



NoWar Newsletter

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

Issue 14

August/September 2007

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During times of universal deceit,
telling the truth becomes a
revolutionary act.

[George Orwell](#)



Editorial

The sixth anniversary of the 2001 September 11 attacks on the US is an appropriate time to reflect on those events and what they led to. The attacks have been portrayed in the West as the product of hatred and fanaticism - a hostility lacking any basis of genuine grievance. George Bush would have us believe that the US was attacked because "[they hate our freedoms](#)" rather than as a response to something the US may have done. The attacks must be seen in the context of a history of US support for dictatorial regimes in the Arab world and support for Israeli oppression of the Palestinians. [Chalmers Johnson](#) has described September 11 as the ultimate case of "blowback". "[Blowback](#)" is a CIA term for those situations in which covert dirty tricks undertaken by the US come back to bite them. Thus Islamic militants used by the US to further its own ends in Afghanistan and elsewhere, then turned against the United States.

More significant than the September 11 attacks has been the response of the Bush administration to them. The attacks on New York and Washington provided an historic opportunity for the neo-conservative ideologues dominating the Bush administration to advance their agenda of even greater US domination of the world.

The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq which have caused horrendous suffering and loss of life have served to reinforce the grievances widespread throughout the Arab and Muslim worlds against the US, as was clearly foreseeable. Similarly, terrorism has increased significantly as a result of US militarism - another result widely predicted. Unless we are prepared to genuinely deal with the grievances that finally found expression on 11 September 2001, we have no hope of dealing with terrorism or of avoiding even more wars and their associated human suffering.

For those of you who were expecting a newsletter in August you will find that we are now publishing the NoWar newsletter on a bi-monthly basis. We will continue to have most of our regular features and hope to include your contributions from time to time. There's plenty happening in Adelaide this Spring, so check out the [What's On](#) section - we urge you to support our friends in organizations working for a more just future for us all. Our [Books](#) section in this edition features some great publications focused on Palestine and the war on Iraq. Jeremy Scahill's book [Blackwater: The Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army](#) is of particular interest given recent events in Iraq and don't miss the link to Scott Ritter's [recent article](#) about the march to conflict with Iran.

Speaking of What's On, don't miss [NoWar's first Quiz night](#) on Friday 19 October. Come and have a good time and help us raise funds to continue our work and please also come to our [AGM](#) on Wednesday 24 October - please consider nominating for membership of the NoWar Committee.

Feedback

Our website trackers tell us that the NoWar newsletter is the third most requested page on our website in any given month. It seems that lots of people all over the world read it on a regular basis. So, whether you live in Adelaide, our home town or anywhere else in the world, we are really keen to receive feedback, so please don't hesitate. You can email us on nowar@ihug.com.au to let us know what you think or provide any suggestions. We also welcome any ideas for contributions, especially for the *Featured Items* and *What's On* sections.

What's on?

Howard's End: People Reject War, Racism & Neo-Liberalism – Thursday 4 Oct 2007, 6:30pm

Speakers: Renfrey Clarke, Socialist Alliance candidate for Port Adelaide & Ruth Ratcliffe, participant in 10 000 strong APEC protests.

Venue: Room BG13b, Port Adelaide TAFE, Mundy St, 5 mins from Glanville Station.

For more information: 0403 679 742 or 8231 6982

2007 Edward Said Memorial Lecture – Dr Ghada Karmi - Saturday, 6th October 2007, 5:00pm



The 2007 Lecture will be delivered by author, academic and commentator [Doctor Ghada Karmi](#).

Dr Ghada Karmi is one of the world's most renowned commentators on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and a well-known figure on British radio and TV. Born in Jerusalem, she was forced to leave as a child in 1948 and grew up in Britain where she became a physician, academic and writer. Currently, Karmi is a research fellow and lecturer at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter. She is the author of several books, including her most recent, widely acclaimed memoir, *In Search of Fatima*. ([Pluto Press](#))



Dr Ghada Karmi

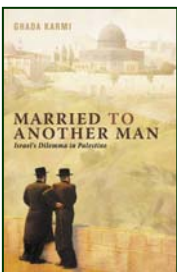
Venue: Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus, The University of Adelaide.

Tickets: Pre-Purchased tickets \$12; At the door \$15.

Buy your tickets via the web: www.friendsofpalestine.org.au

Buy your ticket (cash only) at Digimob Australia, 246 Pulteney Street, Adelaide

Books by Dr Kami

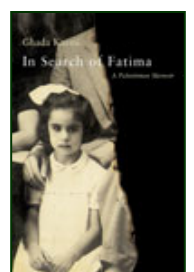


Married To Another Man: Israel's Dilemma in Palestine

"Ghada Karmi's storytelling eloquence is celebrated. Now the sheer power and sense of her analysis throws down a challenge to those who claim the 'problem' of Israel and Palestine cannot be solved. She shows it can." John Pilger ([Pluto Press](#))

In Search of Fatima: A Palestinian Story

"Her memoir is the story of a fascinating woman . . . If it is a truism to say that no one endures such a catastrophe as that of 1948 with anything except great difficulty, it is certainly not always true that special individuals can make something humanly rich and interesting out of such dire stuff." — Edward Said ([Verso Books](#))



Tenth Annual Hawke Lecture - The Hon Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG - Wednesday 10 October 2007, 5:15 for 5:30pm



Tenth Annual Hawke Lecture: Consensus revisited?

Venue: Adelaide Town Hall

This year's Hawke Lecturer, Justice Kirby, has the highest dissenting rate in the history of the High Court, even out-flanking the dissents of Justice Issacs, Justice Evatt and Justice Murphy. In his Hawke Lecture, Justice Kirby will explore consensus and dissent in society. When is it appropriate, in the law and in the community, to seek agreement? And when do we have to stand up and disagree? By reference to law and life, this year's Annual Hawke Lecture will examine consensus and dissent in Australia

[For more information see the website of The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre](#)

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL. For those who miss out the transcript will be available on the above website after 11 October.

NoWar Quiz Night - Friday 19 October 7pm for 7:30 – Fullarton Park Community Centre



Come and join us for a fantastic night out!
Great prizes for answers to intriguing questions!
Get up a table of cluey friends.
Bring some nibbles and some drinks (liquor license).
Come to Fullarton Park Community Centre
411 Fullarton Road, Fullarton
\$20 entry per person



Ring 0414 773 918 or email nowar@ihug.com.au to book a table

NoWar Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 24 October 7pm – Friends Meeting House

The 2007 AGM of NoWar will be held at the Friends' Meeting House, 40a Pennington Terrace, North Adelaide.
(The Meeting House is between St Peter's Cathedral and St Mark's College: walk up the driveway to the Meeting House.)

The meeting will be followed by a showing of the film ***Iraq for Sale: The War Profiteers*** (75 minutes – information about the film is available at: www.iraqforsale.org).

Minutes of the last AGM and copies of the NoWar constitution will be available at the Meeting House on the night. The constitution may be accessed on our site at www.nowar-sa.net (select ABOUT US).

Membership subscriptions will fall due and can be paid on the night. Membership is \$10 per annum.

Featured items

IRAQ WILL HAVE TO WAIT by Scott Ritter

Scott Ritter, the former UN Weapons Inspector in Iraq, has written a chilling article about the set up for a war on Iran. He tells us that while the debacle of Iraq is already with us, it is a fact that "the war in Iraq isn't going to expand tenfold overnight" but a war on Iran can still be prevented. He suggests that the energies of people in the anti-war movement are focused in the wrong place.



... Of the two problems (the reality of Iraq, the potential of Iran), Iran is by far the more important. The war in Iraq isn't going to expand tenfold overnight. By simply doing nothing, the Democrats can rest assured that Bush's bad policy will simply keep failing. War with Iran, on the other hand, can still be prevented. We are talking about the potential for conflict at this time, not the reality of war. But time is not on the side of peace. [Read more ... \(Truthdig\)](#)

Scott Ritter

VISIT BY MATT HOWARD – IRAQ VETAN AGAINST THE WAR – 24 August 2007 – Hosted by NoWar

Sitting next to Matt in the restaurant after his talk in Adelaide on 24 August, it was unsettling to reflect on the fact that this youthful, quiet vegetarian had driven a 7 tonne truck into Baghdad in March 2003 along with the rest of the US Marine Corps' 1st Tank Battalion. While we were eating exquisite Thai, he told a joke about how bizarre it was after coming in from battle to line up with other dust covered GIs wearing full amour and M16's slung over their shoulders, all waiting to order Subways. More unsettling yet was the story he told to too few people who turned up that night at St Luke's. In short, it was a story about a Marine's disillusionment and anger for his government and his disgust at the treatment of Iraqis and his fellow GIs by his military. He told us about the US's constant harassment of Iraqi civilians, who have their houses ransacked again and again in the middle of the night. He described trigger happy officers and ordinary GIs who murdered hapless Iraqi civilians as they passed US conveyors on the way into Baghdad. He bore witness to the ugly truth of this war and its impact on the people of that country and his own. Matt told us that his life was saved on his return to life in the US by meeting up with [Iraq Veterans Against the War](#). To find out more about the impact people like Matt and his fellow veterans are having on US serving members in Iraq as well as on the general public in the US, check out their website or subscribe to [GI Special](#).



ONE YEAR SINCE END OF ISRAELI WAR ON LEBANON from Ya Libnan

We just move on to the next disturbing thing ...looking for a place, in our relative comfort, where we can make a difference to the world. But how is it for those who bear the brunt of the events that we write, rally and argue about?



The war which ended on August 14 devastated the lives of the Lebanese. 1280 Lebanese, mostly civilians were killed, over 5000 were wounded; over one million were displaced and became refugees in their own country. The damage to Lebanon was equally devastating, the infrastructure of the country was left in ruins ...all the main bridges were destroyed & over 100, 000 houses were bombed. The damage according to the UN is over \$15 billion, excluding lost revenue. [Read more ... \(Ya Libnan\)](#)

CHILDREN KILLED IN ISRAELI SHOOTING – How deep does the regret go?

29 August 2007

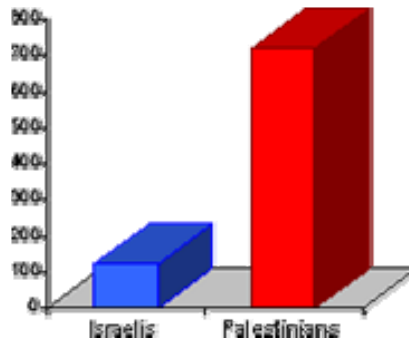
Three Palestinian children have been killed by Israeli gunfire after soldiers shot at them near a rocket-launching site in the northern Gaza strip. A doctor at the Palestinian health ministry said cousins Mahmoud Ghazal, 10, and Yehiya Ghazal, 12, were killed on Wednesday. Their cousin, Sara Ghazal, 10, was injured and died later in hospital. An Israeli army spokeswoman said troops hit unidentified figures spotted near rocket launchers that were aimed at Israel. She voiced regret at the deaths of children. [Read more ... \(Aljazeera\)](#)

How deep does the regret go? - Statement by Israeli Officer on killing a 13 y.o. girl in 2004:

"...[I would have killed her even if she was three years old.](#)" (Guardian)

Israeli and Palestinian Children Killed Since September 29, 2000

[Source: If Americans Knew](#)



Humour Corner



Published in GI Special 30 August 2007

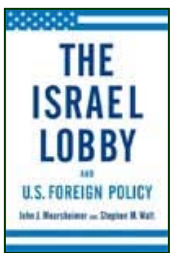
To subscribe to GI Special email Thomas F Barton at

thomasfbarton@earthlink.net

[Click cartoon to enlarge](#)

Books and publications

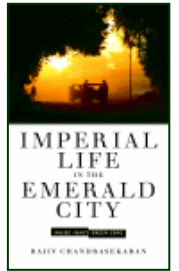
The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy by John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt



The Israel Lobby, by John J. Mearsheimer of the University of Chicago and Stephen M. Walt of Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, was one of the most controversial articles in recent memory. Originally published in the *London Review of Books* in March 2006, it provoked both howls of outrage and cheers of gratitude for challenging what had been a taboo issue in America: the impact of the Israel lobby on U.S. foreign policy. Now in a work of major importance, Mearsheimer and Walt deepen and expand their argument and confront recent developments in Lebanon and Iran. They describe the remarkable level of material and diplomatic support that the United States provides to Israel and argues that this support cannot be fully explained on either strategic or moral grounds. This exceptional relationship is due largely to the political influence of a loose coalition of individuals and organizations that actively work to shape U.S. foreign policy in a pro-Israel direction. Mearsheimer and Walt provocatively contend that the lobby has a far-reaching impact on America's posture throughout the Middle East — in Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, and toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — and the policies it has encouraged are in neither America's national interest nor Israel's long-term interest. The lobby's influence also affects America's relationship with important allies and increases dangers that all states face from global jihadist terror. [From the Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux](#)

Imperial Life in the Emerald City by Rajiv Chandrasekaran

The Green Zone, Baghdad, 2003: in this walled-off compound of swimming pools and luxurious amenities, Paul Bremer and his Coalition Provisional Authority set out to fashion a new, democratic Iraq. Staffed by idealistic aides chosen primarily for their views on issues such as abortion and capital punishment, the CPA spent the crucial first year of occupation pursuing goals that had little to do with the immediate needs of a postwar nation: flat taxes instead of electricity and deregulated health care instead of emergency medical supplies. In this acclaimed firsthand account, the former Baghdad bureau chief of *The Washington Post* gives us an intimate portrait of life inside this Oz-like bubble, which continued unaffected by the growing mayhem outside. This is a quietly devastating tale of imperial folly, and the definitive history of those early days when things went irrevocably wrong in Iraq. [From the Publishers: Borzoi Books](#)



Baghdad Burning II: Girl Blog From Iraq by Riverbend



Riverbend, the Iraqi blogger who received the Ulysses Prize for literary reportage, continues her dispatches from her native Baghdad. Embedded journalism at its most compelling, her blog recounts the major events of the occupation and the insurgency since October 2004, as well as her and her family's daily struggles. The postings include: » An "open letter to Americans" before the 2004 election begging them to consider what a second Bush term will mean for Iraq. » The irony of living in an oil-rich country with a desperate fuel shortage: Riverbend waits with her brother in long lines before the gas pump and then goes home to siphon out the fuel for the neighborhood generator. » A description of the plight of young women in an increasingly Islamist Iraq: "The problem with defiance (not going out in public fully covered) is that it doesn't just involve you personally, it involves anyone with you at that moment—usually a male relative. It means that there might be an exchange of ugly words or a fight and probably, after that, a detention in Abu Ghraib." » The kidnapping of Christian Science Monitor reporter Jill Carroll; with a moving tribute to Carroll's guide and translator, a well-known person in the neighborhood who was murdered on the spot by the kidnappers. [From the Publishers: The Feminist Press](#)

The Occupation of Iraq: Winning the War, Losing the Peace by Ali A. Allawi



Involved for over thirty years in the politics of Iraq, Ali A. Allawi was a long-time opposition leader against the Baathist regime. In the post-Saddam years he has held important government positions and participated in crucial national decisions and events. In this book, the former Minister of Defense and Finance draws on his unique personal experience, extensive relationships with members of the main political groups and parties in Iraq, and deep understanding of the history and society of his country to answer the baffling questions that persist about its current crises. What really led the United States to invade Iraq, and why have events failed to unfold as planned?

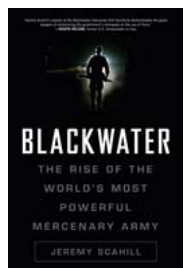
The Occupation of Iraq examines what the United States did and didn't know at the time of the invasion, the reasons for the confused and contradictory policies that were enacted, and the emergence of the Iraqi political class during the difficult transition process. The book tracks the growth of the insurgency and illuminates the complex relationships among Sunnis, Shias, and Kurds. Bringing the discussion forward to the reconfiguration of political forces in 2006, Allawi provides in these pages the clearest view to date of the modern history of Iraq and the invasion that changed its course in unpredictable ways.

Since the Coalition's invasion of Iraq, Ali A. Allawi has served as his country's first postwar civilian Minister of Defense, was elected to the Transitional National Assembly as a member of the United Iraqi Alliance, and was appointed Minister of Finance under Dr. Ibrahim al-Jaffari. He divides his time between London and Baghdad.

[From the Publisher: Yale University Press](#)

Blackwater: The Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army by Jeremy Scahill

Meet Blackwater USA, the powerful private army that the U.S. government has quietly hired to operate in international war zones and on American soil. With its own military base, a fleet of twenty aircraft, and twenty-thousand troops at the ready, Blackwater is the elite Praetorian Guard for the "global war on terror"—yet most people have never heard of it. It was the moment the war turned: On March 31, 2004, four Americans were ambushed and burned near their jeeps by an angry mob in the Sunni stronghold of Falluja. Their charred corpses were hung from a bridge over the Euphrates River. The ensuing slaughter by U.S. troops would fuel the fierce Iraqi resistance that haunts occupation forces to this day. But these men were neither American military nor civilians. They were highly trained private soldiers sent to Iraq by a secretive mercenary company based in the wilderness of North Carolina. *Blackwater: The Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army* is the unauthorized story of the epic rise of one of the most powerful and secretive forces to emerge from the U.S. military-industrial complex, hailed by the Bush administration as a revolution in military affairs, but considered by others as a dire threat to American democracy. [From the Publisher: Nation Books](#)



Films

Sicko (PG) - Michael Moore (113 mins)



Acclaimed filmmaker Michael Moore sets out to investigate the American healthcare system. Sticking to his tried-and-true one-man approach, Moore sheds light on the complicated medical affairs of individuals and local communities. It compares the highly profitable American health care industry to other nations and tells Healthcare horror stories. This humorous and explosive new documentary is set to do for healthcare what Fahrenheit 9/11 did for the Bush presidency.

Now showing at the [Palace/Nova Adelaide](#)

[See the film's website](#)

The War o Democracy – John Pilger (96 mins)

Acclaimed Australian journalist John Pilger's feature film debut lifts the lid on US foreign policy by looking at the world through the hopes, dreams and extraordinary actions of ordinary people. In his second inauguration address, Bush pledged to "bring democracy to the world". In his speech he mentioned the words "democracy" and "liberty" 21 times. Most of the world, it is fair to say, will have recoiled, many in fear. Bush's speech was significant because it finally stripped noble concepts like "democracy" of their true meaning - government, for, by and of the people.



Now showing at the [Palace/Nova Adelaide](#)

[See the film's website](#)

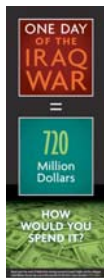
News

THE IRAN WAR IS ON THE FRONT BURNER by Muriel Mirak-Weissbach (copyright)

28 September 2007

The war that Dick Cheney has been planning against Iran, has moved from the back burner to the front, and those who do not see this are either blind or complicit. [Read more ... \(Global Research\)](#)

WAR COSTING \$720 MILLION EACH DAY, GROUP SAYS



22 September 2007

The money spent on one day of the Iraq war could buy homes for almost 6,500 families or health care for 423,529 children, or could outfit 1.27 million homes with renewable electricity, according to the [American Friends Service Committee](#), which displayed those statistics on large banners in cities nationwide Thursday and Friday. The war is costing \$720 million a day or \$500,000 a minute, according to the group's analysis of the work of Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph E. Stiglitz and Harvard public finance lecturer Linda J. Bilmes.

[Read more ... \(Washington Post\)](#)

GREENSPAN ADMITS IRAQ WAS ABOUT OIL, AS DEATHS PUT AT 1.2M

17 September 2007



Alan Greenspan, the consummate Washington insider and long-time head of the US central bank, has backed the position taken by many anti-war critics - that the invasion of Iraq was motivated by oil.

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

Photo source: ABC

IS A JEWISH GLASNOST COMING TO AMERICA? - DESPITE A BACKLASH, MANY JEWS ARE QUESTIONING ISRAEL

13 September 2007

First, a confession: It may tell me that I hate myself, but I can't help loving Masada2000, the website maintained by militant right-wing Zionist followers of Rabbi Meir Kahane. The reason I love it is its [D.I.R.T. list](#) - that's "Dense anti-Israel Repugnant Traitors" (also published as the S.H.I.T. list of "Self-Hating and Israel-Threatening" Jews). And that's not because I get a bigger entry than -- staying in the Ks - Henry Kissinger, Michael Kinsley, Naomi Klein, or Ted Koppel. The Kahanists are a pretty flaky lot, counting everyone from Woody Allen to present Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on their list of Jewish traitors. But the habit of branding Jewish dissidents - those of us who reject the nationalist notion that as Jews, our fate is tied to that of Israel, or the idea that our people's historic suffering somehow exempts Israel from moral reproach for its abuses against others - as "self-haters" is not unfamiliar to me. [Read more ... \(TomDispatch.com\)](#)



Photo source: AlterNet

THE VIEW FROM BAGHDAD: MOUNTING DEATH TOLL WHICH MAKES A MOCKERY OF US OPTIMISM

11 September 2007



By the time General Petraeus had finished speaking yesterday the slaughter in Iraq for the previous 24 hours could be tallied. It was not an exceptionally violent day by the standards of Iraq: seven US soldiers lay dead and 11 injured in the capital; other instances of sectarian violence included a suicide bomb which had killed 10 and wounded scores near Mosul while 10 bodies were found in Baghdad. Three policemen were killed in clashes in Mosul, and a car bomb outside a hospital in the capital had exploded, killing two and wounding six. [Read more ... \(The Independent\)](#)

Photo source: *GI Special*

ISRAEL/LEBANON: ISRAELI INDISCRIMINATE ATTACKS KILLED MOST CIVILIANS

6 September 2007

Israel's indiscriminate air strikes, not Hezbollah's shielding as claimed by Israeli officials, caused most of the approximately 900 civilian deaths in Lebanon during the July-August 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah, Human Rights Watch said in a [report](#) released today. Human Rights Watch investigated more than 500 of the deaths. "Israel wrongfully acted as if all civilians had heeded its warnings to evacuate southern Lebanon when it knew they had not, disregarding its continuing legal duty to distinguish between military targets and civilians," said Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch. "Issuing warnings doesn't make indiscriminate attacks lawful."

[Read more ... \(Human Rights Watch\)](#)

[Read the Report \(PDF 2.5mb\)](#)

Source: *Human Rights Watch*



EXPERTS DOUBT DROP IN VIOLENCE IN IRAQ

6 September 2007

The U.S. military's claim that violence has decreased sharply in Iraq in recent months has come under scrutiny from many experts within and outside the government, who contend that some of the underlying statistics are questionable and selectively ignore negative trends. ...In its December 2006 report, the bipartisan [Iraq Study Group](#) identified "significant underreporting of violence," noting that "a murder of an Iraqi is not necessarily counted as an attack. If we cannot determine the sources of a sectarian attack, that assault does not make it into the data base." The report concluded that "good policy is difficult to make when information is systematically collected in a way that minimizes its discrepancy with policy goals."

[Read more ... \(Washington Post\)](#)

BRIAN DE PALMA'S REDACTED SHOCKS VENICE

1 September 2007



A wave of new American films about the Iraq war are due to arrive in cinemas over the next few months. Yet it's safe to say few could be more shocking or harrowing than the low-budget *Redacted* by veteran director Brian de Palma (*Scarface*, *The Untouchables*), which had its world premiere at the Venice Film Festival yesterday. [Read more ... \(Telegraph\)](#)

Photo source: *Telegraph*

THE RIP-OFF IN IRAQ: YOU WILL NOT BELIEVE HOW LOW THE WAR PROFITEERS HAVE GONE

30 August 2007

How is it done? How do you screw the taxpayer for millions, get away with it and then ride off into the sunset with one middle finger extended, the other wrapped around a chilled martini? ...Operation Iraqi Freedom, it turns out, was never a war against Saddam Hussein's Iraq. It was an invasion of the federal budget, and no occupying force in history has ever been this efficient. George W. Bush's war in the Mesopotamian desert was an experiment of sorts, a crude first take at his vision of a fully privatized American government.

In Iraq the lines between essential government services and for-profit enterprises have been blurred to the point of absurdity -- to the point where wounded soldiers have to pay retail prices for fresh underwear, where modern-day chattel are imported from the Third World at slave wages to peel the potatoes we once assigned to grunts in KP, where private companies are guaranteed huge profits no matter how badly they fuck things up [Read more ... \(AlterNet\)](#)



Graphic Source: *AlterNet*

BUSH WANTS \$50 BILLION MORE FOR IRAQ WAR

29 August 2007

President Bush plans to ask Congress next month for up to \$50 billion in additional funding for the war in Iraq, a White House official said yesterday, a move that appears to reflect increasing administration confidence that it can fend off congressional calls for a rapid drawdown of U.S. forces. [Read more ... \(Washington Post\)](#)

THE U.S. MEDIA PLAYS ALONG WITH THE FARCICAL TRIAL OF CHEMICAL ALI

25 August 2007



It's a Kafkaesque trial--an historical lie--it should be the shame of U.S. Media. Like a distant historical footnote to the bloody tragedy raging in Iraq, the trial of Saddam Hussein's cousin, Chemical Ali, and 14 other former lieutenants of Saddam, began this week. The prosecutor accused them of perpetrating "among the ugliest crimes ever committed against humanity in modern history." In a just world, George H.W. Bush and James Baker would also be in the dock. [Read more ... \(AlterNet\)](#)

Photo source: AlterNet

VIOLENCE TAKING TOLL ON PREGNANT MOTHERS, INFANTS

14 August 2007

According to doctors, dozens of women in Iraq each day face delivery difficulties caused by violence and the curfew that is preventing access to health care during the night. "For at least two women in every 12 who seek emergency delivery assistance here, either the mother or her child dies," Dr Ibrahim Khalil, a gynecologist at Al-Karada maternity hospital, said. [Read more ... \(ElectronicIraq.net\)](#)



Photo source: AlterNet

UK 'DAMAGED' BY LEBANON WAR DELAY

13 August 2007



The UK's reputation was damaged when the government hesitated in calling for an immediate end to the Lebanon war last year, MPs have said. At the time, then-PM Tony Blair was criticised for waiting a few weeks before eventually calling for a ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon. The foreign affairs committee also said it was "counterproductive" not to talk to Palestinian militant group Hamas. It called some of Israel's military actions in Lebanon during the war "indiscriminate and disproportionate". It particularly highlighted the attacks on United Nations observers and the dropping of more than 3.5 million cluster bombs (90% of the total) in the 72 hours after the UN Security Council passed the resolution which effectively ended the war. [Read more ... \(BBC\)](#)

Photo source: BBC

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. Help our presenters to locate useful items that you may discover to incorporate into *A Peace of the Action* programming – email nowar@ihug.com.au with any items you find. The program is sponsored by Single Step Printing.

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 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 the last AGM on 11 October 2006. They are:

Mike Khizam (Convenor)	Stephen Darley	Jane Bower
Jeanie Lucas (Secretary)	Ruth Russell	Sue Gilbey
Margaret Peterson (Treasurer)	Renfrey Clarke	Colin Mitchell
		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 4 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.](#)

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!