

Scheer, Robert, "Iraqi Soccer Players Kick Holes in Bush Ads." Editorial. *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* [Broward] 26 August 2004: 19A.

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President George W. Bush, in one of his re-election campaign ads, has sent a message to the American people, expressing his belief that Iraq and Afghanistan, the two countries America went to war against, have become democracies because they are both participating in the Olympic games. This claim that democracy has prevailed in Afghanistan and Iraq, however, is contrary to the facts that both countries are still functioning under martial law, have economies that are in shambles, have insurgents and warlords creating havoc in their respective countries, and both rely on security and economic aid from the United States. Putting these dismal situations aside, many citizens in both countries still do not want Americans in their country

Players from Iraq's Olympic soccer team do not like that President Bush is using their participation in the Olympics as a propaganda tool to get re-elected. Columnist Robert Scheer is quick to point out that participation in the Olympics does not classify Iraq as a democracy just because President Bush has said so in one of his re-election campaign ads. Scheer explains that Iraqis are not free because they are dependent on the US for security and economic aid. He also points out that despite America's desire to aid in rebuilding Iraq, Iraqis do not want America's help. One Iraqi Olympic soccer player claimed that he would "be fighting in the Iraqi resistance (against America)" if he was not participating in the Olympics because he wants to defend his home.

It seems very easy to figure out how to resolve the situation in Iraq. Americans do not want to remain in Iraq; Iraqis do not want Americans to remain in Iraq, so why

does America not just leave? If America is worried about new terrorism that has emerged in Iraq and is trying to fight these new insurgents, it should remember that while a large part of America's National Guard and Reserves are overseas in Iraq, it means that there are fewer men and women available to secure America's homeland.