



**IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR** ★ **IVAW.ORG**

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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## **Iraq Veterans: It's our turn to tell our stories**

*Iraq Veterans Against the War to convene Winter Soldier as occupation enters sixth year*

**Washington, D.C.** – Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) is preparing to launch an event that will give veterans and service members a chance to speak out about the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan will feature testimony that will expose the human consequences of failed policy.

From March 13-16 at the National Labor College just outside of Washington, D.C., veterans from across the country will be standing up to share their experiences. Their stories will show that wrongdoings in Iraq and Afghanistan are not isolated incidents perpetrated by “bad apples.”

“We’ve heard from the politicians, we’ve heard from the generals, we’ve heard from the media – now it’s our turn,” said Kelly Dougherty, executive director of IVAW and a former sergeant in the Colorado Army National Guard, who served in Iraq as a military police officer. “It’s not going to be easy to hear what we have to say. It’s not going to be easy for us to tell it. But we believe that the only way this war is going to end is if the American people truly understand what we have done in their name.”

The event has been named Winter Soldier to honor a similar gathering 30 years ago of veterans of the Vietnam War. Winter soldiers, according to founding father Thomas Paine, are the people who stand up for the soul of their country, even in its darkest hours.

Hundreds of veterans are planning to travel to Washington for the event, which will feature live testimony – along with supporting video and photographic documentation – as well as panel discussions that will focus on the human impact of the war as well as the continuing break down of the military. For those who won’t be able to travel to Washington, live video and audio feeds of the entire Winter Soldier weekend will be available – groups across the country are already planning to gather and watch the event.

*Iraq Veterans Against the War was founded in 2004 to give those who have served in the military since September 11, 2001 a way to come together and speak out against an unjust, illegal and unwinnable war. Today, IVAW has over 700 members in 49 states, Washington, D.C. and Canada and on military bases overseas.*

**For more information or to register to attend:  
[www.ivaw.org/wintersoldier/media](http://www.ivaw.org/wintersoldier/media)**