



We Are Not Your Soldiers



To Our Generation

THE IRAQ WAR HAS BEEN GOING ON SINCE MOST OF US CAN REMEMBER. OUR GENERATION HAS GROWN UP IN THE MIDST OF WAR AND UNKNOWINGLY IN AN INCREASINGLY MILITARIZED SOCIETY. EVERYWHERE WE LOOK, SOLDIERS' LIVES ARE GLORIFIED, MANY OF THE FIRST PERSON SHOOTER VIDEO GAMES WE PLAY OR WATCH ARE ESSENTIALLY TRAINING TOOLS, STEMMING FROM THE EXACT SAME TECHNOLOGY USED TO TRAIN SOLDIERS. WE ARE THE ONES BEING TARGETED FOR RECRUITMENT TO FIGHT THIS WAR, BECAUSE WE ARE TOO YOUNG TO REALIZE THIS WAR WAS NEVER SIMPLY IN RESPONSE TO 9/11. WE ARE THE ONES WHO, IF WE JUST ACCEPT IT ALL AS A FACT OF LIFE, WILL BE LIVING UNDER GOVERNMENTAL CORRUPTION BEYOND PREDICTION. THIS WAR IS NOT OVER AND SHOULD HAVE NEVER STARTED. IT'S OUR PROBLEM NOW. THAT'S WHY WE NEED CHANGE AND WE ARE THE ONES WHO NEED TO CHANGE IT.

Why did we go into Iraq in the first place?

AFTER 9/11 BUSH AND CHENEY DECIDED TO TELL EVERYONE IRAQ HAD WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS AND TIES TO AL QUEDA. THEY LIED AND THIS HAS BEEN PROVEN. THE REAL REASONS HAVE A HISTORY GOING BACK DECADES. WHEN WE LOOK AT THE NEED FOR OIL FOR INDUSTRY AND MILITARY BY THE US AND EUROPE, HOW THE OIL-RICH REGION OF THE PERSIAN GULF IS AS A WHOLE BEING TARGETED - IT IS FAIRLY SIMPLE TO SEE THAT THE US INTERESTS IN THIS REGION OF THE WORLD ARE NOT FOR SELF-DEFENSE BUT FOR OIL. IN OTHER WORDS, 9/11 HAD VERY LITTLE TO DO WITH THE REALITY OF WHY THIS WAR STARTED AND GOES ON AND ON AND ON



Isn't life better now in Iraq?

THOUGH SADDAM HUSSEIN WAS AN OPPRESSIVE DICTATOR, THE STANDARD OF LIVING WAS MUCH HIGHER, THE SOCIETY WAS FUNCTIONING, WOMEN HELD PROFESSIONAL JOBS, PEOPLE HAD HOMES, ELECTRICITY AND WATER. BAGHDAD WAS A MODERN CITY. THAT IS NO LONGER THE CASE.

TODAY 4.5 MILLION PEOPLE ARE DISPLACED INTERNALLY IN IRAQ AND EXTERNALLY IN OTHER COUNTRIES, WANTING TO RETURN HOME, BUT HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO RETURN TO. THE ENTIRE COUNTRY WENT FROM FUNCTIONAL TO DEVASTATED.

THE US GOVERNMENT HAS COMMITTED SERIOUS CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY SUCH AS BOMBING OF CIVILIANS AND TORTURE. JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY PHYSICIANS FOUND THAT MORE THAN ONE MILLION IRAQIS HAVE BEEN KILLED.



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BUT AREN'T WE LEAVING IRAQ ANYWAY? WHAT HAS OBAMA'S ROLE BEEN?

NO, WE'RE NOT LEAVING IRAQ. 50,000 US TROOPS REMAIN, RENAMED "ADVISE AND ASSIST TROOPS" -- PLUS THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF PRIVATE US MILITARY CONTRACTORS, MERCENARIES, WHO ARE SUBJECT TO EVEN FEWER LEGAL RESTRICTIONS. THEY'RE STILL KILLING AND DYING IN IRAQ -- WHILE THE US MEDIA HAS LEFT. AND THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT ROUTINELY TORTURES PRISONERS WITH THE FULL COMPLICITY OF US FORCES.

OBAMA HAS CLOSED DOWN SOME BASES BUT SEVEN PERMANENT ONES REMAIN. HE IS ALSO CONTINUING TO BUILD THE LARGEST EMBASSY IN THE WORLD IN IRAQ.

NO, THE IRAQ WAR IS NOT OVER. AND, SINCE OBAMA'S ELECTION, THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN HAS INTENSIFIED AND IS SPREADING TO PAKISTAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

Hasn't the US brought democracy?

NOPE. THE US IS CREATING AN IRAQI GOVERNMENT OBLIGATED TO THE OCCUPYING US FORCES. BEFORE THE US INVASION, IRAQ HAD A SEPARATION BETWEEN RELIGIONS AND THE STATE. THE US CREATED A SITUATION IN WHICH THERE IS A HUGE DIVISION BETWEEN RELIGIOUS GROUPS, SHIA AND SUNNIS.

Why aren't the people who started the Iraq war held accountable?

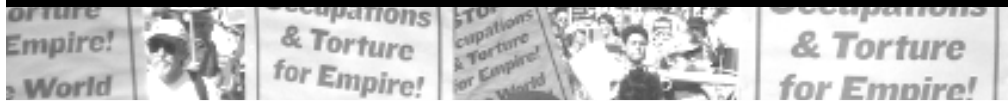
THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS WAR ARE EXTREMELY POWERFUL INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE SEVERELY DISTORTED THE LAWS FOR THEIR BENEFIT. IF NO ONE IS PROSECUTED FOR THESE WAR CRIMES AND NO ONE FIGHTS FOR MORE GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY, IT ALLOWS FUTURE PRESIDENTS TO CONTINUE CARRYING OUT THE SAME WAR CRIMES. WORLD CAN'T WAIT HAS BEEN FIGHTING TO BRING THESE PEOPLE TO JUSTICE.

"FOR EIGHT YEARS THE US ADMINISTRATION PROMISED THE IRAQI PEOPLE THE SKY WILL RAIN DEMOCRACY AND PROSPERITY. WELL, AFTER EIGHT YEARS WE HAVE NOTHING. THERE IS NO DEMOCRACY."
- IRAQI PROTESTER FEB 25 2011

That's not what we hear from the recruiters. What can we do about all of this insanity?

THAT'S WHY WE'D LIKE TO VISIT YOUR SCHOOL WITH OUR WE ARE NOT YOUR SOLDIERS TOUR. WE TRAVEL AROUND THE COUNTRY AND BRING IRAQ-ERA WAR VETERANS AND VIDEOS TO THE CLASSROOM TO SPEAK OUT ABOUT THE TRUTH OF THEIR EXPERIENCES, ABOUT WHAT YOUTH ARE BEING RECRUITED TO FIGHT AND SUPPORT. THESE ANTI-WAR VETERANS TELL THE ON-THE-GROUND REALITIES OF WHAT THE MILITARY IS DOING.

OUR GENERATION NEEDS TO REALIZE WHAT OUR COUNTRY IS DOING AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO UNLESS WE PROTEST. ONCE YOU KNOW THE FACTS, THE TRUTH WILL FOLLOW. NO ONE IS GOING TO BE ABLE TO CHANGE THIS UNLESS WE MAKE OUR VOICES HEARD. IT'S UP TO ALL OF US TO REALIZE OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ONE ANOTHER AND OURSELVES. IT'S TIME FOR ENLIGHTENMENT. IT'S TIME FOR OUR GENERATION!



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