



Baghdad Aged and Sad



BBC News, Feb. 23, 2006

Nesreen Melek, Iraqi Poet, left Baghdad in 1978. After 30 years, she returned recently for a sixteen day visit.

She wrote:

“Baghdad was like a beautiful woman who aged in an ugly way.”

“Neighborhoods in Baghdad are separated by walls and checkpoints are everywhere, although the soldiers try to make the checkpoints look as good as possible, so they decorate them with plastic roses and plants. Americans are still pointing their guns on the Iraqis thinking that Baghdad is now an American city.”

“Streets in Baghdad are not paved, and dust covers the whole city. Dijlah is no longer the river which poetry was recited praising its beauty, the sky is no longer the clear sky, the air is not longer the clean air, people are sad, they don't have hopes or dreams. There are no smiles on children' faces.”

“I will never forget the face of the little Iraqi girl who I smiled at, but she turned her face away from me. I stretched my hand to reach hers, but she ran away... The little girl's face reminded me of all our losses, I kept asking myself, ‘Who gave the Americans the right to ruin the Iraqi children's life?’”

Recent ABC News poll (3/16/09) of Iraq shows that 81 percent of Iraqis favor U.S. withdrawal on schedule by 2011 or sooner. Bring our troops home NOW!



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5/2/09

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