



Battalions in Iraq, June 2009

still

Because it is [^] not over

Peace Demonstration

Seven year anniversary of the US invasion of Iraq
...and it is still not over.

What: Peace Demonstration and Rally

When: 18 March 2010 (Thursday) 5pm

Where: the corner of Green and Wright Streets, Champaign-Urbana

- 2003 March 20, the United States invaded Iraq.
- 2010 March: we still have 115,000 troops in Iraq.
- Congress supported the invasion in 2002 knowing that it was illegal but feeling that it was justified.
- They now say they were misled: the Bush Administration made over 935 false statements about Iraq's alleged threat to the United States in a 2-year period.
- 1,366,350 Iraqis have died due to the U.S. invasion and occupation (2010).
4.2 million Iraqis have lost their homes and become refugees (June 2007).
- The Bush Administration estimated the war would cost \$50 billion.
The total financial costs of the war in Iraq is now more than \$700 billion (February 2010).
- Cost of deploying one U.S. soldier for one year in Iraq : \$390,000
- 4,377 US soldiers killed (as of January 2010). 31,639 seriously wounded.
54% of US casualties were under 25 years old.
30% of US troops develop serious mental health problems within 3 to 4 months of returning home.
- In October 2007, Obama supported removing all combat troops within 16 months. "I will remove one or two brigades a month, and get all of our combat troops out of Iraq within 16 months. The only troops I will keep in Iraq will perform the limited missions of protecting our diplomats and carrying out targeted strikes on al Qaeda. And I will launch the diplomatic and humanitarian initiatives that are so badly needed. Let there be no doubt: I will end this war."
- September 2007: "I believe that we should have all our troops out by 2013, but I don't want to make promises, not knowing what the situation's going to be three or four years out."
- Congress has the power to limit the deployment of troops and funding of the wars.
\$80 billion was approved in June 2009, for the ongoing war efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq.
- Troops still in Iraq - Total 115,000 U.S. troops as of November 30, 2009. All other nations have withdrawn their troops. Private contractors in Iraq are harder to count.
- **Because it is still not over. Because it is not just Iraq.**

Trivia questions: Which level of Dante's Inferno is for the politicians?

Which level is for those who did nothing, neither for good nor evil — those who take no side.

Some other events of interest around Urbana-Champaign:

- **People's Pot Luck, Sunday, March 7th, 6:00pm** U-C Independent Media Center (downtown Urbana old post office), 202 S. Broadway, Urbana
Monthly potluck supper discussing community issues such as homelessness, unemployment, community gardening, economic and social justice.
- **Islam Awareness Week, March 8th – 12th** [IAWUIUC@gmail.com]
 - **"Beyond the Veil", Mon March 8th noon-1pm**, Yusra Al-Shawaf, Women's Resource Center (Green & Wright above Freestar Bank)
 - **"Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet", Tue March 9th 7-9pm**, film screening, 223 Gregory Hall
 - **Islam Q&A, Wed March 10th 7-9pm**, with student discussion, room 119 Materials Science and Engineering Bldg (Green and Mathews)
 - **"Women in Islam", Thu March 11th 7-9pm**, lecture by Imani Jaafar-Mohammad, room 217 Noyes
 - **Mosque Open House, Fri March 12th 1pm-2:30pm**, Central Illinois Mosque and Islamic Center (CIMIC), 106 S. Lincoln Ave, Urbana
 - **"Unveiled", Rohina Malik one-woman play, Fri March 12th 7pm-9pm**, ARC auditorium, 201 E. Peabody, Champaign
- **U-C IMC Open House / Skill Share / "Really, Really Free Market", Sat March 13th, 11am-2pm**, Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center, 202 S. Broadway (old downtown U. post office).
Read more at: <http://www.ucimc.org/>
- **"Palestinian-Israeli Relations: the Search for Justice" : A Panel Presentation Sunday, March 14th, 2010, 2pm**
at the Champaign Public Library main branch, 200 W. Green, Champaign, IL
Panelists: Robert Naiman, Gary Storm, John Setterlund, David Green; Moderator Eric Heim.
Free. Everyone is welcome. Sponsored by AWARE Films (even though this isn't a film).
Refreshments and after-talk discussion. 352-2803
- **"Vets and Activists Speak Out against War and Occupation" Tuesday, March 16th, 7:00pm** Gregory Hall room 307 (Armory and Wright, Champaign)
Speakers include Jacob Crawford, Iraq Veterans Against the War, and Eric Ruder, reporter with Socialist Worker. Vets, activists, and ordinary people from the U.S. To Afghanistan all will be needed to stop endless war and occupation in Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine, ... Discuss what's behind the US' strategy in Central Asia and the Middle East, how we can stop the wars, and transform the system that breeds them.
- **"Coordinating and Communicating", Fri-Sat Apr 9th-10th** – annual meeting of Illinois Coalition for Justice, Peace and the Environment (icjpe.org) at U-C IMC, downtown Urbana.
Friday evening keynote by **Alexander Cockburn**; panels all day Saturday on environmental, peace, and social justice topics, with panelists including Kathy Kelly, Aaron Hughes, Terra Brockman, Gary Cziko, a representative of the Japanese Zenko Peace movement, Kerry Pimblott, Paul Street, Jamie Kalven, and many others.

This flyer comes from local peace group, AWARE – aware@anti-war.net, one of several sponsors of the March 18th demonstration. For the present, we meet **every Sunday from 5:00pm-6:30pm** in the basement Family Room at the U-C Independent Media Center, 202 S. Broadway (take the steps leading downward from Elm St. on the north side of the old post office). But we may be moving in May – write to aware@anti-war.net to be sure.