

# OUT NOW!

## Stop the Wars Coalition: Why the US must withdraw immediately...

More than 4 years after the invasion of Iraq, the brutal nightmare continues with no end in sight. The majority in this country believes that this war should never have happened. Here's why the US troops, their allies and mercenaries must all leave Iraq right away:

### Iraqis Want the US Out!

- Seven out of 10 Iraqis want the US to withdraw according to a [University of Maryland poll](#) conducted last September. Less than 30% favor a withdrawal *conditional on* "security conditions."
- Six out of 10 Iraqis support attacks on occupation forces according to the same poll.
- In May, though more timid than the Iraqi people, a majority of Iraqi parliamentarians—elected in the dubious circumstances of US occupation—signed a bill demanding a timetable for US withdrawal (*Washington Post* 5/11/07).
- Globally, more than 75% of the Muslims want the US to "remove its bases and military forces from all Islamic countries," according [WorldPublicOpinion.org](#).

### The Cost to Iraqis

- Hundreds of thousands of Iraqis have died as a result of the war. A year-old Johns Hopkins University study, published in the British medical journal, *The Lancet* (10/11/06), put the number in the order of 650,000. Proportional to the US population, that would be 7.2 million Americans!
- Five and a half million Iraqis now live below the poverty line; less than 2 million did so before the war (despite the impact then of US/UN-imposed sanctions, [Reuters](#) [10/17/06]).
- Seventy percent of Iraqis are without adequate water supplies, compared with 50% before the war (the first Gulf War destroyed Iraq's water systems) according to [Oxfam](#) (7/30/07).
- Malnutrition among children is up 50% since 2003 ([Oxfam](#) 7/30/07).
- More than 2 million Iraqis have fled the country and live outside as refugees; a further 2 million are displaced internally; people are leaving the country at a rate of 50,000/month ([International Herald Tribune](#)/Associated Press 8/21/07).

### Stability? The US Only Makes Things Worse

- Iraqis believe that the US "provokes more conflict that it prevents." Only a fifth considers the US to be a "stabilizing force" ([University of Maryland poll](#) cited above).
- Since the 1990s the US has promoted the break up of Iraq along ethnic lines; George Bush, Sr., encouraged an uprising by the Shia population in 1991; the US government supported a breakaway Kurdish zone in the north throughout the 1990s while openly supporting the continued repression of Kurds living in Turkey.

- A Pentagon official defended the ethnic targeting of Iraqis to [Newsweek](#) (see “The Pentagon may put Special-Forces-led assassination or kidnapping teams in Iraq” 1/14/05). He noted, “The Sunni population is paying no price for the support it is giving to the terrorists,” Adding ominously, “We have to change that equation.”

## **What the War Costs the United States**

- By the middle of August, 2007, 3,700 US troops were killed in Iraq according to the [Department of Defence](#).
- In excess of 30,000 US personnel were wounded in Iraq (depending on how one defines casualties, the number could rise above 50,000).
- The US government spends \$12 billion/month on the war in Iraq according to the [Congressional Research Service](#).
- More than \$450 billion has been spent on the war so far; it is predicted to rise to over \$1 trillion according to the [Congressional Budget Office](#).
- US soldiers, their families and communities are paying a continuing social price in terms of post-traumatic stress disorders (13% of returning soldiers), other mental health illnesses (>30%), long-term physical disabilities, and increase suicide risk ([Archives of Internal Medicine](#) 3/12/07).
- These numbers do not include the opportunity costs, i.e. how the lives and money could have been better spent on health care, good jobs, fixing public infrastructure and redressing inequalities.

## **US Public Opposed to the War**

- Nearly 70% of the public is opposed to George Bush’s conduct of the war according to a [CBS News Poll](#) (8/12/07). In the same period CNN found that 64% “oppose the war” and 63% believe that the US is “not winning” the war.
- CBS also found that 46% of the public believe that the war is “creating more terrorists.”
- Before the “surge” a majority opposed the increase in US troops ([CNN](#) 4/18/07) to Iraq.
- A major propaganda campaign is underway to claim that “the surge” is working and that the US public should extend the operations.

## **If There Are No Good Reasons, Why the War?**

- WMDs? No: Actually the US received confirmation in the early 1990s that the Hussein regime had destroyed its remaining WMDs. What Iraq had before that, it acquired with US, British and French help.
- Democracy? No: The US is actively supporting, if not directing, dictatorships in Saudi Arabia, the many Gulf kingdoms, Jordan, Egypt, Israel/Palestine. It is also promoting many corrupt politicians in Iraq itself.
- Oil? Yes: The US is pressuring the Iraqi government to write a new oil law that will grant private companies (read “oil transnational corporations”) access. US control over Iraqi oil and that of other Mideast states provides power relative to China, India and other powers.
- Militarism? Yes: Weapons manufacturers and security services (read “mercenary”) corporations are benefiting enormously from the war.

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## **GREATER BOSTON STOP THE WARS COALITION**

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