

OUT NOW!

Stop the Wars Coalition: Why the U.S. must withdraw immediately...

More than 4 years after the invasion of Iraq, the brutal nightmare continues. Nonetheless, a majority of Americans believe that the war should never have happened. Here's why *all* the U.S. troops, allies and mercenaries must leave Iraq immediately and unconditionally:

Iraqis Want the U.S. Out!

- Iraqis believe that the “departure of occupying forces” is key to “national reconciliation” and that “the U.S. military invasion is the primary root of the violent differences among them” according to a November 2007 Pentagon study (*Washington Post* 12/19/07).
- Half the Iraqi population favors immediate withdrawal; another third ties withdrawal to the restoration of security (ABC-BBC-NHK Poll, September 2007, BBC News, 9/10/7).
- Three out of 5 Iraqis see attacks on US troops as justified. (ABC-BBC-NHK Poll).
- Globally, more than 75% of the Muslims want the U.S. to “remove its bases and military forces from all Islamic countries,” according WorldPublicOpinion.org.

The Cost to Iraqis

- The number of Iraqi deaths resulting from the occupation has probably topped one million. In September, a British research firm found that the death rate ranges between 730,000 and 1,446,000 (*Los Angeles Times* 9/14/07). A mid-2006 Johns Hopkins University study put the number in the order of 650,000 (*The Lancet* (10/11/06). Proportional to the U.S. population, that would be 7.2 million deaths!
- 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 US Gulf War destroyed Iraq's water systems) [*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 (*International Herald Tribune*/Associated Press 8/21/07).

Stability? The Occupation Has Made Things Worse.

- A propaganda campaign is underway claiming that “the surge” worked. Although, the Iraqi violent death rate in December is half the summer's (Toronto Star 12/26/07), it is largely attributable to a ceasefire declared by Muktadr al-Sadr that may change based on US provocations (IPS News 11/9/07).
- Iraqis believe that the U.S. “provokes more conflict that it prevents.” Only a fifth considers the U.S. to be a “stabilizing force” (*U. Maryland poll*, WorldPublicOpinion.org 9/27/06).
- Since the 1990s the U.S. has promoted the break up of Iraq along ethnic lines; George Bush, Sr., encouraged an uprising by the Shia population in 1991; the U.S. 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 in [Newsweek](#) (see “The Pentagon may put Special-Forces-led assassination or kidnapping teams in Iraq” 1/14/05). He noted that, “The Sunni population is paying no price for the support it is giving to the terrorists,” and ominously added, “We have to change that equation.”

The Costs of the War to United States

- By Christmas Day, 2007, 3,896 U.S. troops were killed in Iraq according to the [Department of Defence](#) (see also Associated Press 12/23/07).
- In excess of 30,000 U.S. personnel were wounded in Iraq (depending on how one defines casualties, the number could rise above 50,000).
- Republic Senator Ted Stevens states that the current war spending is approaching \$15 billion monthly (*Washington Post* 12/27/07), up from the \$12 billion/month figure of the [Congressional Research Service](#).
- More than \$480 billion has been spent on the war so far; it is predicted to rise to over \$1 trillion according to the [Congressional Budget Office](#).
- U.S. soldiers and their communities are paying a continuing social price in terms of post-traumatic stress (13% of returning soldiers), other mental 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, education, fixing public infrastructure, and redressing inequalities.

The U.S. Public is Opposed to the War

- Somewhere between 54% and 41% of the US public favors bringing the troops home *without* regard to the “security situation” in Iraq (Pew Research Center, 11/27/07).
- CBS also found that 46% of the public believes that the war is “creating more terrorists.”
- Antiwar sentiment is growing among US soldiers: *Army Times* (12/17/07) recently reported on a [mutiny](#) and Iraq Veterans Against the War is organizing soldiers to speak out about atrocities via its Winter Soldier campaign (www.IVAW.org).

If There Are No Good Reasons, Why the War?

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

GREATER BOSTON STOP THE WARS COALITION

33 Harrison Ave (5th floor - encuentro 5), Boston (Chinatown), MA 02111
www.StoptheWars.org · info@stopthewars.org · 617-482-3090

Updated 12/26/07, MGA