

CARE Package
for
Iraq/Afghanistan
War Recruiters

Dear Iraq/Afghanistan War recruiter,

Those of us in the local anti-war movement are deeply concerned for your well-being and the well being of all those whom you call to serve in the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. We do not stand apart from or above you, but with you as citizens who, at every turn, are coerced and seduced into thinking that our children and young people are fair game for recruitment into the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. It is so painful to see you as recruiters for the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars turned against our own children full force as we give you billions of dollars in taxes each year to equip and mobilize that select few among you to hunt down our own children in their schools, fields of play, and ultimately in their hearts and own homes. We wonder how it came to be that war recruiters use the most advanced tools of persuasion, unbound by the sanctity of the truth and compassion, against the children we love so dearly. How did it come to pass that under our civilian oversight, you as soldiers sworn to uphold and defend the constitution are so passionately working to violate it in the name of these illegal and immoral wars. We lament that on our watch as a parental generation, we have allowed you as Iraq and Afghanistan War recruiters to be hijacked by a psychopathic regime in Washington and state legislatures, to deliver our children into doing their bidding, to murder children of other parents like us in a land that is slated to become "theirs". Our children and the children of Iraq and Afghanistan are not theirs.

The very fact that recruiting children for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is considered legal in the United States, when illegal by international standards, and left to pass as legitimate by any of us who are in a parental generation is a sign that something is extremely wrong. Our local anti-war movement is designed to try to correct what is wrong. Every day we use the tools of the nonviolent civil rights movement in order to liberate the spirit and mind of Iraq and Afghanistan War recruiters. We aim to have you receive the light and sanity of our compassion toward the whole community of humankind. Through our example and teaching, we hope you will be inspired to do deeds born of the best in us, not the worst.

The ranks of the anti-war movement are filled with those from your community who see the disease of this Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. We understand that recruitment of children into the service of the current empire is ghastly and abhorrent to all of us so passionately committed to nonviolence and justice. Among the ranks of the local anti-war movement are:

- parents of potential recruits
- children who are being recruited
- veterans and active duty soldiers
- families of fallen veterans
- relatives of children killed in Iraq/Afghanistan
- educators
- public health workers
- civil rights activists
- working people
- clergy
- and others who are compelled to intervene in the lives of recruiters who have been set upon our children

Our purpose is simple and clear. We will not stop until every Iraq/Afghanistan war recruiter is turned and our children are once again safe to go to school, play in their community and rest in the sanctity of their homes. We believe that the only cure for the cloaked violence of war recruitment is the open and public speaking of the truth. We say out loud that your current handlers, civilian and military, have severely broken ranks from we the people who are supposed to impose the highest level of conscience before anyone is sent to war in our name. They have failed you and, in not stopping them on their path to the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars, we have failed you as well. As a remedy, we offer the light of public scrutiny on all of us as we

choose our path through these obscene wars. We offer you as Iraq/ Afghanistan War recruiters our compassion, our best hopes and prayers that you will be delivered from the disease that captures your minds and leaves you believing that you have any right to hunt our children for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. We sympathize with you as people who have been threatened by your masters with being sent to combat if you do not meet a quota of new recruits. We know that you, too, were marginalized by the powerful and that, in their deceit, they sold you military service to empire as a way out. We know the reality of these wars and the empire they serve.

You never leave our hearts. You will always have a place in the community of sane and loving people who have historically delivered human dignity and compassion in the face of those who cynically wield power in the name of war for empire. We speak out loud the truth that those who wield political power in our names never intended for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to liberate anyone but themselves. We know this by simply seeing the facts and character of what has occurred. We see their intentional acts that bring about:

- massive and violent loss of life and the unspeakable horror and outrage it creates
- destruction of families
- recruitment of developmentally challenged children and children made vulnerable by the weapons of the elite; poverty, racism, sexism, drug abuse. Recruitment by exploiting the despair and corrupted self-esteem that comes with such subjugation
- human poisoning, dismemberment and radiation exposure
- killing of our planet with weaponry and fallout
- the current military culture that leads to torture and the rape of women soldiers
- the highest rate of mercenary soldiers ever used in a United States war
- the greatest suspension of civil rights since the McCarthy era
- incitement to kill other people with maniacal weaponry
- blasphemous use of sacred elements of our society such as God, freedom, and justice in the service of corrupt violence
- dishonor and disgrace of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars for empire bring to every person, soldier or otherwise, who has truly died for righteous causes now so shamelessly spat upon in the name of propaganda for these wars
- unfathomable atrocity incurred when those who enlisted in the National Guard to serve their people in times of disaster were forced to kill innocents in another land, while the war lords left their people to drown in the Gulf Coast
- abandonment of veterans during and after their service,
- profiteering from state constructed poverty and marginalization at home and abroad
- cynicism of corrupt war that robs young hearts of the hope and entitlement to a life committed to true idealism and creative human service
- the ripping apart of the souls of mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers who see their children overtaken by a lying U.S. regime in the flowering of their lives.

We know that these truths, while self-evident, are extremely difficult to manage. In this CARE package, we offer you direct ways to connect with veterans (some of whom were recruiters) who oppose these wars, veteran's rights organizations, literature and spoken word from those who can help you heal, secular and pastoral counseling, career training, and a place to join others in your community committed to peace.

Those of us who have taken the time to send you this CARE package are but a small group organized to speak the truth about these wars. Those who actually oppose this war are the majority of people around you. Take the time to reconnect to the truth and to them. Find your path back to sanity and human dignity. We hope this CARE package in some small way helps you get there.