

# Healing Children of Conflict and Iraq



Healing Children of Conflict heals families and communities by facilitating medical treatment for children seriously wounded in conflicts involving the United States, and thereby educates others about the root causes of those conflicts in order to prevent their recurrence.

-HCC Mission Statement



*Healing Children of Conflict is committed to assisting children from Iraq who have been wounded and traumatized from US bombing and other forms of military violence. We also understand that this violence has a long history and our work, in addition to healing children, is to help people in our country understand the historical context of US policy towards Iraq and what that means in a human rights context.*

Iraq, as we know it today, was created by the British, but eventually gained its independence. However, once the world's superpowers became reliant on oil, Iraq

became the focus of foreign policy, especially for the US.

The US supported a Ba'athist government in the 1960s and endorsed Saddam Hussein coming to power in 1979. The US developed a close relationship to Saddam Hussein and provided military aid, weaponry and consultants during Iraq's war with Iran from 1980 – 1988.

In the summer of 1990, when Iraq invade Kuwait over a border dispute, the US planned for an invasion that took place in January of 1991. The US bombing campaign devastated much of Iraq's civil infrastructure, which along with the US/UN sanctions led to the deaths of an estimated 500,000 Iraqi children from malnutrition and disease. (UNICEF Report)

The US invasion of Iraq in 2003 and the subsequent occupation further destroyed Iraq's infrastructure and caused the deaths of over one million civilians, according to a study by the British Journal, The Lancet.

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## Iraqi Children and the US War/Occupation

Many of the victims of the US war/occupation have been children. Iraqi children have been killed from US bombing, from disease and hunger. In addition, thousands of Iraqi children have been seriously wounded from the US bombing, even after the US ended the formal occupation, as children often pick up unexploded cluster bombs. In addition, Iraqi children continue to suffer high rates of malnutrition and disease, some of which is caused by the use of depleted uranium weapons.

In the spring of 2011, Healing Children of Conflict brought to West Michigan a young Iraqi boy named Hamzah. Hamzah lost one of his legs during a US bombing raid that also destroyed much of the family's home. With the generous support of many people in West Michigan, Hamzah was fitted with a prosthetic leg and underwent physical therapy to help him learn to walk with the new leg.

There are many more children like Hamzah, that Healing Children of Conflict wants to provide assistance to, since the effects of the US war and decades of US policy continue to cause suffering and hardship for thousands of Iraqi children. If you want to support the work of Healing Children of Conflict, you can contact us on our website at [healingchildrenofconflict.com](http://healingchildrenofconflict.com).

We welcome financial support to assist Iraqi children injured from the US bombing campaign and military occupation, as well as volunteers who want to help when we bring a child to West Michigan for treatment.

Sources used for this document can be found on our website at [healingchildrenofconflict.com/](http://healingchildrenofconflict.com/).