Loved or loathed, Fisk is at forefront

MCDONALD LEGG BY CHRISTINA

blind world. This horror, tray so strikingly the viosimple words of a child porarrival in your eyes." "I am dead. I've been dead newest book. ciousness is the misery that hand and talks about in his this unimaginable atrothat fall on deaf ears to a lence in our time, the cries for some time. I died upon Robert Fisk has seen first The

ty, people came to see the new book journalist speak about his award winning author and crowd. From college students enthusiasuc, to people from the communi-Independent, spoke to an spondent in Beirut for the award winning foreign corretheatre at NUI, Galway on Juesday night, Robert Fisk, In an overcrowded lecture spellbound

interest in Fisk's talk and and Amnesty International Human Rights, NUI Galway by the Irish Centre for tretand) made for much The combination of efforts

or lurked in the doorway. while others sat on the steps the packed out lecture hall, own chairs in to be seated in even having to carry their resulted in some attendants "Robert Fisk is a true inves-

Irish Section said. tor of Amnesty International Sean Love, Executive Direcwhat he is willing to write," where he is willing to go and independent, tigative journalist, utterly fearless in

ed by Fisk's ideas and points in the Middle East. of view in relation to the War the audience seemed delightcasualty in war is truth and As many recognise, the first

or indicate that their sources worried about making statelenges the status quo and isn't are official sources. He chalists) is to either investigate said. "The duty (of journal-Centre for Human Rights and provide us with forensics Cavanaugh from the Irish proffered," Dr. propagandathat is very often reporters that challenge the Kathleen

ments that challenge us." Beginning the lecture with

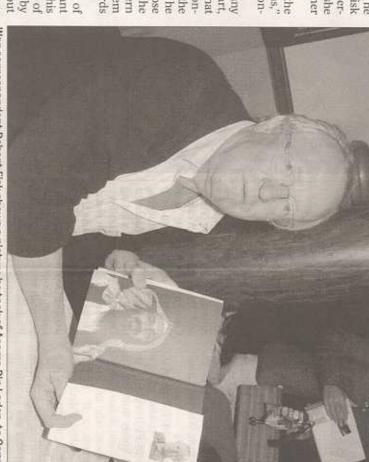
made some years back, Fisk a clip from a documentary he old photographs. ly woman, asking her how she shows himself with an elderfelt when she looked at her

unue to ask?" she said. "Why do you conanswers to these questions, "You already know the

"Fisk is one of the very few Middle East and in Western and deeds. accountable for their words Society, in positions of power, in the continues to challenge those bottom of these issues, and he and the difficult question that lives have been torn apart tinues to probe, to delve to the Fisk asks is why? Fisk con-Damaged by war, many holding

sionate reporter. nised as a powerful and pasacross the world he is recogmany, hated by some, but history, Fisk is admired by voice to write the first page of writer, as a man who uses his Human Rights, as a brilliant Hailed as an advocate of

that took him 16 years to of experience in the field, Fisk recently published the book With nearly three decades



Tribune Photographer Stan Shields, from his book "The Great war for Civilisation: the conquest of the Middle East prior to his lecture at NUI, Galway in aid of Amnesty International War correspondent Robert Fisk shows a picture he took of Asama Bin Laden, to Connacht

quest of the Middle East," it write. Entitled "The Great compiles 328,000 notes, doc-War for Civilisation: The Con-

ly an apology to his father, dle East in the past 30 years, uments and dispatches. Part-

what he has seen in the Midand partly a reflection about

and governs our lives. way in which history traps us this massive book studies the

repeats like fingerprints." repeats, but repeats Iraq," Fisk said. "Not just "History repeats itself in Fisk focused much of his

Sio the concept the going the the the critical with the critical transfer to the critical transfer transfer transfer to the critical transfer transfer

to understanding. facts of what happens is vital maintaining that showing the Western media covers news, talk on criticising the way

name, we do it." show it, this is what war is show and effectively clean up support a war," Fisk said see this, because it's in our about. I think people should the war. But they ought to they think are to terrible to there they cut out bits which saw, you would never ever people who are really torn to by shells, aircrafts and so on people being blown to pieces pieces, and if you saw what we you see terrible wounds and But when television goes "In a war - an actual war,

hiss son chil live can that that stan

thunderous on the issue of US military planes landing in Shannon, Fisk earned an exuberant and Taking an adamant stand round mo use dea the rec

fhistory

applause from the audience.
"I feel that the Garda Siochana should go on board these planes and take off anyone who is trussed up and going to be shipped off to be tortured," Fisk said.

Towards the end of the talk. Fisk grew philosophical on the role he has played in covering history, reflecting on what he has seen and where he has been

he has been.

"I always thought that it was a great adventure to see history." Fisk said. "But sometimes I see families and children happy and living safe lives. And I think to myself, "I can't go back to being 29.""

And yet, Fisk is determined that he has a job to do and regardless of the circumstances is resolute to do it.
"I find that with young

women and children, I'm

more troubled about it than I worth goin used to be when I see them diction. A diction would want you to "liberation" ecord their point of view. They're not my enemies and I'm not theirs. I've seen thousands and I bus and sand thousands and I'm All I can say

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not callous. It's like a doctor working in a hospital sees terrible things but he doesn't weep over it, he gets on with the job."

sword, and Fisk is questionlonger mightier than the return, able about if or when he will officials - the pen is no and get their reports from stay in their hotel for safety get the sound bite and leav-Journalism - journalists that ing just as fast - and 'Hotel ism" - quickly darting in to rise such as 'Mouse Journalinvolved. With terms on the has become a danger to all working in the Middle East And yet now, Fisk says that

"If it comes to a point where the risk is not worth the story or the story is not worth the risk then you have to ask yourself if it really is worth going for," Fisk said.

"So I'll make an awful prediction. America's war of "liberation" is over, Iraq's war of liberation from the Americans is about to begin, in other words the real and frightening story starts now. All I can say is 'watch out.""