

MEDIA ADVISORY

WorldLink TV
Television Without Borders

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WORLDBLINK TV AIRS 2 WEEKS OF "INFORMED DISSENT" ON WAR IN IRAQ

Featured Are Sean Penn Interview and U.S. Debut of Scott Ritter Film

(San Francisco, January 20, 2003) - The January 27 deadline for the initial report of the U.N. weapons inspectors is fast approaching. The report may determine the next chapter in the growing conflict between the U.S. and the regime of Sadaam Hussein. In anticipation, international and domestic peace efforts are gaining momentum with national anti-war marches on Washington D.C. and San Francisco planned for January 18th - the anniversary weekend of Martin Luther King's birth.

From January 21st through February 3rd, WorldLink TV, a nationwide network offering a global perspective on news and world events, will reflect the growing national opposition to war in Iraq by airing "**Informed Dissent: Two Weeks of Programming on Iraq.**"

David Michaelis, WorldLink TV's Current Affairs Director explains: "The network news programs are full of administration officials and military experts who provide great insight into the politics and logistics of making war. Beyond short sound bites of strident street protesters, little attention is paid to those with cogent, informed concerns about the current push towards war in Iraq. We are attempting to correct this imbalance. "

WorldLink TV will dedicate up to 40 hours each week to Iraq-related programming. Prominently featured programs will include the U.S. premiere of "In Shifting Sands: The Truth About UNSCOM and the Disarming of Iraq," a controversial film about the flaws of past U.S. Iraq policy by former U.N. weapons inspector Scott Ritter, and an interview with actor Sean Penn conducted at his home in Marin County, CA by actor and activist Peter Coyote.

Mr. Ritter, a former U.N. weapons inspector in Iraq, asserts, "Iraq is a de-fanged tiger. There (are) much better things we could be doing with our money and our time besides pursuing a brutal dictator to the point of debasing our own moral and intellectual battles." The film, which has never before aired in the U.S., has attracted controversy because of Mr. Ritter's 180-degree shift on the efficacy of invading Iraq, and from the fact that the film received partial funding from an Iraqi businessman. Program host Mark Hertsgaard will address these and other issues in his on-air discussion of the film.

Peter Coyote's candid interview with Sean Penn is the first edition of "The Active Opposition," a new original WorldLink TV series focusing on national and international issues. Mr. Penn will show, for the first time, photographs he took during his mid-December trip to Iraq. Among the many topics covered during the interview, Mr. Penn stresses the importance of taking personal responsibility for the actions of our government, "I stand here as a citizen of a country who's President is George Bush. His decisions ultimately reflect my choices despite the fact that I may not agree with him. So I do believe that the blood will be on all of our hands; the blood of American soldiers, the blood of Iraqis, and the likelihood of the blood of American civilians when it comes to the terrorist backlash."

Also scheduled on WorldLink TV are "Iraq: Voices >From the Street," which documents the recent trip of congressman Nick Rahall (D-WV) and former Senator James Abourezk to Iraq; "The Morning After," a critique of the U.S. government's plans for a post-Sadaam Iraq; "Fire and Water," the story of Dr. Hussain Shahristani, once Iraq's chief nuclear scientist, and now its foremost dissident; and "The New Kurdistan," which profiles the fragile Kurdish democracy that has flourished under the protection of the U.S and U.K. no-fly zone in Northern Iraq.

WorldLink TV presents viewpoints seldom covered on US television and is available nationwide to more than 19 million households on satellite channels DirecTV Channel 375 and DISH Network Channel 9410 and broadcasts selective original programming on its website. WorldLink is a non-commercial network with offices in San Francisco, New York, and Washington D.C. The Network is funded by viewer contributions and grants from major foundations. For additional information, go to www.worldlinktv.org.

Iraq Week: Informed Dissent

Selective Week 1 Program Schedule (Prime Time Only)

Tuesday, 1/21

Fire and Water - 9PM ET (6PM PT)

The story of Dr. Hussain Shahristani, once Iraq's chief nuclear scientist, and now its foremost dissident.

The New Kurdistan - 6PM ET (3PM PT); and 11PM ET (8PM PT)

Profiles the fragile Kurdish democracy that has flourished under the protection of the U.S and U.K. no-fly zone in Northern Iraq.

Wednesday, 1/22

Iraq: Voices From the Street - 10 PM ET (7PM PT)

Documents the recent trip of congressman Nick Rahall (D-WV) and former Senator James Abourezk to Iraq

Life: In the Name of Honor - 10:30 PM ET (7:30 PM PT)

How Kurdish women are working to stop the violence against them - and change the law which encourages it.

Thursday, 1/23

Fire and Water - 8:00 PM ET (5PM PT)

The Morning After - 10:00 PM ET (7PM PT)

The producers interview an array of aspiring Iraqi leaders living in exile and scrutinize their records and some of their powerful U.S. backers.

Friday, 1/24

Live Call-In Special: America Alone? - 4PM ET (1 PM PT); and 9PM ET (6PM PT)

Links American viewers to participants at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland and the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil, to explore the unique role the U.S. plays in the world.

Saturday, 1/25

The Morning After - 6PM ET (3PM PT); and 11PM ET (8PM PT)

The New Kurdistan - 8:30 PM ET (5:30 PM PT)

The Active Opposition: Iraq - Eyewitness Reports - 9PM ET (6PM PT)

The experiences of eyewitnesses to events in Iraq, including an interview with Sean Penn. Hosted by Peter Coyote.

Sunday, 1/26

WorldLink TV Spotlight: In Shifting Sands - 9PM ET (6PM PT)

Former U.N. weapons inspector Scott Ritter's controversial film which traces the history of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM).

Many of these programs will be repeated the week of 1/27 - 2/2.