

OMNI NEWSLETTER ON IRAQ #9, August 8, 2011, BUILDING A CULTURE OF PEACE TO REPLACE THE CULTURE OF WAR and EMPIRE, Dick Bennett, Editor. (We seek a new editor.) (#8 March 19, 2011; #7, April 29, 2010; #6 March 17, 2010, # 5 June 1, 2008; #4 April 3, 2008; #3 March 24, 2008, #2 Jan. 16, 2008, #1 Nov. 2, 2007.)

MARCH 19 ANNIVERSARY OF US INVASION OF IRAQ 2003

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Film: *NO END IN SIGHT: Iraq's Descent Into Chaos*, by Charles Ferguson. 2007. 102 mins.

Events following the fall of Baghdad in 2003, showing how and why the insurgency and chaos began, the guerilla war, warlord rule, criminality, and anarchy.

FILM: *IRAQ FOR SALE*

About the Film

"Regardless of the war, the administration, or the various sophistries for expending human lives as a matter of government policy, profiteering from it universally offends all citizens, whether they are Republicans, Democrats, Independents, other parties or no shows." [Read more](#) →

--Charles Lewis, founder of the [Center for Public Integrity](#)

Iraq for Sale: The War Profiteers is the story of what happens to everyday Americans when corporations go to war.

Acclaimed director [Robert Greenwald](#) ([Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price](#), [Outfoxed](#) and [Uncovered](#)) takes you inside the lives of soldiers, truck drivers, widows and children who have been changed forever as a result of profiteering in the reconstruction of Iraq. *Iraq for Sale* uncovers the connections between private corporations making a killing in Iraq and the decision makers who allow them to do so.

Brave New Films are both funded and distributed completely outside corporate America. Over [3000 people donated](#) to make *Iraq for Sale*, and it is up to you to distribute it. Give [copies](#) to co-workers and [organize a screening](#) in your neighborhood. [Get involved](#) →

The film is 75 minutes long.

[Buy it on DVD](#) →

[Screenings worldwide](#) →

Keep up with the latest in the [movie blog](#) →

PLAYS ABOUT IRAQ AND AFGHAN WARS

Theater Three Collaborative to jbenet
show details Apr 2 (2 days ago)

kmalpede@gmail.com Celebrate the Publication of
Acts of War: Iraq and Afghanistan in Seven Plays

Monday, April 25, 5:30-7pm at the Drama Book Shop
250 West 40th St., NY, NY
(between 7th & 8th Aves.)

10510 Culver Blvd., Culver City, CA
90232 / info@bravenewfilms.org

"These seven plays have a conscience. They speak in the unfamiliar language of justice"
--Chris Hedges

Guantanamo by Victoria Brittain & Gillian Slovo

American Tet by Lydia Stryk

The Vertical Hour by David Hare

Prophecy by Karen Malpede

9 Circles by Bill Cain

No Such Cold Thing by Naomi Wallace

A Canopy of Stars by Simon Stephens

BOOKS

IRAQI BLOOD ON OUR HANDS

“Blood on Our Hands: The Most Brutal Crime committed during the past Decade has been the Invasion of Iraq ”

by David Swanson

Global Research, July 22, 2010
WarIsACrime - 2010-07-21

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The most massive and brutal crime committed on this planet during the past decade has been the invasion and occupation of Iraq. And we're seeking to wash the blood off our hands without so much as an "Out, damn spot!" Nowadays "looking forward, not backward" is supposed to take care of everything, even as the crimes continue. What that takes care of is the leading perpetrators who begin to sense that the coast is clear and creep out of their holes to declare, as did Karl Rove this week, that their biggest mistake was not more aggressively attacking those who pointed out their crimes.

If there's anyone who knows where that path leads, it's probably **Benjamin Ferencz**, who served as Chief Prosecutor for the Einsatzgruppen Trial at Nuremberg in 1947 and who has just published the forward to a new book by Nicolas Davies called **"Blood on Our Hands: The American Invasion and Destruction of Iraq."** It's a useful moment in which to be handed this masterful account of what we've done, not just because the liars have been ceded the floor, but also because the crime is ongoing and we will require the proper frame of mind as each deadline for withdrawal from Iraq is violated, and because the Washington Press Corpse has begun to notice the utter irresponsibility of the people we pay to tell us what is happening in the world (not to mention to spy on us, overthrow governments, kidnap, imprison, torture, and assassinate), and because we will not end the endless war in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, and other places unless there is accountability.

This is also the moment in which the **International Criminal Court** has done something Ferencz had long worked for, and determined that it will prosecute the crime of aggressive war. Even if the ICC cannot go back now and prosecute the most serious such crime of recent years, it can prosecute

numerous US war crimes committed during the past decade, and we can address the invasion and occupation of Iraq through courts and legislatures in such a manner as to make its repetition elsewhere more likely to result in criminal charges.

Ferencz has the highest praise for Davies' book, as do I. Davies lays it all out: the planning and commission of the criminal war on Iraq from its earliest stages through to the current phase. If the Iraq occupation lasts another 50 years, it's doubtful a better account of it will be produced than this one. Davies puts the invasion and occupation of Iraq into a framework not only of history but also of law. "Blood on Our Hands" is packed with critical information that never made it into the so-called first draft of history, the U.S. media. This is a thoroughly documented account of the motivations, launching, and the conduct through several stages of the Iraq War, a war that any one of these periods shows to have been, above all else, a massive crime.

One of the few journalists whose reporting on Iraq I trust entirely is Dahr Jamail, who says "'Blood on Our Hands' is a must read. For anyone wanting a full review of U.S. involvement in Iraq from the early 20th century to the present, this book is mandatory. From U.S.-backing of a 22-year-old Saddam Hussein, to the more recent role the U.S. government played in orchestrating death squads in Iraq, Davies nails it."

Think Dahr and I are exaggerating? Here's 27-year CIA veteran Ray McGovern: "Nicolas Davies' well-documented yet fast-moving and highly readable book packages the pieces into the best account so far of the Iraq War -- how it happened and why."

Ray doesn't tend to overstate things, but just in case you have doubts, listen to Staff Sergeant Camilo Mejia, the author of "Road from Ar Ramadi": "Davies has dissected the invasion and occupation of Iraq with such precision that even the most knowledgeable reader will be amazed. This book should be read and kept in every Congressional office, in every public library, in every school and in every household. It's an absolute must-read."

I could go on with the enthusiastic statements from people who know, but I think I've made the point. **"Blood on Our Hands" is the best documented, most powerful, most legally actionable account in existence** of the worst crime currently being committed in our names, which makes its title fitting indeed. Davies wrote to me about his appreciation for Ferencz's assistance with the book, writing that Ferencz "completely ignored my lack of formal credentials and took my work on its merits from the moment he read my first article about Iraq. When I think about Ben, I only hope that he can feel some peace and satisfaction for all that he has accomplished in a lifetime of total commitment to peace and justice. He still seems more concerned with fighting this fight to his very last breath, and my reason for dedicating the book to him was partly to try and let him know that there are new generations taking up the torch he carried so heroically."

Brothers and sisters, take up that torch.

David Swanson is a frequent contributor to Global Research. [Global Research Articles by David Swanson](#)

[We Meant Well](#): *How I Helped Lose the Battle for the Hearts and Minds of the Iraqi People* by Peter Van Buren

From a State Department insider, the first book recounting our misguided efforts to rebuild Iraq--a shocking and rollicking true-life cross between *Catch-22* and *The Ugly*

American

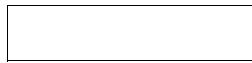
Charged with rebuilding Iraq, would you spend taxpayer money on a sports mural in Baghdad's most dangerous neighborhood to promote reconciliation through art? How about an isolated milk factory that cannot get its milk to market? Or a pastry class training women to open cafés on bombed-out streets without water or electricity?

According to Peter Van Buren, we bought all these projects and more in the most expensive hearts-and-minds campaign since the Marshall Plan. *We Meant Well* is his eyewitness account of the civilian side of the surge—that surreal and bollixed attempt to defeat terrorism and win over Iraqis by reconstructing the world we had just destroyed. Leading a State Department Provincial Reconstruction Team on its quixotic mission, Van Buren details, with laser-like irony, his yearlong encounter with pointless projects, bureaucratic fumbling, overwhelmed soldiers, and oblivious administrators secluded in the world's largest embassy, who fail to realize that you can't rebuild a country without first picking up the trash.

Darkly funny while deadly serious, *We Meant Well* is a tragicomic voyage of ineptitude and corruption that leaves its writer—and readers—appalled and disillusioned but wiser.

Ciezadio, Annia. *Day of Honey: A Memoir of Food, Love, and War*. Free P, 2011.

Beginning in 2003 the author lived in Baghdad and Beirut, met Shi'i and Sunnis, warlords, refugees, mullahs. A Compassionate portrait of civilian life during wartime and testament to power of generosity to transcend the misery of war.



<http://www.nationofchange.org/ongoing-costs-iraq-war-1312817179> "The Ongoing Costs of the Iraq War"

Published: Monday 8 August 2011

For all the destruction, Iraqis have received very little in the way of compensation.

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When you destroy someone's property, you usually have to pay compensation. The United States is responsible for much of the destruction that has taken place in Iraq since the 2003 invasion. But instead of offering compensation to the Iraqis, Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) has demanded that the *Iraqi government* pay the United States compensation in dollars for the cost of U.S.-led war. The [Iraqi response](#) was to kick Rohrabacher out of Baghdad.

While the United States focuses on its budget problems and the costs of the war, it is important to remember the price that Iraq and Iraqis have paid. It's not just the hundreds of thousands who have died during and after the war. There are millions of refugees. The country's infrastructure has been ruined. Corruption is flourishing.

And for all this destruction, Iraqis have received very little in the way of compensation.

The Human Costs

According to the International Rescue Committee, the war has [displaced 4.7 million Iraqis](#) because of the destruction of their homes and the waves of violence and persecution. Close to half of these refugees are living in poverty in neighboring countries. They face an uncertain future and may never be able to go back to their homes. This refugee crisis represents the largest and fastest growing humanitarian crises of our time.

NationofChange is a 501(c)3 nonprofit funded directly by our readers. Please make a small donation to

[support our work.](#)

Among these unsettled refugees are people who worked side by side with the Americans. Out of the 4.7 million displaced civilians, the State Department has admitted only a little more than [58,000 Iraqi refugees](#) to the United States. This figure pales in comparison to the number of refugees admitted from other countries during similar crises. During the Cold War, for instance, the United States [admitted](#) 900,000 refugees from Vietnam and 600,000 Jews from the Soviet Union.

For Iraqis still living inside the country, violence and hardship have become part of daily life. Now that U.S. diplomats are setting the groundwork to pull out troops, terrorist attacks are threatening the fragile security of this nation. Attacks in July [killed and injured dozens of people](#), and these attacks have [continued into August](#).

But it's not only the people who have paid for this ongoing war. The land itself has borne a share of the cost as well.

The Physical Costs

Iraq is still dealing with unresolved problems with basic services. [According to the UN Environment Program](#), Iraq faces severe pollution and environmental problems so alarming that an immediate assessment and cleanup plan are needed urgently. Nearly half of Iraqis [do not have reliable access to safe drinking water](#), and widespread water shortages have resulted from drought and inadequate management of resources. Except for Baghdad, electricity is [limited to three to six hours daily](#). There has been a [dramatic increase in the number of babies born with birth defects](#) since the start of war. The unemployment rate [is 15 percent](#), with certain regions reaching almost 30 percent.

Since the start of the war in 2003, Iraqi cultural institutions and archaeological sites have also suffered tremendously, with the ransacking of museums and the pilfering of thousands of items. This destruction and theft dealt a harsh blow to collections that chronicled some 7,000 years of civilization in Mesopotamia. Still today, [3-7,000 pieces remain missing](#).

The defenders of the war have argued that Iraqi citizens have gained democracy. But this democracy has been deeply flawed. Although the Iraqi people look to their new government to improve their living conditions and the security of their country, deep-seated corruption has complicated the democratic process. After the parliamentary elections in March 2010, Iraqis had to wait [at least nine months](#) for the formation of government. In February, thousands protested in the streets of Baghdad against the corruption and incompetence of the Maliki government.

U.S. Responsibility

Iraq has long been a crucial country in the Middle East. And now all the surrounding countries are helping themselves to a share of this rich country. Once a terrorist-free zone under Saddam Hussein, Iraq is now host to a flourishing al-Qaeda. U.S. forces failed to protect Iraqi civilians. The United States has failed to stabilize the country. And if the United States withdraws troops only to ignore Iraq, the country will fail in the future as well.

The U.S. government is now focusing on its own debt issue. Much of that debt has come from military expenditures and the war in Iraq. The United States has spent more than \$7.6 trillion on defense and homeland security since 9/11, while the total costs of the war in Iraq [will reach](#) \$797.3 billion by the end of the current fiscal year on September 30, 2011.

In comparison, this year, USAID plans to spend [only \\$63 million](#) in total humanitarian assistance for Iraq. In order to prevent a failed state in Iraq or a state that remains completely dependent on its U.S. backer, the United States must clean up the mess that it made. Washington should cut military spending and use a small portion of that money to help Iraqis rebuild their country, assist uprooted citizens in returning home, and create a transparent and democratic political system. Many of the losses that Iraq has suffered cannot be compensated. But the United States must still try to make things right. And that means, despite what Dana Rohrabacher has demanded, that Washington, not Baghdad, pay the Pottery Barn bill for damages incurred.

Jeff Hanks to deploy tomorrow - Your action needed TODAY
Tell Captain Ambrosino: Stop Deploying Traumatized Troops!

Army Specialist Jeff Hanks faces imminent redeployment to Afghanistan - Your help needed
Less than two months after surrendering himself at Fort Campbell from AWOL status, and without having received treatment for his war wounds, Jeff Hanks was told this week that he is scheduled for redeployment to Afghanistan TOMORROW. Today, Iraq Veterans Against the War's Operation Recovery Campaign is hand-delivering an Article 138 Redress Request to Hanks' commander detailing numerous violations of Jeff's right to heal.

Send a message to Jeff's unit commander, Captain Jason Ambrosino: STOP REDEPLOYING WOUNDED WARRIORS!

Since being back at Fort Campbell, Jeff has been a good soldier, all the while struggling with symptoms of severe PTSD and presumed Traumatic Brain Injury:

He suffers from hearing loss and bad headaches daily.

He experiences extreme anxiety in crowds and while driving.

He has such graphic nightmares that he doesn't want to sleep near his family members for fear of hurting them.

Jeff has tried doggedly to get the health treatment he needs, but consistently has faced roadblocks erected by Captain Ambrosino. Jeff started to get some relief when he began seeing a civilian counselor off-base, but Captain Ambrosino put an end to that.

Four separate medical professionals have diagnosed Jeff with PTSD, but Army Behavioral Health personnel and Captain Ambrosino refuse to acknowledge this fact.

Jeff's lawyer charges that Captain Ambrosino has failed to meet the accepted standards of care for soldiers suffering from PTSD, has interfered with the care that Hanks was receiving from a civilian counselor, and has violated Department of Defense regulations.

Tell Captain Ambrosino that he is violating the rights of soldiers and breaking the law.

Jeff's pre-deployment health screenings two days ago denied his PTSD, and results of an MRI for suspected head trauma will not be available until after he is in Afghanistan. The Army behavioral health specialist who conducted the screening told Jeff he should seek treatment while deployed in Afghanistan. But Jeff knows that it getting treatment in-country is a joke!

The way Jeff has been treated is OUTRAGEOUS, and he is not the only one who's had this experience at Fort Campbell. In fact, in 2009, Fort Campbell led the Army in suicides and had to shut down the base for three days when a series of suicides occurred after troops had returned home from deployment.

Well, 3,000 soldiers returned home to Fort Campbell yesterday, and unfortunately we may expect a similar situation to un-fold in the coming weeks.

The Operation Recovery campaign is setting up shop at Fort Campbell

Late yesterday, members of the Operation Recovery team arrived at Fort Campbell to take action on behalf of Jeff Hanks and all soldiers who are in a similar situation at Campbell.

Today, we are holding a press conference, and serving Captain Ambrosino notice in-person that we will no longer allow him to violate soldiers' right to heal.

Take action now, by letting Captain Ambrosino know that the public is watching his actions, and we will stand up for the rights of wounded warriors.

We plan to be in Fort Campbell for several weeks, where we will outreach to soldiers and their families who are dealing with PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Military Sexual Trauma. And we will continue to hold Captain Ambrosino and any other officer accountable who dares to deny soldiers their right to heal.

In Solidarity,
The Operation Recovery Campaign Team
Iraq Veterans Against the War is a 501(c)(3) charity,
and welcomes your tax deductible contributions

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Secret memos expose link between oil firms and invasion of Iraq

By Paul Bignell *Tuesday, 19 April 2011*

Reuters

A British Army soldier investigates a large fire near Basra's Shuiba refinery

Plans to exploit Iraq's oil reserves were discussed by government ministers and the world's largest oil companies the year before Britain took a leading role in invading Iraq, government documents show.

[Graphic: Iraq's burgeoning oil industry](#)

The papers, revealed here for the first time, raise new questions over Britain's involvement in the war, which had divided Tony Blair's cabinet and was voted through only after his claims that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction.

Related articles

- [Patrick Cockburn: They denied it was about Iraq's resources. But it never rang true](#)
- [Alistair Dawber: Black gold rush was fuelled by enormous untapped potential](#)
- [Search the news archive for more stories](#)

The minutes of a series of meetings between ministers and senior oil executives are at odds with the public denials of self-interest from oil companies and Western governments at the time.

The documents were not offered as evidence in the ongoing Chilcot Inquiry into the UK's involvement in the Iraq war. In March 2003, just before Britain went to war, Shell denounced reports that it had held talks with Downing Street about Iraqi oil as "highly inaccurate". BP denied that it had any "strategic interest" in Iraq, while Tony Blair described "the oil conspiracy theory" as "the most absurd".

But documents from October and November the previous year paint a very different picture.

Read more

<http://readersupportednews.org/off-site-news-section/45-45/5672-memos-expose-link-between-oil-companies-and-iraq-war>

Missing Iraq Money May Have Been Stolen

Paul Richter, Los Angeles Times

Paul Richter reports: "For the first time, federal auditors are suggesting that some or all of the cash may have been stolen, not just mislaid in an accounting error. Stuart Bowen, special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction, an office created by Congress, said the missing \$6.6 billion may be 'the largest theft of funds in national history.'"

READ MORE <http://readersupportednews.org/news-section2/308-12/6251-missing-iraq-money-may-have-been-stolen>

Liz Goodwin, The Lookout/Y!News

Excerpt: "Pentagon officials determined that one giant C-130 Hercules cargo plane could carry \$2.4 billion in shrink-wrapped bricks of \$100 bills. They sent an initial full planeload of cash, followed by 20 other flights to Iraq by May 2004 in a \$12-billion haul that US officials believe to be the biggest international cash airlift of all time."

READ MORE <http://readersupportednews.org/news-section2/308-12/6266-focus--6-billion-qin-cashq-missing-in-iraq>

Inside the Iraqi protest movement: An interview with Uday al-Zaidi

Reply |IVAW to jbenet 6-19-11

Read Ali Issa's blog about June 7.

James ,

Iraq protest movement reaches a turning point

Last week, the non-violent protest movement in Iraq reached a critical point. June 7 marked the self-imposed deadline for Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to rid the various government departments of corruption and correct their incompetence. You see, a major criticism from the growing movement of tens of thousands across Iraq is that rampant corruption is preventing the provision of basic services like regular electricity.

Well, June 7 has come and gone, and conditions have not changed. This has bolstered the growing peace movement that has taken over the nation, and demonstrators are demanding Maliki's resignation. You can follow the latest developments in this movement on Facebook here.

Our friend, Ali Issa, at War Resister's League has been in contact with some of the leaders of this growing peaceful protest movement in Iraq. Check out his interview from May 25th with Uday al-Zaidi, a leader of The Popular Movement to Save Iraq and brother of famed shoe-thrower, Muntadhar al-Zaidi:

Demonstrations continued across Iraq in today's weekly Friday protest.

Today, protest activities were reported taking place in Basra, Fallujah, Diwaniya, Tella'afer, Mosul, Nassiriya, and Tahrir Square in Baghdad. There was a demonstration outside the Iraq embassy in London as well. Inside Iraq, many of the protests were met with crackdowns from government security forces, resulting in numerous arrests. In one case, eyewitnesses reported that security forces fired live ammunition at protesters.

Crowds were chanting anti-Maliki slogans including the following translated chants:

"FRIDAY AFTER FRIDAY AND WE WILL GET MALIKI OUT!"

"GET OUT MALIKI, WE DON'T WANT YOU!"

"BROTHERS SUNNA AND SHIA'A, THIS COUNTRY WE WILL NOT SELL!"

"LIAR! NOURI AL MALIKI IS A LIAR!"

IVAW organizers inform soldiers deploying to Iraq out of Fort Hood about growing Iraqi resistance movement

As you know, IVAW has a team of organizers reaching out to soldiers at Fort Hood this summer as part of our Operation Recovery campaign to stop the deployment of traumatized troops. We recently have learned that approximately 3,000 soldiers are being sent from Fort Hood to Iraq over the course of the summer. IVAW is now looking into which units are deploying to Iraq, and we will attempt targeted outreach to those soldiers to educate them about the growing peaceful protest movement there whose chief demand is U.S. troops out.

To support our continued work in solidarity with the Iraqi protest movement, make a donation now.

Thank you!

Iraq Veterans Against the War

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Final Version (Signers) Lee-Jones Out-of-Iraq Letter

Hiscze@aol.com

The following 93 members of Congress signed the Lee-Jones letter on Iraq: Baldwin, Bass (CA-33), Boswell, Braley, Capps, Capuano, Chu, Cicilline, Clark (MI-13), Clarke (NY-11), Clay, Cleaver, Clyburn, Cohen, Conyers, Costello, Davis (IL-7), DeFazio, DeLauro, Deutch, Doggett, Doyle, Duncan (TN-2), Edwards, Ellison, Farr, Filner, Frank, Fudge, Garamendi, Grijalva, Gutierrez, Hahn, Hanabusa, Hastings (FL-23), Heinrich, Hirono, Holt, Honda, Jackson Jr. (IL-2), Jackson-Lee, Johnson (IL-15), Johnson (TX-30), Jones, Kaptur, Kucinich, Larson, Lee, Lewis (GA-5), Loeb sack, Lofgren, Lujan, Maloney, Matsui, McCollum, McDermott, McGovern, Michaud, Miller (CA-7), Moore, Nadler, Napolitano, Norton, Olver, Paul, Payne, Pingree, Polis, Rangel, Richardson, Rush, Sanchez (CA-39), Sanchez (CA-47), Schakowsky, Schrader, Scott (VA-3), Serrano, Sewell, Slaughter, Speier, Stark, Thompson (CA-1), Thompson (MS-2), Tonko, Towns, Tsongas, Velazquez, Waters, Watt, Welch, Wilson (FL-17), Woolsey, Yarmuth

Press release and official letter to the President below:

For Immediate Release July 27, 2011

Contact:

Ricci Graham, (510) 763-0370

Barbara Lee, 92 Members of Congress Call for Return of U.S. Troops and Military Contractors from Iraq by December 31, 2011

Washington, DC – Today, Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA) released the following statement after sending a letter to President Barack Obama, along with 88 Democrats and 4 Republicans calling for compliance with the Status of Forces Agreement with Iraq and a full withdrawal by December 31, 2011:

“I am pleased that so many of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle joined me in sending a clear

message that we must keep our commitment to ending the dangerous and misguided military occupation in Iraq this year.

“It has been over eight years since President Bush launched the disastrous war in Iraq. Now President Obama has the opportunity to finally end the war by adhering to the Status of Forces Agreement with Iraq which requires all 47,000 U.S. troops remaining in Iraq to depart before December 31, 2011.

“The American people are sick and tired of endless wars, and widely support the current plan to end our involvement in Iraq. It is past time that we bring this war to an end.”

The text of the letter can be found below.

July 22, 2011
The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to urge you to hold to our nation’s Status of Forces Agreement with the government of Iraq that commits our nation to bringing all of our troops and military contractors home at the end of this calendar year.

The American people have made it clear that the war in Iraq must end. By wide and overwhelming margins, Americans approve of your plan to remove all the troops from Iraq by the end of this year.

We are deeply concerned to learn that your Administration is considering plans to keep potentially thousands of U.S. troops in Iraq beyond the end of this year. Extending our presence in Iraq is counterproductive - the Iraqi people do not support our continued occupation. Remaining in Iraq would only further strengthen the perception that we are an occupying force with no intention of leaving Iraq.

Leaving troops and military contractors in Iraq beyond the deadline is not in our nation’s security interests, it is not in our nation’s strategic interests, and it is not in our nation’s economic interests. Mr. President, we look forward to working with you in maintaining our nation’s Status of Forces Agreement with the government of Iraq and bringing all of our troops and military contractors home at the end of this year.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

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.haw-info mailing list

haw-info@stopthewars.org

http://stopthewars.org/mailman/listinfo/haw-info_stopthewars.org

END OF OMNI IRAQ NEWSLETTER #9.