

The Gulf War: Lies About Conflicts between Muslim and Western Allies

The coalition for Operation Desert Storm was a broad alliance of Western and non-Western countries, and the participation of many Muslim countries in the coalition deprived the Iraqi regime of the opportunity to frame the conflict as one between Islam and non-believers. In an effort to ignite opposition to the coalition in Arab and Muslim countries, the Iraqis invented tales of discord or outright conflict between Western and Muslim military personnel, using mostly covert action and state-run media. In these tales, Muslim-country militaries usually suffered some humiliation or loss of life at the hands of their Western allies before managing to kill a few of the alleged tormentors. **None of these claims is true.** Specific false claims included:

- “American and British soldiers have opened fire on Bangladeshi soldiers in Saudi Arabia because they refused to take part in the attack on Iraq. As a result, several hundred Bangladeshi soldiers have been killed...”
– *Leaflets distributed in Bangladesh, January 28, 1991*
- U.S. forces opened fire on Moroccan forces in Saudi Arabia, killing several.
– *Radio Baghdad, January 31, 1991*
- The United States was continuing to import Iraqi oil in violation of the embargo while denying it to their allies.
– *Iraqi Oil Ministry, August 17, 1990*