

Arabic Transcript:

ا: و شو ... كيف الواقع الاقتصادي بالنسبة للعائلات؟

ب: هوايه عائلات خسرت الوظائف مالتها، خصوصا عائلات الجيوش .. العائلات الي جانت ابانها بالجيش العراقي وهاي ... لانه الجيش انحل، فخسروا وظائفهم، والبطاله عنده جانت بفتره من الفترات اربعين بالميه، زين، لانه والنا ... طبعا اكو هوايه شغلان جديدة طلعت بالعراق، مثلا واحد يبيع مولدات طك لانه كهرباء ماعدنه، فالمولدات فد تجاره يعني تجيب فلوس، مهفات لانه همين ماعدنه كهرباء .. تجارة هابه، يعني اشياءات جديدة طلعت منعرفها بانزين الناس تبيع بالشارع، الاطفال تطلع تبيع بالشارع، لانه سره البانزين كلش طويل، فيسموه السوق السوداء، فيوكفون .. تدفعين شويه فلوس اكثر، تحصلين! فهاي تجاره جديده، اكو هوايه اشياءات طلعت عنده جديده. او مثلا وحده من التجارات الجديده الي طلعت عنده: السلب والنهب ومثلا الخطف! هيه مثلا يخطفون الطفل ويكولون نريد فلوس والعائلة تنطي فلوس بس ما يرجعون الطفل، طبعا كل الحالات .. حالات الخطف بالعراق اغلبيتها، تقريبا 90 بالميه من حالات الخطف بالعراق، المخطوف ما يرجع لاهله، ينقتل! اهله يروحون يدورون عليه ب ... اكو هابه يم ال .. كلية الطب، اكو مكان يجمعون بي الجثث، فالعائلات تروح تدور بين الجثث تشوف اذا ابناهم موجودين هناك، فيعني مأساة، او يلکوهم بالشوارع او على الطريق السريع، او جوه الجسر او بالنهر او شوف وين يعني، مأساة!

ا: كل هذا لانه مافي ...

ب: لانه ماعدنه أمان، لانه ماعدنه احد ديحكمنه، لانه صح عنده حكومه بس الحكومه كلشي ما دتسوي، الامريكان كلشي ما ديسون، شالو ابيدهم، الامريكان تقريبا اول ما بدت الحرب جانو بالشوارع العراقيه، جانو يسون نقاط تفتيش وهمه جانو يوكفون على نقاط التفتيش، وره فتره الامريكان كلها طلعا من بغداد، كامو بس ... يعني يكعدون بره بغداد، ويفوتون ببغداد مره او مرتين باليوم، طبعا دوريات، والناس الي توكف بالشوارع جيش عراقي، بس الجيش العراقي ... لانه ماعدنه جيش عراقي، 14 سنه و 15 سنه ولد يسجل نفسه بالجيش، ويوكف على نقطة التفتيش! طبعا شيعرف هذا داخل تدريب، يعرف شنو السلاح، يعرف شلون يستخدم السلاح ... يعني ال (ايثيكل) من كونه جندي شنو؟ يوكفون 14 سنه حاط الجكاره بحلكه ويباوع على السيارات ويكول فوت فوت، حته ما يفتشون السيارات بس يسون عرقله بالشوارع.

ا: شو جاب الامريكان؟

ب: جوي علمود ينطون الشعب العراقي ديمقراطيه، جوي علمود يعلمونه شلون نتحرر وشلون نعبر عن نفسنه واشياءات لانه بزم صدام مجنه نعرف نسوي هاي الاشياءات، حسب الامريكان، حسب ما يكولون همه.

ا: في نظرك عملوها للاشياء؟

ب: الديمقراطية ... طبعا همه يذبوها براسنه، اوه العراقيين ما يفتهمون شنو معنى الديمقراطية، طبعا ما يفتهمون شنو معنى الديمقراطية لانه بحياتهم مشايفين ديمقراطية، زين؟ والديمقراطية الوحيدة الي شفناها جانت بزمناكم وهاي النواتج مالتها ... شنو؟ الحكومه متفككه، والشعب واحد يكتل باللاخ، يعني ميصير تلومون الناس اذا ما ... يعني اذا تجيب طفل وتعلمي شلون يبوك يبوك يبوك طول حياته، يصير تعاقبيه بعدين وتذبيه بالسجن؟ لانه انتي علمتي شلون يبوك! نفس الحاله ويه العراقيين ما يعرفون، ميصير تعاقبوهم لانه ميعرفون، زين، و ... هاي طبعا هوايه كاتبيها، قريت ذاك اليوم بوحدة من الجرايد (النيويورك تايمز) واحد كاتب: واحنه جنبه الديمقراطية للشعب العراقي، بس بعدها الانتخابات تجري بطرق عراقية!! طبعا تجري بطرق عراقية، لانه ما نعرف شلون، انتو جنتو حاكمين اول انتخابات ديمقراطية بحياتنه، وشلون مشت؟ فيعني ليش تلومونه احنه؟

English Translation:

Girl behind the camera: So, how is the economic situation for families?

Zahraa: Many families lost their jobs, especially those in the military! The families that had their income through the Iraqi military were affected because the army was dissolved after the war. Many jobs came into the market such as the generator business (they have exploded!¹), because we do not have electricity, so this business is big now and brings a lot of money to the people involved. Business in fans is big, too, for the same reason, no electricity. Things we never experienced before, such as selling gas or fuel for the generators in the streets for some extra bucks will help you avoid standing in queue for the gas station- this is called the black market. Also, new businesses such as robbery and murder, and kidnapping are big these days. For instance, the kidnappers would kidnap a child, ask for a ransom from the parents and never return the child. In most of the kidnapping cases, the child or the person being kidnapped is not returned. The families will go seeking for their lost ones in ... there's this place next to the College of Medicine where they collect bodies, so families go there looking amongst bodies to see if their child is there. This one is particularly tragic because they find these bodies in the streets, on the highways, in the rivers, or elsewhere... tragedy!

Girl behind the camera: All of that because there's no ...

Zahraa: Because we don't have security, because there is no one to rule us. We have a government but it doesn't do a thing. The Americans don't do anything either; they used to be within reach in the streets in Iraq, monitoring check points and stuff... but after a while the Americans left Baghdad and did They just stayed outside of Baghdad, and would patrol Baghdad once or twice a day. The people who are in charge of the checkpoints are the Iraqi army. But the Iraqi army, because we do not really have an army, are of 14 and 15 years old!! Those kids sign themselves up for the army and they get stationed in the streets to monitor the checkpoints. What do those kids know? Do they know anything about the weapons they are carrying or the ethics of using such tools? They're each 14 years old, smoking cigarettes, looking at cars, and allowing them to pass without really checking ... all they do is jam traffic.

Girl behind the camera: What brought the Americans?

Zahraa: They came to bring democracy to the Iraqi people. They came to teach us to live freely and express ourselves because in Saddam's time we did not know how to do such things, according to the Americans.

Girl behind the camera: Do you think they were successful?

Zahraa: Democracy? ... They blame us all the time, oh the Iraqis do not know the meaning of democracy ... of course they do not know the meaning of democracy, because they never had it before. The only democracy we knew was in your times, and what are the outcomes? Broken government, people killing each other ... you can not blame the people if you did not ... I mean if you bring a child and you teach him how to steal all his life ...can you punish him and throw him in jail? No, because you were the one who taught him to do so, and so with Iraqis. They do not know, and therefore you

¹ *Taq*: "exploded", an Iraqi slang word for someone who has expanded in their business and gotten richer.

can not punish them. They wrote a lot about this ... in fact, just the other day I read an article in the New York Times, someone wrote: "We might have brought democracy to the Iraqis, but elections are still going in an Iraqi way." Of course it would hold to an Iraqi way, because we don't know otherwise. You ruled the first democratic elections ... and how did it go? Therefore, you can not blame us.

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