

# AMERICANS for PEACE and JUSTICE

## Montpellier, France

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### NO TO NATO INVOLVEMENT IN IRAQ

The U.S. war on Iraq is illegal, immoral, and is apparently part of a greater imperial campaign in the Middle East, as evidenced by the establishment of 14 “enduring” U.S. military bases in Iraq consistent with an intended long term military presence in the country;

Beyond the illegality of the war itself, numerous documented cases of war crimes and atrocities have been committed by U.S. in Iraq, including killing of civilians, torture, blocking medical assistance to wounded, cutting off water supplies to civilians, and the use of cluster bombs and depleted uranium munitions;

The resistance of much of the international community, including France, in the run-up to the war in 2003 has helped isolate the U.S. and overextend its military, leading the U.S. to force soldiers to remain in the military, but stopping short of a politically-difficult general draft;

The U.S. is desperate for other countries to relieve the burden, and has put great pressure on NATO to contribute. This pressure has shown results, such as the recent unanimous decision by NATO to dedicate 1500-1700 personnel to train Iraqi troops;

It is imperative, in order to restore true sovereignty to the Iraqi people, to bring an end to U.S. war crimes and atrocities in Iraq, and to restrain the capacity of the U.S. to engage in further military adventures in the Middle East or elsewhere, that other countries, and particularly those within NATO, do not contribute to the current occupation in Iraq;

While France has thus far resisted putting NATO troops on the ground in Iraq, their position has been based in part on the lack of Iraqi “sovereignty.” Outside of Iraq, French government officials have emphasized “renewing the transatlantic security partnership” (Alliot-Marie, Jan. 2004), and the French military currently serves alongside U.S. forces in Afghanistan (as part of NATO) and elsewhere as part of the “war on terrorism;”

Now, with Iraqi elections scheduled for the end of January, we fear that increased U.S. pressure, possible financial incentives, and enhanced “sovereignty” produced by the elections, may alter France’s position. Foreign Minister Michel Barnier recently said: « Mettre fin à l’instabilité en Irak, qui est aussi notre propre instabilité, est un devoir collectif ». It is critical that the French government hears clearly that « mettre fin à cette instabilité » does not include military engagement, by NATO or by any individual nation.

In view of the above, we, the undersigned citizens or residents of France, call on the French government to maintain its resistance to U.S. aggression in Iraq, and to refuse to participate, directly or indirectly through NATO, in the current occupation of Iraq.

[www.americansforpeaceandjustice.com](http://www.americansforpeaceandjustice.com)

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