

people of Iraq, so the rebuilding of the infrastructure and the stimulation of the economy can occur.

We don't go out looking for fights, we don't go out looking to kill Iraqis. What we're trying to do is establish a secure environment so the people of Iraq don't have to live under terror, they don't have to live under the threat of former Saddamists who want to bring this country back to an authoritarian regime. And we try to protect the people of this country from extremism that we've seen throughout, not only this regime but throughout the world.

We aren't looking for a fight, we're looking to protect the people of Iraq so they can live that normal life that we talked about earlier, so they can get on with their lives, so their country can come to one that is democratic - can become one that is democratic, enjoys freedom of religion, freedom of expression, freedom of the press.

Bridget Kendall: But if I understood our caller from Norway right he's saying that if you say to everyone who's opposing you in Iraq is a terrorist then you don't leave much room for anyone to be wrong - anyone to have the right answers except yourselves.

General Kimmitt Well all I would suggest is we're having a difficult time understanding what the people who are putting roadside bombs are trying to achieve. We're having a hard time understanding those who would drive cars full of explosives into the middle of a celebration, during Asura, what they're trying to accomplish.

This is not a revolution; this is not an insurgency that is trying to pit one political system against another. These people have chosen - the people of Iraq, in the main, in the vast majority, have said we want to move on to democracy, freedom and sovereignty.

The guys who are tossing the bombs, killing the coalition forces, murdering innocent civilians here, all they're trying to do is the old axiom of the terrorist - kill one, terrorise a thousand. They don't offer anything constructive, they don't offer any different solution, they don't offer an alternative. There are no political parties that are coming up, there are no opposition theories, there are no opposition democratic systems or political systems.

So we don't understand, other than killing innocent Iraqis and trying to derail the process to democracy, what the former regime elements, what Zarqawi and his network are asking for, what answer all Islam is trying to do here in Iraq. What we think they want, more than anything else, is to thrive in the chaos that would come from sectarian warfare, from a country that is unable to protect itself.

Bridget Kendall: What about the impact of all this on American soldiers? We've had this e-mail from Cheryl Apparelby, who's in Austin, Texas, and she quite simply asks: How is morale being kept up?

General Kimmitt: I think morale is being kept up very simply by a number of ways. These