

Unreported US aggression on Fallujah

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The American troops in occupied Iraq, in general, and Fallujah, in particular, are frenetically engaged to eliminate eyewitnesses to cover up their war crimes.

The aggression on Fallujah is going unnoticed as independent international media has been barred from the coverage of large-scale killing of innocent citizens. Only embedded journalists are the exception, but to whom they report is something very obvious, as is where their loyalties reside. These journalists are ostensibly party to helping the American troops hide and bury their war crimes against the innocent civilian population of Fallujah.

US troops have resorted to targeting paramedical staff in a bid to bury under debris eyewitness accounts of brutalities in the besieged city. Hospitals and clinics in Fallujah were targeted to kill largely those ~~who could~~ at least subsequently disclose to the media an intensified level of aggression against this hapless city.

While Americans do not get tired of harping on their desire to establish press freedoms and administer justice in occupied Iraq, its troops opted to kill all medical teams in a hospital including the doctors, nurses and the patients to eliminate eyewitnesses accounts for the media.

The attack on Fallujah preceded the besieging of the city and disallowing ambulances and medical teams into the city.

Virtually censored images and footage emanating from Fallujah does not explain any more than what the US wants us to believe. As all the available footage is from the American media, therefore one cannot believe that the factual situation on ground is being reported accurately, given the track record of western media in similar troubled events elsewhere.

The process of killing witnesses began with the closure of Iraq based offices of Al-Jazeera television network, which was serving as the eyes and ears of a large international audience.

The decision on closing Al-Jazeera offices in Iraq a few months back was an unfortunate prelude to an American invasion on Fallujah. The closure of the immensely popular Arab television network was designed this time around to avert the repetition of an earlier decision by

occupied forces to allow Al-Jazeera to cover the war-zone areas that had exposed US troops' brutalities.

The comprehensive coverage by Al-Jazeera of the Iraq war had compelled an American commander in Iraq to suggest to the viewers to stop watching this Arab channel. The commander, in his remarks, even made frustrated attempts to incite Iraqis to target the offices of this popular Arab channel.

While barbarism is clearly in evidence all over Iraq, Muslims rulers are languishing in a deep political and moral coma. How long will they continue to watch their vested interests and prolong their tyrannical rule at the cost of the blood of innocent Muslims being shed in Iraq?

Muslim rulers have morally degraded themselves to a level where they cannot even issue a reasonable statement condemning the genocide going on in Iraq. How could they condemn something for which they have themselves become direct and indirect instrument at the hands of the capitalist global superpower, the US.

So what options are available in this terrible situation for the survival of the Muslim populations in Iraq and elsewhere? How can we expect these rulers to protect their own people when they themselves have become an effective source of destruction of their own population?

One of the viable tools in this situation is the Muslim media that has now become the last castle in the Islamic world against the enemies of Islam.

Objective reporting is the last weapon the Muslim media seems to have at its disposal, being the only way which the American people and the White House might have to understand at some point of time. The media is an effective tool to win or lose the minds and the hearts of the people who do matter in Western democracies.

The Pakistani media can play an extremely key role in this situation with their presence in troubled parts of the Muslim world. They have fairly good experience from the coverage of the war in Afghanistan during the Soviet occupation. And they must join hands with the Arab media to play their role at this historically important juncture, since the vision cannot be achieved without the media's key input.