

Do the Americans Like to Listen?

Professor Sattar Kassem

June 13, 2003

The American people were enthusiastic about the war on Iraq and gave president Bush the needed support. At the time, for an Arab to address the Americans was hopeless due to the high degree of public opinion manipulation and mobilization from the side of both the American administration and the mass media. It looked as if the American public was very much taken by rhetoric and national slogans. Reason wasn't the right medium of communication.

Because I am a graduate of an American university, my indigenous people kept asking me about the level of awareness that the Americans have about the issues of Arabia including Iraq. The Americans, as I used to reiterate, are neither concerned about nor interested in international issues. The American foreign policy is so much influenced by huge economic interests and the Jewish lobbies that work on behalf of Israel. For the ordinary American, the war on Iraq was most probably an amusing computer game.

Now, time is ripe to bring out the following points:

- 1- The war in Iraq is far from over. Americans and Iraqis are killed or injured daily. The bloodshed is still going on, a thing that neither the Americans nor the Iraqis need. It was almost impossible to convey to the Americans at the time of hot patriotic speeches facts about how the people of my area think about America, but as time passes, more and more people in America will discover that they were misled, and will find that Arab and Islamic resistance in Iraq is mounting. The US does not enjoy a nice image in the area, and the people are fed up with what they understand as American continuous aggression. However, I don't think that the American people would like to experience something similar to Vietnam.
- 2- It is true that Saddam was a ferocious and ruthless dictator, but this is true for all Arab rulers except for Lebanon. If America is interested in the democratization of Arabia, the Arab people would love to see the American army toppling Arab regimes starting from Morocco on the Atlantic and ending in Kuwait on the Gulf. But the problem is that the Arab people have doubts if America is truly a democratic country. My people are very much educated on international issues and they have concluded that the American administration together with the mass media are dishonest in providing objective and even handed information. Besides, America has been there in Kuwait for almost thirteen years and no attempt have been made toward democratization. Kuwait is still under a tribal patriarchal regime. A journalist was arrested just few days ago because he mildly criticized the ruling family. The Arabs also question why Saddam not Mubarak or the king of Morocco or Saudi Arabia.
- 3- In as far as weapons of mass destruction are concerned, there are around forty-five countries that own chemical weapons, and there are nine that own nuclear capabilities among of which is Israel which is defined by the Arabs as their main enemy. Why all of these countries have a right to own while Iraq doesn't? two countries have used weapons of mass destruction so far: the US and Iraq. If Iraq is

irresponsible, then the US is irresponsible. The US showed also irresponsibility by tolerating the use of chemicals by Saddam against the Kurds and the Iranians. What makes the use of these arms ethically accepted at one time and unethical to own them at another? Nevertheless, where are these arms that were described to the American public as a threat to American security?

- 4- For an Arab, the war on Iraq was an Israeli need. It is true that America has an interest in the oil of Iraq and the region but everybody is sure that the Arabs are not going to drink the oil but to sell it. Israel thinks that the Arabs should be kept weak all the time so as to insure its military and economic supremacy. The US has become more or less like an Israeli puppet through Zionist and Jewish lobbies who have been penetrating the ideological and religious fabrics of the Americans. These lobbies are influential culturally and politically, and it is very hard for any American president to evade the pressure they pose. Israel thought that Saddam might be owning destructive weapons, and it wouldn't be a losing business if America is involved in a war. Israel has so much to gain including an increasing level of Arab hatred for the Americans, the destruction of Arab might and receiving American military and financial aid.

As an Arab who studied and lived in the US, I know it is very hard in America for the sound of reason to overshadow the sound of power. I don't mean to be offending but to say what I believe is the truth. It is still extremely important to realize that power without brains is more disastrous than brains without power, and those who think with their muscles dragged themselves and their people into chaos and frustration. The American President has been jeopardizing the interests of the US by accelerating and escalating the feelings of enmity toward the US in the area which in turn will produce actions against the Americans and their interests everywhere. Thus, the Americans and the Arabs will be losers; and all the talk about terrorism remains ideological rather than humanitarian.

Neither the Arab regimes nor Israel will do America any good. Israel is a very demanding spoiled kid with endless needs, and the Arab regimes stains those who side with them. Siding with the Arab people is certainly the best investment the American administration can do for the Americans in the land of the Arabs.