

# ***STOP THE WAR!***

## ***TROOPS HOME NOW!***

### **The March 24<sup>th</sup> Coalition**

Is calling for **Immediate U.S. Withdrawal from Iraq**

Nearly four 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. Millions more are asking what this war is about and why was it started.

What has been the cost to Iraqis?

According to a recent report in the British medical journal, The Lancet, an estimated 650,000 Iraqis have died and many more have been wounded.<sup>8</sup> Five million Iraqis now live below the poverty line. Prior to the current war, this figure did not exceed 2 million people, despite the devastation of US sanctions.<sup>7</sup> Acute malnutrition among Iraqi children between the ages of six months and 5 years has increased from 4% before the invasion to 7.7% since the US invasion.<sup>9</sup> The war has not brought democracy and liberation to Iraqis, but rather, has devastated their lives and ruined Iraq's economy.

What has the war cost us here in the US?

The death toll of U.S. forces is now almost 3000 surpassing the 2,973 killed in the 9/11 attacks.<sup>11</sup> Casualties have exceeded 20,000. The US has spent \$341,052,000,000 (!!!) so far on the war in Iraq.<sup>12</sup>

What do Iraqi people think? IF IRAQ WAS A DEMOCRACY, what would happen?

**71% of the Iraqis want the US to withdraw within at most a year's timeframe.**<sup>1</sup> Iraqis, like people everywhere do not want to live under foreign domination but want self-determination and democracy. Neither exists under occupation.

What do US troops think?

**72% of U.S. troops say they favor withdrawal within a year while 29% want the U.S. to leave Iraq immediately.**<sup>2</sup>

What does the US public think?

**Opposition to the war is at its highest level since the invasion. The majority in this country believes that this war should never have happened. 54% want all troops withdrawn within a year. Millions (21%) support immediate withdrawal of all troops. <sup>3</sup> In Massachusetts a majority of voters instructed their state representatives to approve a resolution calling on President Bush and Congress to end the war immediately and bring the troops home. <sup>4</sup>**

### What about CIVIL WAR?

**78% of Iraqis say that the United States' military presence is "provoking more conflict than it is preventing", and 79 % of Iraqis say that the United States is having a negative influence on the situation in Iraq. 52% disapprove of the US "helping to mediate between ethnic groups" and only 8 % believe the United States is doing a good job.<sup>1</sup> Since Iraqis know that the occupation is fueling the conflict and making matters WORSE, the sooner U.S. troops are withdrawn, the better. **Bring the Troops Home Now!****

### What is this war about? What are U.S. interests in the region?

**During the 1980s the US supported Saddam Hussein and backed him monetarily in his campaign to oppress Shias and Kurds. The US and UK supplied him with £200,000 worth of thiodiglycol, one of two components of mustard gas and in 1988 kept silent when Saddam gased 180,000 Kurds. The US even helped him acquire biological WMDs, including anthrax. <sup>6</sup> The war makers have periodically shifted explanations for intervention in the Middle East and why the troops are in Iraq. **The war in Iraq has nothing to do with defending democracy or our safety and security. Rather, hundreds of thousands have been asked to serve as an instrument of domination, torture, and abuse under orders demanding "hard duty" in the service of the drive to control and the oil and politics of Iraq. The war makers in Washington seek permanent bases in Iraq in order to protect the flow of oil and project their power throughout the region.****

1. September 27 2006 Umaryland poll:

[http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/home\\_page/250.php?nid=&id=&pnt=250&lb=hmpg1](http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/home_page/250.php?nid=&id=&pnt=250&lb=hmpg1)

2. <http://www.zogby.com/NEWS/ReadNews.dbm?ID=1075>

3. Newsweek Poll conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates International. Oct. 26-27, 2006. N=1,002 adults nationwide. MoE ± 3 (for all adults). <http://pollingreport.com/iraq.htm>

4. [http://www.boston.com/news/local/politics/candidates/articles/2006/11/08/referendum\\_against\\_iraq\\_war\\_gaining\\_ground/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/politics/candidates/articles/2006/11/08/referendum_against_iraq_war_gaining_ground/)

5. <http://news.independent.co.uk/world/fisk/>

6. <http://www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?ItemID=7670>

7. <http://ww4report.com/node/2024>

8. <http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673606694919/fulltext>

9. <http://www.counterpunch.org/hassan12012004.html>

10. [http://www.icasualties.org/oif/US\\_chart.aspx](http://www.icasualties.org/oif/US_chart.aspx)

11. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/September\\_11,\\_2001\\_attacks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/September_11,_2001_attacks)

12. [http://nationalpriorities.org/index.php?option=com\\_wrapper&Itemid=182](http://nationalpriorities.org/index.php?option=com_wrapper&Itemid=182)

## **MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup> COALITION**

**Meetings: Mondays at 6:30 pm**

**Encuentro 5**

**33 Harrison Ave (5<sup>th</sup> floor), Boston (Chinatown), MA**

**www.March24.org**

**617-482-3090**