Iraq by the US was disclosed in the Sunday Herald by Neil Mackay and Felicity Arbuthnot, but little press beyond this paper. How can the American people respond intelligently to the designs administration against Iraq without knowing how Iraq obtained its capability to develop WMD and the reason developing them?

Similarly, Israel cannot restrict its citizens, including peace activists, or its American supporters knowing how it acts relative to Palestinians by preventing reporters or activists from describing what is c their name. Preventing the UN investigation of the Jenin "massacre" is only one example. Restricting journalists occupied territory is another. Preventing Israeli and international peace activists from Nazkit Is is the most re

While the founding fathers' verbalized the concepts and ideals that are the foundation of An Democracy in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, the full implementation of those ideals took many years to bring to fruition: a Civil War that freed slaves more than 70 years after the creation of the n Women's Rights more than 120 years after the founding, and the Civil Rights Acts of the '50s and more than 150 years after its birth. That, however, is not a reason for Israel, or any nation moving toward democratic status, to delay implementation of equal rights for all of their citizens; rather demonstration of the necessity to introduce and ensure equity from the outset.

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3-Rachel Corrie Deserves Justice
Rachel Corrie was a 23-year-old American girl who was murdered by the Israelis. She was standing on a large mound of earth trying to stop an Israeli bulldozer from smashing the hc of a Palestinian doctor in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli bulldozer plowed right over her and then backed up, further crushing her frail, y body. Of course, the Israelis claim it was an accident. But there are photographs, taken by her companions as it was happening, that clearly show she was perfectly visible to the bulldozer driver. You see them on the Internet.

The question for us is, are we going to seek justice for this idealistic American girl, or are w going
to allow the spineless, corrupt government in Washington to accept, without investigation, Israeli excuse, as it always does? It just so happens that Israel has apparently decided to drive international observers. The Israelis killed Rachel; they shot another international observer in the face a third one in the head — all within the past few weeks. These are not "militants." They are idealistic people trying in a nonviolent way to protect Palestinians from Israeli violence.

The Guardian, a British newspaper, printed a number of Rachel's e-mails to her family (str: how gutless the American press is when it comes to Israel). They are a very sad read. She her mother she had nightmares about bulldozers and tanks, and in one prophetic paragraph said: "When I come back from Palestine, I probably will have nightmares and constantly feel guilty not being here ... coming here is one of the better things I've ever done. So when I sound or if the Israeli military should break with their racist tendency not to injure white people, pin the reason squarely on the fact that I am in the midst of a genocide."

Speaking of the Palestinians, with whom she was living, she wrote: "I know that the situation gets to them — and may ultimately get them — on all kinds of levels, but I am nevertheless amazed at their strength in being able to defend such a large degree of their humanity — laughter, generosity, family time — against the incredible horror occurring in their lives and against the constant presence of death.

"I'm witnessing this chronic, insidious genocide and I'm really scared, and questioning my fundamental belief in the goodness of human nature. This has to stop. I think it is a good idea for us all to drop everything and devote our lives to making this stop. ... I still really want to dance around to Pat Benatar and have boyfriends and make comics for my co-workers. But I also want this to stop. Disbelief and horror is what I feel."

Well, this lovely young girl will never have a chance to dance or have boyfriends. Her death of course, went minimally noticed by a news media so adamantly determined to play the t' monkeys (see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil) when it comes to Israel. After all, merely telling the truth will get you labeled an anti-Semite.

What the Israelis are doing to the Palestinians is a crime against humanity, and our government is an accessory because the politicians in Washington are too damned gutless to criticize I read another e-mail a year or so ago from a young American girl working in Ramallah with children's theater group. When she presented her American passport to an Israeli soldier at the checkpoint, he wiped his bottom with it and sneered, "This is what we think of your American passport."

I've begun to think, however, that there is no cure for stupidity and cowardice. Palestinian children will stand in front of a tank and bounce a stone off the turret, but Americans, living the land of freedom, will say, "Well, I agree with you, but I'm afraid to say anything."

Afraid what? Being slandered? Getting death threats? Take it from me, they don't hurt one bit. Freedom isn't worth a damn if you're afraid to use it.

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