

# Recruit for Peace, Not for War

OVER TWO YEARS AGO, THE UNITED STATES LAUNCHED TOTAL WAR

— *shock and awe* — against the people of Iraq. Hundreds of thousands of Iraqis are dead. A nation is destroyed. More than 2,100 American soldiers have been killed, and many thousands more are grievously injured.

We carry coffins representing the American soldiers and Iraqis who have been killed in this war. The White House has tried to hide these deaths from the American people. **We demand the troops be brought home NOW.**

While hiding the human cost, President Bush is also trying to hide the financial costs of war, paying for war out of supplemental bills tacked onto the military budget. Each month we spend \$5 billion on military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan — a total of more than \$200 billion, and counting.

With so many in America, and throughout the world, hungry, unemployed, homeless and illiterate, that money could be spent to bring food, job security, housing, education, dignity and joy, instead of death and destruction. **We demand reparations for the Iraqi people** so they can rebuild their shattered country. And we demand new priorities here for peace and justice.

For alternatives to joining the military, see [www.projectyano.org](http://www.projectyano.org).

The NYC War Resisters League is being joined by the Direct Action Tendency of the Socialist Party and the Industrial Workers of the World.

**“I wish I could forget all the things I saw over there, but I can’t.”**

Mike Hoffman, a former Lance Corporal in the Marines, is co-founder of Iraq Veterans Against the War

**“I can’t sleep at night knowing that’s what I do for a living.”**

Pablo Paredes, a Petty Officer who refused to board his warship, which ultimately left for Iraq without him

**“I apologize to the Iraqi people. To them I say I am sorry for the curfews, for the raids, for the killings. May they find it in their hearts to forgive me.”**

Staff Sergeant Camilo Mejia, the first Iraq war veteran to base combat refusal on conscience and international law, served almost a year in prison

**“I was not defending freedom, I was protecting a corporate interest.”**

Kelly Dougherty, co-founder of Iraq Veterans Against the War, was a Military Police officer in Iraq with the National Guard where she protected trucks transporting oil

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