

IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR ★ IVAW.ORG

On the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the U.S. occupation in Iraq, Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) presents

Winter Soldier: Iraq & Afghanistan

March 13-16, 2008 - Washington DC

The largest gathering of Iraq Veterans Against the War to date.

Hundreds of members of IVAW will gather at the National Labor College near Washington D.C. from March 13-16, 2008 to disclose the realities of U.S. war policy in a public investigation called Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan. Veterans and civilian survivors of both conflicts will give public testimony and share the eyewitness stories that have been censored from the American public about the true human cost of these occupations.

Continuing a tradition of courage.

Winter soldiers, according to the patriot Thomas Paine, are those who stand up for the soul of their country in its darkest hours. In 1971, a group of courageous Vietnam War veterans held the first Winter Soldier hearing during which they presented public testimony to expose the criminal nature of the war. Now, over 35 years later, another Winter Soldier is needed.

It is our turn to tell our stories.

Americans have heard from the generals, the pundits, and the politicians, but through Winter Soldier they will be able to hear the eyewitness accounts of those who experienced these occupations firsthand.

Soldiers are not criminals. The occupations are criminal.

Contrary to the rhetoric of political and military leaders, wrongdoings in Iraq and Afghanistan are not isolated incidents perpetrated by "bad apples." Throughout the military, from the highest levels of power, servicemen and women are being ordered to do things that violate their consciences and the rules of war.

Leaders need to be held accountable.

We repeatedly see lower enlisted soldiers getting punished for bad policy. Winter Soldier will place the blame of atrocious U.S. war policy where it belongs: on our political leaders. Our voices will come together to destroy the myth that individual soldiers are to blame.

What you can do to support Winter Soldier:

- Fundraise by collecting donations or hosting events.
- Encourage and sponsor GIs and veterans in your area to attend Winter Soldier and speak out about their experiences.
- Organize community forums to view live feed coverage of the Winter Soldier hearings from March 13-16, 2008.
- Send letters to the editor to your local newspapers explaining why Winter Soldier is important to you.

For more information, and ways you can help, visit www.ivaw.org/wintersoldier.