

## Segment 1

**(VOICE 3)** Truth, are you okay....truth, respond....are you okay?

Small pause

**(VOICE 2)** Yessir

**(VOICE 4)** March 19, 2003, speculations that Saddam Hussein may have been killed or wounded after a compound he was believed to be in is bombed.

**(VOICE 1)** April 3, 2003, Saddam Hussein, quote, "Perhaps you remember the valiant Iraqi peasant and how he shot down an American Apache with an old weapon." Outside the State Department, Secretary of State Colin Powell, quote: "...Our troops....are there to liberate Iraq and they will be successful in that mission. And whether he....

**(VOICE 4)** Saddam

**(VOICE 1)** ....is there at the end or not or found or not is almost irrelevant. We are almost totally in control of the country and will be in complete control soon. And a better day is ahead for the Iraqi people."

**(VOICE 3)** April 3, 2003, along the Euphrates River, a vehicle approaches a checkpoint. A pregnant woman exits the vehicle, distressed, screaming for assistance. As coalition forces approach her, the vehicle behind her detonates, killing her and three U.S. soldiers.

**(VOICE 4)** Two days earlier in Shatra, an unarmed Iraqi man in a pickup truck is shot dead by US marines as it speeds towards a roadblock. Several hours earlier near Karbala, a blue Toyota is shot at as it speeds towards a checkpoint. There are thirteen women and children in the van....or maybe there are fifteen. Warning shots are fired....maybe....maybe not. And maybe it is seven women and children that die that day....or maybe it is ten. According to a Washington Post reporter who is there, one of the wounded women sits in the vehicle holding the mangled bodies of two of her children. Quote, "She didn't want to get out of the car."

**(VOICE 2)** "I am the martyr Nora Shanbari. God is my witness and we tell our leader Saddam Hussein you will have some sisters you can be proud of, and their names will be engraved in history."

Pause

**(VOICE 4)** Liberation has come to Iraq, uninvited, to stay. Masquerading, penetrating, as bunker busters, precision-guided bombs and missiles, napalm bombs, uranium, area-impact munitions.....forcing itself into living flesh, into water, into farms, into orchards, into busy streets, into markets, into the desert sand, into homes, into mosques, into schoolyards, into roads, into bridges, into oilfields. Yes, liberal liberation has come to Iraq. Not all of it at once, some of it lies strewn about the landscape, next to home-grown landmines, next to....

**(VOICE 3)** ....**NO weapons of mass destruction.**

**(VOICE 4)** Liberation, waiting to be discovered.

**(VOICE 1)** The time is 9:00 pm, the fifteenth day of the beginning of nine eleven times 486 for Iraqi civilians, two weeks after supposedly being shocked and awed, four weeks before a mission is supposedly accomplished, and 2,708 days before occupation forces supposedly start operating under a new mission – al Fajr. Baghdad lies in total darkness for the first time, before its heart is rocked with one....two....three blasts. Waves of bombs and missile attacks, planes flying overhead, pounding targets below, rocking Baghdad. Bodies of one....two....three....four....five....six....seven....eight....nine, dead family members lie in a morgue, including one....two....three, children. Aqeel Khalil, 27, a surviving widower laments, “There is no military site in my house, and there is no gun in my house.”

**(VOICE 3) The detritus of uninvited liberation:**

(narrated fast)

**(VOICE 1)** Humans reduced to fine particles by 2,000-pound deployed bunker busters.

**(VOICE 2)** A steady stream of wounded civilians flowing into hospitals carried by their families.

**(VOICE 3)** A steady stream of wounded civilians flowing into hospitals in the backs of pick-ups.

**(VOICE 4)** An injured child is carried away from the scene of a car bomb explosion.

**(VOICE 1)** A little girl staring at a heap of her own intestines protruding from the left side of her stomach.

**(VOICE 2)** Four dead and 176 injured in the last 24 hours at Al-Kindi hospital.

**(VOICE 3)** Every hour, a hundred wounded military arrive at Yarmouk hospital.

**(VOICE 4)** A wounded woman screaming in agony as doctors try to take off her black Abaya.

**(VOICE 1)** A small girl lying on a stretcher with her brain and left ear missing.

**(VOICE 2)** The partially-decapitated body of a little girl, her red scarf still wound round her neck.

**(VOICE 3)** A man lying in a hospital ward for 19 days with a serious abdominal wound.

**(VOICE 4)** A small boy seemingly asleep, the back of his head blown off.

**(VOICE 1)** Another boy with cluster bomb wounds covering his little face.

**(VOICE 2)** Rabaa Abid Ibrahim comforts her daughter Samaya Abdu-Abbas.

**(VOICE 3)** A pair of blood-soaked plastic slippers lying next to bomb craters.

**(VOICE 4)** Hospital windows shaking from the thuds of close-range explosions.

**(VOICE 1)** A Fallujah man cradles his four-year-old son recovering from a head wound.

**(VOICE 2)** A 22 year old conscript soldier, Mohammed, lies dead in Rashid military hospital on the outskirts of Baghdad.

**(VOICE 3)** Panicked, fleeing civilians, stepping out of shot-at cars, shaking, waving bloodied white flags in the still Fallujah air pleading....

**(VOICE 4)** “don’t shoot, don’t shoot, there are women and children in the car.”

**(VOICE 1)** 30 killed in fleeing cars near Tallil and Nasiriyah.

**(VOICE 2)** Overflowing wards without electricity or water.

**(VOICE 3)** Shortage of specialist equipment.

**(VOICE 4)** Shortage of morphine.

**(VOICE 1)** No more antibiotics to fight infection in the growing heat of summer.

**(VOICE 2)** Two headache pills for surgery.

**(VOICE 3)** In Amarah, Hillah, Najaf, Muthanna, the medical situation is dire and help is yet to come.

**(VOICE 4)** A father reacts in anguish as his son is declared dead.

**(VOICE 1)** Suicide bombings in Baghdad against the occupiers.

**(VOICE 2)** Occupiers ordered to shoot civilians on sight because they might be suicide bombers.

**(VOICE 3)** Showers of bricks, glass and dust.

**(VOICE 4)** Bombed-out cars on highways.

**(VOICE 1)** Dismembered bodies.

**(VOICE 2)** Shrapnel wounds

**(VOICE 3)** Missile wounds

**(VOICE 4)** Rocket wounds

**(VOICE 1)** Basra women with jerry cans full of sewage-polluted river water.

**(VOICE 2)** Two injured children lie in the same bed due to a paucity of beds.

**(VOICE 3)** Mothers weeping over dead children.

**(VOICE 4)** The lifeless body of a child laid near other bodies inside a morgue.

**(VOICE 1)** Women mourn as a coffin carrying the body of a child is taken for burial.

**(VOICE 2)** Hospital gates swing open periodically to let out taxis with coffins tied to the roof.

**(VOICE 3)** Military personnel in civilian clothes.

**(VOICE 4)** Civilians in civilian clothes.

**(VOICE 1)** Dead civilians who might have been military personnel in civilian clothes.

**(VOICE 2)** Dead civilians that are dead civilians in civilian clothes.

**(VOICE 3)** How many civilians died? How many military personnel died?

**(VOICE 4)** **Yes, liberation has come to Iraq, indiscriminatingly, to stay.**

## Segment 2

**(VOICE 3)** Truth, are you okay....truth, respond....are you okay?

Small pause

**(VOICE 2)** Yessir

**(VOICE 3)** "Marines call executing wounded combatants 'dead-checking'....You put two bullets into the guy's chest and one in the brain. But when you enter a room where guys are wounded you might not know if they're alive or dead. So they teach us to dead-check them by pressing them in the eye with your boot, because generally a person, even if he's faking being dead, will flinch if you poke him there. If he moves, you put a bullet in the brain."

**(VOICE 2)** Reuters, [Jun 29, 2011], estimates: For every victim of nine eleven, 73 killed by war in Iraq and Afghanistan

## **(VOICE 4)** **Seventy three**

(narrated fast)

**(VOICE 1)** One, an unexploded ordinance kills a child in Al Qaim.

**(VOICE 2)** Two, a US carpet bomb kills a street vendor's daughter near Khanabad.

**(VOICE 3)** Three, a severed head found southeast of Haqlaniyah.

**(VOICE 4)** Four, a local Sheikh shot dead in Bakubah.

**(VOICE 1)** Five, a US precision strike kills a male street vendor in Kabul.

**(VOICE 2)** Six, another US precision bomb kills a tailor in Kandahar.

**(VOICE 3)** Seven, and another US precision strike kills a civilian in Kandahar.

**(VOICE 4)** Eight, and another US precision bomb kills a civilian sitting inside his home in Khanabad.

**(VOICE 1)** Nine, and another US precision bomb kills a Kutchi nomad 70 kms east of Qalat.

**(VOICE 2)** Ten, a civilian killed outside the Indian Embassy front gate in Kabul.

**(VOICE 3)** Eleven, a US vehicle runs over a woman running across the road south of Irbil.

**(VOICE 4)** Twelve, a body found shot, tortured in Baghdad.

**(VOICE 1)** Thirteen, a civilian killed in a drive-by shooting in Ramadi.

**(VOICE 2)** Fourteen, a US illumination round kills a civilian northwest of Karmah.

**(VOICE 3)** Fifteen, two-year-old daughter of Bakhat Hassan gunned down by machine gunfire at a US army checkpoint near Najaf and Karbala.

**(VOICE 4)** Sixteen, five-year-old daughter of Bakhat Hassan gunned down by machine gunfire.

**(VOICE 1)** Seventeen, three-year-old son of Bakhat Hassan....

**(VOICE 2)** Eighteen, father of Bakhat Hassan....

**(VOICE 3)** Nineteen, mother of Bakhat Hassan....

**(VOICE 4)** Twenty, brother of Bakhat Hassan....

**(VOICE 1)** Twenty one, sister-in-law of Bakhat Hassan....

**(VOICE 2)** Twenty two, twelve-year-old niece of Bakhat Hassan....

**(VOICE 3)** Twenty three, another brother of Bakhat Hassan....

**(VOICE 4)** Twenty four, another sister-in-law of Bakhat Hassan....

**(VOICE 1)** Twenty five, fifteen-year-old niece of Bakhat Hassan....

**(VOICE 2)** ....all gunned down by machine gunfire at a US army checkpoint near Najaf and Karbala.

**(VOICE 3)** Twenty six, an IED kills a woman south of Fallujah.

**(VOICE 4)** Twenty seven, an Iraqi soldier shoots and kills a woman in Baghdad.

**(VOICE 1)** Twenty eight, an airstrike kills a civilian at a customs office in Rutba.

**(VOICE 2)** Twenty nine, Afghan security officers carry a body from the site of a gun battle in Kabul.

**(VOICE 3)** Thirty, Al Jazeera offices hit, killing journalist Tareq Ayoub in Baghdad.

**(VOICE 4)** Thirty one, a kidnapped school headmaster shot dead during a gunfight in Habbaniya.

**(VOICE 1)** Thirty two, gunmen shoot and kill a groom on his wedding party in Kabul.

**(VOICE 2)** Thirty three, motor rounds kill a child west of Muqdadiyah.

**(VOICE 3)** Thirty four, a suicide car bomb kills a book store owner in a book market in Baghdad.

**(VOICE 4)** Thirty five, one civilian killed by the National Police at a checkpoint in Basra.

**(VOICE 1)** Thirty six, Afghans move the lifeless body of a suicide attack victim in Kabul.

**(VOICE 2)** Thirty seven, Iraqi police shoot and kill a college student in Baghdad.

**(VOICE 3)** Thirty eight, a US missile kills a day laborer in the mountains South of Khost.

**(VOICE 4)** Thirty nine, a collision with a UK vehicle kills a motorcyclist in Basrah.

**(VOICE 1)** Forty, a roadside bomb kills a civilian northwest of Rutbah.

**(VOICE 2)** Forty one, a banker shot dead near Jalula.

**(VOICE 3)** Forty two, a Mosque Imam shot dead in Fallujah.

**(VOICE 4)** Forty three, a suicide car bomb kills a policeman west of Kabul.

**(VOICE 1)** Forty four, relatives of a slain civilian wail next to his dead body in Ghazni.

**(VOICE 2)** Forty five, a woman waters a relative's grave in a cemetery in Kabul.

**(VOICE 3)** Forty six, a demonstrator holds the portrait of a local killed by Taliban militants in Kandahar.

**(VOICE 4)** Forty seven, a blast victim's coffin is loaded by men outside a hospital in Kandahar city.

**(VOICE 1)** Forty eight, a civilian killed in an overnight raid by NATO forces at Surkh Rod.

**(VOICE 2)** Forty nine, US forces shoot and kill a woman in west Baghdad.

**(VOICE 3)** Fifty, US forces shoot and kill an elderly man at a checkpoint in Kirkuk.

**(VOICE 4)** Fifty one, US forces shoot and kill a doctor southeast of Tikrit.

**(VOICE 1)** Fifty two, US forces shoot and kill a pregnant woman in Baghdad.

**(VOICE 2)** Fifty three, US forces shoot and kill a village leader hiding in a mosque in Kandahar.

**(VOICE 3)** Fifty four, US forces shoot and kill a girl southwest of camp Ramadi.

**(VOICE 4)** Fifty five, US forces shoot and kill a civilian near Abu Ghraib Market.

**(VOICE 1)** Fifty six, US forces shoot and kill a mentally challenged man in Mosul.

**(VOICE 2)** Fifty seven, US forces shoot and kill an Iraqi border patrol officer near Mandali.

**(VOICE 3)** Fifty eight, an explosion on the road between two markets kills a man in Helmand Province.

**(VOICE 4)** Fifty nine, twelve gunshots kill a religious scholar in a village bordering Pakistan.

**(VOICE 1)** Sixty, a US cluster bomb kills a civilian northwest of Herat.

**(VOICE 2)** Sixty one, US snipers shoot and kill a traffic policeman in Baghdad.

**(VOICE 3)** Sixty two, US ground forces open fire killing a seminary student in the village of Kundi.

**(VOICE 4)** Sixty three, a wall collapses, crushing a boy when US forces attack a village in Paktika province.

**(VOICE 1)** Sixty four, an IED kills a boy near a school north of Khalidiyah.

**(VOICE 2)** Sixty five, Iraqi police shoot and kill a detainee in Dardasah.

**(VOICE 3)** Sixty six, a civilian dies in a collision incident with a Blackwater convoy in Jamjamah.

**(VOICE 4)** Sixty seven, a mosque prayer caller shot dead west of Fallujah.

**(VOICE 1)** Sixty eight, US snipers shoot and kill an Iraqi interpreter near Nasser Wa Al Salem.

**(VOICE 2)** Sixty nine, a child shot dead by the Iraqi army in Tal Afar.

**(VOICE 3)** Seventy, a roadside bomb kills a twelve year old boy in Fallujah.

**(VOICE 4)** Seventy one, US marines shoot and kill a civilian riding in a taxi in Ar Rutbah.

**(VOICE 1)** Seventy two, a policeman shot dead near Al Aamir farms west Baghdad.

**(VOICE 2)** Seventy three, a trade union member assassinated in Dorah, Baghdad.

### **Segment 3**

**(VOICE 3)** Truth, are you okay....truth, respond....are you okay?

Small pause

**(VOICE 2)** Yessir

**(EVERYBODY) SMASHED MUSEUM PIECES**

**(VOICE 2)** In the ancient city of Uruk, circa 3000 BC, the beautiful Warka Vase, an alabaster vessel, is being carved by ancient hands: depicting rows of plants, sheep, nude males carrying baskets, and a cultic scene, in which the ruler of the city of Uruk is delivering provisions to the temple of the goddess Inanna.

Uruk, 1933-1934, German Assyriologists excavates the Warka Vase as a collection of fragments.

April, 2003, Baghdad is falling, and an estimated 170,000 ancient artifacts are being looted by the occupied. An amnesty is announced, and suddenly priceless treasures are being returned. Among them the Warka Vase, now brought back in 14 pieces in a plastic garbage bag, depicting broken plants, broken sheep, broken cultic scenes, a broken ruler of the city of Uruk, delivering broken provisions to the temple, of a broken goddess Inanna.

**(VOICE 4 heaves a sigh of relief)** ....and the robbing of the Iraqi national museum slips from the headlines.

**(VOICE 3)** Ancient sites, requisitioned by occupiers. Occupiers that constructed military camps on requisitioned ancient sites. Ancient sites flattened and covered with compacted gravel. Compacted gravel for parking lots. Parking lots for military vehicles parked next to ancient theatres in ancient sites. Ancient sites with trenches cut through them. Ancient sites bulldozed. Bulldozed with earth from ancient sites stuffed into biodegradable Hesco sandbags. Sandbags for fortified helipads. Helipads that serve helicopters flying in and out of ancient sites. Ancient sites with walls and roofs that shake and collapse from the force of helicopters flying in and out of ancient sites. Ancient sites now demilitarized, with ancient earth spilling out of collapsing biodegradable Hesco sandbags.

Pause

**(VOICE 1)** Baghdad, Sunday May 23, 2004, Kholood sits on a hospital bed, injured by shrapnel. Shrapnel, in her little back. In the remote desert near the border with Syria, US helicopters fired on a wedding party. A wedding party that Kholood was at. In a remote desert, more than 40 people died. More than 40 people who were part of a wedding party. They died on Wednesday, May 19. Kholood's parents were among them. So were her four brothers and sisters. On Wednesday, May 19, Kholood lost her parents and four brothers and sisters. On Sunday, May 23, Kholood, who is two years old, sits on a hospital bed in Ramadi. Tears running down her face. No one by her side.



**(VOICE 4)** Uruzgan Province, July 1, 2002, a bumpy six-hour drive to Kandahar's Mir Wais hospital. Wali Khan, Malika and Palako are on that road. Wali Khan, Malika and Paloka are injured in a U.S. strike that kills more than sixty people and wounds more than a hundred. More than a hundred and sixty people that are part of a wedding party. A wedding party that Wali Khan, Malika and Palako are at. Wali Khan, who is 35 years old, recovers at the Mir Wais hospital, a relative by his side. Malika, who lost her parents and a brother and sister, and who is seven years old, recovers at the Mir Wais hospital, a neighbor by her side. In another room, still in her party dress, Palako is the only one in her family that survived. Palako, who is six years old, lies asleep on a hospital bed, a stranger by her side.

**(VOICE 2)** Al-Nasaf, east of Ramadi, Friday, August 12, a father, with blood stains on his shirt, sits by his little boy on a hospital bed. Blood stains on his shirt, from carrying and running with his little boy, bleeding. Bleeding from his face, torn open from an explosion. An explosion that rocked a mosque. A mosque that he and his father were at.... praying. Praying, while an artillery shell was being fired. Aimed at them.... praying. Killing four.... praying. Of which 3 were children.... praying. Injuring at least 19.... praying. Iraqis blame U.S. forces. But a military spokesman later says.....

**(VOICE 3)** I dispute it.

**(VOICE 1)** In the northern province of Takhar, Twenty year old Islamudin, who had fled the village in 1998, is back. It's his first day home, and he goes out to look at what remains of his sister's house, spots a bright metal object....and blows up.

**(VOICE 3)** 85 deaths were recorded in one incident.... but it could have been 91....or 92....or 95....or 99.... villagers that died in Rashidiya on April 5, 2003.

**(VOICE 4)** March 26, 2006, 14 bodies of Sunni men from Al Shaab and New Baghdad are found, executed by gunfire. Their names were Omar, Omar, Omar, Omar, Omar, Omar, Omar, Omar, Omar, Omar, Omar, Omar, Omar, Omar, Omar.

#### **Segment 4**

**(VOICE 3)** Truth, are you okay....truth, respond....are you okay?

Small pause

**(VOICE 2)** Yessir

**(VOICE 3)** Insurgents shoot from behind human shields.

**(VOICES 1, 2 & 4)** Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang....

**(VOICE 3)** Start counting, troopers

**(VOICE 1)** One, four, seven, ten, fourteen, seventeen, twenty, twenty three, twenty six, twenty nine....

**(VOICE 2)** Two, five, eight, twelve, fifteen, eighteen, twenty one, twenty four, twenty seven, thirty....

**(VOICE 4)** Three, six, nine, eleven, thirteen, sixteen, nineteen, twenty two, twenty five, twenty eight....

**(VOICE 3) FIRE!**

**(VOICE 1)** Thirty one, thirty four....

**(VOICE 2)** Thirty two, thirty five....

**(VOICE 4)** Thirty three....

**(VOICE 3) STOP, TAKE FIRE!**

**(VOICES 1, 2 & 4)** Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang....

**(VOICE 3)** How many were there? Were there twenty nine, or thirty one?

**(VOICE 1)** Nothing in the Rules of Engagement prevents you from using deadly force to defend yourself.

**(VOICE 2)** Magazines emptied into towns, no identified targets, dead civilians transformed to retroactive insurgents. Troops firing into radiators and windows of oncoming vehicles, firing at anything that moves in the dark, women and children separated from their men, units taking “stray rounds”, machine gunners responding, emptying 200 rounds into nearby buildings and taking pot shots at passing cars, corpses flattened by Humvees, the subjects of “trophy” photos. Marines defecate into MRE bags, urinate in bottles, throw them at children. A self-professed “kill team” with portable biometric scanners, scanning dead eyes, chronicles its kills. A severed pinky finger dried out in a zip-lock bag, and a proud 20 year-old trooper. Imposed curfews, electricity for water pumps only in the night, two farmers killed working their fields in the night, and a sergeant’s response:

**(VOICE 3)** The men were out after curfew.

**(VOICE 4)** Quote:

**(VOICE 1)** “Most people within the unit disliked the Afghan people....they were savages.”

**(VOICE 2)** “Killing indiscriminately, yeah, that happened.”

**(VOICE 3)** “The standard operating procedure after killing dudes was to drag them up to the side of the highway.”

**(VOICE 4)** “IEDs would go off the side of the road, our orders were to shoot up the landscape.”

**(VOICE 3)** Dehumanized marines, dehumanizing, quote, “the enemy”.

**(VOICE 1)** “We acted inhumane. A lotta soldiers acted inhumane.”

**(VOICE 2)** “We videotaped everything, during raids, after raids.”

**(VOICE 3)** “At the time we weren’t concerned about the Iraqi people at all, that came later.”

**(VOICE 4)** “You gotta desensitize yourself from them. They’re not people, they’re animals.”

**(VOICE 1)** “They would throw candy out in front and in the rear of the Stryker, the Stryker would then run the children over.”

**(VOICE 2)** “You watch it get covered up and shoved under a rug. Oh, that didn’t just happen.”

**(VOICE 3)** “An IED goes off, an’ another, an’ another, and you hit ‘em with a Mark 19....they jus’ ram into your head, this is a haji, this is a haji, this is a haji..... It’s a video game you know. If you start lookin’ at them as people an’ stuff like that how you gonna kill ‘im?”

**(VOICE 4)** “Those were some innocent farmers that got killed.”

Small pause

**(VOICE 1)** “When I was over there, an Iraqi stranger walked up to me and told me....

**(VOICE 2)** ....he told me that he was Okay. And I just....all of a sudden....

**(VOICE 3)** ....reached over and hugged him....and I said....I said....

**(VOICE 4)** ....I was sorry, I was so sorry, I am so sorry.”

### Segment 5

**(VOICE 3)** Truth, are you okay....truth, respond....are you okay?

Small pause

**(VOICE 2)** Yessir

**(VOICE 4)** Wednesday, July 13 2005, American soldiers handing candy out to children, a car, a suicide car bomber, a detonation, a shower of flying glass, a 4-day-old baby named Miriam Jabber, a mother, another mother, crying, a hospital, a sun beating down, a few days later, a family, a wail, a coffin, a funeral, a home, close to the scene of the attack, a nine year old dead boy named Ahmed, a site, where 18 children and a U.S soldier were killed, a mother that lost her son runs the site through her fingers, another mother, a photo of two deceased children, a make-shift memorial, a moment, a nationwide three-minute of silence, a week and three days later, a commemoration luncheon with Iraq's Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari, another attack, a grieving father holding a photo of his 9 year old son, Mohammed Toi'ma Gizar.

**(VOICE 3)** a US sniper, a war that wounded him, a hope to become a photojournalist, a roadside bomb, a US Staff Sergeant, an injured child, a photograph....

**(VOICE 2)** A month later, an attack by insurgents, another child, a Thursday, a local hospital in Samarra....

**(VOICE 1)** A week and four days later, a US patrol, a pickup truck explosion, a killing of three civilians, a maiming of more than 20 others including four US soldiers in Samarra, a hospital, a wounded boy, a recovery....

**(VOICE 4)** Another week and four days later, a Friday, a Shiite mosque, a car bomb explosion, a man carrying and running, a child, a hospital....

**(VOICE 3)** A fortnight later in Baghdad, a car bomb explosion, a city center, a school girl injured, a rush, an arrival at Al-Kindi hospital...

**(VOICE 2)** Another few days later, another car bomb explosion, another rush, another injured child at the Al-Kindi hospital....

**(VOICE 1)** Another few days later, a market in eastern Baghdad, a car bomb, another rush, another hospital, another injured child, another day, another month, another street, another bomb, another explosion, another scene, another child, another neighborhood, another mortar attack, another destroyed home....

**(VOICE 4)** Another mother, a policeman holding another photo, a missing child....

Small pause

**(VOICE 2)** "At nine tonight I got word that 50 people had been killed in an explosion in a shopping center outside Baghdad. Some of the victims had been taken to a nearby mosque. "Can I go in?" I asked when the door opened, though I didn't know what was inside. And maybe because I am a woman, I was ushered into a stark room where two women were bathing the body of a young relative in preparation for burial. It is unclear whether the explosion was caused by a U.S. bomb or an Iraqi missile, but in the end, it doesn't really matter for this 12-year-old girl."

Pause

**(VOICE 1)** 10,000 war widows of Kabul, refugee women of Helmand, free rations, long waits, 4 liters of oil, 800 grams of salt, 9 kilograms of red beans, little girls balancing bread on their heads, little boys playing with explosives, 220 victims of food aid, 130 Estonian occupation troops, suicide bombs, precision bombs, Taliban fighters, one incident, 52 dead civilians, landmines, amputated abayas....

**(VOICE 2)** US troops kicking in doors of Afghan homes

**(VOICE 3)** ....hand-made American flags in Jalalabad, stomping feet, chants of "Down with America, Down with Obama", 400 marching demonstrators, posters of injured civilians by U.S. forces, NATO-led assaults, burning NATO military convoys, Afghan army soldiers, children playing on destroyed Soviet-made armored tanks, photos of Bollywood actresses stuck on butts of assault rifles, Jingle trucks....

**(VOICE 4)** US troops kicking in doors of Afghan homes

**(VOICE 1)** ....women with outstretched hands silhouetting Karzai's buddies' mansions glistening in dusty backgrounds, relatives comforting wounded children lying beside their wounded mothers, busy EU transit points, illegal immigrants with lips sewn shut, one-month hunger strikes, plans of building fences to keep illegal's out....

**VOICE 2) US troops kicking in doors of Afghan homes.**

**(VOICE 3)** ....dusk, a man praying by the side of the road, toy pistols, a little boy aims playfully, men drinking tea, brief snowfalls, cold children, green on green attacks, blue on blue attacks, presidential elections, mid to late 2009 bloodiest month for civilians, coalition forces and anti-coalition forces....

**(VOICE 4) US troops kicking in doors of Afghan homes.**

**(VOICE 1)** ....outskirts of Kabul, displaced Pashto families, makeshift camps, refugees lighting gas lamps, doorways with peeping children, a boy standing with a shovel as tall as him, filling potholes, tips from passing motorists, air dropped yellow food packages, minefields, two dead children, three injured....

**(VOICE 2) US troops kicking in doors of Afghan homes.**

**(VOICE 3)** ....failed asylum seekers, "re-integration" centers....Atta Mohammed, his silver beard streaked with tears, his hands covered in blood, his voice cracking with emotion, "Oh God they killed my children. God may take revenge on them. They took everyone from me."

**(VOICE 4)** *"It was relentless....exactly the same as when the Russians were bombing us."*

## Segment 6

**(VOICE 3)** Truth, are you okay....truth, respond....are you okay?

Small pause

**(VOICE 2)** Yessir

**(VOICE 4)** Women walking with swollen bags toward the occupiers, quote "lit up", with an automatic grenade launcher, fired upon by troopers. Bags swollen with groceries, that troopers later realize, were meant for them.

**(VOICE 2)** Cities, quote, "lit up," with units firing on all taxicabs, repeat, ALL taxicabs, because they were commanded by a lieutenant colonel to do so based upon a paranoid theory that quote, "the enemy" is using them for transportation.

**(VOICE 1)** Civilians accidentally shot and killed by troopers. Wink wink nudge nudge, quote, "Drop shovels" placed on the bodies. Transforming dead civilians posthumously into insurgents.

**(VOICE 4)** Maj. Gen. Dana Pittard, quote

**(VOICE 3)** “I have now come to the conclusion that suicide is an absolutely selfish act. I am personally fed up with soldiers who are choosing to take their own lives so that others can clean up their mess. Be an adult, act like an adult, and deal with your real-life problems like the rest of us.”

**(VOICE 1)** “At one point I was sitting there with a gun in my mouth.”

**(VOICE 2)** “He saw things, and did things he never could have imagined. He called me crying to ask if God was going to forgive him.”

**(VOICE 3)** “I feel invisible, Ma.”

**(VOICE 4)** Donald Rumsfeld, [Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Dec. 8, 2004], quote

**(VOICE 3)** “As you know, you go to war with the Army you have.”

**(VOICE 4)** **Desensitized troops: A glossary of acronyms**

**(VOICE 1)**

CV - Combat Veterans

M – Mission

MAM - Mission After Mission

MA – Mission Accomplished

PMA - Post Mission Accomplished

PPMA - Post Post Mission Accomplished

WBOL - War Based on Lies

CE - Combat Exposure

MCTs - Multiple Combat Tours

ND - Never Deployed

IEDs - Improvised Explosive Devices

Lied - Looking for Improvised Explosive Devices

Stadbarich - Staring Down the Barrels of Rifles at Children

Loweps - Loaded Weapons

DMAs - Daily Mortar Attacks

TBIs - Traumatic Brain Injuries

Tablohm - Tasting Blood in his Mouth

BB - Body Bagging

CB - Commo Blackout

BBs - Battle Buddies

BIBBs - Badly Injured Battle Buddies

DBBs - Dead Battle Buddies

WBBD- Watching Battle Buddies Dying

WBBD A&A - Watching Battle Buddies Dying Again and Again

Cocabodebbs – Collecting and Cataloging the Bodies of Dead Battle Buddies

GBBs - Ghosts of Battle Buddies

SN - Suicide Notes

BH - Back Home

**(VOICE 3)**

TMIB - The Man I Became  
 PTS - Post-Traumatic Stress  
 DD - Deep Depression  
 C&F - Confused and Frightened  
 Wuss - Wake Up Sweating and Shaking  
 SF - Shadows Following  
 Vos - Violent Outbursts  
 SMCs - Swelling Medicine Cabinets  
 SA - Substance Abuse  
 PSDs - Psychotropic Drugs  
 Ads - Anti-Depressants  
 S – Sedatives  
 MPMs - Misuse of Prescription Medications  
 PFP - Personal Financial Problems  
 FF autonehs - .45 automatic never leaves his side  
 F&H - Flashbacks and Hallucinations  
 CSR - Can't Stop Re-living  
 SCRA - Service Members Civil Relief Act  
 PPIs - Physical or Psychological Injuries  
 IAJP - Injuries Affecting Job Performance  
 FAFD - Forced to Apply for Full Disability  
 RVUR - Returning Veterans Unemployment Rate  
 RVHR - Returning Veterans Homelessness Rate  
 Slots - Sleeping on the Streets  
 NEIS - No End in Sight  
 MS - Military Suicides  
 AOPD - Average One Per Day  
 HSRH - Highest Suicide Rate in History  
 STNT - Suicides, the New Taliban  
 ASNS - Anti-Suicidal Nasal Spray  
 ISI - I'm Still in Iraq

**(VOICE 2) And Mr. Rumsfeld, as we all now know, you also come back from a war with the Army you have left.**

Pause

**(VOICE 3)** Afghanistan, 2002. Falling leaflets from the sky, offering bounties. A young family, an innocent man named Shaker Aamer. Digging wells, building girls' schools, sold for a price to the Americans, eleven years behind bars, no end in sight, a wish to die with dignity.

**(VOICE 1)** February, 2013, Gitmo. One hundred and sixty six prisoners, eighty six cleared for release, including Shaker Aamer, a hunger strike.

**(VOICE 2) And a US president with no political will.**

**(VOICE 3)** A force-feeding, a prisoner that weighs 77 pounds, now more than a hundred and thirty hunger-strikers, now more than twenty force feedings, including Shaker Aamer. Twice a day, no fixed time, scrambling nurses, restrained prisoners, tubes forced deep into stomachs, round the clock agony, humiliation, fainting, vomiting.

**(VOICE 4)** Long distances, a wife named Zinnira, a poem, a stanza:

*You show me light in the dark,  
And you guide me when I am lost,  
Your happiness is all I ask,  
But your story remains untold,  
Cause you have a heart of gold.*

**(VOICE 2) And a US president with no political will.**

**(VOICE 3)** Night raids, suspected insurgents, assassinations, crossfire, bombings, improvised explosive devices, previous wars, unexploded ordnance, cluster bombs, burn victims, past conflicts, new conflicts, unsafe roads, diseases, health care fall outs, no clean drinking water, malnutrition, droughts, floods, exacerbated exacerbations, continually at war since 1979, unmanned drones, no end in sight, invisible wounds....

**(VOICE 2) a legacy of amputees**

**(VOICE 4)** quote, "complex emergencies."

**(VOICE 1)** General Tommy Franks, quote

**(VOICE 3)** "you know we don't do body counts."

**Segment 6**

**(VOICE 1) Bradley Manning aided the truth**

**(VOICES 1 & 2) the truth**

**(VOICES 1, 2, & 3) truth**

**(VOICES 1, 2, 3 & 4) truth**

**(VOICE 3)** Bradley Manning, Quantico, Virginia, USA, 2010

**(VOICE 4) Truth**, Placed in a 6 x 8 windowless cell, constantly monitored, shackled, allowed only 20 minutes of quote, "sunshine call" a day. A florescent light keeps him up at night.

**(VOICE 1) Truth**, placed under continuous quote, "Person of Injury" status. Alone, no other detainees around him. Facilities under lockdown every time he ventures outside his cell. Imprisoned within a prison.



**(VOICE 4) Truth**, wearing lace-less athletic shoes that fall off every time he walks around the yard in figure-eights, a Brig guard's hand on his back. Three other guards stand by making figure-eights with their eyes.

**(VOICE 1) Truth**, only allowed non-contact visitors on Saturday's and Sunday's, including his Attorney's. Glass-partitioned, hands and legs restrained, monitored, audio recorded.

**(VOICE 4) Truth**, provided with quote, a "suicide mattress". A stiff tear-proof security blanket covering him. Rashes, carpet burns....a stiff tear-proof security blanket, rashes, carpet burns....a stiff tear-proof security blanket, rashes, carpet burns....a stiff tear-proof security blanket, fewer rashes, fewer carpet burns.

**(VOICE 1) Truth**, cold, adjusting. His face hidden behind his stiff tear-proof security blanket, curled up against the cell wall. Subject to constant monitoring, with Brig guards checking on him every five minutes, making notations in a log book.

**(EVERYBODY) Every five minutes**

**(VOICE 3) Truth** are you okay....truth, respond....are you okay?

**Small pause**

**(VOICE 2) Yessir**

**(VOICE 1) Qala-e-Khater, Kabul, October 28, 2001, It's 7:00 am, nine year old Farishta is kneeling by a window looking up at the sky at a US Navy fighter jet. A 500 lb GBU-12 laser-guided bomb drops down on Farishta's house, killing her instantly. The impact throws her one year old brother Sajid's body halfway across the house, ending up tangled in the family's living room carpet. Their father Sahib vividly remembers the scene: the boiling, choking cloud of dust, the screams, the neighbors' frantic, bare-handed scramble to pull bodies and survivors from the rubble. Dad hasn't seen another American face since, never received an apology, never been compensated. The Taliban did bring cotton to wrap his dead and also food, money and medical care for his wife's head injury.**

Baghdad, July 7, 2004, a frightened girl cries, holding her younger sibling as U.S. soldiers carrying out house-to-house searches near Martyrs' Square, kick down her front door.

....and the dust settles....for the time being. (Voice 1 walks away)

**(VOICE 4) Gunfire, car bombs, mortar rounds, roadside bombs, suicide truck bombs, suicide car bombs, suicide bombers, target: Pilgrims, Shiite pilgrims, a pilgrims procession, Shiite men in a car, Shiite pilgrims in a minibus, Shiite pilgrims on a bridge, Shiite pilgrims walking on road, Shiite pilgrims en route to Karbala, Shiite pilgrims returning from Karbala, Shiite pilgrims in buses and on foot, Shiite pilgrims near an Iraqi military checkpoint, Sunni worshipers, pilgrims travelling to Najaf, Shiite member of Baqouba provincial council, a Shiite Mahdi mosque....**

Baghdad, April 3, 2003, a wounded boy flashes a sign from his hospital bed, flashes a peace sign, with his mother sitting beside him.

...and the dust settles....for the time being. (Voice 4 walks away)

**(VOICE 2)** A farmer has precisely nothing left. He precisely lost his wife and five children. He now holds a piece of scrap metal that says "fin-guided missile", precisely. A farmer's family home now lies precisely in ruins. A farmer now stands precisely broken, beside it. He was asleep in his own home with his wife and five children when Precision came for him the night before from Afghan skies.

Another mother's eyes speak precisely, her head turned away. A hand lies precisely gently on her young daughter Wazera's forehead, whose eyes are closed precisely shut. She's alive, just precisely partially blind, now lying on a hospital bed. Precision came for her too from the Afghan skies.

...and the dust settles....for the time being. (Voice 2 walks away)

**(VOICE 3)** FRAGO 242 - Orders to ignore Iraq-on-Iraq torture, a mini green zone, a main library in Samara transformed into a torture chamber, blood dripping down sides of office desks, 14 year old boys with bodies blue, beaten with cables, tied to library columns hanging upside down, hallways filled with shouts of Allah! Allah! Allah! 2005-2006, a sectarian war, 3,000 tortured bodies found on the streets of Iraq every month. A man with Steely eyes dressed always in jeans and a leather jacket, in charge, in control, looks on.

Pause

Liberation has come to Fallujah, to stay. It came in the form of heavy munitions in the two large battles of 2004. It is now a lethal place for new-born babies. Five years on, one grave digger of a single cemetery buried four to five deformed babies a day. Young women terrified of having children so grotesquely deformed. For some of them....maybe a future of paralysis in the lower limbs.

Yes, uninvited lethally liberal liberation has come to ancient sites....to stay.

Truth, are you okay....truth, respond....are you okay? (Voice 3 walks away)

.....

Written by Priti Gulati Cox

'Truth', throughout the performance, refers to Army PFC Bradley Manning, the accused Wikileaks whistle-blower, who was held in solitary confinement for nearly nine months at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia starting from July 29, 2010. During this time, Manning was kept in MAX custody and under Person of Injury (POI) status. His court martial trial starts on June 3, 2013, by which time he would have spent over three years in prison without a trial.

"....In the event an insurgent attacked us from behind human shields, we were supposed to count. If there were thirty or less civilians we were allowed to fire into the area. If there were over thirty, we were supposed to take fire and send it up the chain of command. These were the rules of engagement. I don't know about you, but if you are getting shot at from a crowd of people, how fast are you going to count, and how accurately?" – *as told by an Iraq war veteran to Truthout.*

An Afghan immigrant with his lips sewn shut, is carried after collapsing during a one-month hunger strike in Athens....Six Afghans have sewn their lips shut as part of the protest, to pressure the Greek government into granting them refugee status. – *Associated Press, January 27, 2011.*

"....The higher the threat the more viciously we were permitted and expected to respond. Something else we were encouraged to do, almost with a wink and a nudge, was to carry 'drop weapons', or by my third tour, 'drop shovels' ....and make them look like an insurgent....So we actually carried these tools and weapons in our vehicles in case we accidentally shot an innocent civilian, we could just toss it on them....well, he was digging. I was within the rules of engagement. - *Winter Soldier hearings, March 13-16, 2008, Silver Spring, MD.*

For those feeling down in the dumps, the US military now has a solution: an anti-suicidal nasal spray that delivers antidepressant chemicals to the brain. The US Army has awarded a scientist at the Indiana University School of Medicine \$3 million to develop a nasal spray that eclipses suicidal thoughts....Dr. Ken Duckworth, medical director for the National Alliance on Mental Illness, told The Daily. "The nasal spray would stabilize them right away, while they wait for the [antidepressants] to do their job." – *RT.com, August 19, 2012*

Falluja was the scene of the only two setpiece battles that followed the US-led invasion. Twice in 2004.... Controversial weaponry was used, including white phosphorus, which the US government admitted deploying.... Doctors in Iraq's war ravaged enclave of Falluja are dealing with up to 15 times as many chronic deformities in infants, compared to a year ago, and a spike in early life cancers. - *The Guardian, 13 November 2009.*

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Performances so far:

October 27, 2012, The Sandberg Farm, Falun Road, Salina, Kansas.

Cast: David Van Tassel, Voice 1; Ann Marie Morris, Voice 2; Stan Cox, Voice 3; Sarah Crews, Voice 4

May 16, 2013, 555 Nonprofit Gallery and Studios, W Vernor Hwy, Detroit, MI

Cast: Alex Kime, Voice 1; Elizabeth Sutton, Voice 2; Gary Schwartz, Voice 3; Kathleen Rashid, Voice 4