

Children in the News:
Iraq Bombers Blow up 2 Children Used as Decoys

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According to the New York Times, in Baghdad on March 20th, a car bomb was detonated with two children inside. The children were used as decoys to get insurgents past the American military checkpoints. The car was stopped at the checkpoint by American soldiers but it was eventually allowed to pass through because of the two children in the back seat. It has been said by soldiers that children in the car lessen suspicions about the cars and its occupants. After passing the check-point, the car was parked across the street from a school. Two adults left the vehicle and detonated it remotely with the children remaining inside. The bomb blast killed the two children, three civilians, and wounded several other people.

The use of children as sacrificants to a holy cause (in this case *jihad*) is rare today but is found throughout the ancient civilizations of the world, prominently among the Carthaginians and the Aztecs.