



STOP THE WARS & OCCUPATIONS BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW

September
29, 2007

The occupation of Iraq has lasted four and a half years. The cost in human life has been immense. Iraq is unstable, with inadequate electricity, health care, education, and other basic human needs for a population of over 20 million people. At least two million have fled the country and 2 million more are internally displaced.



General David Petraeus spoke before the House and Senate Armed Services Committees on September 10 and 11, asking for more time for the "surge" to work (at least until July, 2008) and refusing to set a timeline for full troop withdrawal.

The testimony came as no surprise, since the invasion and occupation of Iraq were political decisions, and the General's role is to give a perspective on how the military can accomplish the task they were allegedly authorized to conduct.

However, since the authorization passed in October, 2002 to use military force on Iraq did not authorize an endless occupation of the nation, the Congress must act to bring all the troops home now, and not to bend to the argument that the commanders on the ground dictate U.S. policy.

Petraeus' report was widely expected to contain selective information, and indeed it did. However, he may have inadvertently spoken his greatest truth when he said the source of the fighting in Iraq is "competition among ethnic and sectarian groups for power and resources." What he failed to note is that one of the largest, and most certainly the most well-armed of those sectarian groups is the United States. With 160,000+ troops and more than that many "private contractors" poised to control Iraq's oil wealth, Petraeus described what is driving the unrest very accurately.

In an op-ed piece in the *New York Times*, active duty military personnel wrote: "To believe that Americans, with an occupying force that long ago outlived its reluctant welcome, can win over a recalcitrant local population and win this counterinsurgency is far-fetched. As responsible infantrymen and noncommissioned officers with the 82nd Airborne Division soon heading back home, we are skeptical of recent press coverage portraying the conflict as increasingly manageable and feel it has neglected the mounting civil, political and social unrest we see every day" (August 19, 2007).

Despite information which came out prior to the Petraeus report indicating that the facts and figures were going to be manipulated ("Experts doubt drop in violence in Iraq," *Washington Post*, September 6), Congress' reaction was to condemn MoveOn.org for

questioning the General. Since then, 81 house members have now signed on to a letter from Rep. Lynne Woolsey pledging to give money only to get troops out of Iraq by the time George Bush leaves office at the beginning of 2009. In Oregon, 61 elected officials from City to State levels signed a letter calling for Congress to cut off funding for the "war."



However, Congress seems poised to approve another supplemental funding bill for \$50 billion or more for activities in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Nearly 4000 American military personnel and untold hundreds of thousands of Iraqis have lost their lives since the U.S. invasion. The U.S. spends billions of dollars every month that could be better spent for health care, supporting our infrastructure, jobs, and other human needs.

IT IS TIME TO STOP FUNDING THE OCCUPATION AND BRING THE TROOPS HOME!

For more information please contact the
Peace and Justice Works Iraq Affinity Group
PO Box 42456
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503-236-3065
iraq@pjw.info
Check our website at
http://www.pjw.info
for other facts and
past and future event information.

This fact sheet created by the IAG 9/10/07, updated 9/27/07.

Contact information for other Peace and Social Justice organizations in Portland who are also cosponsors of the Sept 29, 2007 rally:

Portland Peaceful Response Coalition (PPRC)
PO Box 5112, Portland 97208
(503) 344-5078
www.pprc-news.org

Working on ending the "war on terrorism" and connecting other issues to war.

Rally every Friday, 5 PM, Pioneer Courthouse Square

War Resisters League - Portland (WRL)
2000 NE 42nd #224, Portland 97213
(503) 238-0605

Military and Draft Counseling Project and Oregon Community for War Tax Resistance.

East Timor Action Network/Portland (ETAN)
(503) 235-4986 www.etan.org
Working on justice for the new nation of East Timor and neighboring Indonesia.

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
811 SW Washington #1050, Portland 97205
(503) 274-2720
info@oregonpsr.org; www.oregonpsr.org
Against nuclear weapons and violence.

Women's International League for
Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
(503) 224-5190 www.wilpf.org
Weekly peace vigils, Wednesdays 12 noon,
Pioneer Courthouse Square

Americans United for Palestinian Human Rights
PO Box 12054
Portland, OR 97212
503-287-1885
info@auphr.org <http://www.auphr.org>

Northwest Veterans for Peace
P. O. Box 7
Banks, OR 97106
Phone 503-324-1804

Veterans for Peace Chapter 72
<http://www.vfpchapter72.org>



In Iraq, daily life includes encounters with heavily armed U.S. soldiers occupying their country. Imagine "foreign forces" stationed in the United States for four and half years. (Photo: Dept of Defense via Electroniciraq.net)