

4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of U.S. Invasion of Iraq

# Crumbling Reasons for Iraq War

## *U.S. Lies about Halabja Incident*



Halabja - March 16, 1988



Azores - March 16, 2003

**Public and secret documents tell the inside story of how the U.S. government lied about poison gas casualties in the Kurdish town of Halabja during the Iran-Iraq war to justify the U.S. invasion of Iraq. They also reveal the real motivations for war.**



*Dr. Sharat G. Lin writes on the Middle East and the global economy. He shows how duplicity in the name of "national interest" pervades U.S. foreign policy. After four years of war, the second longest in U.S. history, he also discusses the mounting threat to Iran and an alternative road to peace.*

### Friday, March 16

6:30 pm - Refreshments and reception  
7:00 pm - Presentation by Dr. Sharat G. Lin

**Join us!**

**San José Peace Center**  
48 South Seventh St., San José  
\$5 - \$15 donation — Students free  
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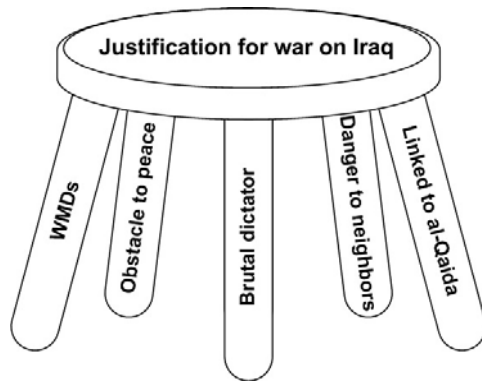
# Halabja: Crumbling Reasons for Iraq War

## *Is Iran Next?*

“On this very day 15 years ago, Saddam Hussein launched a chemical weapons attack on the Iraqi village of Halabja,” George W. Bush proclaimed at the Azores summit on March 16, 2003. “If military force is required, we’ll quickly seek new Security Council resolutions to encourage broad participation in the process of helping the Iraqi people to build a free Iraq.” Failing to get another Security Council resolution to authorize the use of military force, he went ahead anyway. Within four days’ time, U.S. missiles and bombers would be headed towards Baghdad with their devastating and deadly payloads.

The Halabja tragedy was the centerpiece of Bush’s justification for war and the timing of the invasion. Ignored by Washington when gassed in 1988, and again forgotten after Saddam was deposed, Halabja’s victims had become a geopolitical football.

Among Bush’s five reasons for war, all but one have long since been thoroughly discredited. Only the notion that Saddam Hussein was a brutal dictator remained. But this was partly based on fabricated accusations that the chemical weapons attack on Halabja was a premeditated military experiment on Kurdish civilians and that its sole purpose was collective punishment of Iraq’s autonomy-seeking Kurdish minority.



The Bush administration has deliberately concealed the true circumstances leading up to the Halabja attack. But blinded by their own deceptions, policymakers in Washington could not possibly have come to terms with the quagmire they were about to enter into in Iraq.

Now with eyes set on a supposed nuclear threat from Iran and alleging Iranian support for the insurgency in Iraq, the Bush administration is laying mythical foundations for attacking Iran with nuclear weapons. Meanwhile, the U.S. shields apartheid Israel’s advanced nuclear arsenal from international scrutiny.

**What is the true story of Halabja? What were the real reasons for war on Iraq? Is fighting in Iraq dominated by sectarian violence or resistance to occupation? Is Iran next?**

*Sharat G. Lin will discuss these questions and more. He writes on the Middle East, India, global political economy, labor, and the environment. His articles include “Economic roots of conflict in the new world order” and “Who started it? Chronology of the latest crisis in the Middle East.”*

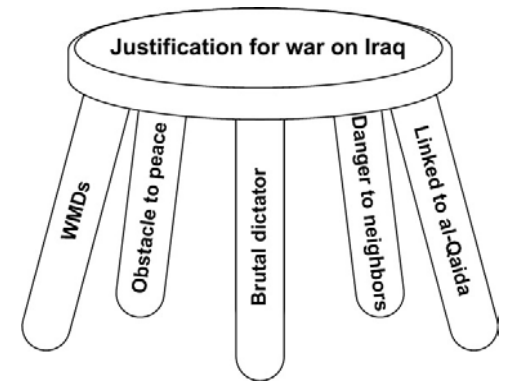
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