

**Subject: FW: "Blood on His Hands", John Pilger, ITV.com**

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> > > > *'Blood On His Hands'*  
> > > > *By John Pilger ITV.com*  
> > > > *1-30-3*  
> > > >  
> > > > *William Russell, the great correspondent who reported the carnage of*  
> > > > *imperial wars, may have first used the expression "blood on his*  
> > > > *hands"*  
> > > *to*  
> > > > *describe impeccable politicians who, at a safe distance, order the*  
> > > > *mass*  
> > > > *killing of ordinary people.*  
> > > >  
> > > > *In my experience "on his hands" applies especially to those modern*  
> > > > *political*  
> > > > *leaders who have had no personal experience of war, like George W*  
> > > > *Bush,*  
> > > > *who*  
> > > > *managed not to serve in Vietnam, and the effete Tony Blair.*  
> > > >  
> > > > *There is about them the essential cowardice of the man who causes*  
> > > > *death*  
> > > > *and*  
> > > > *suffering not by his own hand but through a chain of command that*  
> > > > *affirms*  
> > > > *his "authority".*  
> > > >  
> > > > *In 1946 the judges at Nuremberg who tried the Nazi leaders for war*  
> > > > *crimes*  
> > > > *left no doubt about what they regarded as the gravest crimes against*  
> > > > *humanity.*  
> > > >  
> > > > *The most serious was unprovoked invasion of a sovereign state that*  
> > > > *offered*  
> > > > *no threat to one's homeland. Then there was the murder of civilians,*  
> > > > *for*  
> > > > *which responsibility rested with the "highest authority".*  
> > > >  
> > > > *Blair is about to commit both these crimes, for which he is being*  
> > > > *denied*  
> > > > *even the flimsiest United Nations cover now that the weapons*  
> > > > *inspectors*  
> > > > *have*  
> > > > *found, as one put it, "zilch".*  
> > > >  
> > > > *Like those in the dock at Nuremberg, he has no democratic cover.*  
> > > >  
> > > > *Using the archaic "royal prerogative" he did not consult parliament*  
> > > > *or*  
> > > > *the*  
> > > > *people when he dispatched 35,000 troops and ships and aircraft to*  
> > > > *the*  
> > > > *Gulf;*  
> > > > *he consulted a foreign power, the Washington regime.*  
> > > >  
> > > > *Unelected in 2000, the Washington regime of George W Bush is now*  
> > > > *totalitarian, captured by a clique whose fanaticism and ambitions of*  
> > > > *"endless war" and "full spectrum dominance" are a matter of record.*  
> > > >  
> > > > *All the world knows their names: Bush, Rumsfeld, Rice, Wolfowitz,*

> Cheney  
> > > and  
> > > > Perle, and Powell, the false liberal. Bush's State of the Union  
speech  
> > > last  
> > > > night was reminiscent of that other great moment in 1938 when Hitler  
> > > called  
> > > > his generals together and told them: "I must have war." He then had  
> it.  
> > > >  
> > > > To call Blair a mere "poodle" is to allow him distance from the  
> killing  
> > of  
> > > > innocent Iraqi men, women and children for which he will share  
> > > > responsibility.  
> > > >  
> > > > He is the embodiment of the most dangerous appeasement humanity has  
> > known  
> > > > since the 1930s. The current American elite is the Third Reich of  
our  
> > > times,  
> > > > although this distinction ought not to let us forget that they have  
> > merely  
> > > > accelerated more than half a century of unrelenting American state  
> > > > terrorism: from the atomic bombs dropped cynically on Japan as a  
> signal  
> > of  
> > > > their new power to the dozens of countries invaded, directly or by  
> > proxy,  
> > > to  
> > > > destroy democracy wherever it collided with American "interests",  
such  
> > as  
> > > a  
> > > > voracious appetite for the world's resources, like oil.  
> > > >  
> > > > When you next hear Blair or Straw or Bush talk about "bringing  
> democracy  
> > > to  
> > > > the people of Iraq", remember that it was the CIA that installed the  
> > > Ba'ath  
> > > > Party in Baghdad from which emerged Saddam Hussein.  
> > > >  
> > > > "That was my favourite coup," said the CIA man responsible. When you  
> > next  
> > > > hear Blair and Bush talking about a "smoking gun" in Iraq, ask why  
the  
> > US  
> > > > government last December confiscated the 12,000 pages of Iraq's  
> weapons  
> > > > declaration, saying they contained "sensitive information" which  
> needed  
> > "a  
> > > > little editing".  
> > > >  
> > > > Sensitive indeed. The original Iraqi documents listed 150 American,  
> > > British  
> > > > and other foreign companies that supplied Iraq with its nuclear,  
> > chemical  
> > > > and missile technology, many of them in illegal transactions. In  
2000  
> > > Peter  
> > > > Hain, then a Foreign Office Minister, blocked a parliamentary  
request  
> to

> > > > *publish the full list of lawbreaking British companies. He has never*  
> > > > *explained why.*  
> > > >  
> > > > *As a reporter of many wars I am constantly aware that words on the*  
> *page*  
> > > *like*  
> > > > *these can seem almost abstract, part of a great chess game*  
unconnected  
> > *to*  
> > > > *people's lives.*  
> > > >  
> > > > *The most vivid images I carry make that connection. They are the end*  
> > > *result*  
> > > > *of orders given far away by the likes of Bush and Blair, who never*  
> *see,*  
> > *or*  
> > > > *would have the courage to see, the effect of their actions on*  
ordinary  
> > > > *lives: the blood on their hands.*  
> > > >  
> > > > *Let me give a couple of examples. Waves of B52 bombers will be used*  
in  
> > *the*  
> > > > *attack on Iraq. In Vietnam, where more than a million people were*  
> *killed*  
> > > *in*  
> > > > *the American invasion of the 1960s, I once watched three ladders of*  
> > *bombs*  
> > > > *curve in the sky, falling from B52s flying in formation, unseen*  
above  
> > *the*  
> > > > *clouds.*  
> > > >  
> > > > *They dropped about 70 tons of explosives that day in what was known*  
as  
> > *the*  
> > > > *"long box" pattern, the military term for carpet bombing. Everything*  
> > > *inside*  
> > > > *a "box" was presumed destroyed.*  
> > > >  
> > > > *When I reached a village within the "box", the street had been*  
> *replaced*  
> > *by*  
> > > *a*  
> > > > *crater.*  
> > > >  
> > > > *I slipped on the severed shank of a buffalo and fell hard into a*  
ditch  
> > > > *filled with pieces of limbs and the intact bodies of children thrown*  
> > *into*  
> > > > *the air by the blast.*  
> > > >  
> > > > *The children's skin had folded back, like parchment, revealing veins*  
> *and*  
> > > > *burnt flesh that seeped blood, while the eyes, intact, stared*  
straight  
> > > > *ahead. A small leg had been so contorted by the blast that the foot*  
> > *seemed*  
> > > > *to be growing from a shoulder. I vomited.*  
> > > >  
> > > > *I am being purposely graphic. This is what I saw, and often; yet*  
even  
> *in*  
> > > > *that "media war" I never saw images of these grotesque sights on*  
> > > *television*

> > > > or in the pages of a newspaper.  
> > > >  
> > > > I saw them only pinned on the wall of news agency offices in Saigon  
as  
> a  
> > > > kind of freaks' gallery.  
> > > >  
> > > > SOME years later I often came upon terribly deformed Vietnamese  
> children  
> > > in  
> > > > villages where American aircraft had sprayed a herbicide called  
Agent  
> > > > Orange.  
> > > >  
> > > > It was banned in the United States, not surprisingly for it  
contained  
> > > > Dioxin, the deadliest known poison.  
> > > >  
> > > > This terrible chemical weapon, which the cliché-mongers would now  
call  
> a  
> > > > weapon of mass destruction, was dumped on almost half of South  
> Vietnam.  
> > > >  
> > > > Today, as the poison continues to move through water and soil and  
> food,  
> > > > children continue to be born without palates and chins and scrotums  
or  
> > are  
> > > > stillborn. Many have leukaemia.  
> > > >  
> > > > You never saw these children on the TV news then; they were too  
> hideous  
> > > for  
> > > > their pictures, the evidence of a great crime, even to be pinned up  
on  
> a  
> > > > wall and they are old news now.  
> > > >  
> > > > That is the true face of war. Will you be shown it by satellite when  
  
> > Iraq  
> > > is  
> > > > attacked? I doubt it.  
> > > >  
> > > > I was starkly reminded of the children of Vietnam when I travelled  
in  
> > Iraq  
> > > > two years ago. A paediatrician showed me hospital wards of children  
> > > > similarly deformed: a phenomenon unheard of prior to the Gulf war in  
> > 1991.  
> > > >  
> > > > She kept a photo album of those who had died, their smiles undimmed  
on  
> > > grey  
> > > > little faces. Now and then she would turn away and wipe her eyes.  
> > > >  
> > > > More than 300 tons of depleted uranium, another weapon of mass  
> > > > destruction,  
> > > > were fired by American aircraft and tanks and possibly by the  
British.  
> > > >  
> > > > Many of the rounds were solid uranium which, inhaled or ingested,  
> > > > causes  
> > > > cancer. In a country where dust carries everything, swirling through  
> > > > markets


> > > > and playgrounds, children are especially vulnerable.  
> > > >  
> > > > For 12 years Iraq has been denied specialist equipment that would  
> allow  
> > > its  
> > > > engineers to decontaminate its southern battlefields.  
> > > >  
> > > > It has also been denied equipment and drugs that would identify and  
> > treat  
> > > > the cancer which, it is estimated, will affect almost half the  
> > population  
> > > in  
> > > > the south.  
> > > >  
> > > > LAST November Jeremy Corbyn MP asked the Junior Defence Minister  
Adam  
> > > Ingram  
> > > > what stocks of weapons containing depleted uranium were held by  
> British  
> > > > forces operating in Iraq.  
> > > >  
> > > > His robotic reply was: "I am withholding details in accordance with  
> > > > Exemption 1 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government  
> > Information."  
> > > >  
> > > > Let us be clear about what the Bush-Blair attack will do to our  
fellow  
> > > human  
> > > > beings in a country already stricken by an embargo run by America  
and  
> > > > Britain and aimed not at Saddam Hussein but at the civilian  
> population,  
> > > who  
> > > > are denied even vaccines for the children. Last week the Pentagon in  
> > > > Washington announced matter of factly that it intended to shatter  
Iraq  
> > > > "physically, emotionally and psychologically" by raining down on its  
> > > people  
> > > > 800 cruise missiles in two days.  
> > > >  
> > > > This will be more than twice the number of missiles launched during  
> the  
> > > > entire 40 days of the 1991 Gulf War.  
> > > >  
> > > > A military strategist named Harlan Ullman told American television:  
> > "There  
> > > > will not be a safe place in Baghdad. The sheer size of this has  
never  
> > been  
> > > > seen before, never been contemplated before."  
> > > >  
> > > > The strategy is known as Shock and Awe and Ullman is apparently its  
> > proud  
> > > > inventor. He said: "You have this simultaneous effect, rather like  
the  
> > > > nuclear weapons at Hiroshima, not taking days or weeks but minutes."  
> > > >  
> > > > What will his "Hiroshima effect" actually do to a population of whom  
> > > almost  
> > > > half are children under the age of 14?  
> > > >  
> > > > The answer is to be found in a "confidential" UN document, based on  
> > World  
> > > > Health Organisation estimates, which says that "as many as 500,000  
> > people

> > > > could require treatment as a result of direct and indirect injuries".  
> > > >  
> > > > A Bush-Blair attack will destroy "a functioning primary health care system"  
> > > > and deny clean water to 39 per cent of the population. There is "likely  
> > > [to  
> > > > be] an outbreak of diseases in epidemic if not pandemic proportions".  
> > > >  
> > > > It is Washington's utter disregard for humanity, I believe, together  
> > with  
> > > > Blair's lies that have turned most people in this country against them,  
> > > > including people who have not protested before.  
> > > >  
> > > > Last weekend Blair said there was no need for the UN weapons inspectors  
> > to  
> > > > find a "smoking gun" for Iraq to be attacked.  
> > > >  
> > > > Compare that with his reassurance in October 2001 that there would be  
> > no  
> > > > "wider war" against Iraq unless there was "absolute evidence" of Iraqi  
> > > > complicity in September 11. And there has been no evidence.  
> > > >  
> > > > Blair's deceptions are too numerous to list here. He has lied about  
> > the  
> > > > nature and effect of the embargo on Iraq by covering up the fact that  
> > > > Washington, with Britain's support, is withholding more than \$5billion  
> > > worth  
> > > > of humanitarian supplies approved by the Security Council.  
> > > >  
> > > > He has lied about Iraq buying aluminium tubes, which he told  
> > Parliament  
> > > were  
> > > > "needed to enrich uranium". The International Atomic Energy Agency has  
> > > > denied this outright.  
> > > >  
> > > > He has lied about an Iraqi "threat", which he discovered only  
> > following  
> > > > September 11 2001 when Bush made Iraq a gratuitous target of his "war  
> > on  
> > > > terror". Blair's "Iraq dossier" has been mocked by human rights  
> > groups.  
> > > >  
> > > > However, what is wonderful is that across the world the sheer force of  
> > of  
> > > > public opinion isolates Bush and Blair and their lemming, John Howard  
> > in  
> > > > Australia.  
> > > >  
> > > > So few people believe them and support them that The Guardian this  
> > week  
> > > went  
> > > > in search of the few who do - "the hawks". The paper published a list  
> > of

> > > > *celebrity warmongers, some apparently shy at describing their  
> contortion  
> > > of  
> > > > intellect and morality. It is a small list.  
> > > >  
> > > > IN CONTRAST the majority of people in the West, including the United  
> > > States,  
> > > > are now against this gruesome adventure and the numbers grow every  
> day.  
> > > >  
> > > > It is time MPs joined their constituents and reclaimed the true  
> > authority  
> > > of  
> > > > parliament. MPs like Tam Dalyell, Alice Mahon, Jeremy Corbyn and  
> George  
> > > > Galloway have stood alone for too long on this issue and there have  
> been  
> > > > too  
> > > > many sham debates manipulated by Downing Street.  
> > > >  
> > > > If, as Galloway says, a majority of Labour backbenchers are against  
> an  
> > > > attack, let them speak up now.  
> > > >  
> > > > Blair's figleaf of a "coalition" is very important to Bush and only  
> the  
> > > > moral power of the British people can bring the troops home without  
> them  
> > > > firing a shot.  
> > > >  
> > > > The consequences of not speaking out go well beyond an attack on Ira  
> q.  
> > > > Washington will effectively take over the Middle East, ensuring an  
> age  
> > of  
> > > > terrorism other than their own.  
> > > >  
> > > > The next American attack is likely to be Iran - the Israelis want  
> this -  
> > > and  
> > > > their aircraft are already in place in Turkey. Then it may be  
> China's  
> > > turn.  
> > > >  
> > > > "Endless war" is Vice-President Cheney's contribution to our  
> > > understanding.  
> > > >  
> > > > Bush has said he will use nuclear weapons "if necessary". On March  
> 26  
> > last  
> > > > Geoffrey Hoon said that other countries "can be absolutely confident  
> > that  
> > > in  
> > > > the right conditions we would be willing to use our nuclear  
> weapons".  
> > > >  
> > > > Such madness is the true enemy. What's more, it is right here at  
> home  
> > and  
> > > > you, the British people, can stop it.  
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