



## **U.S. War Crimes Exposed - John Pilger & WikiLeaks reveal the significance of "Collateral Murder"**

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**U.S. Helicopter:** That's a weapon. Yeah. Hotel two six: Crazy horse one eight.

**Kristinn Hrafnsson:** In 2010, everybody thought that the [Iraq] war had been won and that it was over. There were just small pockets of resistance.

**U.S. Helicopter:** (Incomprehensible talk)

**Kristinn Hrafnsson:** But when you looked at the data and it was analysed, then a totally different picture emerged that actually had gone from bad to worse.

**U.S. Helicopter:** All right. We'll be engaging.

**U.S. Commander:** Roger, go ahead.

**John Pilger:** You must remember that the attack on Iraq, although presented as a war, was not a war. It was so one sided and it became an attack on the civilian population. The most vivid and probably the most educated revelation was "Collateral Murder".

**U.S. Helicopter:** Light them all up! Com on fire! Keep on shooting. Keep on shooting. Keep on shooting.

**Kristinn Hrafnsson:** The "Collateral Murder" has had a wide impact. It has changed the perspective of the war. It woke people up to the horror of this illegal invasion and the war and the aftermath of it. It was very important to actually go to the scene and actually do investigative work on the scene in this instance, because there was a lack of clarity from just observing the video, who these individuals were. And we wanted to get to know the names, to understand the circumstances of how on earth you had wounded children being taken out from underneath, basically the dead father who was, well, in my terms, assassinated. It was important to go then to Baghdad, so you can get untainted evidence and witness testimony. And that's what we did. We've got their death certificates and other evidence pertaining to the incident and of course, the compelling testimony from the individuals who all told the same story.

**U.S. Commander:** This is Bushmaster Seven. Go Ahead.

**U.S. Helicopter:** We have a black SUV truck picking up the bodies. Request permission to

engage. Fuck!

**U.S. Commander:** This is Bushmaster Seven. Roger. This is Bushmaster Seven. Roger. Engage.

**U.S. Helicopter:** One-Eight. Engage. Clear. Come on!

**Kristinn Hrafnsson:** In this instance, you are obviously going after unarmed civilians who were actually on a rescue mission to save somebody who was wounded. So it's an obvious war crime. And it's so shocking to maintain that this is within the frame of rules of engagement of the U.S. military. It's important to understand the symmetry of the situation there. You have even the silent helicopters so high up in the sky, it's not visible. The cannon on the Apache helicopter is equipped with large hollow bullets. So the effects when the bullet hits its objective is that it explodes like a small hand grenade. It's designed basically to be used against armoured vehicles and tanks because it can penetrate steel. And to use that against humans on the ground is just outrageous in itself.

**U.S. Helicopter:** Oh Yeah look at that! Right through the windshield! Hahah!

**Kristinn Hrafnsson:** When I was on the ground there in Baghdad and meeting a group of relatives of those who were killed on that square that day, among the crowd an old man came forth and said they [U.S. military] bombed my house. What can be seen in that part of the video is that two men, obviously with AK rifles on the back, go into a house and it's decided [by U.S. military] to basically obliterate the house with Hellfire missiles.

**U.S. Helicopter:** Roger, have another individual with a weapon. Dammit they're in the same building.

**Kristinn Hrafnsson:** Before they pulled the trigger, an innocent bystander or a man just walking past. There's a market nearby. He's seen walking straight into the crosshair in the path of the Hellfire missile. Despite seeing this clearly on the screen, they shoot.

**U.S. Helicopter:** Target hit. It was a missile.

**Kristinn Hrafnsson:** This is a residential neighbourhood. When you walk through this neighbourhood, you can see laundry hanging from the lines. People going about their daily lives trying to adapt to a very difficult situation in a war zone, but people try to retain their level of normality.

**Victim 1:** We were in our apartment when we suddenly felt the building start trembling and then all doors flew open! A white smoke rushed into the apartment, and we fell deaf. I mean the girls were screaming but no one could hear them. I still hear that ringing until right now. I can't hear anything else at all. A few minutes or a few moments after that, the second missile hit leaving us unconscious.

**U.S. Helicopter:** There it goes! Look at that bitch go! Patoosh!

**U.S. Commander:** Nice missile. Does it look good?

**U.S. Helicopter:** Sweet!

**Victim 1:** Which was followed by the third missile. It felt like the building was hit by an earthquake.

**U.S. Helicopter:** (Incomprehensible talk)

**Victim 1:** A terrible earthquake. Then dead bodies were spread all over the street. 6 were killed in my building including my wife. I was unconscious. It was horrible. That moment is indescribable.

**Kristinn Hrafnsson:** Five families were basically living in his house that he owned. It's another example of how there is total disregard for those who are nearby just to get these two guys. You have two men. You were ready to down them just to kill everybody in sight.

**U.S. Helicopter:** Oh yeah look at those dead bastards!

**John Pilger:** And I remember when I first met Julian. He said that to him and to others, it was that word "nice". The term to stomach that told you so much, in other words, it was murder.

**Kristinn Hrafnsson:** Well, in this incident, the "Collateral Murder" incident there is no mention of any civilians. Everybody is categorised as an "enemy combatant". It is to lower the numbers of what they call "collateral damage", which is a rather awkward term for killed civilians.

**END**