

# M\*A\*P\*S

Marshall Action for Peaceful Solutions

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## **March 20 protests slated for cities around U.S. and internationally Actions to mark one-year anniversary of Iraq War**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 17, 2004

**Huntington, WV** --MAPS and White Rose peace activists are planning a candlelight vigil at 6:30 p.m. at the Federal Building on the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 8<sup>th</sup> St. as part of an international day of action on March 20, 2004 marking one year since the U.S.-led bombing of Iraq began. Over 150 protests are planned in cities across the U.S., from Alaska to Florida, Hawaii to Maine, and of course several in WV, calling for an end to the occupation of Iraq. Similar demonstrations will take place on continents around the world, making March 20 a global day of coordinated action in the spirit of last year's historic February 15 protests.

The Huntington event will be done in memory of the over 560 U.S. soldiers and over 90 international soldiers who have been lost, and continue to be lost every day in Iraq, as well as the estimated 10,000 Iraqi civilians who have been killed. Nearly three fourths of the soldiers who have died in Iraq have died on or since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended.

The March 20 protests come after months of revelations vindicating the anti-war movement's position that waging war on Iraq was unnecessary and unjustified. Mounting evidence indicates that Iraq posed no imminent threat to the United States and that Bush administration justifications for its preemptive strike were deliberately exaggerated or false. The March 20 protests will highlight the ongoing costs of war and occupation: 550 U.S. soldiers have been killed and more than 3,000 injured; over 10,000 Iraqi civilians have died. The cost already exceeds \$100 billion with no end in sight.

Military families and veterans will play a prominent role in the March 20 protests, including one near Ft. Bragg in North Carolina. Over 400 groups have endorsed March 20 including labor unions, religious organizations, student and veterans groups.

**WHAT:** Candlelight Vigil to remember those lost in the war

**WHO:** Marshall Action for Peaceful Solutions and White Rose.

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 20, 2004 at 6:30pm. The anniversary of the beginning of war.

**WHERE:** Federal building 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 8<sup>th</sup> St. Huntington, WV

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