

The Cost of war

Each Day
of the Iraq war
Could Have
Bought

423,529
Children
with
Health Care

163,525
Adults with
Health Care

84
New
Elementary
Schools

12,478
Elementary
School
Teachers

34,904
four year
scholarships
for university
students

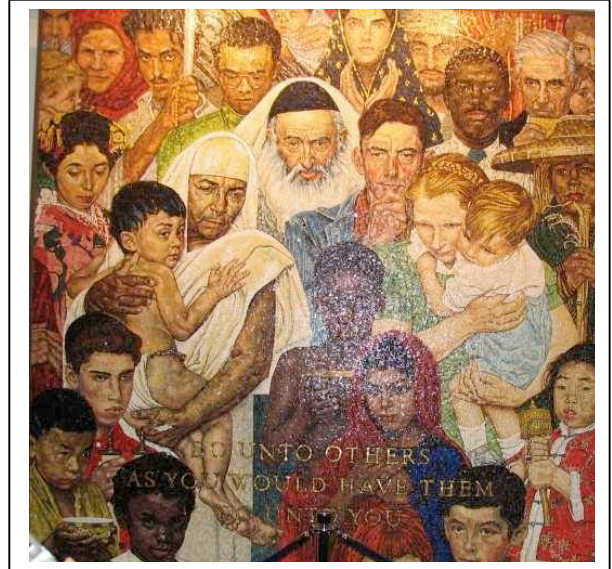
First Congregational Church Guilford, CT/ November 2007. statistics from AFS unless noted

PAJ: Peace Committee News

Help Congress End Torture and Begin to Bring Our Soldiers Home

Congress is currently debating a Bill on Funding the Iraq War that would end torture and start bringing our soldiers home

Come to our "write-in" table in fellowship hall and send a postcard of support to our legislators



*Do Unto Others as You Would Have Them Do Unto You
A mural given by the United States to the United Nations*

This bill includes:

- ∞ a requirement that the US abide by the Army Field Manual and Geneva Conventions to eliminate the use of torture by US officials. If congress passes this bill, it will be easier for the new Attorney General, Michael Mukasey, to outlaw torture going forward, based on this law. He could do this without threatening those who, following administration policies, may have already committed torture
- ∞ and demands the start of withdrawals without fixing the numbers of troops that will come home

The House of representatives began debate Friday, Nov. 9, 2007, on a funding bill for Iraq. The plan would require that the administration immediately begin removing some troops from Iraq. It sets Dec. 15, 2008, as a goal for removing all troops except for those needed for the protection of diplomats and remaining military forces, for counterterrorism operations and for limited support of Iraqi forces. It would also impose a requirement that American troops spend more time at home between rotations to Iraq and order all government personnel to follow the Army field manual in conducting interrogations, a provision intended to prevent the use of waterboarding and other so-called enhanced techniques by the C.I.A.

By demanding the start of a withdrawal without fixing a number of troops and then setting December 2008 as a goal only, the bill hopes to strike a balance that could attract both ardent critics of the war and those who are uneasy about conflict but not willing to set a withdrawal deadline. The new legislation would provide for an unspecified number of U.S. troops to stay in Iraq to protect American diplomats and facilities, train Iraqis and perform counterterrorism operations. It is thought that force would total in the tens of thousands.

The House bill comes as a new opinion poll indicates widespread national opposition to the war. A CNN-Opinion Research Corp survey said a record **68 percent of Americans now opposed the war.**

The bill would specifically outlaw torture by U.S. officials. Bush says torture is already prohibited, but refuses to disclose U.S. interrogation methods. This bill would specify that the US live up to the stipulations of the Geneva Conventions.

Peace / Political Action Events

Write-in today Nov.11 and next Sunday Nov.18

Tell Your Representatives and Senators what you think. There are mailing labels and postcards available in Fellowship Hall.

Write-in downstairs in Fellowship Hall We will supply postcards for you to write to your congress reps and senators. We taxpayers have already spent more than \$1 trillion for the first four years of the war. Let's help Congress Shift Our Priorities to Human Needs: a Marshall Plan for the restoration of Iraq / Health and Human Services here at home

Saturdays 11:00 – 12:00 (ongoing) Join the Guilford Peace Alliance on the southwest corner of the Guilford Green

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One day of the war in Iraq costs \$720 million

How would you spend it?

- Universal Health Care? Health Care for our Returning Troops?
- Shoring up Social security?
- Improving Education and Job Training? Making college more affordable?
- Bridge, Airport, Railroad & other infrastructure repair & upgrades?

On Waterboarding as Torture



Excerpts from a PBS discussion, Thurs. Nov 8, 2007, The News Hour discussion with Ray Suarez, Malcolm Nance and Neil Livingstone on water boarding. For the entire debate go to <http://www.pbs.org> Malcolm Nance, was a Navy instructor who trained SEALs to deal with waterboarding and other hostile interrogation techniques.

[I]t's controlled drowning. And if done wrong, by an unprofessional team or by an inexperienced team, you can kill that person quite easily.

MALCOLM NANCE: ... I believe that torture is torture. And when you get right down to the technique, we're splitting hairs over whether waterboarding is torture when, in fact, it has been outlawed.

War crimes trials have been carried out during World War II for people who actually conducted waterboarding. It is illegal by definition of the U.S. code and under the international statutes that we carry out military operations, as well.

Are we, as Americans, ready to create a gray area that is permanent and within policy, which will allow Americans to carry out torture under the euphemism of "enhanced interrogation techniques"? And are we ready to actually write that into the moral fiber of this country?

NEIL LIVINGSTONE: ... If we start trying to define too precisely what torture is -- and we shouldn't be doing a lot of things that we're doing now, let me preface that -- we have sent out people to carry out extreme forms of duress in the war on terrorism.

If we suddenly say, "This is now torture," we suddenly are going to say, "Perhaps those people did something illegal," who were serving their country well, and go out and put them on trial today. I don't think that's productive.

RAY SUAREZ: Is that sufficient reason on its own not to define torture, that it may put some people who have done some things into legal jeopardy?

RAY SUAREZ: **It [The Geneva Conventions] specifically forbids using the exceptional circumstances argument as a justification for torture or, as has been done in the field with various techniques, using the justification of orders from a superior officer or a government for doing it.**

... ..

RAY SUAREZ: Does it work, Malcolm Nance?

MALCOLM NANCE: No, I don't think it works at all. ...the problem with using these tools is that you are applying duress and coercion to a subject, and that subject is going to want to make that stop, physiologically and mentally.

And as they are trying to make it stop, they will come up with whatever you are asking. Maybe they'll agree with you or they will actually try to create some half-truth or a lie, in order to get you to stop the procedure.

I can make anyone say anything I want, given a proper team and a proper amount of time on a waterboard, approximately a minute or two minutes.

...

Every person that I have ever spoken to, two people who spoke on the panel today, unequivocally understand that this does not work. These are extra-legal, extra activities which have just manifested themselves in the recent years.

Waterboarding dates back to the Spanish Inquisition.

Two Years Ago This Month...

Excerpt from Reverend Linda Carleton's Sermon, delivered Nov 27, 2005

...

What I'm talking about this morning is **the way we as a nation are allowing the War on Terrorism to erode the values on which we were founded.** I'm talking about our turning a blind eye to our country's **abuse of the most basic human rights, both here and abroad.**

...We all know that we've permitted Congress to pass and renew a Patriot Act that has so broad a definition of "domestic terrorism" as to potentially include anyone who opposes government policy. We've accepted unprecedented incursions into our right to privacy. We've permitted our government to detain without charge and hold indefinitely any person they think *might* provide a threat to national security. We've allowed Muslim immigrants- visitors and resident aliens alike- to be rounded up and deported for minor infractions. We've tolerated the detention of Afghani combatants in Guantanamo without due process of law or the protections of the Geneva Convention regarding prisoners of war (and we've done this in spite of our Supreme Court's ruling it to be illegal). We've heard the news and seen the photographs from Abu Graib and we've listened to both former detainees and our own soldiers report of widespread abuse elsewhere. We've read that a 2002 Justice Department memo sought to justify torture. And this week there is new evidence that U.S. detainees are being sent to prisons in Eastern European countries that our government has previously cited for truly unspeakable cruelties. Our nation is betraying the most basic tenets of our Bill of Rights- the freedom of speech and association, the right to privacy, the right to habeas corpus and legal representation and due process of law, and the prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment. And in the process, we are losing our position of moral leadership in the free world. ...

There is a way out of the wilderness and the time of restitution is at hand. All you need to do is to **prepare the way.** Listen again to his words:

In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ...
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all people shall see it together.

In plain English, this is what Isaiah is saying: **the way to prepare for the coming of the Lord is by trying to set things right.**

It is time for us as a church to wrestle with what we can do to prepare a way through the wilderness our nation is living in today. It is time for all of us- both individually and as a congregation- to see if we can work together to **set things right.** The first step is for us to **speak our concerns and our truths out loud.** We know that the current climate of repression and abuse is not the way of our Lord.



Wage Peace

Veterans Day 2007

- casualties made 2007 the bloodiest year for U.S. troops in Iraq. Seven deaths on Monday (Nov.5) took the number of U.S. soldiers killed to 853 this year; the worst previous year was 2004, when 849 deaths were recorded.
- in 2004 1.8 million veterans were uninsured and unable to get health care even at VA hospitals (NYTimes, Nov.9,2007)
- More than 400 veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars have turned up homeless, and the Veterans Affairs Department and aid groups say they are bracing for a new surge in homeless veterans in the years ahead. (NYTimes Nov8,2007)
- we are spending \$500,000 each minute on the war in Iraq

They gave their lives to End All Wars

