

Next month we commemorate the 5th anniversary of 9/11.

Are we safer now than before 9/11? Another Mother for Peace says NO!

Under the guise of protecting us from terrorism, this administration has embarked on a foreign policy that condones violence and willfully ignores international law.

Graphic photos showing military personnel at Abu Ghraib abusing prisoners and mugging for the camera were widely publicized. The response of the Bush Administration was to argue that these were isolated acts committed by low ranking personnel. Others, here and abroad, contend that these events actually are symptomatic of a broader American attitude of disrespect toward Arabs and an increased tolerance of violence as a means of exerting power and resolving conflict.

Since 9/11, hundreds of terrorist suspects have been imprisoned at Guantanamo and held in flagrant violation of the Geneva Conventions. Detainees are routinely subjected to harsh living conditions and physical punishment that fit the definition of torture. The shamelessly brutal management of the prison has brought international scorn on the U.S.

On January 27, 2005 President Bush told the world, "Torture is never acceptable, nor do we hand over people to countries that do torture." As he spoke these words, our government was conducting a secret program known as "extraordinary rendition" that does exactly what President Bush insisted to the world the United States would never condone.

Our government has been using 9/11 as an excuse to initiate and condone practices that are the opposite of what our country stands for. How can we be safer if most of the world now sees us as bullies who throw our weight around, who have little or no regard for the sovereignty of other nations and no respect for international law?

The situation in the Middle East is getting worse. Iraq is engaged in a civil war. Relations between Israel and Hezbollah have exploded in violence in both Lebanon and Israel. The ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine is escalating. War with Iran seems inevitable.

Another Mother for Peace believes that the United States should quickly move away from a foreign policy based on military force. Since 9/11 we have employed strategies that create more terrorists and fewer allies. Those who argue that all we need to prevail against terrorists are more troops and more military force are wrong. We must bring our sons and daughters home from the killing fields. War, no matter who started it, is not healthy for children and other living things.



Peace Homework

- ✓ The November mid-term elections are approaching. This is the time to support candidates who will speak out against this war and vote to bring the troops home! Our government should engage in battles of ideas, not weapons.
- ✓ Contact your Representative or their staff and urge them to support House Joint Resolution 73 — the John Murtha sponsored legislation for withdrawal of U.S. military forces from Iraq. Since we last wrote about this bill, 6 more members of Congress have signed on to it. If they are already a co-sponsor, thank them for taking a stand and encourage them to work with Murtha to get this bill to a debate and vote on the House floor. Remember, you can reach your Representative through the Capitol Switchboard, (202) 224-3121.
- ✓ Write to your newspapers and tell them you support House Joint Resolution 73 calling for U.S. troop withdrawal from Iraq.

Is your Representative a co-sponsor?

H. J. Res. 73 (the Murtha bill) has 105 co-sponsors as of July 28, 2006

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James E. Clyburn [SC]
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Elijah E. Cummings [MD]
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Lynn C. Woolsey [CA]
David Wu [OR]

VETERANS BENEFITS

We heard from a Vermont attorney who specializes in work with veterans. She told us that veterans are entitled to both VA benefits and social security disability benefits if they can prove that the disability was service-connected. Approval is not automatic, especially in cases involving mental health disabilities. In many cases the veteran must get the help of a lawyer, apply for benefits, wait for a hearing, and then be willing to appeal if the initial hearing is not favorable. For some, the process may take 1–2 years. Our reader wanted us to make it clear that veterans are entitled to these benefits, but they may have to fight for them. She said, "Application should be made as soon as possible, as the cases take a long time to make their way through the system."

We think it is immoral to punish veterans and the widows and orphans of soldiers killed in action. It's time for Congress to close the loopholes that make it impossible for veterans and their families to survive!

Another Mother for Peace is a non-profit, non-partisan association dedicated to eliminating the use of war as a means of solving disputes among nations, people and ideologies.

Another Mother for Peace

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Peace Materials

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| Medallion | \$15.00 |
| <i>"War is not healthy for children and other living things" (see picture above).
Logo is approximately 1" x 1¼".
Available in gold or silver metallic finish.</i> | |
| Note Cards | \$15.00 |
| <i>Boxed set of 10 cards with matching envelopes. Our "War is not healthy . . ." logo in color on the front. Inside is blank.</i> | |
| Pax Materna Poster | \$15.00 |
| <i>Original AMP purple poster (4¾" x 34") from 1985. "No mother is enemy to another mother" with our logo in 18 languages. The Pax Materna is printed on the back.</i> | |
| Embroidered Patch | \$ 5.00 |
| <i>Our beautiful "War is not healthy . . ." sunflower logo on a 3" x 3½" patch to sew or iron onto clothing, backpacks, etc.</i> | |
| Letter Seals | \$ 2.00 |
| <i>40 self-adhesive seals per sheet. Stamp-size seals with "War is not healthy . . ." logo. Put these on your mail (and everything else!)</i> | |
| Bumper Stickers | \$ 2.00 each
or 3/\$ 5.00 |
| <i>Another Mother for Peace
Another Family for Peace
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