

تفهم ضيف من الشرق الأوسط يقول أن الولايات المتحدة لا آربور نيوز، تصرفات العراق"، مقال بقلم ويليام تريمبل، جريدة آن أيلول ١٩٩٠ ٧

، يحمل (Ann Arbor News) مقال بقلم ويليام تريمبل، في جريدة آن آربور نيوز
يقول أن الولايات تاريخ ٧ أيلول ١٩٩٠، بعنوان "ضيف من الشرق الأوسط
بسام الشكعة إلى المتحدة لا تفهم تصرفات العراق"، تتحدث عن زيارة
الخليج الثانية التي الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية التي تزامنت مع حرب
أعقبت احتلال العراق للكويت.



NEWS PHOTO • CONAN D. OWEN

Bassaam Shakaa, former mayor of Nablus, a town on the West Bank of the Jordan River, and his wife, Inaya, discuss the problems in the Middle East.

Middle East visitor says U.S. doesn't understand Iraq actions

By WILLIAM B. TREML
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

The former mayor of a city on the Israeli-occupied West Bank, who had his legs blown off by a car bomb in 1980, says the Persian Gulf situation is an Arab problem and one that would have been solved by Arabs if foreign troops had not been sent into the area.

"This current crisis could have been avoided if self-determination had been allowed to proceed," said 59-year-old Bassaam Shakaa of Nablus. "The Arab countries would have solved the problem among themselves. Now that is not possible with American, British and French forces called in. Now there is much danger for everyone."

Shakaa, visiting Ann Arbor for appointments with University of Michigan doctors who may design new artificial legs for him, had an impromptu press conference Thursday afternoon in the Big Market on East Huron Street, where he was the guest of store owner Mohammed Issa.

"Do people who are upset with (Iraqi leader) Saddam Hussein realize that at one time Kuwait was a part of Iraq?" Shakaa asked. "If they knew their history, they would know that Kuwait was carved out of

troops are sent in. There is hypocrisy in that type of U.N. resolution.

"While the Palestinians on the West Bank have been suffering for years under Israeli rule, while they are being oppressed daily, the U.N. does nothing. I was under house arrest in Nablus for 10 years. Even today when I leave my home I am followed by Israeli troops. ... People are being hurt and killed in the West Bank. But nothing is done. Now when the Iraq-Kuwait situation arises, armies are brought in."

Shakaa said the holding of foreign hostages by Saddam is an example of "action and reaction."

"There are 100,000 foreign troops and all their equipment massed in that area," he said. "He has no way of knowing what will happen. He certainly feels threatened. His country could be overrun any day."

Shakaa said that on the day he lost his legs in a car bombing, two other West Bank mayors had also been targeted by Israeli settlers.

"I knew something might happen," he said. "The Israeli minister of defense at that time called me into his office in 1979 and told me I would suffer physical harm because of my 'political' activities. I told him I was mayor of Nablus, that my work was civil, not political. But he repeated the threat."

