

Don't be deceived:

A massacre is happening in Fallujah.

When they say...

'A rebel stronghold'

They mean a city with houses that people live in. People who have families, who have jobs. Who look forward to the weekends, who support their football team.

'An insurgent force'

They mean people of different ages, genders and convictions. Who have hopes and fears. Who are angry that their city is being bombed into oblivion.

'An assault on the city'

They mean the destruction of a city three times the size of Cambridge, and all those in it. That death will rain from the sky. That streets and buildings will be hit by big exploding lumps of metal. People will be standing nearby. People for whom the distinction of innocent or guilty means nothing, because they will be dead. Or maimed. Or bereaved.

'Troops will move in'

They mean young men with big guns will be roaming the streets of Fallujah. Scared young men who will fear for their lives and who will shoot at what ever they think will hurt them. Young men who, if they come back at all, will come back with a devil on their backs that they may never come to terms with. Young men who will have killed other human beings.

'Liberation'

They mean domination. They mean the complete subjugation of a people. They mean that those still alive to enjoy their 'liberty' will be free only to be told what to do; to sell their labour for whatever pittance will be given them.

They mean a massacre

Some facts about Fallujah:

- Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, wrote to Blair and Bush on Friday asking them not to attack Fallujah: “fighting is likely to take place mostly in densely populated urban areas, with an obvious risk of civilian casualties.” David Blunkett yesterday dismissed his appeal as “entirely wrong”.
- Some measure of the likely bloodshed can be found by comparing it to the April assault on Fallujah. A study published this week in the leading international public health journal *The Lancet* found that 198,000 excess deaths had been caused since 2003 in the Fallujah area, with over half being direct deaths from fighting, the majority of which were caused by US airstrikes.
- Substantial evidence exists that US marines targeted civilians and acted in contravention of the Geneva Convention in the April Fallujah assault. A European humanitarian agency with staff in Fallujah told BBC News that US snipers were shooting unarmed civilians, and even ambulances. One US Marine Major told Time magazine that it was “hard to differentiate between people who are insurgents or civilians. You just have to go with your gut feeling.” A UK army major told the Daily Telegraph that US forces routinely shelled dense civilian areas in preparation for military strikes.

Do something!

There are contingency plans across the country for action if the attack starts: <http://www.voices.netuxo.co.uk/actnow.htm#plans>

In Cambridge, CamPeace have called for people to gather outside the Guildhall at 12 noon on the day an assault begins. For more information, keep your eyes on Cambridge Indymedia and the Cambridge Action Network:

<http://cambridge.indymedia.org.uk/>

<http://www.cambridgeaction.net/>