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Iraq



Ever since the Gulf War, a lot of people in the United States think that it ended in 1991 - when the war did not end. They say we're going to go to war with Iraq at any time. The truth is that we've been at war with them ever since then. 'Cause, even though they surrendered unconditionally and they were evicted from Kuwait, the sanctions were never dropped on the Iraqis. And as a result the United Nations and World Health Organizations have declared that a million and a half Iraqis, mostly children, have died as a result of the sanctions. They're not allowed air conditioning in their vehicles because they say they can transport chemical weapons in air conditioned vehicles. I went to a school over there and children didn't have pencils. They weren't allowed. Sanctions prohibited having pencils over there because you can use the graphite inside of a pencil to make chemical weapons with it. So they're using sticks to write with. I went to hospitals. And kid's are dying of stuff that, you know, we found cures for a long time ago. All they needed is some antibiotics. And for crying out loud, you know, I have tons of antibiotics in my medicine cabinet. They're not allowed because of the sanctions.

-Maher Bages

An excerpt from the **Danville Community Encyclopedia** by Anna Callahan. For more information visit www.anna-callahan.com.