

# Granny Peace Brigade

## Twelve Points for Peace:

1. Stop funds for the war - there is enough money in the pipeline to bring the troops home safely. Congress has the power of the purse and must use it.
2. Bring troops home starting now and all home by June 2007.
3. No permanent bases in Iraq.
4. No preventive war.
5. People of Iraq must control all of Iraq's resources - no U.S. pressure to privatize Iraq's oil company.
6. Assist in the restoration of civil society in Iraq for all sectors: housing, education, medical care, legal and administrative infrastructure, and the arts.
7. Repeal the Military Commissions Act. Restore the writ of habeas corpus. Adhere to the Geneva conventions and the conventions of international law.
8. Repeal the civil rights violations of the Patriot Act.
9. Close Guantánamo.
10. End the practice of extraordinary rendition.
11. Investigate the lies that launched the war and the conduct of the war.
12. Call for impeachment proceedings.

On the following pages is an elaboration on our

### **Twelve Points for Peace**

and a summary of two plans for

### **Leaving Iraq - Attention, Senators/Representatives!**

STOP FUNDS FOR THE WAR - THERE IS ENOUGH MONEY IN THE PIPELINE TO BRING THE TROOPS HOME SAFELY. CONGRESS HAS THE POWER OF THE PURSE AND MUST USE IT.

Congress must stop funds for the war. Protect the people who would be displaced by the closing of weapons factories by finding and/or creating new jobs with equal pay and benefits. Provide retraining where necessary. Use the savings gained by cutting weapons spending to develop programs in energy conservation, renewable energy, education, and other social programs thereby creating more jobs.

BRING TROOPS HOME STARTING NOW AND ALL HOME BY JUNE 2007.

We all understand that the situation in Iraq is difficult and grave. The United States needs to take action to repair as much damage as possible and to stop further killing. U.S. armed forces are perceived as occupiers and hated by the majority of Iraqis. As long as our fighting men and women are in Iraq, violence from the insurgency and counter-insurgency will increase. We must immediately begin to reduce the number of U.S. troops in Iraq. We must support the development of an international force composed of troops principally from Muslim and Arab countries to provide security in Iraq. At the same time, we must establish a timetable for the complete withdrawal of U.S. troops.

NO PERMANENT BASES IN IRAQ.

Almost no Iraqis believe that the U.S. is there to spread democracy. They think we are there to control their oil. The U.S. government has never denied that it intends to maintain military bases in Iraq indefinitely, and this silence confirms Iraqi opinion. The only way to secure a peaceful withdrawal of our forces is to announce immediately our intention to leave all military bases behind as we pull out, and to do so over the next six months.

NO PREVENTIVE WAR.

The United States had international sympathy after the 9/11 attacks. Today, because of our preventive war against Iraq, that sympathy has turned to hate and fear in much of the world. We are in more danger now than we were before we declared war on Iraq. The United States must assume a position of responsible leadership in the international community by renouncing preventive war as a national security strategy.

THE PEOPLE OF IRAQ MUST CONTROL ALL OF IRAQ'S RESOURCES -- NO U.S. PRESSURE TO PRIVATIZE IRAQ'S OIL COMPANY.

Dennis Kucinich, speaking from the Floor of the House on Dec. 7, 2006:

"On October 25th, President Bush cited oil as a reason for our continued presence in Iraq. The Iraq Study Group is recommending Iraq law be changed to facilitate privatization of Iraq's oil wealth.

"The Iraq Study Group report says as much as 500,000 barrels per day -- that is \$11.3 billion per year -- in Iraqi oil wealth is now being stolen,....How can we expect the end of the Iraq war and national reconciliation in Iraq, while we advocate that Iraq's oil wealth be handled by private oil companies?"

"It is ironic that this report comes at the exact time the Interior Department's Inspector General says that oil companies are cheating the U.S. out of billions of dollars while the Administration looks the other way.

"Is it possible that our troops are dying for the profits of private oil companies?"

ASSIST IN THE RESTORATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN IRAQ FOR ALL SECTORS: HOUSING, EDUCATION, MEDICAL CARE, LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE, AND THE ARTS.

From: *Out of Iraq-A Practical Plan for Withdrawal Now*

by George McGovern and William R. Polk:

"Insofar as practical, Iraqi engineers, contractors, tradesmen, and construction workers should be employed in postwar reconstruction. Their involvement will be a point of pride for Iraqis, but it will also help to reduce Iraq's crippling rate of unemployment, which was caused by the war, the embargo, and the insurgency. Iraqi engineers are among the ablest in the Middle East and can carry out important work more efficiently and at less cost than engineers brought in under contract from abroad....

"Another residue of the war and occupation is the intrusion of military facilities on Iraqi cultural sites.... Iraq is itself a virtual museum. It is hard to put a spade into the earth without disturbing a part of the record of the creation of our shared cultural heritage. America should set up a fund of, say, \$250 million (one day's cost of the war)...to assist in the restoration of sites that its troops have damaged...

"Finally, America should express its condolences for the large number of Iraqis killed, incapacitated, incarcerated, and/or tortured.

"In summary, the basic cost of the program...might total roughly \$7.75 billion."

REPEAL THE MILITARY COMMISSIONS ACT. RESTORE THE WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS. ADHERE TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THE CONVENTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

Patrick Leahy, United States Senator:

"Passing laws that remove the few checks against mistreatment of prisoners will not help us win the battle for the hearts and minds of the generation of young people around the world being recruited by Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda. Authorizing indefinite detention of anybody the Government designates, without any proceeding and without any recourse -- is what our worst critics claim the United States would do, not what American values, traditions and our rule of law would have us do. This is not just a bad bill, this is a dangerous bill."

REPEAL THE CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF THE PATRIOT ACT.

Pass the Security and Freedom Enhancement (SAFE) Act, proposed by Senators Larry Craig (R-ID), John Sununu (R-NH) and Richard Durbin (D-IL), which would add checks and balances to the Patriot Act. The SAFE Act would add some judicial, Congressional and public oversight to Patriot Act powers and would revise the definition of "terrorist" to exclude certain groups of people such as anti-war protesters and abortion demonstrators.

### CLOSE GUANTÁNAMO.

Guantánamo gives the administration yet another way to circumvent established judicial processes and avoid congressional oversight. The administration has created a new way of categorizing human beings: enemy combatants. Once a person is so categorized he or she has neither the protection of the Geneva Conventions nor the Constitution -- in fact, no protection or rights whatsoever.

### END THE PRACTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY RENDITION.

The amendment to the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for the Iraq War and Tsunami Relief, 2005 (P.L. 109-13) states that Congress will not authorize the funding of any program that "subject[s] any person in the custody or under the physical control of the United States to torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment that is prohibited by the Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States." P.L. 109-13, § 1031 (2005). Investigate to find out if all agents of the U.S. Government are obeying this law.

### INVESTIGATE THE LIES THAT LAUNCHED THE WAR AND THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

Begin by investigating the misuse of intelligence leading up to the war. Continue by investigating the waste, fraud and misuse of funds in the conduct of the war. Pay particular attention to the roles played by contractors such as Halliburton and Bechtel.

### CALL FOR IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS.

The Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) has prepared *Articles of Impeachment Against George W. Bush* on four specific grounds:

- Spying on Americans in violation of Congressional statutes
- Illegally initiating the war in Iraq on the basis of lies to Congress and the American people
- Engaging in arbitrary and illegal detention of both citizens and non-citizens and condoning torture
- Appropriating for the Executive Branch powers denied it by the Constitution, both with respect to the above offenses and by adding "signing statements" to laws passed by Congress indicating that the President would determine exceptions to those laws as he saw fit.

CCR states, "In all of this, George W. Bush has acted in a manner contrary to his trust as president and subversive of constitutional government, to the great prejudice of the cause of law and justice and to the manifest injury of the people of the United States. Wherefore George W. Bush, by such conduct, warrants impeachment and trial, and removal from office."

Material and a book detailing these Articles are available from the Center at <http://www.ccr-ny.org/v2/home.asp>.

# Leaving Iraq – Attention, Senators/Representatives!

What Iraq needs is not continuing U.S. military intervention, but international peace-keeping, and reconstruction of infrastructure and human services. We should take our troops out of harm's way, and restart diplomatic efforts with the Iraqi authorities, our many allies, international organizations, and concerned governments that can move to bring an end to the civil discord. In collaboration with Iraq, these should be identified and their assistance sought, their services to be remunerated in large part by the U.S.

We strongly support the provisions of bill H.R. 4232 (109 Congress) – “End the War in Iraq,” introduced by Representative Jim McGovern, which would prohibit the use of funds to deploy United States Armed Forces to Iraq but would provide for safe and orderly withdrawal of all troops; consultations with the Government of Iraq, other foreign governments, NATO, the UN, and other international organizations; financial assistance or equipment to Iraqi security forces and international forces in Iraq; but which would not prohibit or restrict non-defense funding to carry out reconstruction in Iraq.

Here we refer especially to two plans, one detailed by Representative Dennis Kucinich and one set forth by George McGovern and William R. Polk, detailed in their book "Out of Iraq - A Practical Plan for Withdrawal Now." The McGovern-Polk plan includes estimated financial costs. Some of the elements of these two plans are summarized, as follows:

## **Representative Dennis Kucinich Plan:**

1. UN interim management of oil assets
2. UN management of contracts, awarded under transparent conditions
3. U.S. must renounce any privatization plans
4. UN to handle transition to viable self governance
5. U.S. to pay for what has been destroyed
6. U.S. to pay reparation
7. U.S. to contribute financially to UN peacekeeping mission
8. UN to commit 130,000 peacekeepers to Iraq on temporary basis until Iraq can maintain its own security
9. UN troops rotate into Iraq, and all U.S. troops to return home
10. U.S. to abandon "preemption" and unilateralism and commit itself to strengthening the UN. Representative Kucinich has indicated that under this plan U.S. troops should return home in 90 days

## **George McGovern and William R. Polk Plan:**

Here is a statement and a summary of some of the recommendations set forth in Chapter 5 “How to Get Out of Iraq” (Chapter 6 is “What Happens If We Do Not Get Out of Iraq?”)

"Withdrawal is not only a political imperative but also a strategic requirement. Before the American invasion, Iraq was devoid of terrorists; today as the American command and senior civil military officers have repeatedly admitted, has become the primary recruiting and training ground for them. ... We suggest that phased withdrawal should begin on or

before December 31, 2006, with promise to make every effort to complete it by June 2007.

"Withdrawal is not without financial costs. These costs are unavoidable and will have to be paid sooner or later ..."

Some of the recommendations:

1. An international force to police the country short-term after American withdrawal (possibly contingents under the aegis of the Arab League or United Nations)
2. American assistance given during withdrawal, if requested by the Iraqi government
3. Creation and solidification of a national police force
4. Immediate cessation of work on U.S. military bases
5. American withdrawal from the Green Zone
6. The digging up and destruction of land mines and unexploded ordinance and, where possible, the cleaning up of depleted uranium in artillery shells and their targets
7. Rebuilding/reconstruction to be done by Iraqis
8. Ascertainment of the full extent of damage
9. Restoration of historic sites
10. Reparations to Iraqi civilians for loss of lives and property.

The chapter contains additional recommendations.

In Chapter 6, "What Happens If We Do Not Get Out of Iraq?" two points of note made are: (a) since no strong Iraqi leader who has power and legitimacy will be pro-American, if American departure is not soon and orderly, it will be eventual, under pressure, and in haste; and (b) relationships among the civilian components of Iraq having been inflamed during the occupation, the groups will seek to protect themselves with arms.

Senator McGovern and Dr. Polk are eminently qualified to concern themselves deeply in this matter -- both are knowledgeable in Middle East Affairs and Dr. Polk is a Middle East and Arabic scholar.

To reiterate, we emphasize that the withdrawal of the U.S. from Iraq by no means implies leaving a vacuum. What is required is our orderly turnover of programs and functions to non-U.S. competent bodies in order to promote cessation of hostilities, the rebuilding of physical and social infrastructure, provision of humanitarian assistance, and in order to bring to an end the dreadful carnage emanating to a great extent from the occupation.

We ask and know that you will pursue these recommendations for the early and orderly removal of U.S. military personnel from Iraq and that you will keep open the lines of communication with your constituents on steps underway for achievement of this end.

The Granny Peace Brigade  
[www.grannypeacebrigade.org](http://www.grannypeacebrigade.org)