

We call for:

- an immediate withdrawal of all US troops and US private contractors from Iraq and an end to the US air war
- no funds for new troop deployment
- no US bases in Iraq; no US control of Iraqi resources
- US support and funding for Iraqi-led reconstruction
- real diplomatic efforts with all factions in Iraq and regionally, including Iran and Syria
- support for a 2-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict

What you can do:

PETITION: collect signatures to pressure our Congressional representatives to take immediate action to end the war
www.peacecouncil.net/Iraq

TAKE ACTION: come to demonstrations, planning meetings and training for civil disobedience; carry out your own creative actions and recruit friends to join you

EDUCATE: write letters to the editor, talk with neighbors, host an Iraq film screening or speaker at your home or group

Resources:

United for Peace and Justice - antiwar actions and legislation
www.unitedforpeace.org

Lie by Lie: The Mother Jones Iraq War Timeline (8/1/90-6/21/03)
www.motherjones.com/bush_war_timeline/

National Priorities Project - cost of war and federal tax spending
www.nationalpriorities.org

A Failed Transition - Institute for Policy Studies Report
www.ips-dc.org/iraq/failedtransition/

CorpWatch - war profiteering; www.corpwatch.org

SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL
924 Burnet Ave - Syracuse, NY 13203
315-472-5478 - peacecouncil.net

There's a better way to leave Iraq...



...for the Iraqi people,
for democracy,
for security,
for our conscience.



THE SURGE FOR PEACE:
A CALL FOR IMMEDIATE US WITHDRAWAL FROM IRAQ

a pamphlet by the Syracuse Peace Council's Local Cost of War Committee
sources and pamphlet available at www.peacecouncil.net/Iraq

Reality vs. Myth

A Strategy for Peace

MYTH#1: Immediate US withdrawal would be destructive

REALITY: The US presence fuels the insurgency. Phased withdrawal will delay transition to Iraqi control. There is no reason to believe that any continued US presence can accomplish the goals it has failed to achieve in the last 4 years. Soldiers and advisors left behind face greater risks, and no amount of training can force Iraqis to carry out US goals. The Iraqi people know best how to run their country.

MYTH#2: A temporary US escalation can stabilize Iraq

REALITY: The “surge” plan would send 17,000 troops into Baghdad. In summer 2006, an additional 12,000 US and Iraqi troops were sent to secure Baghdad. By October the strategy had failed dramatically as violence escalated.

MYTH#3: The US presence is preventing a civil war and benefiting Iraqi civilians

REALITY: As a result of the US invasion, Iraq is *already* in the middle of a brutal civil war. Innocent Iraqi civilians are caught in the crossfire while security and many basic services are worse now than before the invasion - clean water and electricity are less available, many hospitals and schools remain closed, poverty is 35% higher and unemployment is over 60%.

MYTH#4: Withdrawal damages US credibility and will encourage terrorists

REALITY: The State Department acknowledges that US actions in Iraq have actually aided terrorist recruiting efforts. Terrorist actions globally have increased since the US invasion.

MYTH#5: Deaths of US soldiers will have been in vain

REALITY: US military victory is not possible. More deaths in Iraq only increase the tragedy. We must bring the troops home and provide full physical and emotional care.

The US invasion of Iraq was a crime. The US had no legal or moral right to occupy Iraq and has no right to determine its future. US withdrawal is the first step in a real peace process.

Reduce the violence

Over 30% of violent Iraqi deaths post-US invasion are due to US/Coalition forces. Much of the insurgent violence targets US military or Iraqi civilians working with the US (such as the police). A US withdrawal would end these causes of violence.

End the economic, moral and human costs

- over 600,000 Iraqi civilian deaths, over 3,000 US soldier deaths and tens of thousands seriously wounded
- \$350 billion US tax dollars spent, with a total cost estimated to grow to \$1.2 trillion dollars
- loss of civil liberties at home and a foreign policy endorsing torture endanger the security and humanity of our nation

Create a space for peace and negotiations

Factions in Iraq cannot begin to negotiate a future for their country as long as the US imposes its own agenda and intervenes militarily. A US withdrawal would also show other countries that it is serious about peace in the Middle East.

Who Supports Immediate Withdrawal?

Iraqi Citizens

An estimated 70-85% of Iraqi citizens want the US to leave

US & Global Public

A majority in the US support withdrawal immediately or within a year. Global opinion never supported the invasion.

US troops

March 2006, 72% of US soldiers advocated withdrawal by Dec. 2006

US Officials & Experts

Including retired general William Odom, former CIA director John Deutsch, former State Dept. official William Polk, conservative military historian Andrew J. Bacevich

Iraqi Leaders

Sept. 2006, 104 Iraqi parliamentarians signed a petition for US withdrawal