

# REMEMBER FALLUJAH

In November 2004 the US - with British support - launched a massive assault on the Iraqi city of Fallujah. The scale of the attack - and its effect on civilians - was unprecedented in the bloody history of the invasion and occupation, yet the crimes committed in Fallujah received little attention here and have quickly been forgotten. One year on, *Voices in the Wilderness UK* look back at the events leading up to the assault, the attack itself, and how the lack of effective global protest led to many other towns and cities in Iraq facing similar treatment.

## Remember Fallujah: the truth about the occupation

This is the story of Fallujah, and how it became so famous and so dangerous; how it became a ruined city. It is also the story of how the United States - and Britain - became the problem in Iraq, not the solution. In April 2004, Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said, '[I]t was not the Americans who cast the first stone, either in Fallujah nor in the areas where they came under attack.' *Milan Rai* of JNV explains why this is a lie.

### The first massacres

In April 2003, US troops entered the peaceful city of Fallujah (which had not resisted the US-led invasion), occupying the local secondary school. On 28 April, an unarmed demonstration by local people demanding the withdrawal of the troops and the re-opening of the school was met with US gunfire. 13 civilians, including 3 teenagers, were killed.

The troops were probably responding to the sound of guns being fired in the air nearby to celebrate Saddam Hussein's birthday. British journalist Phil Reeves concluded that the soldiers were not fired on: 'There are no bullet marks on the facade of the school or the perimeter wall in front of it.' (*Independent on Sunday*, 4 May 2003, p. 17)

Despite this unprovoked atrocity, Fallujah continued to protest nonviolently. Another unarmed demonstration followed two days later.

At the demo, reporters from the *Daily Mirror* saw a young boy hurl a sandal at a US jeep. A soldier in the jeep, perhaps mistaking it for a grenade, unleashed a 20-second burst of his machine gun at 'a crowd of 1,000 unarmed people'. Two people were killed.

Reporter Chris Hughes said, 'We heard no warning to disperse and saw no guns or knives among the Iraqis whose religious and tribal leaders kept shouting through loudhailers to remain peaceful.' After the shooting, those in the crowd still standing—'now apparently insane with anger—ran at the fortress battering its walls with their fists. Many had tears pouring down their faces.' (*Daily Mirror*, 1 May 2003, p. 4)

### Turning to revenge

Two unprovoked massacres in three days. Fifteen unarmed civilians dead. No apology. No punishment of any soldiers. No withdrawal of troops.

The people of Fallujah, a city of 300,000, turned decisively to violence. Sheikh Jamil Ibrahim Mohammed said, 'What can you do if a man sees American troops kill his son, and then you see these same men on our streets every day? Of course he will seek revenge, especially if he sees there is no justice from the Americans.' (*Times*, 12 June 2003, p. 16)

'Everyone here was happy at first that the Americans threw out Saddam,' Ibrahim Hamad, a retired soldier, said. 'But these

killings will make all our children go off with bin Laden.' (*Reuters*, 1 May 2003)

### Impunity

The message of the April massacres was: US soldiers must prioritise their own safety, whatever the cost to the civilian population. Any potential threat may be destroyed, without fear of punishment.

These rules of engagement have been applied throughout the US zone of occupation. The resulting civilian deaths have fuelled and expanded the insurgency. This is how Fallujah and the wider 'Sunni triangle' became a hotbed of insurgency.

### The origins of insurgency

Amnesty International said in a July 2005 report: 'US forces have committed gross violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. They have not taken necessary precautions to minimize risk to civilians. They have used cluster weapons in bombing residential areas, which have resulted in the deaths of many civilians. They have used excessive force in responding to demonstrations, tortured and ill-treated detainees and made them "disappear". They have made arbitrary arrests and held people in prolonged incommunicado detention. These violations have incensed the Iraqi population, especially in the predominantly Sunni areas in central and western Iraq, and are believed to have fuelled the armed insurgency.' <[tinyurl.com/dovwa](http://tinyurl.com/dovwa)>

### Erased from history

The 28 and 30 April massacres were almost immediately erased from history. Reporting from Fallujah on a US operation on 16 June 2003, the *Telegraph* (p. 10), the *Guardian* (p. 10), and the *FT* (p. 6) all referred to anti-US attacks, and local hostility, without mentioning the massacres.

### Invasion mark 1 - April 2004

Since April 2003, there have been two major invasions of Fallujah (US forces were forced to withdraw from the city soon after the massacres). The first came after the killing, mutilation and public burning of four 'private military contractors' (mercenaries) by a massive crowd just outside Fallujah on 31 March 2004.

Five days earlier, US marines had swept through Fallujah killing 'at least six Iraqi civilians, including an 11-year-old boy, and a television cameraman'. (*Observer*, 28 March 2004 <[tinyurl.com/btaaz](http://tinyurl.com/btaaz)>) Could this have contributed to the crowd's hatred? The media did not ask.

At least one US battalion had 'orders to shoot any male of military age on the streets after dark, armed or not'. One US soldier told the *New York Times* 'he had seen an American helicopter fire a missile at a man with a slingshot. "Crazy huh?"' (*NYT*, 14 April 2004 <[tinyurl.com/dssy8](http://tinyurl.com/dssy8)>). According

*continued on page 2*

*"[It's] hard to differentiate between people who are insurgents or civilians. You just have to go with your gut feeling"*

*US Marine Major, Time, 11 April 2004*

*"My son got shrapnel in his stomach when our house was hit at dawn, but we couldn't take him for treatment. We just bandaged his stomach and gave him water, but he was losing a lot of blood. He died this afternoon"*

*Fallujah resident Mohammed Abboud, November 2004.*



*U.S. and Iraqi forces conduct patrol in Fallujah, 23 November 2004 (Reuters/HO/USM/Lance Corporal James J. Vooris). Four-fifths of the city's population fled Fallujah as the assault loomed. Many spent weeks in refugee camps in poor and freezing conditions and many tens of thousands have yet to return. 50% of the city's housing was destroyed or rendered uninhabitable during the attack - see p2.*



*Iraqis survey the crater outside the emergency hospital in Fallujah after it was destroyed during an overnight U.S. air raid conducted over the western city on 6 November 2004 (Reuters/Mohammed Faisal). Iraq's Red Crescent group sent seven truckloads of food and medicine to the city, but U.S. forces blocked the aid convoy at Fallujah's main hospital and said it could not enter. The convoy turned back after three days of frustration (Reuters, 15 Nov 2004).*

**EVENTS:** UK **Speaking tour of Rahul Mahajan**, U.S. activist and academic who was in Fallujah in 2004; **Film screenings** around the country including on 8 November, the anniversary of the assault, at the ICA, London and fund-raising screening in London with Rahul Mahajan; **Voices from Iraq conference**, 26 November, organised by Iraq Occupation Focus. See page 4 for all the events.



continued from page 1

to the local hospital director, 731 civilians were killed by US forces in Fallujah. <tinyurl.com/b8b2e> The invasion was halted by protests inside and outside Iraq, partly because of the loss of civilian life.

### Invasion mark 2 - November '04

In November 2004, there was another massive US assault (with direct British military support), but there were no large-scale protests either inside or outside Iraq, despite US Lt. Col Gareth Brandl's remark on the eve of battle that 'the enemy has got a face. He's called Satan. He lives in Falluja, and we're going to destroy him.' (*Times* <tinyurl.com/9dstv>)

US forces announced before the bombardment that men under the age of 45 trying to leave the city would be arrested. (*Sunday Telegraph*, 7 Nov. 2004 <tinyurl.com/bpfcf>) It was estimated that around 60,000 civilians but only between '600 to 6,000' fighters remained in Fallujah before the assault. It was reported that 'Anyone still in the city will be regarded as a potential insurgent.' (*Observer*, 7 Nov. 2004 <tinyurl.com/af53d>)

Dr Rafa'ah al-lyssaue, director of the main hospital in Fallujah reported to the UN after the invasion that more than 700 bodies had been recovered from the rubble in 9 out of the city's 27 neighbourhoods. 550 were women and children. <tinyurl.com/8vrdv>

### The pretext

The main justification offered for the November assault was the need to break the hold of 'the terrorists'. However, in October, 'local insurgent leaders voted overwhelmingly to accept broad conditions set by the Iraqi government, including demands that they eject foreign fighters from the city, turn over all heavy weapons, dismantle illegal checkpoints and allow the Iraqi National Guard to enter the city.'

True, the insurgents had their own conditions, 'which included a halt to U.S. attacks on the city and acknowledgment by the military that women and children have been among the casualties in U.S. strikes.' (*Washington Post*, 28 October, tinyurl.com/47axh>) But this might have achieved the bloodless exclusion of 'foreign fighters' and heavy weapons from the city, if this was indeed the purpose of the invasion. The offer was rejected out of hand.

A (mainly Sunni) coalition proposed 'a plan to establish the rule of law in those areas through peaceful means' on the basis of six measures, 'including a demand that U.S. forces remain confined to bases in the month before balloting' for the January elections. An official involved in establishing

the transitional government said this was 'very significant... If you look at their demands, they're not impossible. They are things that can be discussed.'

Larry Diamond, who served in the US-led occupation authority, said, 'If there's a chance that this could be the beginning of political transformation that could change the situation on the ground, I think we've got to take it.' (*WP*, 6 Nov. 2004 <tinyurl.com/6p69o>)

These proposals might not have worked. They were not tried.



In May 2002, Voices anti-sanctions campaigners met this group of boys in the Fallujah marketplace. On 14 February 1991 a bomb dropped by the RAF hit this marketplace in Fallujah killing an estimated 200 civilians. How many bombs have these boys suffered since?

### Saddam's path

The real purpose of the assault was to teach Fallujah a lesson in terror. A lesson that has been taught elsewhere since, including in Karabila, Qaim, and Tal Afar. Noted commentator Juan Cole remarks: 'the massive force employed clearly announces that a subsidiary goal is to terrify the Sunni Arab population and to "encourage" them to report on the guerrillas from now on... Saddam called this sort of policy "tarhib wa taqrib": first you terrify your subjects, then you find ways of pulling them close to you.' (29 June 2005 <tinyurl.com/7h598>) We follow Saddam's path.

### Conclusion

Pace Jack Straw, the US did 'throw the first stone' in Fallujah. With British support, and media self-censorship, the US continues to fuel the insurgency with its racist brutality. Remember Fallujah, and resist.

Justice Not Vengeance <www.j-n-v.org>

## Eyewitness Fallujah

**British activist Jo Wilding was in Fallujah during the April 2004 siege of the city. Here she describes her experience riding an ambulance in the city:**

'We wash the blood off our hands and get in the ambulance. There are people trapped in the other hospital who need to go to Baghdad. Siren screaming, lights flashing, we huddle on the floor of the ambulance, passports and ID cards held out the windows. We pack it with people, one with his chest taped together and a drip, one on a stretcher, legs jerking violently so I have to hold them down as we wheel him out, lifting him over steps.

'The doctor rushes out to meet me: "Can you go to fetch a lady, she is pregnant and she is delivering the baby too soon?"

'Azzam is driving, Ahmed in the middle directing him and me by the window, the visible foreigner, the passport. Something

scatters across my hand, simultaneous with the crashing of a bullet through the ambulance, some plastic part dislodged, flying through the window.

'We stop, turn off the siren, keep the blue light flashing, wait, eyes on the silhouettes of men in US marine uniforms on the corners of the buildings. Several shots come. We duck, get as low as possible and I can see tiny red lights whipping past the window, past my head. Some, it's hard to tell, are hitting the ambulance. I start singing. What else do you do when someone's shooting at you? A tyre bursts with an enormous noise and a jerk of the vehicle.

'I'm outraged. We're trying to get to a woman who's giving birth without any medical attention, without electricity, in a city under siege, in a clearly marked ambulance, and you're shooting at us. How dare you?'

## The "model city"

**More than 200,000 Iraqis fled the November 2004 assault on Fallujah, many of them forced to struggle to find food, shelter and medical provision in near-freezing temperatures. As of 8 August over a third of the city's 250,000 residents had yet to return (*Los Angeles Times*).**

Not long after the assault 'US commanders and Iraqi leaders ... declared their intention to make Fallujah a "model city"' (*Boston Globe*, 5 Dec). A 6pm curfew was instituted, graffiti and public gatherings made illegal, cars and visitors banned, and all men aged 15 to 55 required to carry special identification cards.

At one point the US even floated the idea of compelling Fallujah's men to join "work battalions" to clear rubble in the devastated city (the US State Department estimates that 25% of Fallujah's housing was rendered uninhabitable during the attack, a further 25% was severely damaged and 50% suffered light to moderate damage -

*Financial Times*, 14 April).

The first returnees found '[l]akes of sewage in the streets. The smell of corpses inside charred buildings. No water and electricity [and] [l]ong waits and thorough searches by US troops at checkpoints.' (*Los Angeles Times*, 30 Dec).

As of this April US forces were 'allowing in only documented residents, contractors, government officials or allied military forces ... pull[ing] aside men of military age for an iris scan and thumbprint (*Washington Post*, 19 April) and visiting US Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick heard a 'torrent of complaints' from members of the city council, 'focusing on such issues as the slow pace of reconstruction aid [and] frequent intimidation of citizens by US soldiers' (*Washington Post*, 14 April).

Since then, Fallujah has largely dropped off the media's horizon. However one thing is clear: one year on, the people of Fallujah are still waiting for justice.

## Torture, abuse and imprisonment

**Much of the current US military strategy in Iraq - in which 'mass detentions and indiscriminate torture appear to be the main tools' (*Financial Times*, 29 June) - can be seen in microcosm in Fallujah.**

For example, over 1450 people were detained during last November's assault on Fallujah (AP, 23 November 2004). Whilst at least 400 of these were released within a matter of weeks, those unfortunate enough to be transferred to the US-run prison Camp Bucca in southern Iraq face an average length of incarceration - usually without charge or trial - of a year (*Atlanta Journal Constitution*, 11 September). This despite the fact that the US commander who oversees Bucca estimates that one in four prisoners "perhaps were just snagged in a dragnet operation" or were victims of personal vendettas (at the end of June the US was holding over 10,000 Iraqis in detention).

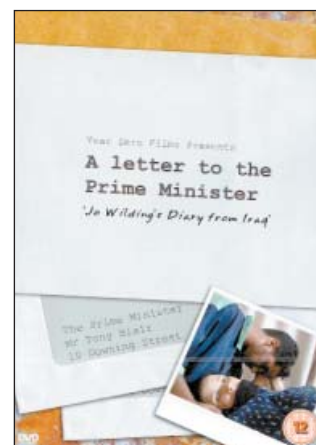
### Routine abuse

Meanwhile, three soldiers with the US Army's 82nd Airborne division have recently

described how their battalion - which was deployed at Forward Operating Base Mercury, just outside Fallujah - 'routinely used physical abuse and mental torture [of detainees] as a means of intelligence gathering and for stress relief' (Human Rights Watch, 17 September).

The torture and abuse took place almost daily during the entirety of the division's deployment at the base from September 2003 to April 2004 and 'was systematic and ... known at varying levels of command,' with military intelligence personnel 'direct[ing] and encouraging army personnel to subject prisoners to forced, repetitive exercise, sometimes to the point of unconsciousness, sleep deprivation for days on end, and exposure to extremes of heat and cold.'

Daily beatings were also incorporated in preparation for interrogations and broken bones occurred "every other week." "After Abu Ghraib things toned down," one of the soldiers explained. "It is still going on now the same way, I am sure. Maybe not as blatant but it is how we do things."



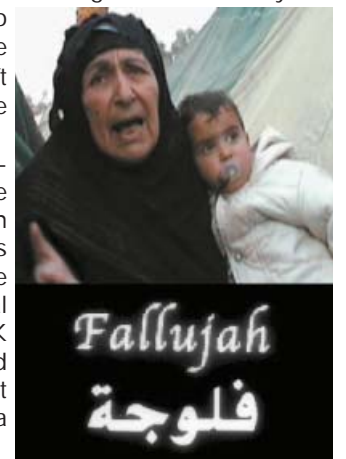
### A Letter to the Prime Minister: Jo Wilding's Diary from Iraq

A 71 min documentary about Jo Wilding's experiences in Iraq is available on DVD from Year Zero Films. See [www.alettertotheprimeminister.co.uk](http://www.alettertotheprimeminister.co.uk).

### Testimonies from Fallujah

(DVD 30 mins, NTSC Region 1, 2005, £10 from Voices incl p&p) Despite the scale of violence and carnage in Occupied Iraq, images of the suffering and abuses are remarkably scarce. The photographs of Abu Ghraib violations stand out partly because they surface out of an environment of visual absences. Nowhere epitomises this more than Fallujah where some of the most outrageous acts of the current Occupation have taken place, including last November's siege and assault by US forces. Yet there was no Western news crew inside the city, even Al-Jazeera had left which makes 'Fallujah' all the more important.

Comprising video testimonies from inside the besieged city, along with footage of injuries and civilians under fire, it provides a concise introduction to the historical roots of resistance to US/UK incursions into the city and conveys a real sense of what such attacks do to a community.



These, and other, films are being screened around the UK during November - see p4.



# REMEMBER FALLUJAH

[www.rememberfallujah.org](http://www.rememberfallujah.org)

War crimes  
in Fallujah



Wounded nine year old Iraqi girl Ahlam Sa'ad, who was shot in the neck, is carried by medical staff at a small clinic in the embattled town of Falluja April 8, 2004 (Reuters/Akram Saleh)

## After Fallujah: the ongoing attacks on Iraq's cities

In many respects the first siege of Fallujah set the pattern for subsequent US military operations in Iraq - a pattern which persists to this day. The following is far-from-comprehensive sample of subsequent attacks:

**19 May 2004:** US forces attack the tiny village of Mukaradeeb, killing 42 people - all civilians - including 11 women and 14 children (*Guardian*, 25 May). US claims that they were targeting a "safe house" for foreign fighters are rapidly discredited.

**August 2004:** Hundreds of civilians are killed during a month-long US assault on Najaf.

**28 August - 8 October:** at least 82 people, including nine children, are killed in a series of airstrikes on Fallujah.

**September / October 2004:** US-led forces attack Samarra and Tal Afar. Water and electricity are cut in both cities. 150,000

residents flee Tal Afar and the first 70 dead brought to Samara General Hospital, include 18 women and 23 children. US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld says, "What has to be done in [Iraq] is what basically was done in Samarra over the last 48 hours."

**8 November 2004:** US forces launch a massive assault on Fallujah, killing hundreds of civilians (see opposite).

**February 2005:** US-led forces attack Ramadi, Hit, Baghdadi and Haditha.

**7 May 2005:** US forces launch a massive assault on Qaim, killing scores of people, attacking the local hospital and forcing thousands to flee their homes.

**June 2005:** US forces attack Karabila and Qaim, killing at least 17 civilians. Iraq's deputy health minister warns of possible starvation among the 6,000 families who fled the assault.

**August 2005:** US-led forces attack Haditha, Haqlaniya and Barwana. One Haditha resident describes the bombs as 'falling like heavy rain' and claims to have witnessed marines kill two unarmed inhabitants. Forty civilians are killed in airstrikes in Husayba.

**2 September 2005:** US-led forces launch a massive assault on Tal Afar. The local hospital reports receiving cases of dead women and children. Tens of thousands of residents had fled the city in anticipation.

**1 October 2005:** 1,000 US troops backed by helicopters attack Sadah. Power and water are cut. Two families fleeing the fighting are shot dead, as is the driver of an ambulance called to the area.

**16 October 2005:** US airstrikes in western Iraq kill more than 70 people, including dozens of women and children, according to witnesses (*Guardian*, 18 Oct).

### April 2004

According to a detailed analysis of 300 contemporary news reports by Iraq Body Count ([www.iraqbodycount.org](http://www.iraqbodycount.org)) at least 572 of the roughly 800 reported deaths during the first US siege of Fallujah in April 2004 were civilians, with over 300 of these being women and children.

US forces committed major war crimes during the assault:

- Warplanes, fighter bombers, military helicopters and gunships were used to attack residential areas, killing many civilians. In one incident '16 children and eight women were reported to have been killed when US aircraft hit four houses' (*Independent*, 8 April).
- At least one [US] battalion had 'orders to shoot any male of military age on the streets after dark, armed or not' (*New York Times*, 14 April) and there were numerous press reports of US snipers firing on - and killing - unarmed civilians, including children.
- Several reports strongly suggested that US snipers targeted ambulances in Fallujah. Indeed, a UK national, Jo Wilding, was present in a clearly marked ambulance that she claims was shot at by US snipers.
- The city's main hospital was closed by marines and a sniper was placed on top of the hospital's water tower in violation of the Geneva Convention (*Guardian*, 24 April).

### November 2004

A high-ranking Red Cross official estimated that "at least 800 civilians" were killed in the first 9 days of the November 2004 assault on Fallujah (Inter Press Service, 16 November 2004) - an operation originally codenamed "Thanksgiving massacre" (*Telegraph*, 24 December 2004).

Once again US forces committed major war crimes:

- The city was placed 'under a strict night-time shoot-to-kill curfew' with 'anyone spotted in the soldiers' night vision sights...shot' (*Times*, 12 Nov 04)
- Male refugees were prevented from leaving the combat zone (AP, 13 Nov 04)
- US forces were filmed killing an unarmed, wounded Iraqi (*Guardian*, 16 Nov)
- US warplanes dropped 3 bombs on the Central Health Centre clinic, killing 35 patients (including 5 children under the age of ten) and 24 medical staff (*The Nation*, 13 Dec 04)
- Refugees from the city claimed that 'a large number of people, including children, were killed by American snipers' (*Independent*, 24 Nov 04).
- US forces used phosphorus weapons 'that create a screen of fire that cannot be extinguished with water' (*Washington Post*, 10 Nov 04).

**'Asked what he would tell Iraqis about televised images "of Americans and coalition soldiers killing innocent civilians," Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, the senior military spokesman in Iraq answered "Change the channel."'**  
(*New York Times*, 12 April).



## Why you should demand an end to the occupation of Iraq

- Because US-led forces have been one of the main causes of violent death in Iraq since the 2003 invasion (*A Dossier of Civilian Casualties 2003 - 2005*, IraqBodyCount.org, July 2005).
- Because US forces - and the US-trained and funded Iraqi Army - are currently pursuing a policy in which 'mass detentions and indiscriminate torture appear to be the main tools' (*Financial Times*, 29 June 2005).
- Because the occupation is making a full-blown civil war in Iraq more not less likely.
- Because the occupation is acting as a major recruiting agent for al-Qaeda and related groups, endangering both Iraqis and those of us here in the UK
- Because according to the available polls many Iraqis - including parts of Iraq's population most heavily repressed under Saddam - want the immediate withdrawal of the occupying forces, and a large majority of Iraq's Arab population - both Shia and Sunni - want an end to the occupation either now or soon (Zogby International Poll, 19 - 23 January 2005).

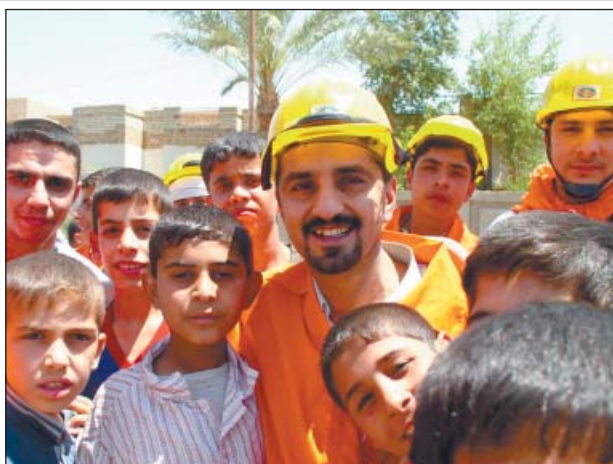
For more info. see Voices' briefing *Arguing Against the Occupation* (see tear-off slip below).



The assault on Fallujah in November 2004 led to a flurry of anti-war actions and protests around the country. Above: a spontaneous sit down protest in Whitehall after white flowers had been laid at the Cenotaph; below: an activist spray-paints the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (photos: Indymedia/Molly Cooper).

## Supporting work here and in Iraq

At *Remember Fallujah* events this November, Voices will be asking for donations to support two solidarity causes: the cost of bringing Iraqi speakers to the *Voices from Iraq* conference organised by Iraq Occupation Focus on 26 November (see Events), and to support the work of the Muslim Peacemaker Teams (MPT).



MPTers and young people at a mosque in Fallujah (www.cpt.org)

Muslim Peacemaker Teams formed at the end of 2004, drawing on the rich tradition of nonviolence within Islamic spirituality. In January 2005 they invited the international group Christian Peacemaker Teams (www.cpt.org) to assist them in their first nonviolence training course in Kerbala which, along with Najaf, is the home of many of the first MPT members. In April 2005, a year after the first invasion of Fallujah, MPT took a team of 18 Shia

Muslims, including 3 women, to the largely Sunni Arab town to serve their fellow Iraqis by cleaning the streets of rubble and litter. They prayed in a local mosque and were welcomed by Fallujans with a vast meal and a gift of Qu'rans to all the MPT members. MPT is planning to expand around the country and develop nonviolent initiatives to unite Iraqis and challenge the abuses of the occupation.

- Please put me on Voices' FREE mailing list
  - Please send me more information about JNV
  - I enclose a donation towards campaign costs £ \_\_\_\_\_
- (please make cheques payable to "Voices in the Wilderness UK")

Name.....

Address.....

email ..... tel: .....

Please send me (free unless stated):

- 1/ 10 / 25 / 50 (delete as appropriate) copies of this information sheet
- A copy of the Oct / Nov Voices UK newsletter
- A copy of Voices UK briefing *Arguing Against the Occupation*
- A copy the DVD *Testimonies from Fallujah* (NTSC Region 1), £10 incl p&p

Return this to: Voices in the Wilderness UK, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX

Remember Fallujah is an open call for events to mark the 1st anniversary of last year's assault on the city and to demand:

- compensation for the victims
- war crimes prosecutions for those responsible
- an end to the occupation

Remember Fallujah is sponsored by Brent Stop the War, Iraq Occupation Focus, Justice Not Vengeance, Sutton for Peace and Justice, Voices in the Wilderness UK and the Wrexham Peace and Justice Forum.

Events taking place during the month include:

### Speaking tour with Rahul Mahajan

"During the course of the roughly four hours we were at that small clinic, we saw perhaps a dozen wounded brought in. Among them was a young woman, 18 years old, shot in the head. She was seizing and foaming at the mouth when they brought her in; doctors did not expect her to survive the night" (Rahul Mahajan in Fallujah, April 2004).

Rahul Mahajan, a US author and activist, was in Fallujah during the April 2004 siege of the city. He is the author of "The New Crusade: America's War on Terrorism" ('A well-researched and carefully argued polemic' - Tariq Ali) and "Full Spectrum Dominance: US Power in Iraq and Beyond" and maintains the anti-war blog EmpireNotes.org. He is also a member of the Steering Committee of the US anti-war coalition United For Peace and Justice.

**18 Nov, Leicester:** 7.30. Friday Secular Hall, 75, Humberstone opp. Sainsburys. Org. by Leicester Campaign to Stop the War. 0116 2219459 or chrisgoodwin29@yahoo.com

**19 Nov, Norwich:** 1-3 p.m. at the Methodist Church, Chapelfield Rd, Norwich (behind Bignold School). Alongside Doug Jewell (Liberty) and Fahim Ahmed (Campaign Against Criminalising Communities). Contact: thepeaceforce@theatreofwar.org or 01986 892 723. See also 'Film Screenings', 19 Nov, below.

**20 Nov, Kettering:** 2:30 - 4:30pm, Quaker Meeting House, Northall Street, Kettering. Org. by Kettering Stop the War. 07855 988 073 or ketteringstopwar@btopenworld.com

**21 Nov, Bradford:** 7- 8.30pm, Richmond Building, University of Bradford. Org. by Yorkshire CND, Bradford Stop the War and the University of Bradford Students' Union. sarah@yorkshirecnd.org.uk or 01274 730 795.

**22 Nov, Edinburgh:** Org. by Word Power Books. Contact: books@word-power.co.uk or 0131 662 9112. Full details on-line at www.word-power.co.uk

**23 Nov, Glasgow:** 7pm, George Moore Building, Glasgow Caledonian University, 70 Cowcaddens Road, G4 0BA. Org. by Glasgow Troops Out. Info: troopsglasgow@yahoo.co.uk or 0141-334-8506.

**24 Nov, Bristol:** 7.30pm, The Malcolm X Centre, 141 City Road, BS2 8YH. With Eric Herring (see 'Film Screenings', 8 Nov below). Org. Bristol Stop the War. bristolstopwar@hotmail.com

**25 Nov, London:** see 'Film Screenings', 25 Nov below.

**26 Nov, London:** see 'Other Events', 26 Nov below.

**27 Nov, Sherborne:** 7.30pm, Methodist Hall, Cheap Street. Org. by Yeovil and Sherborne Stop the War. Contact 01935 873 028.

**28 Nov, Brighton:** 7.30pm, Bricthelm Centre, North Rd. Org. by the Hands Off Forum. www.watchingthewarmakers.org.uk.

For updates - or for more details on any of the above - see [www.rememberfallujah.org](http://www.rememberfallujah.org)

### Fallujah film screenings

**8 Nov, London:** *Occupation Dreamland* (award-winning documentary about marines in Fallujah) and *Testimonies from Fallujah*. 8.45pm, Institute for Contemporary Arts, The Mall, SW. www.ica.org.uk. Box office 0207 930 3647 (12 noon - 9.30pm). With Eric Herring, Senior Lecturer in International Politics, University of Bristol and co-author of the forthcoming book *Iraq in Fragments: The Occupation and its Legacy*.

**10 Nov, Hull:** *A letter to the prime minister* (see p2), 7.30pm, Hull Screen, Albion St.

**10 Nov, Wrexham:** *Testimonies from Fallujah* and *A letter to the Prime Minister*. 7pm, Trinity Church, King St. Org. by Wrexham Peace and Justice Forum. Free entry but a collection will be made for Child Victims of War. 7pm Wrexham. wrexhamsaw@yahoo.com

**11 Nov, Reading:** *Testimonies*. 8-10pm, Reading International Solidarity Centre, 35-39 London St, RG1 4PS. 0118 967 1362

**12 Nov, Enfield:** *A letter to the Prime Minister*. Free but donations for the film-maker welcome! Org. by Films in the Yurt. 7-9.30pm, The Yurt, 28 Abbots Road, New Barnet, Herts. Contact 0208 441 8903. See also [www.breathinginspacearts.co.uk](http://www.breathinginspacearts.co.uk).

**14 Nov, London:** *A letter to the Prime Minister*. 7pm, London Action Resource Centre, 62 Fieldgate St, E1 1ES. Sugg. Donation £6/£3. Fundraiser for IOF teach-in on 26 Nov (see 'Other events' below).

**15 Nov, London:** *Testimonies from Fallujah* and *Fallujah: April 2004*. 7pm, Inn on the Green, 3 Thorpe Close, W10 (nearest tube Ladbroke Grove). Organised by Filmmakers Against the War. Contact euandonaldson@onetel.com or 0777929 4342.

**19 Nov, Norwich:** Screening of *Testimonies from Fallujah* with **Rahul Mahajan** (see Speaking Tour above). 7pm, United Reform Church, Prince's Street. Org. by Norwich Stop the War. Tel. 01603 270 420.

**24 Nov, Southend:** *Testimonies from Fallujah* 7.30pm, Utopia Cafe (in the Royales in the street opposite BHS). Org. by Southend CND. irene.willis@tiscali.co.uk or 01268 682 820.

**25 Nov, London:** Special fund-raising screening of *Testimonies from Fallujah* with **Rahul Mahajan**. 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, 173 Euston Rd, NW1. All proceeds split between Muslim Peacemaker Teams (working in Iraq) and IOF teach-in.

### Other events

**8 Nov, Southend:** *Vigil to mark the 1st anniversary of last November's assault on Fallujah*. 1-3pm, in the High Street near the clock. Org. by Southend Women in Black. Contact 01702 305 303.

**13 Nov, Oxford:** *Workshop at Shared Planet 2005: Ending the Occupation of Iraq*, 2 - 3.30pm. See <http://peopleandplanet.org/sp2005/>. Facilitated by Voices UK. With screening of *Testimonies from Fallujah* (technology permitting!).

**14 Nov, Wrexham:** *Vigil to remember the attacks on Fallujah*. Plas Coch Roundabout, Mold Rd, Wrexham. From 5pm. Please bring banners, placards and nightlights. Org. by Wrexham Peace and Justice Forum. wrexhamsaw@yahoo.com or 0845 330 4505.

**26 Nov, London:** *Voices from Occupied Iraq* an international teach-in. Speakers include Gilbert Achcar, Hassan Juma'a (General Union of Oil Employees, Basra), Rahul Mahajan (see 'Speaking Tour' above) and Haifa Zangana. 10am - 5pm, University of London Union. £7 / £3. Org. by Iraq Occupation Focus. [www.iraqoccupationfocus.org.uk](http://www.iraqoccupationfocus.org.uk)

This information sheet has been produced by Voices in the Wilderness UK.

Voices UK ([www.voicesuk.org](http://www.voicesuk.org)) has been campaigning on UK policy towards Iraq, in solidarity with ordinary Iraqis, since February 1998. Amongst other things Voices UK produces a bi-monthly newsletter on Iraq (see tear-off slip to order a FREE copy).

Voices would like to thank Justice not Vengeance for the article on page 1. JNV ([www.j-n-v.org](http://www.j-n-v.org)) developed out of ARROW (Active Resistance to the Roots of War), a non-violent direct action affinity group set up in September 1990 to oppose the Gulf War. Amongst other things JNV is currently producing a daily analysis and commentary on media coverage of the "war on terror" in the wake of the 7/7 bombings in London.