

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK

Iraq Today is a Waking Nightmare

"Woke up at some point in the night to a weird noise, or early morning was it? It was dark. My senses started to realize slowly it was war outside. Heavy shooting. I was still not completely awake but these years have made us all experts. It was a car bomb. I could hear the echo, and I could feel the huge flames reaching up to the sky. Another run of heavy shooting. "Please God make me sleep again." I was praying to Allah. Recited some verses while my eyes were still open. Seconds later silence filled the place, like it was a nightmare, only it wasn't." Iraqi blogger Miraj

Cost to Iraqis of Living the Nightmare

Over 650,000 dead, or 2.5% of the entire population.

Fewer than 30% of Iraqis have access to clean, drinking water and only 19% to sewer and sanitation service.

60% are unemployed and entirely dependent on monthly food rations.

An estimated 50,000 people flee the violence every month, and there are now up to 4 million Iraqis living away from home, including 1.9 million living as internally displaced, many of them in acute poverty, with little access to health care and education.

A report by the World Health Organization reveals that 70% of Iraqis lack regular access to clean water, while almost 68% of critically injured patients die in hospitals due to lack of staff, drugs and equipment.

<http://www.iraqbodycount.org/>

Kidnapping and killing of women has become commonplace and women once in the workplace no longer are able leave their homes without being accompanied by a male family member. (www.afsc.org)

The Cost to Americans for Creating the Iraqi Nightmare

Cost	What Our Taxes Could Buy Instead
• 1 ½ months in Iraq (\$15 billion)	Provide health insurance for one year for 9 million uninsured children
• 13 days in Iraq	Restore funding cuts for over 40 federally funded education programs
• 5 days in Iraq	Radiation detectors at all U.S. ports
• 2½ days in Iraq	Help 463,000 low-income students attend college
• 2 days in Iraq	Detectors to scan 100% of cargo on passenger ship
• 12 hrs in Iraq	Food packages for 400,000 elderly American by restoring Bush's cuts in the supplemental food program

(Jesse Jackson, Bush Ignores the True Cost of War, 1/23/07)

<http://www.commondreams.org/views07/0123-25.htm>

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WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER

Take time once a week to do something to advance dialogue and awareness about the costs of U.S. Occupations. Engage someone in conversation; wear a black ribbon or armband to symbolize your opposition; join with friends in creating strategies and actions of resistance.

Learn the law. Only the law will protect the people of Palestine and Iraq as well as of Israel and the United States. Educate yourself and others on the key texts of international law--The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the convention on civil and political rights; and economic, social and cultural rights; and the Geneva Convention. Refer to them in your writings, talks and actions.

Educate yourself on the consequences of the Iraq Occupation on women.

Promising Democracy, Imposing Theocracy: Gender-Based Violence and the US War on Iraq

This pamphlet is a re-telling of the Iraq war from the perspective of Iraqi women illuminating the strong links between women's human rights and democratic rights in general, and the Bush Administration's clear contempt for both. Order from www.Madre.org



Join us at the Grand Lake Theater every Saturday at noon to register your protest and your presence as we continue to urge our leaders to end both these disastrous Occupations.

Bay Area Women in Black are Jews and allies who stand against militaristic and fundamentalist leadership in all countries, including our own. We wear black as a sign of mourning for all the Iraqi, Israeli and Palestinian lives that have been lost as a result of war, militarization and violence. As part of the international movement of Women in Black, we seek to transform women's mourning for the dead into a powerful refusal of the inevitability of war.