



IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR ★ **IVAW.ORG**
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Winter Soldier on the Hill: Iraq Veterans to Testify Before Congress on Failure of Troop Surge

WHAT: Winter Soldier on the Hill

WHO: Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) & The Congressional Progressive Caucus

WHEN: May 15, 2008, 9:30am-12:30pm

WHERE: 2261 Rayburn House Office Building

WHY: To present eyewitness accounts of the Iraq occupation to Congress.

Washington, DC – On May 15, members of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) will testify under oath before Congress about their eyewitness accounts of the military occupation of Iraq. Testifiers will include veterans who served during the surge.

This testimony represents a shift from reports to Congress from high-level commanders and political appointees to direct accounts from boots-on-the-ground soldiers and Marines about the situation in Iraq. Testifiers will detail the ineffectiveness of the “troop surge,” the dehumanization, abuse and killing of innocent Iraqi civilians, and the breakdown of the military as a result of the ongoing occupation of Iraq.

Testifiers will include, but are not limited to, Luis Montalvan, who served two tours in Iraq as an Army Captain; Jason Lemieux, a US Marine Corps Infantry Rifleman who served three tours in Iraq; and Kristofer Goldsmith, who served in the Army as an Artillery Forward Observer in Sadr City, Iraq.

“The time has come for Congress to hear about the occupation from the soldiers and Marines who have seen it first-hand. General Petraeus continues to repeat the administration’s talking points while ignoring what the soldiers on the ground know: the Iraq occupation is not working,” said Kelly Dougherty, a former Military Police Sergeant in Iraq and Executive Director of IVAW.

Winter Soldier on the Hill is a continuation of Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan (WSIA), held at the National Labor College from March 13-16, 2008. Named after Thomas Paine’s reference to soldiers who stand up for their country in its darkest hours, WSIA gathered over 250 members of IVAW and collected over 30 hours of testimony regarding the negative impact of the Iraq occupation on the military – including an overburdened Veterans’ Administration, demoralized service members and a crumbling military infrastructure.

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 occupation. Today, IVAW has over 1,000 members in 43 states, Washington, D.C. and Canada and on military bases overseas.



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