

## **UFPJ Calls for Local Actions on the 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the War in Iraq: March 19 –20 2009**

### ***Beyond War: A New Economy is Possible!* Bring the Troops Home Now!**

On March 19, 2003, the United States launched an illegal and immoral war against the people of Iraq. For 6 long years our government lied while disregarding human rights and the rule of law, the death toll has mounted, and massive destruction has left Iraq in ruins. The war has drained our national treasury while the profits of oil companies and war profiteers have soared.

But there is a new spirit in our nation, a new sense of possibility and change. One change that is urgently needed is ending the war and occupation in Iraq – now and completely!

**United for Peace and Justice calls on groups large and small in cities, towns and rural communities all across the country to take public action on the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the war.** We must send a strong, unequivocal message to the new Administration and the new Congress: the people of this country want the war to end, and to end now! It is also time to raise our voices against the U.S. war in Afghanistan.

Hundreds of local efforts will be united in our common message:

- The war in Iraq is wrong and the cost is too great: it is time to bring all the troops and contractors home.
- Afghanistan is not “the good war” - the U.S. occupation of that nation must end now.
- To solve our economic crisis we must stop pouring billions of our tax dollars into war and occupation. It is time to re-build our communities.

If we are to end the occupation in Iraq and bring all the troops home, if we are to stop the death and destruction and start on the road to re-building, we cannot let up or pull back. We must make the connection between the sky rocketing costs of this war – economic and human - and the crisis people in our communities are feeling:

- at least one million Iraqis killed
- 4.5 million Iraqis displaced and 5 million orphans
- over 4,000 U.S. service people killed, tens of thousands wounded
- more than \$600,000,000,000 already spent
- \$720 million spent each day
- estimates that in the end we will spend upwards of \$3 trillion

Here are just a few ideas of what your local group can do:

- visit the local offices of your members of Congress or organize a protest in front of their offices
- put together a street visibility activity so many people see your call to end the war
- plan a march or rally or vigil or civil disobedience action at the offices of a company making money off of the war, or at a federal building
- organize an educational event that helps people understand how the issues are connected
- plan to do extensive media work to ensure the message reaches the largest audience possible

We urge your group to endorse the UFPJ call for local actions to mark the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the war in Iraq. And we hope you will use your local activities to help build for the mobilization in NYC on April 4<sup>th</sup>, the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King’s historic *Beyond Vietnam* speech.

Visit the UFPJ website for more information and additional ideas for activities your group can plan around the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and for more information about our campaign, *Beyond War, A New Economy is Possible: Yes We Can!*

Be sure to list any and all activities your group is planning on the calendar on the UFPJ website.