

Brother's Keeper

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John 'psychopath' Bolton and Condi 'give war a chance' Rice, introduced the world to U.S. SANCTIONED INFANTICIDE during the South Lebanon conflict, notwithstanding the ongoing infanticide DENIAL in Iraq. Over one million children have been killed and maimed in Iraq as a direct result of invasive, violent, western intervention. However, the world not only tolerates this most heinous of all crimes IT PARTICIPATES by failing to bring the known criminals to justice.



John Howard -- brazen war criminal

The identities of those directly responsible for the most horrendous killing field of the 21st century are an open secret. The culpable remain immune from prosecution for one reason only, failure of the public to act in the face of the most overt and horrid crimes known to mankind.

A textual repository of cultural values begins with a murder; the killer, Cain, answers his Lord with a question, "am I my brother's keeper?" And so begins one of the most enduring narratives known to history. The unjust murder of an adult male condemns an entire race in this narrative, what then the consequences for those responsible for the needless deaths of innocent children? Are we not obliged to protect the innocent and bring the guilty to justice? Are we not obliged to maintain the integrity of the human race and prevent it from returning to the 'values' of beasts of the field?

THE ENTIRE WORLD IS MOCKED by the arrogant and contemptuous behaviour of John Howard, who is brazenly vying for the office of PM as I write. His partner in crime, Tony Blair, defies civilised standards by posing and posturing as a broker of PEACE in the Middle East, the scene of HIS CRIME against humanity! However, both men are only accessories to the instigators of these premeditated crimes. The principals of the most heinous crime of the century can be found in the Whitehouse - the political capital of the USA! The American nation stands condemned by its leadership and its inability to hold these criminals to account.

The following report from a US journalist indicts us all; we all share in the crimes of our leaders if we fail to uphold the values of civilised human beings -- I would add that values of fellowship and mutual assistance are common to all human societies. Not one human being should suffer hunger or

deprivation in today's world. Arrest the war criminals and divert funds and resources from warfare/destruction to sustainable production. We are not short of means, only courage and moral character.

I conclude with advice from lessons learnt throughout human history. If we fail to take the constructive option we will pay with our lives. The ancients learnt these lessons long before they encoded their knowledge in narrative texts.

Iraqi children bear the burden of an uncalled-for war

by César Chelala
(guest columnist -- Seattle Post-Intelligencer)

NEW YORK -- Looking at photos of Iraqi children maimed by the war makes the conflict unforgettable. Reflecting on the causes that led to that war makes it unforgivable. Slowly but steadily new information is coming out on the effects of the war on children, and how it has affected not only their health but also their quality of life and prospects for the future.

One child dies every five minutes because of the war, and many more are left with severe injuries. Of the estimated 4 million Iraqis who have been displaced in Iraq or left the country, 1.5 million are children. For the most part, they don't have access to basic health care, education, shelter or water and sanitation. They carry on their shoulders the tragic consequences of an uncalled for war.

"Sick or injured children, who could otherwise be treated by simple means, are left to die in the hundreds because they don't have access to basic medicines or other resources. Children who have lost hands, feet and limb are left without prostheses. Children with grave psychological distress are left untreated." That is the assessment of 100 British and Iraqi doctors.

Never mind that according to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1483, the U.S. and Great Britain are recognized as Iraq's occupation powers and as such are bound by The Hague and Geneva Conventions that demand that occupying powers are responsible not only for maintaining order but also for responding to the medical needs of the population. Tragedies like that don't have parents.

In the meantime, malnutrition levels among children continue to increase, and they are now more than double what they were before the U.S.-led invasion. Iraq malnutrition rates are now on a par with Burundi, a central African country torn by a brutal civil war, and higher than Uganda and Haiti. The number of Iraqi children who are born underweight or suffer from malnutrition continues to rise, and is now higher than before the invasion, according to a report by OXFAM and 80 other aid agencies.

Almost a third of the population -- 8 million people -- needs emergency aid, and more than 4 million Iraqis depend on food assistance. The collapse of basic services affects the whole population. For example, 70 percent of Iraqis lack access to adequate water supplies and 80 percent lack effective sanitation, both conditions breeding grounds for a parallel increase in intestinal and respiratory infections that predominantly affect children.

"Children are dying every day because of lack of essential medical support. The bad sewage system and lack of purified water, particularly in suburbs, has been a serious problem which might take years to solve," warns Ahmed Obeid, an official at the Ministry of Health.

At the same time, a variety of environmentally related chronic diseases are emerging among children because of their exposure to environmental contaminants. Many cases of congenital malformations and cancer among children are believed to be the consequence of exposure to chemicals and radioactive materials that have significantly increased during the war. And this without counting what is euphemistically called "collateral damage," the hundreds of children killed by roadside bombs, during suicide attacks or attacks by the occupation forces.

I look again at the face of an anonymous child, a photograph by Dan Chung for The Guardian newspaper in Britain, his features burned almost beyond recognition, whose sad eyes seem to be telling the viewer, "What did I do to deserve this?" And I cannot but think how miserable those adults are who destroy children's lives with total impunity.

Despite all evidence, some political leaders continue to insist that the situation is improving, as though the brutal TV images of the war did not exist, as if they were a fantasy invented by evil spirits. The chasm between the people's view of reality and that of their leaders has rarely been greater.

The editor of The Lancet, Dr. Richard Horton, stated recently: "Our collective failure has been to take our political leaders at their word." Sen. John McCain, speaking to cadets at the Virginia Military Institute, affirmed that to continue the war is, indeed, to pursue the right road.

And, added McCain, one of the contenders for the Republican presidential nomination, "it is necessary and just." The above-mentioned facts should prove to him that it is neither.

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