Goshen, NY
tomdegan@frontiernet.net

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When soldiers behave in this way...

Posted by: Nigelthebriton on May 29, 2006 1:50 AM [\[Report this comment\]](#)

...it's only a question of time before they turn their guns on their own people. I believe it'll happen in the UK too.

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[» RE: When soldiers behave in this way...](#) Posted by: Tom Degan

Most Highly Trained Military?

Posted by: American Reflections on May 29, 2006 7:58 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

None of this is to suggest that U.S. troops are a bunch of bloodthirsty maniacs. These are America's sons and daughters, members of the most highly trained military in the world. They've been put into a situation where they're under constant threat in a country where it's hard to tell the good guys from the bad.

American troops can't tell the good guys from the bad? They perceive a six month old infant as a threat?

And this is the most "highly trained" military in the world? Trained for WHAT? To kill anything that moves? Women, children, the elderly, even livestock?

Part of the tragedy of this illegal war in Iraq is that good soldiers, decent men and women who would never fire a gun at an unarmed citizen, much less a child, will carry with them the shame of those murderous few who allow themselves to rampage through a country and murder at will simply because they can. And so will the rest of us.

With apologies to whoever wrote the following, whose name I don't remember, who said in "A Message to America:"

"You have the grit and the guts, I know,
You are ready to answer blow for blow,
You are virile, combative, stubborn, hard,
But your honor ends with your own backyard;
Each man intent on his private goal,
You have no feeling for the whole;
What singly none would tolerate
You let unpunished hit the state,
Unmindful that each man must share
The stain he lets his country wear.

That is a harsh indictment, but can we deny it? And if we can't, God help us.

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Killing floor blues

Posted by: thoughtcriminal on May 29, 2006 10:53 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

Here is a story for you: When the Germans invaded Greece, there was an incident where two German soldiers were killed by Greek resistance fighters. The Germans lined up then next fifty civilians who walked down the road, men women and children. I always viewed this as *the* example of the kind of atrocity that invading and occupying a country will result in. And you know what? - for the first time, I feel sorry for those German soldiers.

The numbers are eerily similar in Iraq: one dead soldier, 24 dead civilians. This is what happens when you invade and occupy a country - when you think you are going to use the military as the local cops. Policing a community and engaging the enemy are very different activities, as anyone but a ranking idiot would know. The military PR team is run by Rumsfeld - no guesses there. He has adjuncts, like the above quote: *Duncan Hunter, R-Calif: "I don't want the actions of one squad in one city on one morning to be used to symbolize or characterize or tar the actions of our great troops," he said.* This is an attempt to frame the issue - really, Bush is to blame, not the troops.

The only solution is to get the military out of Iraq in a series of staggered withdrawals. The National Guard should be taken out first. Murtha has the right idea. He's also right about the reasons for the slaughter - 18 year old troops under pressure are likely to respond this way. This isn't the only incident by far, [Isahaqi Film Link](#) shows another one... probably.

Meanwhile, life goes on in the American dreamland as ever - SUVs roll down the roads, shoppers run around Home Depot and Walmart, and the soldiers return to this weird Disneyland - looking around through changed eyes, struggling with massive 'cognitive dissonance'... no ticker tape parades, just a vast silence, an avoidance, a desire 'not to know' on the part of their families and friends. Smiling soccer moms thanking them for their 'services'... yeah.

"oh man - the shit piled up so fast in Vietnam you needed wings to stay above it" - Apocalypse Now.

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» ["Thanks for the memories" -- Bob Hope](#) Posted by: Sojourner

IRAKI MASSACRES AND FULL-SPECTRUM WAR

Posted by: MagmaReport on May 29, 2006 11:17 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

The massive televisual diffusion of the massacres of innocent Iraqi civilians--"worse than Abu Ghraib"--and of the ensuing cover-up, will be threatening the will to win the Iraq War like nothing else before, because TV diffusion of violent images has the power to neutralize the legitimacy of the US government and its Army.

The military post-Cold War doctrine, post-MAD, is called 'full-spectrum force'. And Bush's wars are so closely linked to the functioning of the mass-media that TV must be considered to belong to the 'full-spectrum' of military force. On the far end of the spectrum of force is full-scale warfare, including massive invasion and the tactical use of WMDs.

In the middle of the new power spectrum are policing and peace-keeping operations.

At the opposite end from full-scale invasion is permanent surveillance.

The question is: Since TV is part of the full-spectrum force, how will the Military use it in order to neutralize to disastrous effect of the massacres' images?

Read more on the <http://MagmaReport.Net>

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Ethnic Cleansing/Genocide in Iraq

Posted by: freethink7 on May 29, 2006 5:10 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

Unfortunately, this war is about deliberate, planned, and designed ethnic cleansing and genocide. (as well as domination of oil & other assets in Iraq). Put ethnic cleansing/genocide/Iraq in search engine and research for yourself.

It's morally reprehensible. Just morally reprehensible.

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War is Hell. Love is Heaven!

Posted by: Betsy L. Angert on May 29, 2006 9:32 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

Dear Joshua Holland . . .

I thank you for writing of a topic I find quite troubling. Just as you say here, there is so much more to this story. The name-calling we are witnessing is sadly, conventional, as is war. For me, what would be novel is a worldwide promoting of peace. While I do not [yet] have the power or influence to offer that, I will bestow my missive on the topic.

In this treatise, I draw no conclusion other than a desire for peace. I invite you and your readers to reflect and reply to the dilemma this revelation presents.

[MARINES KILL INNOCENT IRAQI FAMILY. VERDICT “NOT GUILTY”? ©](#)

May your life be full and fulfilling. May [spiritual, emotional, intellectual, and conjointly physical] abundance be yours . . . Betsy

[Be-Think](#)

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all the atrocities

Posted by: rsaxto on May 30, 2006 4:51 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

If all the atrocities committed by US forces in Iraq were made public then even the Bushies would be forced to withdraw all US forces from Iraq. The Iraq war would be over and soon. If all the atrocities committed by US forces in all countries for all past time were made public, the US would be forced to remove all troops from all of its foreign bases and close all of its foreign bases and stop all its insane and counterproductive wars of aggression for all time and become a decent nation with decent leadership.

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