

## Arabic Transcript:

ا: اعتقال صدام؟

ب: اعتقال صدام جان يعني مثل ما يكولون ( مزريل) مأساة، لانه هذا بغض النظر عن كونه، خلي نكول هو مو خوش انسان، حطم الشعب، حطم العراق كله، دخلته بحروب ويه ايران، دخلته بحرب ويه الكويت، هاي العقوبات كلها مال الامم المتحدة جانت على العراق، كلها من وره صدام. العراقيين ما يكدرن يسافرون، حظر التجوال ... حظر الطيران وما طيران، ميكدرن يسافرون بره، ماعدنه مطار ميشتغل، الطيارات متطلع، هاي كلها اشياءات سواها صدام، بغض النظر عن كل هاي الاشياءات الي سواها، بيقى هو رئيس دوله، يعني اذا هو حيوان، ميصير نعامله احنه همينه نصير مثله، لانه احنه نريد نبينله انه احنه احسن من عنده. فالطريقه الي انقتل بيها صدام حسين جانت وحشيه. يعني اني... كبرت طول عمري من جنت طفله صغيره، اروح للمدرسه اشوف صورة صدام كباالي، افتح الكتاب اشوف صورة صدام كباالي، اقره بالكتاب اول خمس اسطر (حفظه..): الرئيس القائد صدام حسين حفظه الله ورعاه. يعني فد شي هيجي، يعني حط صورته بمخي انه هو فد شي جبار، ما يتحطم، يعني ينلزم بهيجي طريقه، صعبه عليه اتقبلها، صورته بكل مكان بالشوارع، يعني واحد ميغلط على صدام بالشارع لانه ينقتل، صورته دائما بالتلفزيون، التلفزيون كله علمود صدام، 3 قنوات ... عنده قناة خاصه بصدام حسين، والقناتين الثانيه اخبار صدام، قصائد في حب القائد، برامج عن القائد، اخبار القائد، حفلات القائد، كلشي عن القائد، زين؟ وصورته تطلع ويه صورة اسد وصورة حصان وصورة العلم العراقي، يعني فد شي هيجي ... فد مجموعه كلش قويه وجباره. هاي الصوره الي بمخي، تنهد بهيجي طريقه صعبه، يعني اني اكره لصدام، ما احترمه وما احبه بس مال اشوف هيجي فد شي يتحطم كباالي يعني بجيت من شفته هيجي شي صار... حته امي بجت لانه صعب. ف... و... مع ... يعني ما احبه همينه ارجع واكول ما احبه وما احترمه وكلشي، بس لمن ديموت وما حنى راسه لاي احد خلنتي احترمه لانه بعده ... يعني ما خاف من احد، بعده هو قوي، زين؟ وبعده مآمن بالاشياءات... صح حته لو غلط، بس بعده مآمن بالاشياءات الي هو مآمن بيها.

ا: فحكيتيلي انه بعيد ميلاد صدام ...

ب: عيد ميلاد صدام جان ... هو عيد ميلاده يوم 28-4. كل 28-4 كل سنه، طبعا تلفزيون يحضر العيد الميمون للقائد، عيد ميلاد القائد الميمون، عيد ميلاد سعيد للقائد ... معرف شنو للقائد. وتبدي الحفله بالليل 3، 4 ساعات ..خمسه يمكن، ما اتذكر... محافظات العراق كلها تسوي عرض للقائد. كل محافظه تسويلها عرض خاص بيها. فمثلا يجون اطفال من شمال العراق .. من محافظة الموصل، ومن محافظة بغداد، ومن محافظة القادسيه، كلهم لابسين زي محدد... زين وولد 30 او اربعين طفل، زين؟ لابسين الازياء مالتهم... ويقدمون عرض، يركسون، ويغنون لصدام، ومعرف شنو ... وهو يكعد يصفن عليهم وره ما يخلصون يصفكلهم وتجي المحافظه الي وراها، فمن جنه ... يعني من لا جاره جنه نكعد نتفرج على عيد ميلاد صدام، لان ماعدنه اي شي ثاني نسوي، كلشي ما نكدر نسوي لا عنده ستالايت، لا عنده قناة ثانية، كل القنوات تطلع نفس البرنامج، نفس الشغله. ف... جنه نكعد اني وعائلتي نصفن على حفلة عيد ميلاد صدام ونبدي نشجع المحافظات، مثلا ابويه من محافظة الديوانيه صح؟ فمثلا من تجي محافظة الديوانيه يكول اي حلوين حلوين شوفوا اني اشجعها لمحافظة الديوانيه، احسن محافظة، احسن رقصه، احسن غناه، احسن لباس، احسن معرف شنو. فجنه مرات نتونس بيها.

## English Translation:

**Girl behind the camera: Saddam's capture?**

**Zahraa:** The capture of Saddam was, as they would say, "miserable"... a tragic event, because... and despite the fact that he's not a good person, who had destroyed Iraq and got us into a war with Iran and a war with Kuwait, caused us to have sanctions enforced

by the UN, a ban on traveling, curfews, a ban on our airways ... our airport didn't operate ... all that was because of Saddam ... but despite this, he was still a president! Just because he's an animal<sup>1</sup>, we should not be like him and treat him in the same way he used to treat us. We should try and be civil. The way he was executed was violent. I mean I ... all of my life and since I was a little kid, I go to school, I see Saddam's portrait in front of me, I open my book, I see Saddam's picture in front of me, I read my book ... the first five lines are all about Saddam, "The president leader Saddam Hussein (may God protect him and look for him)". So, in my mind he was big and powerful, and for him to be destroyed in such way was something I did not expect, or imagined. His pictures were everywhere in the streets, no one would dare to say a word about him because they'd be killed, his pictures were always on TV, in fact, TV was all about him!! We had three channels, one was all about him, and the other two were about poetry about the love of the leader, programs on the president, news of the president, festivals and meeting of the president... everything is about the president, leader. His pictures are always accompanied by a picture of a horse or a lion and the Iraqi flag ... a group of powerful symbols. This is the image I had in my mind, so for it to be destroyed very easily is hard. I don't like Saddam, and don't respect him ... but when I saw him being executed in such way, I couldn't help but cry, and even my mother did. Again, I don't like him and I don't respect him but because he did not bow to anyone or anything, I respected him. Even if he was wrong, his strength made me respect him.

**Girl behind the camera:** You told me on Saddam's birthday ...

**Zahraa:** Saddam's birthday was on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April of every year ... and of course the TV was always prepared for that. The party starts at night for three, four or five hours ... I think, I can't remember for sure ... but anyway, all the Iraqi governorates prepare a skit for the president's birthday, so all the kids would come from all over Iraq, from the north, from the governorate of Mosel, Baghdad and Qadissiyah for example wearing a certain costume, around 30 or 40 little kids ... wearing those costumes and presenting their show: dancing, singing and I don't know what else ... so for us, we would sit and watch it because we did not really have better things to do and we didn't have satellite or other channels that did not broadcast the show. So my family and I we used to watch the party and root for a certain governorate, for example, my dad is from Diwaniyah right? He would root for his city and say things like: they have the best costumes, or best dance, best song ... so we used to have fun watching that show.

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<sup>1</sup> *Haywan*: a word for "animal", used as a swearing word in Iraq.