

## Dedication Speech Iraq Memorial to Life, 3/14/10

Hello all you wet people. I do appreciate your coming in the rainy day to honor my people. But my people are not only the dead. There are millions of Iraqis who thank you for being here.

7 years ago, on March the 20<sup>th</sup> Operation Iraqi Freedom began. Liberating Iraq!....moments I cannot forget and I know what each marker does represent....it is not a paper we put to remember innocent people who have been killed for no reason, they represent years of suffering and sadness.....these people had their own dreams and lives, joys and sorrows ...they had their own precious moments with their beloved ones....these markers represent you and me and the millions who lived in the big lie of liberating Iraq and bringing democracy to Iraqis.

I am an Iraqi. It is hard for me to look at my people in these papers. Each paper takes me back to the pain and arouses the hidden anger for what has happened. Memories come; of old days and the peace we used to live; memories of believing a lie. These names remind me of the bodies I used to see when I went to school. Maybe each one of these, when they left their house, used to say their goodbyes the way I did, as if it might be for the last time. And for them it was. I could be one of them.

Seven years ...Iraq still bleeding, hoping and waiting for real peace ....trying to keep their last drop of hope day after day to see a free Iraq....But how? Tell me how...and the troops still there doing nothing , bombs still exploded almost every day. Killing and kidnapping forced the majority to flee and mourn their beloved ones by writing their names on a piece of paper just the way we do now.

If your life is precious, ours are too....you have to stop this lie, say..‘no more lies in your names’.

You have to do something. Not only by honoring the death every year but you have to admit your responsibility to the live people there. Don't forget them because Iraq is still occupied and the mission is not accomplished yet...there are millions of children and orphans who are in need for your help , millions of widows and millions of handicapped...there are hospitals without professionals , damaged governmental building and above all... Iraq is not liberated yet!

Let your actions reflect your words ...7 years are more than enough.

Nisreen

Teacher, Iraqi, teaching from United States