

IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR ★ IVAW.ORG

On the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the U.S. occupation in Iraq, Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) presents

Winter Soldier: Iraq & Afghanistan

March 13-16, 2008 - Washington DC

The largest gathering of Iraq Veterans Against the War to date.

From March 13-16, 2008, IVAW will gather at the National Labor College near Washington, DC to disclose the realities of U.S. war policy in a public investigation called Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan. Veterans and civilian survivors of both conflicts will give public testimony and share the eyewitness stories that have been censored from the American public about the true human cost of these occupations.

Continuing a tradition of courage.

Winter Soldiers, according to Thomas Paine, are those who stand up for the soul of their country in its darkest hours. Over thirty-five years after the first Winter Soldier investigation conducted by Vietnam Veterans Against the War, America needs Winter Soldiers again. In this spirit, today's veterans are standing up to tell our stories to all who are concerned about the direction of our country. The Winter Soldier: Iraq & Afghanistan investigation is part of a GI resistance movement that is growing every day.

It is our turn to tell our stories.

Americans have heard from the generals, the pundits, and the politicians, but they haven't heard the truth about these occupations from the people who have first-hand experience. For our democracy to truly function, Americans must understand the reality of the wars their government is waging. Veterans are the only ones who can expose the true face of the Iraq and Afghanistan occupations because we are the ones who fought on the ground. By breaking the silence, we are performing a difficult but essential service to our country.

Soldiers are not criminals. The occupations are criminal.

Contrary to what military leaders say, wrongdoings in Iraq and Afghanistan are not individual incidents perpetrated by "bad apples." Throughout the military, from the highest levels of power, soldiers are being ordered to do things that violate their conscience and the rules of war. Winter Soldier will place the blame of atrocious U.S. war policy where it belongs - on our political leaders.

Rewriting history.

The history of the Iraq and Afghanistan occupations is being written by people who aren't fighting them. These occupations have been distorted by those with a political agenda. We are the credible sources; we can tell the true story of these occupations because they are our stories.

For more information about Winter Soldier, visit www.ivaw.org/wintersoldier.

What You Can Do to Help Support Winter Soldiers

1. Donate money or help fundraise.

Winter Soldier: Iraq & Afghanistan is the largest single event that IVAW has organized in our 3 1/2 year history. The cost of staging this event is enormous. We need funds to:

- Cover transportation, food and housing for hundreds of our members from all over the country.
- Continue collecting eye-witness testimony for legal review.
- Provide legal and mental health support to those risking telling their stories.
- Provide a live satellite broadcast of the three day event.
- Compile video documentation of the Winter Soldier testimonies.

Send donations to IVAW, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102 or contact Amadee Braxton at amadee@ivaw.org to arrange a fundraiser.

2. Organize a Winter Soldier viewing event in your local area.

This event will be broadcast live via satellite on TV, radio, and via web streaming at ivaw.org. For more information on how to view the live broadcast, please visit ivaw.org/wintersoldier/howtowatch. If you are planning an event featuring the broadcasts, please let us know by posting it here: ivaw.org/wintersoldier/viewinglocations/submit.

3. Help us provide free counseling to veterans and active duty servicemembers

If you are a mental health professional, provide free counseling services to our veterans before, during, or after Winter Soldier. Contact Nancy Goldner, nlgoldner@optonline.net, to get plugged in to our mental health network.

4. Spread the word about Winter Soldier.

First Name: _____ Last Name _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone #: _____

I am interested in volunteering to help with: