

END BUSH AND BLAIR'S SENSELESS WAR



U.S. TROOPS AND TORTURE FLIGHTS OUT OF SHANNON

Cindy Sheehan, US Peace Mom
Mother of US soldier killed in Iraq

George Galloway MP
Respect, Stop the War Coalition (UK)

Rhuhel Ahmed
Former Guantanamo Bay prisoner (Tipton 3)

Richard Boyd Barrett
Chair, Irish Anti-War Movement

Tuesday 22 May 7.30pm
Kingston Hotel, Dun Laoghaire

www.irishantiwar.org (01) 8727912

VOTE NO TO WAR AND TORTURE

This brutal, unjustified war, led by the US and British governments, has created an appalling waste of human life for the people of Iraq with estimates of the dead as high as 650,000. In addition over 3,000 US soldiers have been killed.

Two million Iraqis have been forced to leave their country and become refugees creating a huge humanitarian crisis in neighbouring countries such as Jordan and Syria. Both the US and Britain have openly justified torture in their supposed war on terror. A puppet government has been installed in Iraq under the guise of democratic elections. The natural resources of the country have been stolen from the Iraqi people and handed over to giant US multinationals such as Halliburton and Bechtel.

The activities of the occupying US military has only helped to stoke sectarian strife within Iraq, the latest being a concrete wall erected around areas of Baghdad which will only accentuate differences within the population. The neo-cons in Washington know that the war is lost and are now preparing US public opinion, in a most racist way, for a US withdrawal.

This involves devising an exit strategy based on presenting the US as the harbingers of 'democracy' to barbaric warring tribes. This 'they don't deserve us' line is being flouted by a compliant media whose reportage is, in the words of Robert Fisk, "scattering gravel across the desert floor for the US tanks to leave". The same compliant media, "echo chambers for power" as Fisk calls them, refuse to give a fair hearing to the international anti-war and peace movement.

THE IRISH GOVERNMENT IS COMPLICIT IN THIS HUMAN CARNAGE.

Every week thousands of armed US soldiers continue to pass through SHANNON AIRPORT on route to Iraq to kill and be killed. Rendition torture flights have also passed through Shannon. The Irish Government's support for this war, and by implication torture, makes a mockery of our supposed neutrality and does not have the support of the majority of Irish people as recent polls testify.

This complicity can be stopped. If enough new TD's who oppose Ireland's involvement in this war are elected, pressure can be built up to force the Irish government to stop Shannon being used by US troops. Exactly where candidates stand on the issue should be raised with everyone running for the DAIL. The IAWM is asking all candidates to support the following pledge;

I, the undersigned, give a firm commitment that if elected I will not participate in any government that allows Shannon Airport or other Irish facilities to be used by the United States to conduct war in Iraq or any other imperialist war"

Those candidates who have signed the pledge will be identified at a Press Event on 22 May and their names handed to the press.

As part of our continued campaign against this brutal war and the complicity of the Irish Government, the IAWM is hosting a visit by Cindy Sheehan and Rhuhel Ahmed for a series of events including a Press Conference and Public Meeting on 22 May and a Fly-in Protest to Shannon Airport on 23 May. Cindy Sheehan is an inspirational US mother and peace activist who lost her eldest son Casey in the Iraq war. Rhuhel Ahmed is a British born Muslim who was incarcerated in the torture cages of Guantanamo bay for two years.

We stand in solidarity with those US citizens who call for an immediate end to this brutal war and all victims of torture in their fight for justice.

We appeal to members of the Irish public to raise the issue of SHANNON with your electoral candidates and to give your preference only to ANTI WAR CANDIDATES.