

FOUR YEARS IS TOO LONG!

IT'S TIME FOR THE TROOPS TO COME HOME FROM IRAQ

Four years after the U.S. invasion of Iraq, the country continues to bleed and suffer. The death toll on all sides is mounting, and the U.S. military, rather than solving Iraq's problems, is, in fact, the source of much of Iraq's instability. The war has lasted longer than World War II and has cost more than the Vietnam War. It's time to stop funding the war, bring the troops home, and prevent future wars by ending the US addiction to oil!

Occupation Puts U.S. Troops At Risk

It's clear that US troops are at grave risk in Iraq. More than 3,000 US soldiers have been killed and more than 32,000 wounded since the beginning of the war. The troops are also suffering after they come home – from brain injuries, severe disabilities and post-traumatic stress disorder. And they are receiving substandard care medical at dilapidated veterans hospitals. The best way to support the troops is to demand that they come home now.

Iraq is in Chaos, and the U.S. Military Presence is Making Things Worse

The U.S. military presence in Iraq isn't providing security for Iraqis. A team of American and Iraqi epidemiologists estimates that 655,000 people have died in Iraq since the US invaded in March 2003. The United Nations says some 1.7 million people are internally displaced within Iraq and about two million are displaced outside of the country. Fear of violence, abduction and rape has emptied the streets of women. The occupation isn't solving these problems; it's making them worse.

Occupying Iraq Makes Us Less Safe

American intelligence agencies have found that the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq has helped spawn a new generation of Islamic radicalism and that the overall terrorist threat has grown since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. The Iraq war increases anti-Americanism throughout the Middle East – and the world – and has intensified tensions between the U.S. and Iran.



The Iraqis Don't Want Us There – and Neither Do U.S. Voters

Recent polls show that the vast majority of Iraqis want U.S. troops to leave their country. A US State Department poll found that nearly three-quarters of Baghdad residents said they would feel safer if US and other foreign troops left Iraq. 65% of those polled favored an immediate withdrawal of troops. Meanwhile, nearly 60% of Americans say they want the troops to come home within 12 months. If we really believe in democracy, then we should listen to the demands of the Iraqis and the American people and leave Iraq.

War Takes Resources Away From Priorities At Home

In February 2007, the Bush Administration requested another \$100 billion in Iraq war spending for fiscal year 2007. If approved, this would bring the total funds allocated for the Iraq War up to \$456 billion. At the same time, the President plans to cut \$13 billion for programs that serve low- and middle-income Americans. Imagine if the billions of dollars being spent on war and destruction instead went to fund education, healthcare, or a program to develop clean, renewable energy sources so that the U.S. isn't sucked into another war for oil?

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO END THE WAR IN IRAQ NOW

Contact Your Congressional Representatives.

The people spoke out through the 2006 mid-term election: we want peace! By voting out pro-war candidates and changing control over Congress, we issued a mandate for new policies that promote peace and international cooperation. Now we want action. Call your Representatives and Senators (202-224-3121), email them, schedule meetings with them, and lobby them in Washington, DC. Urge them to pass legislation requiring the prompt removal of all US troops from Iraq and discontinue funding for military purposes in Iraq, except the safe withdrawal of all US forces.

Get Out On the Street in Protest!



Although the voters spoke out loud and clear during the mid-term election, there's reason to be concerned that Congress is not listening. Congress is poised to continue funding the war, to the tune of another \$100 billion, and President Bush is about to send yet more troops to Iraq. Apparently, the only thing some people in Washington DC will understand is hundreds of

thousands of people in the streets protesting! Start organizing now for a rally, march, vigil, civil disobedience, or other event in your local community or in Washington, DC. We've got to get out into the streets to show our visible opposition to the war. List events at www.unitedforpeace.org.

Educate, Educate, Educate.

As recently as July 2006, a Harris Interactive poll showed that 64 percent of respondents said Saddam Hussein had strong links to Al Qaeda, and 50 percent of respondents said Iraq had weapons of mass destruction when the US invaded. Clearly there is massive educational work to be done. There are dozens

of ways to educate people about the Iraq war: Discuss the issue with people who don't already agree with you; promote independent news sources; hand out educational flyers; organize teach-ins; and write letters to the editor. Global Exchange can help - contact our Speaker Bureau to invite a veteran, peace activist or military family member to speak at your school or event:

<http://www.globalexchange.org/getInvolved/speakers/profiles.html>

Counter the Military Recruiters; Recruit for Peace.

Military recruiters are in almost every school in the United States, encouraging young people to join the armed services. They promise money for education and exciting jobs, a message that appeals to young people with limited opportunities. We have a right to be in the schools too. Ask to be able to make a presentation about alternatives to war on the same day that military recruiters are going to make their presentation. Hand out flyers at schools telling students what's left out of the recruiters' talks. Tell parents that they can instruct the school not to give their child's home contact information to military recruiters.

Connect with the Peace Movement.

There are hundreds of groups around the country working for peace and opposing the ongoing U.S. military presence in Iraq. Some peace groups that have chapters in many cities and towns include Peace Action, American Friends Service Committee, Veterans for Peace, Iraq Veterans Against the War and CODEPINK: Women for Peace. There are also several groups for military family members, including Military Families Speak Out and Gold Star Families for Peace. Look at the "local contacts" section on the United for Peace & Justice website to locate the peace groups in your community: www.unitedforpeace.org. Or get involved with the Global Exchange Peace Campaign! See:

<http://www.globalexchange.org/countries/iraq/>

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