The War Is Not Over!!!

Watts / South Gate Youth
Not In Our Name

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War (wɔr) n. 1. Armed conflict between nations, states, or factions. 2. A determined struggle esp. for a specific goal. 3. A state of antagonism or discord. 4. Military techniques or procedures as a science.

War doesn’t stop when the last bomb is dropped. War stops when people create a lasting peace based on justice and equality.

No justice, no peace!

Don’t believe the T.V. hype, the war’s not over!

There is still war in Iraq.

• The Iraqi army was beat but many of the Iraqi people continue to fight.
• We still have to rebuild Iraq.
• The war will probably continue for years.

We are still fighting the War on Terrorism.

• Many people around the world still hate America.
• Many people think there are even more terrorists now than 2 years ago.
• Bush is still terrorizing the world.

There may be war in Syria, Jordan, and North Korea.

• North Korea still is trying to build nuclear weapons.
• Bush is threatening to invade Syria and Iran next.
• Bush will threaten one war after the next until we stop him.

There is still war at home.

• The government attack on young people, poor people, people of color, and people in the inner-city continues.
• Gangs and police drama continues in our neighborhoods.
• We still have to fight for our rights.
WHY PROTEST?

SOCIETY WOULD LIKE US TO BELIEVE THAT WE CANNOT DO ANYTHING TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

HOWEVER, PROTESTING IS A WAY FOR US TO VOICE OUR OPINIONS AND EXERCISE OUR FREEDOM OF SPEECH.

PROTESTING DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE. LOOK AT MARTIN LUTHER KING AND CESAR CHAVEZ. IT BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER AND SHOWS THAT WE ARE NOT ALONE IN OUR CAUSE.

ALSO, IN OUR HISTORY, NEARLY ALL SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE BEEN LED BY THE YOUTH.

NOW MORE THAN EVER, AS OUR COUNTRY MARCHES INTO WAR, IT IS NECESSARY THAT WE, THE YOUTH OF THE NATION, SPEAK OUT AGAINST WHAT WE KNOW IS WRONG WITH THE WORLD WE LIVE IN.

NOW MORE THAN EVER IT IS NECESSARY THAT WE GET OUT THERE AND PROTEST AGAINST INJUSTICE AND PUT AN END TO THIS WAR.

WHY SHOULD YOU OPPOSE THIS WAR?

BECAUSE YOU KNOW WAR IS WRONG.

WAR SHOULD ALWAYS BE THE LAST OPTION IF IT IS AN OPTION AT ALL. ENTIRE CITIES IN IRAQ HAVE BEEN DESTROYED AND INNOCENT MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN ARE STILL BEING WOUNDED AND KILLED; BUT ALMOST THE WHOLE WORLD THINKS THAT PROBLEMS WITH SADDAM HUSSEIN COULD HAVE BEEN HANDLED WITHOUT WAR.

BECAUSE YOU WANT AMERICA TO BE SAFE.

THIS WAR WILL MAKE US LESS SAFE BECAUSE IT SHOWS THE REST OF THE WORLD THAT WE DON’T CARE ABOUT THEM AND THAT WE ARE WILLING TO KILL THEM AND THEIR CHILDREN FOR POLITICS AND OIL. THIS WAR IS MAKING THE REST OF THE WORLD HATE US MORE AND IS GOING TO PUT US IN GREATER DANGER FROM PEOPLE WHO HATE AMERICA AND THINK WE ARE THREATENING THEM.
BECAUSE YOU BELIEVE IN DEMOCRACY.

Not only is this an unpopular war forced on us by a not-quite-elected President, but this war isn’t going to bring democracy to Iraq like he says, either. America is becoming more and more powerful around the world but the rest of the world doesn’t have any decision in what we do. George Bush is ignoring the United Nations and any country who disagrees with him. If democracy is about giving power to the people, then America is taking away democracy, not creating it.

BECAUSE YOU BELIEVE WE HAVE MORE IMPORTANT PROBLEMS THAN WHO CONTROLS IRAQ.

This war is going to cost hundreds of billions of dollars that could go to solving problems that face us here in Watts and South Gate. If we spent the $200 billion some people think this war will cost on education instead of bombs, Jordan High’s cut would be almost $7 million. Think of what we could do with $7 million to fix up our school or stop the violence in our neighborhoods.

BECAUSE YOU WONDER IF YOU’RE NEXT.

If our government continues to think war is the answer, more poor young men and women like us are going to have to go fight their wars. Plus, while they fight this war, the government is using new laws like the Patriot act to try to take away our rights here at home. They are trying to go back to the days when the government used to spy on people like Martin Luther King, and attack community activists like the Black Panthers and the Brown Berets. Also, after the last Gulf War, many of the weapons were brought back and sold to the LAPD where they have been used in “anti-gang” programs that target all of us in the inner-city, especially us in the projects.

WHATS GOING ON IN IRAQ?  WHY DO PEOPLE HATE THE U.S.?

Why do they hate the U.S.? They hate America because America loves to stick it’s nose into other people’s business. The United States is currently on a crusade to rule the world. Saddam Hussein is not a very smart dictator who is no great threat to U.S. security. Yet the Bush administration, and his friend Tony Blair seem to believe that its ok to wage an unprovoked attack on a third world country.

The people of the world also hate the way the American people display their money. The only people who are able to display their money in such ways are people who actually have money. The way Americans use their money in such a careless way. While millions of people die around the world of hunger and diseases that are able to be cured by simple inexpensive vaccinations.

Also, we have done politically terrible things in the Middle East. The U.S. helped create the country of Israel. Israel is run by Jewish people, Israel was created after the Nazis tried to kill them. While the Jewish people should have their own government, we put Israel right on top of Palestine and so the
Palestinians don’t have a country of their own. And now the Israelis treat Palestinians like they are less than Jewish people. People who support the Palestinians are very angry with America for backing Israeli Jews and not Palestinians. Also, we have had a policy for the Middle East we call “destabilization.” Destabilization means that we try to keep countries like Iraq and Iran fighting each other so they will do whatever we want them to. We actually helped put Saddam Hussein in charge of Iraq and gave him weapons because he said he would fight Iran.

People also hate the U.S. because it’s the biggest hypocrite country out there. The U.S. is always doing the opposite of what it says. The U.S. bombs Iraqi water treatment plants and electrical infrastructure which leaves millions of Iraqi people with out clean water and working electricity during the gulf war. Causing food supplies to drop. Due to low sources of food clean water and electricity many Iraqi people died. Then the U.S. makes a big campaign to bring the people of Iraq clean water, food and electricity as if the people of Iraq never did have those things. After the U.S. got clean water, food and electricity for the Iraqi people, Americans became the great saviors. When they caused the damage in the first place.

People will always dislike the Country with the most power(money). And we can’t really do nothing to change that because we are the country that is in the most power.

So What’s This Got To Do With Me?

Many Watts residents, mainly the youth, fail to realize how this war is relating to and taking effect upon us. Well first off, this war is digging deep into the pockets of our city, our state, and our country. Second, it doesn’t fix the war in our streets. And last, Bush is making us do the fighting for him!

Many people think the war is going to cost $100 to $200 billion. That could have a big effect on our state by itself. $2 billion have been taken from California schools this year already. Now there’s 60 million school age people in America, 2000 students at Jordan High alone. That is $6.7 million dollars that could go for Jordan High students alone. All of that money coming out of our education, no field trips, teachers getting fired. All for a war in Iraq.

And you know that it is more likely that a person gets killed walking down the street in Watts at night, than from a terrorist attack! There is a war going on right here in the streets between the residents and each other, between the residents and cops, between the residents and drugs and homelessness and all the other problems that we face daily. But no, being that our president is a public relations president, our own country’s problems are discarded and money is taken out of the community to be put into this war.
And whose fighting this war for him? We are. The people who are underprivileged and see the military as a way to pay for college or the only way out of hard times. But it is more likely that a terrorist would attack planes and big buildings and populated areas that have cash instead of our community. Plus all of this Homeland Security stuff. Everyday our rights are getting taken away, freedom of speech, as a perfect example.

Our family and friends are over there dying to no avail for us. Education is being disregarded and stunted. And what is this over? Oil baby Bush’s revenge? The liberation of Iraq? Or is it deeper? Even so, what about the liberation of our own country? How about a little peace in our streets? It is going to cost $45-80 billion just to build up Iraq after the war is over and we’ve done our damage. How about before going and liberating and building up other countries Bush does it for his own? How about building up Los Angeles first? How can he go to another country to “stabilize” it when it’s not even stable in his own? Let’s get real. This is not our war.