



Peace Action New York State

IT'S TIME TO END THE WAR IN IRAQ

Finding a solution to the crisis in Iraq requires us to move beyond the soundbites of “stay the course” and “cut and run”. The United States and the international community have a responsibility to work with a sovereign Iraqi government to help that country become secure, stable, and independent. The continued American occupation *is only fueling the insurgency and destabilizing Iraqi society.*

A WAR BASED ON LIES

In the lead up to the pre-emptive invasion of Iraq, the Bush Administration lied over and over again about why we needed to go to war. He deceived the public about a link between 9-11 and Iraq, that there were weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, that attacking Iraq would make us safer from terrorism. Foreign policy experts such as The U.S. National Intelligence Council has argued that the war in Iraq has created a new “training ground (for terrorists) and an opportunity for terrorists to enhance their technical skills.” The now-infamous “Downing Street Memo” and recent indictments of White House staff further reveal that Bush “fixed the facts” to pursue and unnecessary war.

THE MOUNTING COSTS

Over 2,100 soldiers have died so far. Over 25,000 soldiers have been wounded. The death toll for Iraqi civilians is somewhere between 30,000 and 100,000. The lives of Iraqis are threatened everyday by bullets and by the destruction of their country. Their drinking water is unsafe, their electricity faulty, schools and hospitals are in shambles and the economy is utterly destroyed. On top of the devastating cost in human lives and the humanitarian crisis now facing Iraq, the ongoing occupation continues to drain our communities here at home. U.S. taxpayers have paid over \$250 billion so far on this war. Some economists estimate that the total war costs could reach *\$2 trillion*. While companies like Halliburton and Bechtel have raked in billions of dollars in no-bid Iraq contracts, we struggle at home making do with fewer resources and necessary social services. With more than 200,000 National Guard troops deployed to fight the ‘War on Terror’, our communities have also lost many of our first responders, weakening our ability to respond to natural disasters and real threats to the security of our local communities.

A DANGEROUS FOREIGN POLICY

The United States’ pre-emptive war on Iraq has damaged our relationships around the world, destroyed American credibility and deeply undermined the United Nations. Throughout the Middle East, the occupation of Iraq has only further fueled resentment of and violence against the U.S.

PROMOTE PEACE AND RECONSTRUCTION

The question isn’t if we should leave Iraq but how. Peace Action recognizes that ending the occupation is just the beginning. We must address the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people caused by this war, and promote Iraqi sovereignty and reconstruction. Join Peace Action in calling on an end to the quagmire based on these five principles. People’s Petition for and Iraq Peace Process: 1) Oppose permanent military bases in Iraq, 2) Set a timetable to end the occupation in months, not years, 3) Support a UN-monitored, peaceful reconstruction process, 4) Appoint an independent peace envoy to facilitate a peace process, 5) Empower the peace envoy to facilitate a cooperative and inclusive political settlement.

Visit www.peace-action.org for more information or to sign or download the petition.

NO MORE MONEY FOR WAR

Instead of meeting critical needs at home, President Bush keeps asking Congress for more funds for this immoral war. As citizens, we must urge our Senators and Representatives to vote NO to any more money for this unnecessary occupation.

PEACE ACTION NEW YORK STATE'S OUT OF IRAQ BILL GUIDE

Below is a guide to the different bills that have been introduced in the Senate and the House. You can find out if your Representative has signed on to any of these by visiting www.thomas.loc.gov Type in the bill number and you can see a list of co-sponsors.

S. Res 171, Senator Feingold (D)

This bill calls for the President to submit to Congress a series of time frames for completing our mission and withdrawing our troops from Iraq 30 days after the bill is passed. This is the only Senate bill related to the Iraq war. Neither Hillary Clinton nor Chuck Schumer have co-sponsored this bill.

H. Res 4232 , *The End the War in Iraq Act of 2005*, Rep. McGovern (D)

This bill calls prohibits funds for deploying troops to Iraq. Funds can only be used to: "provide for the safe and orderly withdrawal of the Armed Forces from Iraq; ensure the security of Iraq and the transition to democratic rule by--carrying out consultations with the Government of Iraq , other foreign governments, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the United Nations, and other international organizations; providing financial assistance or equipment to Iraqi security forces and international forces in Iraq; ... carrying out social and economic reconstruction activities."

H.J. Res 55, *Homeward Bound*, Reps. Abercrombie (D), and Jones (R)

This bill called for the President to develop an exit plan for Iraq by December 31, 2005 and begin withdrawing troops no later than October 1, 2006. The United States should aid in a peaceful transition toward Iraqi self-government. At the end of 2005, Rep. Abercrombie filed a discharge petition (H. Res 543) on HJ Res 55. When 218 reps sign the petition (which doesn't often happen), HJ Res 55 will go to the floor for a debate.

H. C. Res 35, Rep. Woolsey (D)

This bill , introduced a year ago, "expresses the sense of Congress that the President should develop and implement a plan to begin the immediate withdrawal of United States Armed Forces from Iraq, develop and implement a plan for reconstructing Iraq's civil and economic infrastructure; convene an emergency meeting of Iraq's leadership, Iraq's neighbors, the United Nations, and the Arab League to create an international peacekeeping force in Iraq and to replace United States Armed Forces in Iraq with Iraqi police and Iraqi National Guard forces to ensure Iraq's security; and take all steps necessary to provide the Iraqi people with the opportunity to completely control their internal affairs."

H. J. Res 73, Rep. Murtha (D)

The Murtha Plan calls for an end to U.S.'s presence in Iraq and a redeployment of the troops around Iraqi borders. A quick-reaction U.S. force and an over-the-horizon presence of U.S. Marines shall be deployed in the region. The United States of America shall pursue security and stability in Iraq through diplomacy.

H. C. Res 197

This bill, introduced by Rep. Lee, calls for U.S. government support of Iraqi independence after troop withdrawal by leaving no permanent bases in Iraq.

GET ACTIVE. Contact your Representatives and tell them how important these bills are. They must be reminded that their constituents do not support militarism. Make contact and tell them that our "No!" to the war in Iraq will only get louder. In hearing us out they will be serving the cause of peace.

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