

The Gulf War: Lies About Non-Muslim Militaries in the Middle East

During the Persian Gulf War, Saddam exploited the fact that non-Muslim troops were fighting Muslim Iraq, hoping to portray the war as a war against Islam. Iraq claimed that Islamic sites had been attacked, and appealing to Muslim suspicion of Western morality and Western attitudes toward Islam, Iraq asserted that coalition forces had desecrated holy sites and brought immorality to Saudi Arabia.

In assembling the international coalition, President George H.W. Bush cited the immorality and illegality of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and called for the liberation of the Kuwaiti people. The United Nations Security Council passed resolutions authorizing the use of force to liberate Kuwait. Iraq sought to undermine the idea that Americans and other Western members of the coalition were liberators of Kuwait and to exploit anxiety over the presence of armed outsiders on Arab soil. To achieve these ends, the Iraqi regime invented reports of crimes by Western military against ordinary Muslims or important national symbols. Some reports alleged that people had been killed or wounded while engaging in some act of anti-coalition protest, in an attempt to create the additional impression that opposition to the war was growing in the Arab or Muslim world. Some claims:

- Multinational forces occupied Mecca and Medina.
 - *Statement by Saddam Hussein, monitored on Radio Monte Carlo*
 - ⇒ No multinational forces did any such thing.
- “NATO sources leaked information that some American military personnel had discussed a secret plan to attack Al Ka’aba in Mecca, with a rocket bearing Iraqi markings in order to use the attack as a pretext to attack Iraq.”
 - *An-Nahar, (pro-Jordanian newspaper in Israel), December 31, 1990*
 - ⇒ There was no such plan.
- The American pop star Madonna was in Saudi Arabia, entertaining U.S. troops.
 - *Inqilab (Pakistan), January 27, 1991*
 - ⇒ Madonna never went to Saudi Arabia.
- 40 percent of Americans had the AIDS virus and were going to Saudi Arabia to spread it.
 - *Baghdad Television, late August 1990*
 - ⇒ Not true.
- U.S. naval commandos hijacked a Bangladeshi merchant ship in the Arabian Sea.
 - *Sangbad (Bangladesh), January 1, 1991*
 - ⇒ Not true.
- U.S. intelligence planned to assassinate the Saudi crown prince.
 - *Radio Baghdad, January 15, 1991*
 - ⇒ Not true.