

# Do the Ends Justify the Means?

by Tito Cruz

After all this time, I am still strongly divided on the issue of the war with Iraq. On one hand, I believe in and want to support our government and its policies. However, I also want to be objective. I question the importance and relevance of the war in Iraq especially when you look at the cost in lives.

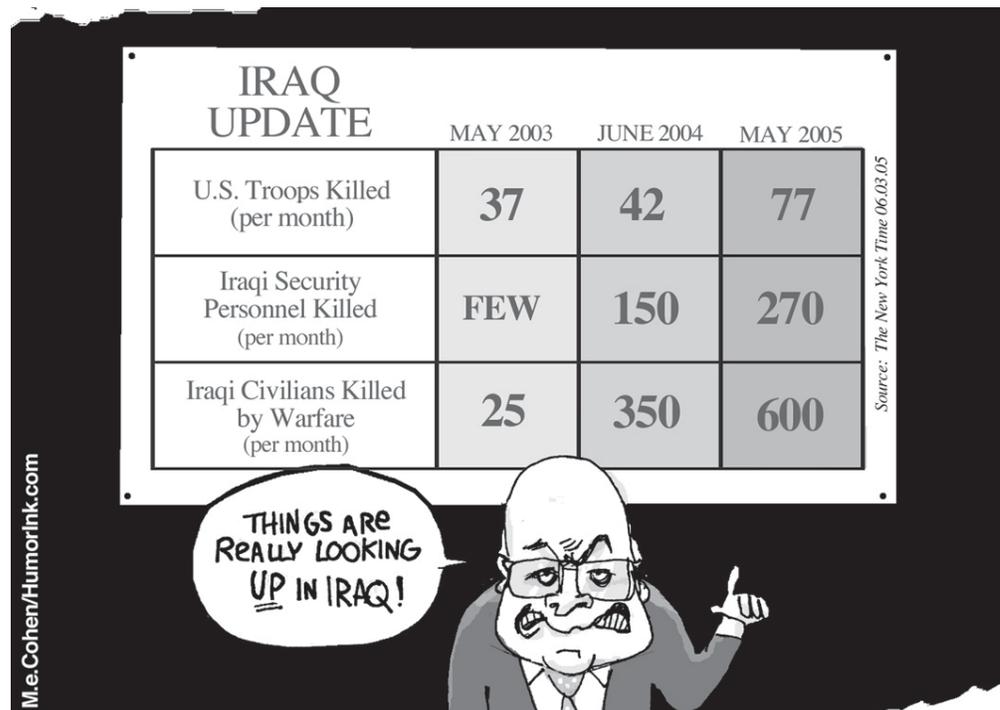
It disturbs me greatly that we acted as though there was no other way that we could have helped the Iraqi people liberate themselves from their dictator. With all the technology available to us today, we seem unable to find solutions, other than the primitive one of war, to deal with our problems. Until we find a way to solve our problems through other means besides the use of violence, death and destruction, we will always be faced with senseless and unaccounted-for loss of life.

How do you weigh what is right and what is wrong? What level or measuring cup do you use?

In the case of Iraq, if you utilize the collective cost to us, to the Iraqi people, and to the environment to show that war was justified, then I must say that I do not believe it was. Even, if the Iraqi people extend heartfelt thanks, does that justify the cost? Can we honestly say that we tried all other avenues before bringing this chaos into the lives of so many?

Even if our government did what they believed was right, the ends

do not always justify the means. We have to be careful in our exertion of power not to become like the dictators that we are against. Maybe, in a democratic country, decisions, where the cost of war is paid in human lives, should be put to the vote of the people instead of being made by a few in power, no matter how vaulted their position. For when decisions impacting thousands of lives and many nations are at stake, the decisions by a few push our democracy very close to imperialism.



*Tito Cruz was born in Humacao, Puerto Rico. His interests include reading, writing, watching films, and photography. He is currently working on a novel. He resides at SCI Greene in Waynesburg, PA.*