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Bush Lied To Congress On Iraqi Elections

by Michael in New York on [7/18/2005 11:06:00 AM](#)

As we know, Bush wanted to provide covert support to Iraqi candidates, undercutting that country's burgeoning democracy and endangering the long-term faith of the Iraqi people in their government. (Time magazine first reported on this in October of 2004.) Bush was stymied by Congress, which strongly objected.

But did Bush go ahead and do it anyway? The [New Yorker](#) has the expose.

A State Department official confirmed that there was an effort to give direct funding to certain candidates. "The goal was to level the playing field, and Allawi was not the sole playing field," he said. Warrick was not operating on his own, the State Department official said. "This issue went to high levels, and was approved"—within the State Department and by others in the Bush Administration, in the late spring of 2004....

At least one Democrat, Nancy Pelosi, the House Minority Leader, strongly protested any interference in the Iraqi election. An account of the dispute was published in Time last October.... The essence of Pelosi's objection, the recently retired high-level C.I.A. official said, was: "Did we have eleven hundred Americans die"—the number of U.S. combat deaths as of last September—"so they could have a rigged election?"

But then Bush went ahead and did it anyway.

Sometime after last November's Presidential election, I was told by past and present intelligence and military officials, **the Bush Administration decided to override Pelosi's objections and covertly intervene in the Iraqi election.** A former national-security official told me that he had learned of the effort from "people who worked the beat"—those involved in the operation. It was necessary, he added, "because they couldn't afford to have a disaster...."

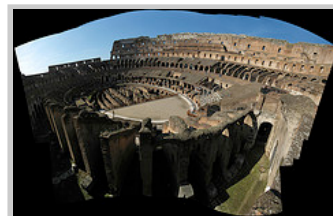
I was informed by several former military and intelligence officials that **the activities were kept, in part, "off the books"**—they were conducted by retired C.I.A. officers and other non-government personnel, and used funds that were not necessarily appropriated by Congress. Some in **the White House and at the Pentagon believed that keeping an operation off the books eliminated the need to give a formal briefing to the relevant members of Congress** and congressional intelligence committees, whose jurisdiction is limited, in their view, to officially sanctioned C.I.A. operations.

So Congress has oversight on covert operations, objects to a plan and Bush assures them it has been scuttled. Then he goes ahead and does it anyway.

The [New York Times](#) reports that **Bush's people are lying in response to questions** about this revelation.

Frederick Jones, the spokesman for the National Security Council, said that "in the final analysis, the president

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