

Alive and gaming in Baghdad

Posted Jan 10th 2007 6:55PM by [Ross Miller](#)

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"We can't go outside, so I prefer to keep inside and keep myself alive."

The words are from Wisam, a gamer living in Baghdad. Wisam is a rarity, and listening to his story on Iraq blog / vlog [Alive In Baghdad](#) explains why. Wisam, a recent graduate of the Baghdad University English Department, explains that he spends upwards of \$200 on electricity each month -- partly from a local



generator that runs 4 p.m. until midnight and partly from the fuel he buys for his personal generator. That's a hefty sum

Wisam said he learned his English from games such as *Metal Gear Solid* and *Final Fantasy*. MTV News' Stephen Totilo has a [thorough piece](#) on Wisam and the crew of *Alive in Baghdad*. Among the game-related topics discussed, Wisam talked about the decline in interest for war shooters like *Medal of Honor* and *Call of Duty*. "We hate the attacking, the gunfire in games," Wisam told MTV News. "We started to hate it."

In a sad note, Wisam described how *Grand Theft Auto* is much like Baghdad right now. Omar Abdullah, who interviewed Wisam for *Alive in Baghdad*, concurred, telling MTV News that "it was very, very similar to Baghdad. We were like, 'Oh my God. These are the same actions that happen in Baghdad.' There are some places that are divided. For each place, there is a gang ruling that place. You can go down the street and drive any car. If you want to jump on a motorcycle, you can do it."

With all the news that circulates about Baghdad, include [tonight's U.S. Presidential address](#), it's thought-provoking to see a often missed perspective on the region.

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1. There was english in Final Fantasy??

but seriously, kudos to his dedication.

Posted at [7:11PM](#) on Jan 10th 2007 by Dao

2. Is the Alive part supposed to be a pun?

Posted at [7:41PM](#) on Jan 10th 2007 by Thomas Falsetta

3. Pretty cool.

But what about Madden?

Posted at [7:42PM](#) on Jan 10th 2007 by jimy

4. OK, time to pull in the MILLIONS of jackasses who slugged back the "experience leads to desensitization" kool aid and send them to Baghdad.

Posted at [8:00PM](#) on Jan 10th 2007 by otakucode

