

What Are YOU Going To Do?

FIVE YEARS OF UNJUST, IMMORAL WAR

The U.S. invasion was never about liberating Iraqis—or anybody else. It was about conquering, controlling, and imposing more direct U.S. domination of Iraq. And the occupation is a continuation of those goals. The U.S. isn't in Iraq today to "fix the damage" it's done. It's in Iraq to conquer the country. The occupation is a continuation—an escalation—of the crime of invading Iraq.



Baghdad, the capital city of Iraq and home to millions of people, bombed by U.S. March 21, 2003.

The Iraq war was not—and is not—a "mistake" or "bad policy." This war was based on lies. This war is in the service of empire. This war is a moral crime. And the U.S. occupation of Iraq, including the targeting of the civilian population for death, degradation, and rape is a war crime by the standards of the Nuremberg Tribunal that judged the Nazis.



Victims of U.S. and coalition bombings in Basra, southern Iraq, March 22, 2003.



People sift through the rubble of homes destroyed in a U.S. airstrike, Fallujah, October 2004.



A U.S. soldier gestures over the body of an Iraqi who died while in U.S. custody at Abu Ghraib.

The pictures from Abu Ghraib capture what this occupation is really about: the smiling, smirking faces of GIs giving the "thumbs up" signs next to mutilated Iraqi corpses, while Iraqi prisoners are stripped naked and terrorized, humiliated, and degraded by U.S. soldiers and dogs.



High school students in Berkeley, California, confront Marine recruiters, February 12.

People also need to confront these realities, and dig deeply into what kind of system created all this unnecessary misery and horror, and the kind of revolutionary change that is necessary.

From that perspective, and as part of working to bring into being a revolutionary movement, we need to surmount all fears, struggle against cynical complacency and complicity, and bring out to everyone the reality of what this system is doing to the world.



U.S. and Iraqi troops take captives while storming the main hospital in Fallujah, November 2004.

All this is being done in *your name*—supposedly to protect you. But none of this is in the interests of the people—across the planet or living in the U.S. It's being done to further the interests of a system of exploitation whose interests are diametrically opposed to the interests of humanity. And the poison that only American lives count, while others don't, is unconscionable.

On the fifth anniversary of the war, important and urgently needed protests are being called around the country. Wherever you are, join the protests—wear orange—and work to make them as powerful as possible. END THE WAR, NOW!

Background photo: U.S. tanks patrol Baghdad, 2003.

U.S. Marines occupy the city of Fallujah, November, 2004.