

Don't Send 3,000 NJ National Guard Troops to Iraq in June.

(Sec. 1076 of DoD Appropriation 2007 -- Repealed in January 08!)

(The Governors have succeeded in having Congress repeal Sec 1076 that in 2007 gave the President DOMESTIC control of National Guard troops for any reason. Now we urge the Governors and Congress to de-federalize the National Guard by repealing the "Authorization of 2002" to stop the President from sending any more National Guard to Iraq. The National Guard historically trains and deploys for DOMESTIC emergencies under the Governors. This must be fully restored.)

__ Whereas, the Iraq War is an illegal and horribly managed quagmire in a country that had nothing to do with 9/11; Saddam Hussein has been deposed and no weapons of mass destruction were ever found.

__ Whereas, the presence of US Troops in Iraq has inflamed insurgents and factions, endangering the potential for peace and stability there.

__ Whereas, over 4,000 U.S. troops have been killed and 10's of thousands have returned with life-altering injuries – maimed, blinded, with Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome.

__ Whereas, almost one-half million National Guard Troops have served in Iraq and at least 80 percent of those have been sent with inadequate training and without proper equipment.

__ Whereas, half of New Jersey's 6,000 National Guard is to be deployed to Iraq in June, leaving the state without adequate guard and equipment. Nation-wide, it is estimated that only 30 per cent of the Guard is available for any disaster that could occur here.

__ Whereas, 70 per cent of the American People oppose this war and the per cent in New Jersey is even higher.

__ Whereas, money to rebuild Iraq has been squandered and stolen by U.S. and Iraqi contractors, with corruption costs estimated at \$4 billion per year. Completed re-building projects are inadequate, and basic services of electricity and potable water are far less than before the war.

__ Whereas, troops have been underpaid, cheated out of higher education benefits and spurned in their efforts to receive health care and mental health services when they return home. (For example, according to USA Today, more than 1,100 soldiers have returned home blinded or with near-total loss of vision with 1,000s of others suffering from undiagnosed and untreated vision loss from head trauma related to explosions, yet, there are only 10 centers in all of the U.S. that have treated fewer than 100 of the blinded soldiers.)

Please, Governor Corzine resist and prevent the deployment of 50% of NJ's National Guard to Iraq in June 2008 and work with the Governors of all the other states to repeal Section 1076 of the Department of Defense Authorization of 2007 which has given control of NJ National Guard for emergencies in New Jersey to the President. Sec. 1076 overrides previous law 10 U.S.C. Sec 333, which held in check the President's power to mobilize the military within the U.S. Not providing the President with a standing army within the boundaries of the country was one of the founding tenants of the United States; now that has been changed.

Note: It doesn't matter who voted against this war in the first place, and who didn't. What matters now, is that every person in this country use his or her own leadership capabilities to end it. This failed war has gone on for five too many years. So far, adults in this country have failed our children and children throughout the world by not making it **JOB 1, to end this war. The U.S. must end the war in Iraq.**

Weapons and war in Iraq have brought not only heartache here, and death, destruction and misery for Iraqis. Yet the war goes on, as it engenders huge profits for war-suppliers. Among the population of Iraq, over **600,000 civilians have been killed**; over **2 million have been made homeless** and are refugees, and **hundreds of thousands have been wounded and maimed** by war. **Thousands more will suffer cancers and birth defects caused by Depleted Uranium** used in U.S. shells and missiles....All courtesy of our tax dollars, every politician and each of us who have failed to stop this madness.

Sponsored by: NJ Peace Action: 973-744-3263, to download this petition to gather signatures, go to www.njpeaceaction.org.

ONLINE PETITION available at: <http://www.njpetition.org> or <http://www.petitiononline.com/gardhome/petition.html>

Endorsed by: People's Organization for Progress; Military Families Speak Out – Bergen County; Military Families Speak Out – Essex County; Veterans for Peace, Chpt. 021, NJ; NJ Veterans Against the War; Essex County Green Party; Montclair Campaign for Peace and Justice; NJ Labor Against the War; NJ Industrial Union Council, NJ Impeach Groups/www.impeachthem.com; Northwest NJ Peace Fellowship; NJ Coalition to Bring the Troops Home Now; Iraq Veterans Against War – NJ; Essex County Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Coalition for Peace and Justice.

Please return completed petitions by May 31st to: NJ Peace Action: 673 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, NJ 07003.