



A just solution: military intervention

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All the arguments about war must recognise an essential truth: the vicious tyranny of Saddam Hussein can only be ended by force, and with outside help.

Saddam's long history of brutality and crimes would take volumes to go through. Three words sum it up: two million victims. Two million Iraqis, by the most conservative estimates, have been slaughtered by Saddam and his vicious regime. He has wiped out thousands of villages, hundreds of towns, used chemical weapons on his own people, and has subjected the entire nation to cruel, sustained oppression. His continuous trail of murder must be stopped now, for every day that passes by under Saddam's rule is a humanitarian crisis.

"Leave it up to the Iraqi people to liberate themselves" is a suggestion both insulting and naïve. The people of Iraq have struggled alone for three decades against the tyranny of Saddam. Over half a million Iraqis have heroically attempted to remove Saddam, but have tragically paid with their lives. There is no question

about the bravery and sacrifice of the Iraqi people, as they have not sat down and accepted Saddam's brutality.

Unfortunately, history has shown that Iraqis, despite their most noble efforts, have been unable to get rid of Saddam and therefore require external assistance.

As for the other 'alternatives' of getting rid of Saddam: if they were realistic and workable, they would have already been attempted and put to the test. In fact, the only realistic method of getting rid of Saddam is through external military intervention. This is the only way and it is a just way.

Yet, the word 'war' is misleading. War implies two sides fighting, and (in this case) resistance on the Iraqi side. The truth of the matter is that Iraqis inside the country, in the heart of the battle – and despite having

lived through the Iran-Iraq war and the 1991 Gulf war – have been praying for military intervention. They know that it is their only hope, the only escape from Saddam's genocide. People in Iraq have been counting down the hours for the beginning of intervention which will pave the road to democracy.

Any attack by allied troops attack on such targets as the presidential palaces, Saddam's security buildings, and Ba'ath party headquarters, is confirmation to the Iraqi people that Saddam and his regime are the essential target of this military campaign.

Such targeting symbolically weakens Saddam and empower the Iraqi people, removing their feeling of being alone in their struggle against Saddam. Finally, after decades of fighting without external help, Iraqis are now being joined by US and British troops. Their long, painful, silent struggle is ending, with Saddam and his regime at last becoming history.

Standing against the only method of removing Saddam has never helped the people of Iraq. The best way to help them now is to campaign for a genuine democracy to be established after the dictator is overthrown.

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