

## **Truth, Lies & Omissions About Iraq In The Canadian Media**

By Grahame Russell, July 2002

John Hendren (a well educated person, one presumes) writes, in a “special to The Star” (02-07-08, A13), about just why the United States (and as many “allies” as possible, please) must bomb Iraq and kill Saddam Hussein and a lot of Iraqi people.

Echoing arguments that are appearing regularly in North American media, Hendren reports: “Pentagon officials, crafting a plan for a potential invasion of Iraq, are contending with a problem they did not face during the 1991 Persian Gulf War: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has little to lose, this time, by unleashing weapons of mass destruction.”

And so it is, the lies are being piled up and repeated repeatedly, to protect the underlying, unassailable truth, that the US must invade Iraq to “take out” (kill) Hussein. Along the way, many Iraqi people will be killed, and this we will lament this collateral damage ... and blame Hussein.

The many Iraqis who will be killed are moms and dads, kids and grandparents; some are carpenters and other soldiers; most are already living in poverty, many more will be left in poverty.

No mention is made, in the Star or elsewhere, that this invasion will be illegal, like the “covert” acts of repression that the US-CIA is already involved with in Iraq.

No mention is made that the bombing runs that the US and Britain have been regularly doing in “no-flight zones” in Iraq since 1991 are illegal ... and killing people.

Arguing that the US, and “allies” (please!), face a new “problem” this time around, no mention is made of the “problem” faced by the Iraqi people in the 1991 attacks – that hundreds of thousands of Iraqis (moms and dads, kids and grandparents, soldiers, carpenters and cooks) were directly killed by the US forces.

Neither was any mention made of the “problem” faced by Iraqi people since 1991 – over 1,000,000 Iraqis – mainly kids this time – have been killed, and are being killed by the US and UN-led “sanctions”, that are also illegal.

Hendren’s article then continues to not mention that the US-led forces in the 1991 “Gulf War” used a whole lot of “weapons of mass destruction” and that it is the US (+ most of the other G8 countries) that have more weapons of mass destruction than the rest of the planet combined. And that the weapons of mass destruction that the US and the G8 gang don’t keep themselves they are in the business of selling to States across the planet, including Iraq itself which was, until 1990, a client of the US and France for military sales and cooperation.

No, just about nothing actually was mentioned in this article whose purpose was not to inform readers about the complexity of the issues related to the US and Iraq and whose purpose was not to remind us of how many Iraqi people the US-led forces have killed and are killing, ... .

The purpose of this article, like the majority of media coverage today, is to reinforce the imperative that the US must “take out Saddam” (euphemism for a whole lot of destruction and killing), and to ready the North American people to sit on the couch, when the bombing and killing begins, and watch it live and sanitized on CNN or CBC, or to change the channel to the Simpsons or the Associates, or to turn off the tube and go to the park and have a good day playing with their kids and friends.