

5th HUMAN RIGHTS FILM SERIES

CONTROL ROOM

Resource Page¹

The national media coverage of the 1991 Persian Gulf War changed the way US citizens received information about US military actions abroad. Having seen the impact of negative media coverage from the Vietnam War, the first Bush Administration in 1991 presented the “liberation of Kuwait” in such a way that viewers in America experienced war technology without really experiencing the war. Thanks to the advent of the 24-hour news cycle, most notably executed by CNN, viewers could now see and hear what they thought was “everything” about the war as it was actually happening. As viewers were bombarded with images from the Persian Gulf at all times of the day and night, strong demand for investigative journalism to uncover untold stories rarely materialized. The second Bush Administration presented the 2003 invasion of Iraq in a similar fashion, with the advantage of a decade’s worth of technological and technical advancements. Hollywood producers and set designers created the sets at US Command Headquarters in Doha, Qatar, while all the major news outlets created interactive sets that allowed guest analysts to practically walk the battlefield. The 2003 Invasion also embedded reporters for the first time with active, engaged military units, in an effort to present the rigors of soldiering to the home audience. While some argued that reporters could not openly critique the very military personnel on whom their lives depended, the process of embedding was seen in the US as a positive development in war coverage. International news sources, however, were more critical of US military actions and strategies. European and Arab news sources, for example, openly discussed the damage caused by American missiles to the Iraqi civilian population, to the chagrin of US policy makers and military strategists. **For more information on Iraq and the media, please see some of the web resources listed below:**

Al Jazeera - <http://english.aljazeera.net/HomePage>

Al Jazeera, the most popular Arab news source, on the web.

Al Muajaha: “The Iraqi Witness” - <http://www.almuajaha.com/>

Independent articles and news produced by Iraqi citizens in Iraq.

Electronic Iraq - <http://www.electroniciraq.net>

This news portal gathers breaking news, facts, and on-scene reports from Iraq.

Bagdad.Com - <http://www.baghdad.com>

This World News Network portal gathers breaking news articles about Iraq from diverse news sources on issues ranging from Iraq’s economy, energy, politics, health, as well as Iraq’s diversity.

Iraq Body Count - <http://www.iraqbodycount.net>

Iraq Body Count serves to provide an accurate, independent and comprehensive body count of civilians who have been killed in Iraq as a result of actions by the U.S. military and its allies.

Iraq Action Coalition - <http://www.iraqaction.org>

An online media and activists' resource center for groups and activists who are working to end the war against the people of Iraq.

Iraq Occupation Watch - <http://www.occupationwatch.org>

An international coalition of peace and justice groups, who along with their Iraqi counterparts, monitor the economic and reconstruction policies under occupation, including the activities of international corporations, and advocate for the Iraqis' right to control their own resources. This is an Iraq-based effort.

¹ Special thanks to Huwaida Arraf for writing this resource page.