

## NOWAR STATEMENT

NOWAR has consistently opposed any foreign military intervention in Iraq.

There is no credible evidence that Iraq presented an imminent threat to the region or to the USA, nor that it possessed weapons of mass destruction, nor that it had any links to Al Q'aeda or the Sept 11 or Bali attacks. Thus, this war will do nothing to help prevent terrorist attacks. Finally, Saddam Hussein may be a dictator, but this is not sufficient reason in itself for foreign intervention to forcibly change the regime.

There is therefore no legal or moral justification for this invasion. We believe that this war has more to do with the extension of American influence in the Middle East and control of its oil reserves.

The unilateral attack by the USA led "Coalition of the Willing", without the sanction of the United Nations, constitutes a breach of international law and undermines the UN itself. In joining in this attack, against the wishes of the majority of the Australian people, the Howard government has isolated us diplomatically, undermined our relations with other countries in our region, and made a mockery of the democratic ideals it is supposedly defending. Many Australians feel angry and ashamed at Australia's participation in this illegal and unjust war of aggression.

Iraq is a country already on its knees as a result of the devastation of the 1991 Gulf War and twelve years of crippling sanctions. War is likely to create a new humanitarian disaster - further food, water and medical supply shortages, massive economic dislocation, and thousands of refugees.

### **NOWAR therefore calls for:**

- *The immediate cessation of hostilities in Iraq*
- *The immediate withdrawal of all Australian and Coalition troops*
- *The Australian government to take control of the Pine Gap, so that it is only used for defensive purposes*
- *Any post-war administration to be overseen by the UN, not the USA*
- *Urgent, massive humanitarian aid to be administered by international aid organisations, not the military (either USA or Iraqi)*
- *Iraqi oil revenue to remain in the hands of the Iraqi people.*