



NoWar Newsletter

The official newsletter of [NoWar \(SA\)](#)

Issue 12
25 June 2007

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Editorial

This month saw the fortieth anniversary of the Six Day War between Israel and the Arabs. Israel, having seized 78% of Palestine in the 1948 war, completed its conquest of the Palestinians with the occupation of the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip. Israel also occupied Syria's Golan Heights which it still holds and Egypt's Sinai Peninsula which it has returned. Israel's continuing occupation has been a major source of anger and frustration for the Arab world, the Muslim world and much of the Third World toward the West, in particular the United States, Israel's main backer.

The denial of freedom and self determination to the Palestinians has involved countless violations of human rights and terrible suffering over decades. This in turn has fueled terrorism and more wars.

After the Suez War in 1956 the US forced Israel to withdraw from Gaza and the Sinai. Rather than force a withdrawal in 1967 and implement a peace settlement the United States has encouraged and enabled Israel to pursue regional military dominance. For Israel in more recent times this has meant using all its resources to push the US to attack Iraq in 1991 and 2003 and to continue to push for a US attack on Iran in the present.

The democratic election of a Hamas run Palestinian Government in January 2006 lead the US and the European Union to suspend all financial aid to Palestine and Israel to withhold collected tax revenues. Palestine, without a national industrial or income generating infrastructure of its own has always been dependent on foreign aid to run its national services such as hospitals and schools. Over 60% of employed Palestinians work for the public service. As a result of the 18 month withdrawal of this aid, these services have been devastated and thousands of families have been without a proper income for more than a year, with the flow on of the undermining of the business and services sectors. The withholding of tax revenues, which are collected by Israel on behalf of the Palestinian Authority by agreement through the Oslo Accords, is akin to the Australian Government withholding personal tax refunds and GST revenue to the States. This financial squeeze on Hamas together with a new flow of arms from the US to Fatah, with the expressed aim declared by Condoleezza Rice of overthrowing the Hamas Government, has helped to bring about the current disaster in Gaza, where we have seen the two Palestinian factions at each other's throats.

This is a tragedy that continues to unfold and which has fundamental links to the fiasco that is Iraq. Until the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is justly and fairly addressed, we will have no prospect of peace in the Middle East.

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Feedback

Feedback for the last edition was generally good with readers expressing their appreciation for the wide variety of items that are included and the information about local events. People seem to like being able to use the newsletter as a launching point to click on to news items from around the Internet. NoWar readers are keen to see articles and information from alternative sources from those dished up in the mainstream media. What has been gratifying is to see in the NoWar web site usage statistics that each edition of the newsletter represents a significant percentage of pages sighted each month. So, this is great feedback.

As we say each month, we are really keen to receive feedback, so please don't hesitate. You can email us on novar@ihug.com.au to let us know what you think or provide any suggestions. We also welcome any ideas for contributions, especially for the What's On section.

40th Anniversary of the occupation of Palestine

Post card distributed by [Australian Friends of Palestine](#)



Forty Years Too Long

June 10 marks the day when Israel's military occupation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip began. Forty years later, and in contravention of United Nations resolutions, peace agreements and international law, this occupation not only continues, but has mutated into a form of colonization and Apartheid worse than that which prevailed in South Africa, in the words of former American President Jimmy Carter.

Today, the occupation and its associated Apartheid regime is all-pervasive in the daily lives of Palestinians and takes on many guises.

The most visible and tangible of these are the use of massive and indiscriminate force by the Israeli military against a civilian population and the subsequent killing and injury of thousands of Palestinians; the dozens of refugee camps of Palestinians forced from their homes in 1948 and in 1967; fortress-like Jewish-Israeli settlements built illegally on land confiscated from Palestinians; the matrix of Israeli military checkpoints dividing not only Israelis from Palestinians, but Palestinians from other Palestinians; and of course, Israel's Apartheid Wall, designed to annex settlements and swathes of Palestinian land in the process to Israel, severing the West Bank into four disjointed cantons and dealing the final death blow to the possibility of any future, sovereign, contiguous Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

[Read more ... Palestine Monitor](#)

See also the speech in the South Australian Parliament on 5 June 2007 by Independent MP, Kris Hanna, Member for Mitchell, titled [DISPOSSESSION](#).

Fragmentation of Land on the West Bank Blocks Creation of a Viable Palestinian State

"Everybody has to move, run and grab as many hilltops as they can ... Everything we don't grab will go to them."
Ariel Sharon, 1998

"We'll make a pastrami sandwich of them. We'll insert a strip of Jewish settlement, in between the Palestinians, and then another strip of Jewish settlement, right across the West Bank, so that in 25 years time, neither the United Nations, nor the United States, nobody, will be able to tear it apart."
Ariel Sharon, 1973 to Winston Churchill III

© Jan de Jong 2001

▲ Illegal Israeli Settlements
■ Palestinian Fragments

Info-maps:
www.australiansforpalestine.com – info@australiansforpalestine.com
www.friendsofpalestine.org.au – secretary@friendsofpalestine.org.au
www.womenforpalestine.com – enquiries@womenforpalestine.com

The map shows the West Bank with numerous green areas representing Palestinian land fragments and blue triangles representing illegal Israeli settlements. Major cities like Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah, Jericho, Jerusalem, Hebron, and Bethlehem are labeled. The Green Line and the Mediterranean Sea are also shown.

What's on?

Women in Black Vigil - Steps Parliament House Wednesday 27 June 2007 5-6pm



"In Adelaide Women in Black meet each month for an hour together on the steps of Parliament House, North Terrace.

We offer a leaflet to passers by with some thoughts or information about world events in the previous month and ideas about peace. Silence focuses our thoughts and gives us space to remember. By being present, we remind ourselves and others of the need to focus on things which remain unseen. Wearing black symbolizes mourning for those who have suffered and for all of us – for we are all affected by the violence of conflict.

All women are welcome to join in at any time. No booking or prior arrangement is needed. We have no affiliation with political parties or religious groups"

Vigils are held on the last Wednesday of every month.

Graham Smith Peace Trust Dinner – Saturday 30 June 2007 7:00pm

"The inspiration of my life, my dreams, has always been made up of peace, socialism, of solidarity, of liberation, of loving and caring." Graham F Smith 1924 - 1989

2007 Annual Peace Trust Dinner and Art Auction. A fund raiser for the Graham Smith Peace Trust. Guest speaker Julian Burnside QC will speak on 'Human Rights in Times of Fear'.

Mr Julian Burnside QC is a barrister, human rights advocate, refugee activist and philanthropist. See his website at: www.users.bigpond.com/burnside. The sentiments of Julian echo Graham's in his involvement in the arts, education and the community and we know the conversation is going to be vibrant as ever.



Photo source: [Peace Trust website](http://www.peacetrust.org.au)

Tickets \$70, \$60 concession. The Italian Function Centre, 262 Carrington St Adelaide

For bookings please contact:

Krysia Tincello, Graham F. Smith Peace Trust Inc. PO Box 693, North Adelaide, South Australia 5006

Email: info@artspeacetrust.org Telephone: 08 8272 1759

George Bush is coming to Australia – 8 September 2007, Sydney



In September, George Bush will be among world leaders attending the APEC summit in Sydney.

The Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation summit will be "the most significant international meeting to have been hosted by Australia", according to John Howard.

CALL TO ACTION – [click on the poster](#)

The protests at APEC will be an important chance for the anti-war movement to campaign against the occupation of Iraq and war in Afghanistan and to increase pressure on both Liberal and Labor parties to end Australian involvement. The summit will happen in the run-up to the federal election. This is our chance to influence the election agenda. Howard has to go, and Kevin Rudd needs to be pushed to commit to getting all Australian troops out of Iraq. The protests will also be an opportunity to tell world leaders that we oppose their counter-productive "war on terror" and propose instead a nonmilitary alternative strategy, promoting the welfare and self-determination of all nations including Muslim nations and those of the Middle East. It will

also be an opportunity to say that we oppose violations of civil rights and basic principles of justice seen in so-called "anti-terrorism" laws and in the treatment of David Hicks.

Start booking time off and transport – your presence on the protests will make a real difference.

WHAT IS APEC?

APEC began as a forum designed to promote the neo-liberal free trade agenda. Bill Clinton organised the first leaders meeting in 1993 largely to ensure the success of the Uruguay round of trade negotiations that led to the formation of the World Trade Organisation. In 1994 it committed member states to reducing tariff barriers to zero to 5 per cent. The agenda at a gathering of world leaders this significant could not be confined to economics. Since 9/11, anti-terrorism has been a high priority at APEC. And the US has used the meeting to try and win support from other governments for its adventures in Iraq and Afghanistan, whether in the official meeting or at one-on-one discussions with the other leaders.

Filling Committee vacancies – opportunity for NoWar supporters

The NoWar Committee is comprised of 10 people, 9 elected at the last AGM and one co-opted. Casual vacancies have arisen due to 4 members going overseas for extended periods. This is an opportunity to become involved in the day to day organising of NoWar activities. If you would like to become a NoWar Committee member until the next AGM (scheduled for 24 October) please contact us by email at nowar@ihug.com.au and tell us about yourself and why you would like to be a member of the Committee. To be eligible you will need to be a paid up [member of NoWar](#).

Attention trawlers and researchers! - contribute to “A Peace of the Action”

“A Peace of the Action” radio program needs your help to locate up to date and interesting articles, podcasts and other items of interest for broadcasting on our regular peace and social justice radio show, heard on Radio Adelaide at 12:30pm every Sunday. If you are an Internet trawler and researcher and locate items that you think would be of interest to the programmers, please send them to *A Peace of the Action*, c/- NoWar at nowar@ihug.com.au.

Featured items

TALISMAN SABRE 2007 (TS07)



Shoalwater Peace Convergence

Visit the [Shoalwater Peace Convergence](#) website for information and updates about the peace protests against the Talisman Sabre war exercises conducted in the environmentally sensitive areas of Australia. These exercises are being conducted by the US and Australian militaries from the end of May to 2 July 2007 and are involving nearly 14,000 US troops and over 12,000 Australian personnel. Exercise activity are taking place at Australian military locations including the Australian-US "training facilities" Shoalwater Bay in Queensland and Bradshaw and Delamere Range in the Northern Territory. Support sites including civilian facilities in Australia, offshore and overseas will also be utilized.

[Shoalwater: Bushland not Bush's Land](#)

During Talisman Sabre, the US and Australian military will be attacking a piece of pristine coast at Shoalwater Bay near Rockhampton - blasting the hell out of coves and beaches, trees and rocks. Killing or terrifying the creatures of land and sea. US nuclear powered warships - possibly carrying nuclear weapons and most likely carrying Depleted Uranium munitions - will sail inside the endangered Great Barrier Reef Marine National Park and Shoalwater Bay.



Photo source: Peace Convergence

[Grandmother never lost on military base: 7 Protesters emerge from Shoalwater Bay, 23 June](#)



Seven activists that spent four days inside the Shoalwater Bay military training base were never at risk and have labelled media reports claiming people were missing gravely exaggerated and misleading. The group are astounded at claims that June Norman, 66, was lost, maintaining that they were fully equipped and had mobile phone coverage at all times. “I was warm and safe at all times, with three others” said June Norman. “If there were grave concerns about my safety why aren’t they concerned about the victims of Iraq? If they are prepared to bomb them, then they need to be prepared to bomb me”. The seven assert that the media coverage that has followed in regard to Ms Norman was exaggerated and deliberately misleading. “We were determined to avoid detection to stop the exercises. The risks to our personal safety were negligible compared to environmental destruction of the base, and the illegal wars waged by the US Government.

On the 19th of July seven peace activists in two groups entered the Shoalwater Training Base, in protest of the war games. Despite reports of military searches, the two groups remained undetected, despite moving through the base and crossing roads. The seven included June Norman, Wayne Reid, Rod Castle and Neils Jack of Queensland, and Jessica Morrison, Kerry Priest, and Kristy Henderson of Melbourne. All seven were interviewed about intentions of their action and had provisions to ensure they were warm, dry and safe. Major General Ash Power of the ADF denied the presence of activists, even after seeing footage of them entering the base. Yesterday, both groups declared themselves to military, one group appearing on an airstrip, and a second on a main road. “If they can’t find a few peace activists running around a training base then they’ve got no hope in finding Bin Laden” said Ms Norman.

[Click on the graphic above for the YouTube video of the protesters entering the TS07 area.](#)

Humour corner

The Coded Message:

After numerous rounds of "We don't even know if Osama is still alive," Osama himself decided to send George W. Bush a letter in his own handwriting to let the President know he was still in the game. Bush opened the letter and it appeared to contain a single line of coded message:

370HSSV-0773H

Bush was baffled, so he e-mailed it to Condi Rice. Condi and her aides had no clue either, so they sent it to the FBI. No one could solve it at the FBI so it went to the CIA, then to the NSA.

With no clue as to its meaning they eventually asked Britain's MI-6 for help. Within a minute MI-6 cabled the White House with this reply "Tell the President he's holding the message upside down."

BUSHISMS: The president's accidental wit and wisdom from: [The Complete Bushisms at Slate.com](#)

"There are some similarities, of course—death is terrible."— on comparisons between the wars in Vietnam and Iraq, Tipp City, Ohio, April 19, 2007. Click [here](#) to see video of Bush's comments.

"Make no mistake about it; I understand how tough it is, sir. I talk to families who die."— speaking with reporters on facing the challenges of war, Washington, D.C., December 7, 2006. Click [here](#) to see video of Bush's comments.

"You know, when I campaigned here in 2000, I said, I want to be a war President. No President wants to be a war President, but I am one."— Des Moines, Iowa, October, 26, 2006.

"You know, one of the hardest parts of my job is to connect Iraq to the war on terror."— Interview with CBS News, Washington D.C., September 6, 2006.

"You never know what your history is going to be like until long after you're gone."— Washington, D.C., May 5, 2006.

"If the Iranians were to have a nuclear weapon they could proliferate."— Washington D.C., March 21, 2006.



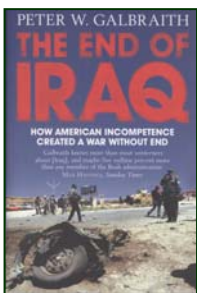
[Cheney Lies To High School Kids](#)

By Nico Pitney, 5 June 2007

In an address yesterday to a group of Wyoming high schoolers, Cheney continued to insist on an Iraqi hand in 9/11, even when this myth has been thoroughly rejected by nearly everyone else on the planet. [From AlterNet](#)

Books and publications

THE END OF IRAQ: How American Incompetence Created a War Without End by Peter Galbraith



The End of Iraq, definitive, tough-minded, clear-eyed, describes America's failed strategy toward that country and what must be done now. Iraq today has disintegrated into three constituent components: a pro-western Kurdistan in the north, an Iran-dominated Shiite entity in the south, and a chaotic Sunni Arab region in the center. The country is plagued by insurgency and a potentially catastrophic civil war.

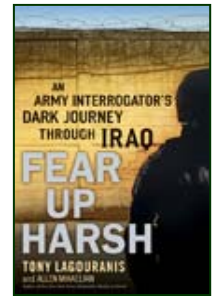
George W. Bush broke up Iraq when he ordered its invasion in 2003. The United States not only removed Saddam Hussein, it also smashed and later dissolved the institutions by which Iraq's Sunni Arab minority ruled the country: its army, its security services, and the Baath Party. With these institutions gone and irreplaceable, the basis of an Iraqi state has disappeared.

The End of Iraq describes the administration's strategic miscalculations behind the war as well as the blunders of the American occupation. There was the failure to understand the intensity of the ethnic and religious divisions in Iraq. This was followed by incoherent and inconsistent strategies for governing, the failure to spend money for reconstruction, the misguided effort to create a national army and police, and then the turning over of the country's management to Republican political loyalists rather than qualified professionals. **See:** [Amazon.com](#)

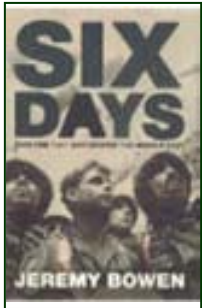
FEAR UP HARSH: An Army Interrogator's Dark Journey Through Iraq by Tony Lagouranis

Fear Up Harsh: So begins Army interrogator Tony Lagouranis's first briefing at Abu Ghraib. When the U.S. went to war with Iraq, Lagouranis—who joined the Army prior to September 11—was tapped to be an interrogator in places like Abu Ghraib and Fallujah. He believed in his mission, but he soon discovered that pushing the legal limits of interrogation was encouraged. Under orders, he—along with numerous other soldiers—abused and terrorized hundreds of prisoners by adding "enhancements" to "Fear Up Harsh," an official tactic designed to terrify prisoners into revealing information.

This is an unflinching first-hand account of how one man struggled with his own conscience and ultimately broke the silence surrounding interrogation practices. The first Army interrogator to step forward and publicly denounce these tactics, Lagouranis reveals what went on in Iraqi prisons—raising crucial questions about American conduct abroad. **See:** Amazon.com



SIX DAYS: How the 1967 War Shaped the Middle East by Jeremy Bowen



Suicide attacks on Israelis, bombings, assassinations, and bloodshed in Jerusalem, Gaza, and the West Bank dominate the news from the Middle East. It is the most troubled region on earth. At its heart is the conflict between Palestinians and Israelis - and the legacy of six days of war in 1967. After the state of Israel emerged from war in 1948, both sides knew more battles were coming. In June 1967, years of slow-burning tension exploded. In six extraordinary days, Israel destroyed the armed forces of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. But far from bringing peace, as many Israelis hoped, their stunning victory turned into a curse. From the initial battle order issued to the Israeli air force on Monday June 5, 1967 to the final ceasefire on the evening of Saturday the 10th, the Six-Day War was a riveting human drama. Building on his first-hand experience of the region after his five years as the BBC's Middle East Correspondent, as well as extensive original research, Jeremy Bowen presents a compelling new history of the conflict. *Six Days* recreates day by day, hour by hour, the bullying and brinkmanship that

led four nations to war, interweaving testimonies of combatants from all sides in a seamless narrative. A rigorous and original piece of modern history is as vivid as fiction, *Six Days* not only sheds new light on one of the key conflicts of the twentieth century, it explains much about the Middle East and the problems the region still faces today.

From: Amazon.Com

Interventions by Noam Chomsky

Noam Chomsky says that the freedom to challenge power is not just an opportunity, it's a responsibility. For the past several years Chomsky has been writing essays for *The New York Times* Syndicate to do just that: challenge power and expose the global consequences of U.S. policy and military actions worldwide. *Interventions* is a collection of these essays, revised and updated with notes by the author. While Chomsky's *New York Times* Syndicate writings are widely published around the world, they have rarely been printed in major U.S. media; none have been published in the *New York Times*. Concise and fiercely argued, *Interventions* covers the invasion and occupation of Iraq, the Bush presidency, Israel and Palestine, national security, the escalating threat of nuclear warfare, and more. A powerful and accessible new book from one of America's foremost political intellectuals and dissidents.

See Publisher: City Lights Books



See also an interesting article [Chomsky As the Rest of the World Knows Him](#), at AlterNet by Sonali Kolhatkar, *Uprising Radio*: Noam Chomsky speaks about the status of democracy in Iraq, U.S. imperialism over Latin America, and the media's shallow coverage of foreign affairs -- all topics explored in his latest book, *Interventions*.

PALESTINE: Peace Not Apartheid by Jimmy Carter



In his new book, Jimmy Carter writes, "Israel's continued control and colonization of Palestinian land have been the primary obstacles to a comprehensive peace agreement in the Holy Land."

Carter criticizes Israel for building what he describes as an imprisonment wall through the West Bank. He accuses Israel of strangling the residents of Gaza where the poverty rate has reached 70 percent and where the malnutrition rate mirrors countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. And Carter is critical of Washington's role. He writes, "The United States is squandering international prestige and goodwill and intensifying global anti-American terrorism by unofficially condoning or abetting the Israeli confiscation and colonization of Palestinian territories." Some of the most vocal critics of Carter's book have been fellow Democrats. Incoming House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said, "It is wrong to suggest that the Jewish people would support a government in Israel or anywhere else that institutionalizes ethnically based oppression, and Democrats reject that allegation vigorously."

Publisher: Simon & Schuster.

Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid...Jimmy Carter in His Own Words – transcript of an interview with Jimmy Carter at Democracy Now!

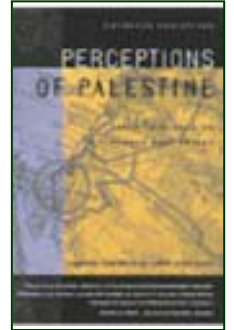
PERCEPTIONS OF PALESTINE: Their Influence on U.S. Middle East Policy by Kathleen Christison

"Breaks new ground through the sheer scope of its analysis, tracing 130 years of formulation of American perceptions of the Middle East and their ultimate manifestation in U.S. government policy. It is unhesitatingly recommended, as a standard text, to anyone wishing to better understand the conflict."--*Nigel Parry, Middle East International*

"There is no shrewder observer of the American-Palestinian-Israeli triangle. Christison has written a masterful treatise on how it is that the United States managed to ignore the Palestinians for a century."--*Donald Neff, Journal of Palestine Studies*

"After reading this book, it will be impossible not to wince the next time a representative of the U.S. government describes America as an honest broker."--*Lawrence Davidson, Middle East Journal*

Kathleen Christison, a freelance writer and former CIA analyst, has written on Middle East affairs for over twenty-five years. See: [University of California Press](#)



News

5 CHARGED WITH TRESPASS AT DEFENCE SITE

21 June 2007

Police have charged five protesters with trespassing at the Shoalwater Bay Defence Force training area near Rockhampton, in central Queensland. Three women and two men, all aged in their 20s, were detained by Military Police earlier today. They are due to appear in court in August. Almost 30,000 US and Australian personnel are taking part in Exercise Talisman Sabre which is under way at Shoalwater Bay, Townsville, and in the Northern Territory.

[Read more ... \(ABC\)](#)

CARTER BLASTS US POLICY ON PALESTINIANS

20 June 2007



Former President Jimmy Carter accused the U.S., Israel and the European Union on Tuesday of seeking to divide the Palestinian people by reopening aid to President Mahmoud Abbas' new government in the West Bank while denying the same to the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip.

Carter, a Nobel Peace Prize winner who was addressing a human rights conference in Ireland, also said the Bush administration's refusal to accept Hamas' 2006 election victory was "criminal."

Photo source: [seattle.pi](#)

[Read more ... \(seattlepi.com\)](#)

ANGLICANS PROTEST AUSSIE WAR EXERCISES

17 June 2007

Victoria's Anglican leaders are protesting over Australia's involvement with US war exercises. At the annual Anglican Synod in East Melbourne today, church leaders expressed concerns over nuclear-powered ships, the possible use of munitions with depleted uranium and the potentially harmful use of sonar to vulnerable marine animals.

Church leaders opposed the Australia-US Talisman Sabre exercises from June 19 to July 2 in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park's world heritage area, Kakadu National Park and other heritage and wilderness areas.

[Read more ... \(The Australian\)](#)

PINE GAP PROTESTERS AVOID JAIL

15 June 2007

Four protesters who broke into the Pine Gap spy base have been let off with fines. Donna Mulhearn, 37, Jim Dowling, 50, Adele Goldie, 29, and Bryan Law, 51, were yesterday found guilty in the Northern Territory Supreme Court of breaking into the secret spy base near Alice Springs on December 9, 2005. [Read more ... \(The Advertiser\)](#)

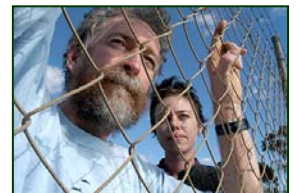


Photo source: *The Advertiser*

U.S. LOSING GROUND THROUGH TRIBAL ALLIES

15 June 2007

U.S. attempts to win over tribal collaborators in the al-Anbar province have won it more enemies instead. ...The province, which represents a third of the total area of the country and is inhabited by roughly 2.5 million people, mostly Sunni Muslims, has stood firm against the U.S. occupation of Iraq since the early days of occupation that began in March 2003. Fallujah, the second biggest city in the province after capital Ramadi, ignited fierce resistance to U.S. forces after they killed 17 unarmed demonstrators protesting in front of a school occupied by the military in May 2003.

[Read more ... \(Inter Press Service\)](#)

PERMANENT BASES THE WORLD OVER: BEHOLD THE AMERICAN EMPIRE

14 June 2007

In Iraq and beyond, America's empire of permanent bases grows at an alarming pace. [Read more ... \(AlterNet\)](#)

EX-NAVY CHIEF 'TOOK PRIVATE LEGAL ADVICE ON IRAQ

11 June 2007

The head of the Royal Navy at the time of the Iraq invasion was so worried about the legality of the conflict that he sought his own private legal advice on justification for the war. Admiral Sir Alan West, the First Sea Lord, approached lawyers to ask whether Navy and Royal Marines personnel might end up facing war crimes charges in relation to their duties in Iraq. The extraordinary steps taken by Sir Alan - which *The Independent* can reveal today - shows the high level of concern felt by service chiefs in the approach to war - concern that was not eased by the Attorney General's provision of a legal licence for the attack on Iraq. [Read more ... \(The Independent\)](#)

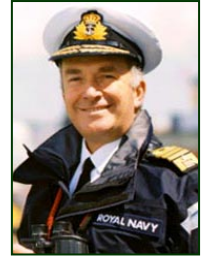


Photo source: Wikipedia

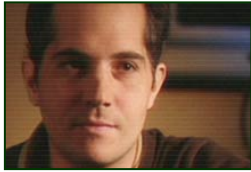
UN WARNS OF FIVE MILLION IRAQI REFUGEES

11 June 2007

Half of displaced people have no access to food aid.

Across Iraq, millions of people are looking for safer places to live, and not finding them. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) reported last week that 4.2 million Iraqis have been forced out of their homes. There are also ominous signs that the four-month-old US security plan for Baghdad is failing to reduce the level of violence despite an extra 17,000 US troops in the capital. "The situation in Iraq continues to worsen," the UNHCR announced, "with more than two million Iraqis now believed to be displaced inside the country and another 2.2 million sheltering in neighbouring states." [Read more ... \(The Independent\)](#)

WE GOT IT WRONG, SAYS FORMER TORTURER



11 June 2007

A former US Army torturer has described the traumatic effects of American interrogation techniques in Iraq - on their victims and on the perpetrators themselves. ...Between January 2004 and January 2005, first at Abu Ghraib prison and then in Mosul, in northern Babil province, he tortured suspects, most of whom he said were innocent. He realised he had entered a moral dungeon when he found himself reading a Holocaust memoir, hoping to pick up torture tips from

the Nazis. [Read more ... \(Sydney Morning Herald\)](#) Photo source: Frontline. PBS

COLIN POWELL SAYS GUANTANAMO SHOULD BE CLOSED

9 June 2007

Former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said on Sunday the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay for foreign terrorism suspects should be immediately closed and its inmates moved to the United States. Powell, who in a 2003 speech to the U.N. Security Council made the case for war against Iraq for possessing weapons of mass destruction that were never found, said the controversial prison in Cuba had become a "major problem" for the United States' image abroad and done more harm than good. [Read more ... \(Reuters\)](#)



Photo source: Reuters

IRAQ'S WORKERS STRIKE TO KEEP THEIR OIL

9 June 2007

The Bush administration has no love for unions anywhere, but in Iraq it has a special reason for hating them. They are the main opposition to the occupation's economic agenda, and the biggest obstacle to that agenda's centerpiece - the privatization of Iraq's oil. At the same time, unions have become the only force in Iraq trying to maintain at least a survival living standard for the millions of Iraqis who still have to go to work every day, in the middle of the war. [Read more ... \(Truthout\)](#)

GENERAL 'SACRIFICED' TO CLEAR DECKS ON IRAQ

9 June 2007

The Bush administration yesterday attempted to wipe the slate clean on the Iraq war and chart a new way forward with the surprise announcement that it was replacing General Peter Pace as chairman of the joint chiefs of staff. ...The decision not to fight for Gen Pace was seen as a sign of the administration's eagerness to open a new chapter in the Iraq war, and so help rebuild wavering Republican support for the troops increase. Mr Gates denied any doubts about Gen Pace's performance. "I am disappointed that the circumstances make this kind of decision necessary," Mr Gates told reporters. "I wish that were not the case." [Read more ... \(The Guardian\)](#)

U.N. OFFICIAL SEEKS PURCHASING OVERHAUL

8 June 2007



The head of the U.N.'s internal watchdog called for a major overhaul of U.N. purchasing operations, shortly after a former U.N. official was convicted on bribery and fraud charges for helping a friend obtain \$100 million in U.N. contracts.

[Read more ... \(New York Times\)](#)

IRAQI LAWMAKERS PASS RESOLUTION THAT MAY FORCE END TO OCCUPATION

5 June 2007

While Washington lawmakers play procedural games with an out-of-control executive branch, Iraqi legislators are working to bring an end to the occupation of their country. [Read more ... \(AlterNet\)](#)

DON'T WE HAVE A CONSTITUTION, NOT A KING?

1 June 2007

Bush has issued a directive that would place all governmental powers in his hands in the case of a catastrophic emergency. If a terrorist attack happens before the 2008 election, could Bush and Cheney use this to avoid relinquishing power to a successor administration?

[Read more ... \(AlterNet\)](#)



BUSH: US TROOPS IN IRAQ FOR 50 MORE YEARS

31 May 2007

President Bush ignorantly compares Iraq's situation to that of South Korea's during the Cold War, meaning Iraqis can expect real democracy around 2038. "President George W. Bush would like to see a lengthy U.S. troop presence in Iraq like the one in South Korea to provide stability but not in a frontline combat role, the White House said on Wednesday. The United States has had thousands of U.S. troops in South Korea to guard against a North Korean invasion for 50 years. [Read more ... \(AlterNet\)](#)

US WARNS IRAN AS ARMADA ENTERS GULF

24 May 2007



The US today threatened new UN sanctions to punish Iran's nuclear drive as it ratcheted up tensions with the biggest display of naval power in the Gulf in years. A bristling US armada led by two aircraft carriers steamed into waters near Iran for exercises, hours before UN watchdogs said Iran was expanding its uranium enrichment program in defiance of international sanctions.

[Read more ... \(The Australian\)](#)

See also Tehran Times: [U.S. warships in Persian Gulf for training](#)

Photo source: www.naval-technology.com

REPORT 2007: POLITICS OF FEAR CREATING A DANGEROUSLY DIVIDED WORLD

23 May 2007

Powerful governments and armed groups are deliberately fomenting fear to erode human rights and to create an increasingly polarized and dangerous world, said Amnesty International today as it launched Amnesty International Report 2007, its annual assessment of human rights worldwide. [Read more ... \(Amnesty International\)](#) [Download the report](#)

RETURN OF DAVID HICKS

20 May 2007

David Hicks Returns to Adelaide. Transported to Yatala Labour Prison.

[Read more ... \(ABC\)](#)



Photo source: Fair Go for David

Radio program



A Peace of the Action

A Radio program about Peace and Social Justice

Every Sunday, 12:30pm 101.5 FM [Radio Adelaide](#)

A Peace of the Action continues to tackle issues related to peace and social justice. Our production team is drawn from NoWar, the Australian Peace Committee, Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR), the Human Rights Coalition and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). Listen to the program every Sunday at 12:30pm on Radio Adelaide for up to the minute discussions, interviews and analyses about issues that are important to NoWar supporters. See our item above about helping out our presenters to locate useful items that you may discover to incorporate into *A Peace of the Action* programming. The program is sponsored by Single Step Printing and Sagarmatha Nepali Restaurant.

The following pages are standing items in our newsletter. They provide basic reference information about NoWar for our readers and particularly for newcomers to NoWar.

The information does vary from month to month as it includes summaries of recent meetings. The names of the members of the NoWar Committee and links to the NoWar web site for the Constitution and membership forms can be found in this section.

What is NoWar?

NoWar is a South Australian peace group originally formed at the time of the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001. We oppose the idea that a military response to terrorism ("The War on Terror") can succeed or that its cost to innocent people could be justified.

We organized protests against the invasion of Iraq, including the biggest protest in the history of South Australia on 16 February 2003, when 100,000 people filled the streets of Adelaide. We opposed the war on Iraq because it was unnecessary, unjust and illegal. Iraq had not attacked anybody nor threatened to, nor had the capacity to do so.

Since the invasion of Iraq in March 2003, NoWar has continued its work of raising public awareness about the aftermath of the invasion, both for Iraq and the world. Unlike our government, we believe it is important that the public is made aware of the costs and reality of war. Unlike most of the mass media our interest in the war on Iraq did not diminish once the US and its allies launched their aggression.

NoWar opposes American militarism and unilateralism being the guiding forces in international relations. We support a more just world with peaceful resolution of conflicts, where acknowledgement is given to genuine grievances and our common future is not just about American political, military and economic interests. We support an independent foreign policy for our country and we want to see Australian troops only being used for the defense of Australia. NoWar continues to work for peace through public meetings, hosting visiting speakers, screening important films and holding public protests.

The aims of NoWar are:

To educate, inform and mobilise people based on the following principles:

- Opposition to the increasing militarisation of the world, and the consequences for the international community;
- Support for a reversal of the global military build-up, specifically the removal of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, an end to the trade in arms, and a reduction in the current level of conventional arms;

- Support for the removal of foreign military bases around the world, and an end to foreign military interventions;
- Support for the resolution of conflicts in a just and peaceful manner, having regard for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international law and the rights of all peoples to self-determination.

Click here to view the [NoWar Constitution](#).

NoWar consists of a Committee, a financial membership that elects the Committee (see below) and a large support base, the names of which we have collected over time at our various functions and events. From this membership and support base come people such as you, who become involved in our public meetings, rallies and other public actions towards peace.

NoWar Committee

The NoWar Committee is elected at the AGM each year in October-November. The current members of the Committee were elected at this last AGM on 11 October 2006. They are:

Mike Khizam (Convenor)	Renfrey Clarke
Jeanie Lucas (Secretary)	Jane Bower
Margaret Peterson (Treasurer)	Sue Gilbey
Stephen Darley	Colin Mitchell
Ruth Russell	Bob Eastman (co-opted)

The Committee meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 6pm with the venue to be fixed at each meeting. The Committee has met approximately every 2 weeks for the last 3 years (with a short Christmas break each year!). Prior to that, particularly in the build up to the war, the Committee and membership met more than that, as many of you would remember!

During the height of anti-war activities in 2002-03, NoWar maintained a staffed office. Currently, the meetings are held at NoWar Committee member's homes.

What does NoWar spend its money on?

Like other groups, NoWar needs funds in order to conduct its activities, and like other groups, maintaining a viable bank balance is always a challenge. Sometimes people ask us what we spend our money on, and fair enough too, since much of what we have is provided through donations or membership subscriptions. Here is a list of items that cover our current expenditure:

- *Web site account*
- *Email account*
- *Paper and stationery*
- *Copying and printing*
- *Postage*
- *Telephone calls*
- *PA system hire for rallies*
- *G.P.O. Box hire*
- *Radio program*
- *Merchandise (e.g. T-shirts, badges, stickers)*
- *Costs associated with organizing events (e.g. hall hire)*
- *Accommodation, travel and meals for visiting speakers*
- *Equipment (e.g. tables, banners, storage boxes)*
- *Advertisements in newspapers*

Ways we communicate

NoWar has a policy that, except in special circumstances agreed to by the Committee, we only send out emails related to NoWar matters and concerns. In this way we hope to keep email traffic to a minimum. Most emails you will receive from NoWar will be about upcoming events or notices about meetings – and now this newsletter. Very occasionally we may forward an item generated by another group or about another matter.

Aside from emailing what we call our “data base” (the approximately 700 people who have given us their email addresses), there are a number of other ways that NoWar communicates with people. These are:

The web site. Visit www.nowar-sa.net regularly as it is updated at least once a week and has excellent links to alternative sources of information about the war on Iraq and other anti-war groups throughout Australia and the world.

nowar_announcements. This is a newsgroup we set up for people interested in keeping in touch with supporters of NoWar SA. Various interesting and wide ranging items are posted to this news group and it is sometimes used for discussion. [Click here to join nowar_announcements.](#)

nowar_australia. This newsgroup was originally set up as is a communication and information forum for members who attended NoWar Committee meetings. Subscribers must have attended NoWar meetings and the group is moderated. This news group and nowar_announcements are very similar and there may be a need to consolidate them. [Click here to join nowar_australia.](#)

Summary of last minutes

The last Committee meeting of NoWar was held on 13 June 2007. Prior to that, the Committee met on 23 May.

Topics covered on 13 June	Topics covered on 23 May
Financial report	Financial Report
Radio Program	Radio Program
Pine Gap Event – Debrief	Pine Gap Event
Criticism re Sorry Day and Pine Gap Event	John Pilger
Film Fundraiser – job allocations	Film Fundraisers
John Pilger	TS07
Hiroshima Day	PANAC
Election 2007	Quiz Night
TS07	Incorporation and Insurance
Quiz Night	Election 2007
Rationalisation of carry over agenda items	

Membership forms

If you would like to become a financial member of NoWar, please have a read of our constitution and then complete the membership form which is available through this link on our web site: <http://www.nowar-sa.net/pdf/IndMemb2006.pdf>.

There is also a membership form for groups at: <http://www.nowar-sa.net/pdf/GroupMembForm2006.pdf>.

Membership is \$10 for individuals and a starting membership for groups (under 100 members) is \$50. NoWar needs all the funds it can get so your membership fee is of significant value.

Our contact details

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See you next month!