

**A STATEMENT BY THE KANSAS CITY IRAQ TASK FORCE  
ON THE U.S. OCCUPATION OF IRAQ** June 22, 2003

For more than a year, the Kansas City Iraq Task Force has supported the intervention of the United Nations in the crisis between the United States and Iraq. Although the U.N. has recently voted to allow the United States and Great Britain to essentially be occupying forces in Iraq (U.N. Res. 1483), we recognize this as a decision fraught with difficulties for the people of the U.S. and Britain, as well as for the people of Iraq.

- As occupiers, the U.S. has met with much more protest, resistance, and violence than was anticipated by our government. **The U.S. is losing nearly one soldier every day in Iraq due to Iraqis resisting the occupation.**

- We, as occupiers, are also bearing the full cost of supporting the nation of Iraq. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that **each month** of occupation is costing U.S. taxpayers \$1,000,000,000 to \$4,000,000,000 (**one to four billion dollars**).

- The U.S. refusal to allow the U.N. to play an instrumental role in Iraq's future has made the international community more suspicious of the true motives behind the U.S. invasion.

- The U.S.'s current plan to formulate a government for Iraq has been divisive and contested among various groups within Iraq. Past attempts by the U.S. to build nations have had limited success at best. Consider the quagmire we are facing in Afghanistan, and how much more complex our occupation of Iraq could be.

**It is time to allow the international community, as represented by the U.N., to take the lead in securing and reconstructing Iraq, and in helping it to form a new government.** The U.N. is far more trusted by the Iraqi people and the international community to work in the best interests of the people of Iraq without hidden motives and agendas.

As it stands now, 23 million Iraqis are at the mercy of the United States and British governments. With resentment of U.S. occupation growing every day, with contracts being awarded to rebuild Iraq to companies with government ties, and with the U.S. trying to manipulate the formation of Iraq's new government, we believe it is time for the U.S. to step aside and allow the U.N. to facilitate the future of Iraq.

**Therefore, the Kansas City Iraq Task Force  
appeals to our government:**

**U.S. Out, U.N. In!**

**JOIN THE STRUGGLE FOR TRUE FREEDOM!** Visit [www.kciraqtaskforce.org](http://www.kciraqtaskforce.org)

Contact the Kansas City Iraq Task Force: Chairperson, Brad Grabs, (913) 321-2206, [bgrabs@juno.com](mailto:bgrabs@juno.com)  
or the American Friends Service Committee, (816) 931-5256, [afsc@swbell.net](mailto:afsc@swbell.net)

The Kansas City Iraq Task Force joins Voices in the Wilderness  
([www.vitw.org](http://www.vitw.org)) in calling for these

# TRUE FREEDOMS

## PEOPLE FREE FROM DESPERATE NEEDS

We call for compliance with the Geneva Conventions requiring that the U.S., as the occupying force, meet the immediate humanitarian needs of Iraqis. We assert that the U.S. should then step aside to allow humanitarian relief to be done by the U.N. and qualified non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working with Iraqis.



## PEACE FREE OF SPECIAL INTERESTS

We call for replacement of U.S./U.K. occupation forces by an independent, international peacekeeping presence, working in cooperation with the Iraqi people and independent NGOs to stabilize the country and quickly establish a legitimate Iraqi government, subject to the needs and interests of Iraqis, not to the political and economic interests of the

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[www.iraqivacation.com](http://www.iraqivacation.com)

## RESOURCES FREE FROM EXPLOITATION

We call for recognition that Iraq's natural, cultural, and economic resources belong to Iraqis, not to any U.S. administration or corporation. The lifting of economic sanctions does not in and of itself guarantee self-determination for Iraqis; U.S. corporations see a gold mine in Iraq, and the recent resolution pushed through the U.N. Security Council not only lifts sanctions but guarantees U.S./U.K. occupation for at least a year, giving these administrations and their corporate entities free access to Iraq's potential wealth. We demand that the appropriation of Iraqi assets be concentrated within Iraq and supervised by a transparent, non-governmentally-aligned body until the people of Iraq can select a new government of their own.



## ALL NATIONS FREE OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

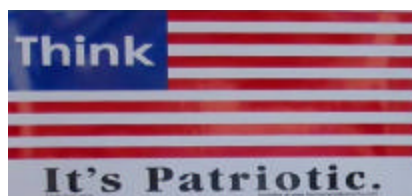
We call for renewal of U.N. efforts to certify that Iraq does not possess weapons of mass destruction; such standards must be applied to all nations. Never again should weapons inspections be linked to economic penalties imposed on a civilian population, as was done in Iraq.

## AN IRAQ FREE OF DEBT

We call for cancellation of debt and compensation demands from the 1991 Gulf War. The Iraqi civilian population should not be forced to pay for the debts accrued by the Ba'ath regime.

## RALLY FOR PEACE!

4th Sunday of each month,  
4:00 p.m., J.C. Nichols Fountain (47th & Main), KCMO.



## AN IRAQ FREE OF DEVASTATION

We call for clean up of all cluster bombs, mines and depleted uranium used in Iraq and an end to the development, production, distribution or use of these weapons by any country. We hold U.S./U.K. weapons companies accountable to Iraqis and demand compensation for damages done.

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