



FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (Quakers)

245 Second St, NE, Washington, DC 20002

www.fcnl.org

Dear Protestor for Peace,

When we go home after this weekend of protest, we will need to keep holding vigils and demonstrations. But we also need to **translate our protest into persuasion of policymakers in Washington.**

Legislation in Congress calls for the U.S. to withdraw from Iraq. But a majority in Congress is not yet prepared to call for withdrawal. Our job is to persuade Congress to declare unequivocally that: **“It is the policy of the United States to withdraw all U.S. military troops and bases from Iraq.”** That’s what FCNL, a 62 year old lobby group founded by the Quakers, is working to do.

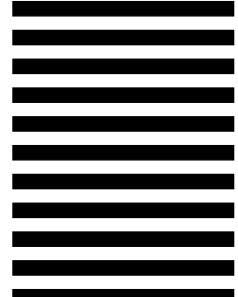
We need a strong majority of public voices raised to turn around this ill-conceived war policy—it is not enough to mobilize the already convinced. FCNL has tools available to help you speak out and build unity for a public consensus in your divided communities. **Please use the attached card to sign up for our War is Not the Answer campaign to learn what you can do to get the U.S. out of Iraq.**

Sincerely,

Joe Volk, Executive Secretary



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES



BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 14504 WASHINGTON, DC

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION
245 2ND ST NE
WASHINGTON DC 20077-8155





Hey hey, ho ho, keep up the noise when you get home!

When the chants are over and you're back home, the work of bringing peace to Iraq continues. Here are three things you can do to keep up the momentum in the weeks and months to come:

- 1) Join FCNL in calling on Congress to declare unequivocally that "it is the policy of the United States to withdraw all U.S. military troops and bases from Iraq."** This declaration is part of a STEP strategy – a Sensible Transition to Enduring Peace – to shift the debate in Congress from a focus on troop strength and weaponry to an honest discussion of U.S. intentions in Iraq. More information at www.fcnl.org/iraq.
- 2) Exercise your voice in the halls of Congress.** Write and call your elected officials, urging them to support legislation that would make it U.S. policy to bring the troops home from Iraq and not establish permanent U.S. bases. Ask that they cosponsor HR 3142, legislation introduced in the House by Rep. Tom Allen (ME) that includes this language. Ask your senators to support the introduction of similar language in the Senate. You can send messages to Congress at www.fcnl.org
- 3) Amplify your voice by reaching out to your friends, neighbors, and local opinion makers.** Begin dialogues in your churches and community on this issue. Help break down the "with us or against us" posture that has divided our communities. Write letters to the editor in your local press. Check FCNL's website at www.fcnl.org for tools to help you reach out.



FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (Quakers)
 245 Second St, NE
 Washington, DC 20002
www.fcnl.org

YES, I would like to receive information on the War Is Not the Answer campaign to get the U.S. out of Iraq. Please send me a free bumper sticker and sign me up to receive information on the how I can lobby Congress to bring the troops home from Iraq.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Email address _____



Return to Friends Committee on National Legislation (Quakers)
 245 Second Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002 • www.fcnl.org



WAR IS NOT THE ANSWER

Free Iraq: The Responsibility of Withdrawal

The war policies of President Bush present Congress with a paradox: It is unthinkable for the U.S. to leave Iraq as a failed state, yet a continuing U.S. military presence in Iraq may well lead to a failed state.

The U.S. Congress in 2005 has continued to support policies that “stay the course” in Iraq, funding the same failed war policies of the past two years, without conditioning funding on the U.S. implementing new policies to de-escalate the violent conflict, to end the occupation, and to return Iraq to Iraqis.

To “stay the course” means confronting insurgent violence with greater U.S. violence. The temptation to stay the course stems partly from a denial of the reality that the U.S. preventive war and nation-building experiment in Iraq have failed. “Success” for the U.S. in Iraq is no longer an option, if it ever was. War is not the answer.

Some argue that U.S. responsibility under international law to restore security and protect civilians in Iraq demands that the U.S. military remain and help stabilize the country. In fact, the presence and offensive operations of U.S. troops have become the greatest threats to Iraq’s future. U.S. offensives, including aerial bombings, city sieges (witness Fallujah), and neighborhood sweeps, foster resentment among Iraqis, fuel the insurgency, and threaten civilian lives. Iraqi security forces are attacked more often when U.S. troops are present, and the Green Zone, a barricaded neighborhood housing the interim Iraqi government along side the U.S. embassy, has become a prime target for suicide bombings and mortar attacks.

Arguably, sufficient military force could overcome the insurgency with time. But military experts have indicated that “sufficient” might mean a U.S. troop strength of a quarter million or more staying for a decade. That will not happen, and would not be recommendable. To fulfill the moral and legal obligations it has incurred to help rebuild Iraq, the U.S. must now accept its responsibility and withdraw.



U.S. Failing to Meet its Obligations

The Bush administration continues to claim its experiment in building democracy through war is on track. In fact, since the invasion and occupation some 2 1/2 years ago, the U.S. has failed to meet its obligations under international law to restore security, support reconstruction, and return sovereignty to Iraqis. Instead, the occupation has been mired in a long list of missteps, scandals, and abuses. Moreover, any progress made toward a new political order in Iraq has been eclipsed by the surging violence and swelling resentment of many Iraqis.

The human costs of the war as of early September 2005 included 1,894 U.S. troops killed and 14,120 wounded; estimates of Iraqi civilian deaths from war and occupation ranging from 24,000 to 100,000; as many as 100,000 returning U.S. troops in need of mental health care; billions of dollars in Iraqi revenue and reconstruction funds lost due to violence, war-profiteering, and mismanagement of funds by U.S. authorities; and rising anti-U.S. sentiment globally.



WAR IS NOT THE ANSWER

It's worth noting that the 500th U.S. fatality occurred on January 8, 2004, nearly 10 months after the war started. The 1,000th fatality came on September 6, 2004, an interval of eight months. Six months later, on March 2nd, the 1,500th fatality was recorded. With the passage of another six months and eight days, the death toll is only 106 names short of 2,000. Twice before U.S. monthly fatalities have exceeded that number, and with an expected increase of 12,000 "boots-on-the-ground" (also known as "real people") for the constitutional referendum later this year, those 106 may come all too quickly.

Meanwhile, the cost of the war continues to escalate: According to a May 2005 Congressional Research Service report, the Defense Department as of that month had received \$277.1 billion for warfighting, occupation duty, and support operations for Iraq, Afghanistan, and for enhanced security. Of this amount, \$192 billion can be identified specifically for the Iraq war. Another \$45 billion "bridge appropriation" is in the fiscal year 2006 defense appropriation bill. This will bring the totals to \$322 billion for regional activities paid by defense dollars and \$237 billion specifically for Iraq. There undoubtedly will be an additional 2006 defense supplemental appropriations bill to add to this price tag.

Steps Toward Withdrawal

When the president sends his next request for military funding to Congress, legislators should condition any further funding on the U.S. taking clear steps toward the withdrawal of all its troops and bases from Iraq and support for Iraqi-led reconstruction.

Meeting U.S. moral and legal obligations to restore security and rebuild Iraq requires the removal--not build-up--of U.S. forces. FCNL calls on the administration and Congress to:

- Declare a withdrawal policy: Congress should pass a resolution declaring that U.S. policy is to withdraw all U.S. military forces and bases from Iraq;
- Cease fire: Halt U.S. military actions immediately;
- End the occupation: Withdraw U.S. forces from major population centers to remote temporary bases and shift to a limited, short-term role of providing border control and assuring Iraq's territorial integrity until other security forces can take over;
- Support Iraqi sovereignty: Fund Iraqi efforts to re-employ ministry staff, train new police and security forces;
- Nationalize reconstruction: Give Iraqis control over reconstruction funds, terminate contracts with U.S. contractors and turn projects over to Iraqis, and provide transparent accounting of all U.S. contracts;
- Stabilize Iraq: Commit to long-term U.S. financial support for Iraqi-led reconstruction.

While the U.S. cannot fulfill its dual responsibilities to withdraw its forces and support Iraqi rebuilding easily or without cost, these steps could help break the cycle of violence, undercut the insurgency, save lives, and give control of Iraq's future back to Iraqis.



FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (Quakers)
245 Second St, NE
Washington, DC 20002
www.fcnl.org