

March 19th Marks 5 Years of War in Iraq and a Massive Day of Nonviolent Action in Washington D.C.

(Washington, DC) **On Wednesday, March 19th, 2008, the U.S. occupation in Iraq will enter its 6th year.** To mark this tragic anniversary, over 30 peace and justice organizations are uniting their efforts in an unprecedented day of coordinated nonviolent direct action and civil disobedience against the "Pillars of War" that sustain the illegal U.S. occupation.

More than 1 million Iraqis and nearly 4,000 U.S. service people have been killed, 2 million Iraqis are living as refugees in other countries and another 2.5 million are displaced within Iraq. More than \$500 billion has already been spent on the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan and now, as the country fumbles into recession, the Bush administration is asking for at least another \$102 billion.

The vast majority of the people of this country and in Iraq want this war to end, yet policymakers in Washington have still not used their power to bring the troops home. We are no longer just waiting on Congress to do the will of the people. We will take action ourselves to end this war. There are already people coming from over 36 states to Washington to participate.

On Wednesday, March 19 our actions aimed at the "Pillars of War" represent a broadening of our strategy to end the war. By disrupting those who are promoting and profiting from war, we hope to drive home the popular mandate and resistance to this war. Dozens of actions are being planned to put pressure on the pillars below.

The Military: The American people want our military to stop lying about supporting the troops and start doing it. Veterans will be taking action at multiple government sites.

Funding: The American people want funding for healthcare and education - not death and destruction through military actions. Actions include a blockade of the IRS.

War Profiteers: The American people refuse to let these companies siphon off our tax dollars to profit from the death of innocent people. Several offices of key war profiteers including the oil companies will be shut down.

The Security State: The American people will no longer fear our government and ambiguous foreign threats - we will stand together against them and oppose their march to fascism. Look for waterboarding demonstration and a procession of the dead.

The Media: The American people demand the truth, and media based on responsible, investigative and robust reporting free of governmental and corporate interests. Surprise media actions throughout the day.

Background

United for Peace and Justice, the largest peace coalition in the US with over 1400 member groups and organized the largest anti-war march on Feb. 15 2003. To mark this 5th Anniversary, UFPJ is organizing and supporting - the [Winter Soldier hearings](#), [mass nonviolent direct action in Washington DC](#), and [local actions all around the country](#) . We believe it has been Five Years too Many, At Too Great a Cost.