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Truth Justice Peace » Human Shield Action to Iraq

On the 25th of January, 2003, thirty human shield volunteers and three double-decker buses left London to pick up other volunteers throughout Europe on their way to Iraq. At their peak in Iraq they numbered approximately 500.

The action's primary goal, **instigated** by Ken O'Keefe, was simple; get thousands of (mostly white) Westerners to Iraq to make the bombing and invasion of Iraq politically untenable. In this goal the action obviously failed, not in the least because of time constraints.

But this was not the only goal. As it became increasingly clear that the U.S. would invade Iraq a secondary goal was developed; volunteers would place themselves at strategic sites critical to the well-being of Iraqi civilians in order to make the bombing of these sites politically untenable.



Two water plants, two power plants, a food silo, a communications facility and an oil refinery were chosen. Along with others the U.S. and UK governments were notified of these positions. It is a war crime to harm infrastructure critical to civilian well-being, however this did not stop the U.S. from targeting and bombing these sites in the 1991 Gulf War, causing untold suffering for millions of Iraqis (of whom just under half are children).

Of these sites only one was bombed in 2003; the communications facility, a day after the human shields pulled out of it.

It is difficult to know to what extent this action had an effect, but we do know that were it not for the pressure brought to bear on our governments by the unprecedented size of the global peace movement and the implementation of our secondary goal the fanatic war criminals currently in power may well have bombed these sites as they did in 1991.

The humanshields.org website is currently inactive. Please see [P10K \(Palestine 10 000\)](#).

Some clarifications and explanations:

When you are a part of an action like this, and you are able to read the "news" about the action as it unfolds, it can be quite an eye-opener as to how the profit-driven media really works, even if you thought you knew a lot about it already. You get to know very quickly who the good journalists are, who the lazy journalists are and who the outright liars are. What follows are some of the better examples resulting from the fact that the last two groups make up a frighteningly large proportion of journalists.

The "Human Shields Go Home" banner on Faux News: On the 9th of April, 2003, subsequent to the fall of Baghdad, it appears that two Iraqi men held open a large banner outside the Palestine Hotel along the lines of "Human Shields go Home." In fact the banner was one of our own on which the word "HUMANSHIELDS" had been printed in black. One of our more passionate volunteers used the first thing she could find as a makeshift banner

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when she had heard that the U.S. military would soon arrive outside Palestine Hotel and spray-painted "GO HOME YOU U.S. WANKERS" on it in red paint. Next time she'll hopefully turn it over first. [See the banner](#) for yourself.

Of course 'wanker' is certainly not a word you would typically hear uttered from the mouth of an Iraqi. The events surrounding this photo have been widely acknowledged as a Pentagon-staged media stunt, so it would be interesting to meet the two men holding this banner and find out who they really are and/or what they really think. They may not even have understood what the banner could mean but noticed that journalists laughed at it, and took pictures, as the journalists believed the expletive referred to the human shields. Now here's [another banner](#), Fallujah, Iraq 1st May 2003. You be the judge.

Daniel Pepper and the "I was a naive fool to be a human shield for Saddam"

article in the Sunday Telegraph: On the 23rd March, 2003, an article appeared in the UK's Sunday Telegraph (then owned by Conrad Black) under the title, "I was a naive fool to be a human shield for Saddam," and was said to be written by Daniel Pepper, a photographer and volunteer on the human shield action to Iraq. In fact he did not write the article and it has [since been removed](#) but you can find copies of it by doing a search for the title. Daniel was stitched up, this is his comment on the matter:

soory - didn't get this previous email.? am in kurdistan now, northern iraq.
things are going well but i have very little time for internet.? check out this
though, let me know if it helps.

<http://www.chicagomediaexaminer.com/v05n05.htm>

?i'll try to get you the letter i sent in to my home town paper clearing my
name?after they ran the article.

take care,

?d

Who is "Rev. Ken Joseph Jr."? This character is said to have been a human shield volunteer who changed his mind once he had arrived in Iraq on the basis that an Iraqi man had told him "we don't want peace, we want the war to come," a story which gained traction in the corporate media just before the invasion. He appears to be a missionary campaigning for some kind of religiously motivated "Assyrian Independence" and the restoration of the ancient Assyrian Empire. He never registered with the Human Shield Action to Iraq and no one, it seems, ever meet him. His presence in Iraq, in deed if he was there at all, appears to have been motivated by his campaign for "Assyrian Independence" rather than the welfare of the Iraqi people in the face of an invasion.