



IRAQ FOR SALE

THE WAR PROFITEERS

ACTION GUIDE

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Film is a powerful tool for story telling and organizing. Brave New Foundation is dedicated to using film and other media to educate the public on issues affecting their lives, but which might not otherwise be readily available through more traditional channels of communication.

“Iraq for Sale: The War Profiteers,” is a compelling story of how corporate power has warped national defense, hurt our soldiers and created a far worse problem for America in Iraq than we could imagine. We asked our partners to provide information that we thought would be useful to all who see the film or care about the issues the film raises, to provide us with their insights and suggestions for follow up and action.

The information in this guide comes directly from them. You may already participate in social justice work with one or many of these organizations. Regardless, we encourage you to become more familiar with their work and their particular suggestions about the issue of privatization of military functions. Your own interests and actions may be magnified by the excellent work already ongoing in this very troubling area.

Please use this guide and our film to make a difference. We encourage you to send the guide and film to friends, family and neighbors. Don't let the movie sit on a shelf after you screen it. Pass it on to someone who needs to know the facts.

The easiest and most vital action any US citizen can take is voting. Justice comes first at the ballot box. If you are not registered to vote, please go to www.yourvotematters.org or text in the word 'iraq' to 75444. Please make sure to go to the polls on Election Day. In addition to any other actions you take as a result of seeing the film, be a good neighbor. Commit to go to the polls with at least two of your friends. And get your friends to do likewise. That's the only way we can assure change.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this guide and everyone who reads this guide. You are the people we do this for and you are the people whose voices will bring about justice.



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI) is a worldwide movement of people who campaign for internationally recognized human rights.

AI's vision is of a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

BUSINESS & HUMAN RIGHTS
CORPORATE ACTION NETWORK
www.amnestyusa.org/business

In pursuit of this vision, AI's mission is to undertake research and action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of the rights to physical and mental integrity, freedom of conscience and expression, and freedom from discrimination, within the context of its work to promote all human rights.

PRIVATE MILITARY AND SECURITY CONTRACTORS

As the United States conducts the "war on terror", the U.S. government is outsourcing key security and military support functions to private companies, particularly in Iraq and Afghanistan. The work ranges from logistical support to providing security for U.S. government personnel and reconstruction projects to more sensitive roles, such as interrogation of people whom U.S. forces have detained and held in custody.

In this environment, allegations have emerged of contractor involvement in serious human rights violations – including the torture at Abu Ghraib and hundreds of shootings at innocent Iraqi civilians – yet Bush administration officials have made virtually no effort to hold contractors accountable or compensate victims.



Private U.S. security guards protect U.S. diplomats in As Sulayiyah, Iraq. © Scott Peterson/Getty Images.

WHAT AMNESTY IS ASKING COMPANIES TO DO:

AI calls on all private military and security companies to implement a comprehensive human rights policy and monitor and periodically issue public reports on its implementation. AI calls on the companies to screen employees and train them on international human rights standards; make public the

results of any investigations the company conducts into alleged human rights abuses by employees; and disclose the terms of U.S. government contracts with respect to human rights.

WHAT AMNESTY IS ASKING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO DO: The U.S. government should promptly investigate all allegations of human rights violations committed by employees or contractors of private military firms. Where clear evidence of the violations exists, perpetrators should be immediately prosecuted. The Department of Justice should immediately finalize investigations and, where warranted, initiate prosecution of the 17 pending cases of detainee abuse by government and military contractors. All relevant U.S. government agencies should report to the U.S. Congress annually on the incidents of employees or contractors of private military firms' use of force against civilians and detainees, and on the status of investigations into the incidents. Finally, the U.S. government should require all employees or contractors of private military firms fulfilling a U.S. government contract to have: (a) been effectively screened, including a review of the criminal and job history for any prospective employee or contractor and, (b) received training in human rights and humanitarian law which shall include

both classroom and operational training exercises that emphasizes international human rights and humanitarian law protections.



*You can help hold corporations accountable
for human rights violations.*

WHAT YOU CAN DO: AI works to improve human rights through the actions of ordinary people around the world, and has a record of real achievement. Prisoners of conscience are released. Death sentences are commuted. Torturers are brought to justice. Governments are persuaded to change their laws and practices. And, sometimes our solidarity keeps hope alive. Hope is a precious weapon for prisoners battling to survive, relatives trying to obtain justice or human rights defenders bravely continuing their work despite danger and isolation. The actions of AI's members and supporters can make a difference. Act now:

1. Army investigations implicated employees from Titan and CACI in the abuses of Iraqi detainees at the Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad. Reports of hundreds of shootings at Iraqi civilians have been filed with U.S. authorities. To date, only one civilian contractor has faced charges. Write to the U.S. Department of Justice to act immediately to investigate and prosecute all cases of human rights abuses by civilian and corporate actors operating with seeming impunity in the "war on terror". You can also write to the companies, like Titan, to express your concern over their human rights policies and practices. For both actions, go to www.amnestyusa.org/business/pmc/takeaction.html.
2. Join AIUSA's SHARE POWER campaign to hold corporations accountable for human rights violations associated with their operations. Learn how you are connected to multinational companies, no matter who you are, where you work, where you study, or where you live. Then use that connection to press for change – take direct action against companies abusing human rights, raise awareness in your community about the issues, and influence shareholders to consider human rights in their investment decisions. Go to: www.amnestyusa.org/business/sharepower/index.html.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, and to learn more about how you can get involved in helping to protect human rights and stop abuses by corporate actors, visit Amnesty International USA's Business and Human Rights website, at: www.amnestyusa.org/business or please contact us at corpaction@aiusa.org.

The views expressed in Iraq for Sale are not necessarily the views of Amnesty International



HOUSE PARTY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Does this movie change how safe/threatened you feel? If so, why?
2. Are these stories typical of the war effort? Are they unique?
 - a. Who is responsible for making sure this doesn't go on?
 - b. Do they know what's happening?
3. Is the administration addressing these issues?
 - a. If so, who and how? The President? Congress? Oversight agencies such as the Department of Justice or General Accounting Office?
 - b. Are they doing enough?
 - c. If not, how can we get them to do more?
 - d. What are your Federal representatives doing on these issues?
4. Will these stories affect your vote in this election?
 - a. If not, why?
 - b. Should other voters know about them?
5. What actions should we / can we take to get this story out?
 - a. To candidates? Federal? Local?
 - b. To voters?
6. What else can we do to stop war profiteering?

For more information or documentation of these issues, see our report at www.ourfuture.org.

America's Future is a progressive research and action center promoting an agenda to enhance prosperity and opportunity for all Americans. Our studies and analyses, communication, advocacy and mobilization campaigns advance a progressive perspective on a broad range of issues, largely centered on "kitchen table" topics. Our goal is to build a new and enduring political majority. *America's Future* is the umbrella for the 501(c)3 **Institute for America's Future**, the 501(c)4 **Campaign for America's Future** and a 527 Campaign Committee.

Visit www.ourfuture.org for more information!

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The Center for Corporate Policy is a non-profit, non-partisan public interest organization working to curb corporate abuses and make corporations publicly accountable.

What Can be Done About War Profiteering?

- **Establish a permanent independent investigative subcommittee** (modeled after the Truman Committee) responsible for investigating waste, fraud and abuses associated with any war-related contracts.¹
- **Create genuine congressional oversight over moneys appropriated and spent, as well as contractor performance.** Congress should conduct actual oversight, rather than leave it to the Inspector General.
- **Force greater competition in contracting.** No-bid contracts should be banned and huge mega-contracts should be broken up so that large task orders can be competitively bid, better services can be delivered to the troops, and improved value returned to the taxpayers.

Additional Measures to End the “Culture of Corruption” in Government Contracting

- **Ban companies that repeatedly break the law and abuse taxpayer funds from getting contracts.** The Bush Administration weakened the Federal Acquisition Regulations in 2001, resulting in lax enforcement of “responsible” contractor standards.¹ Both clearer standards and stronger enforcement of suspension and debarment provisions are needed.¹
- **Create a publicly accessible record of contractors’ violations.** Corporations bidding for federal contracts above a certain amount should be required to submit a certified record of their compliance history to be posted online. A publicly available online record of contractors’ violations of federal laws – including criminal convictions and civil penalties – should be maintained by the GSA and used to disqualify repeat lawbreakers.¹
- **Make all major federal contracts and grants available to the public** free of charge in a searchable, downloadable online format, including relevant information about subcontractors.¹
- **Tighten Performance Standards.** Contractors should be required to meet high labor and environmental standards, including paying prevailing or living wages.¹ They should also be prohibited from charging the government for any executive compensation above 25 times the pay of the company’s lowest-paid contract employee or subcontractor employee.¹

- **Strengthen Contract Eligibility Requirements.**¹ The Department of Homeland Security has barred companies that relocate their headquarters offshore to avoid taxes from eligibility,¹ while states such as New Jersey and Arizona prohibit companies that move jobs offshore from bidding on their state contracts.¹
- **Close the revolving door.** Eliminate the cronyism that results when individuals leave government for a lucrative position in the private sector or come to government from contracting companies.¹
- **Support whistleblowers who report waste, fraud, bribery and other abuses.** Whistleblower protections should be broadened to cover national security employees and all government contractor employees.¹
- **Eliminate “Pay to Play” for Government Contracts.**¹ Restore the pre-1976 prohibition on contractor campaign contributions.¹ Follow Massachusetts’ model of forcing contractors to prove they can perform services more effectively

¹ See Senate Amendment 2476 introduced on 11/9/05, Senate (bi-partisan) Resolution 429 IS, introduced 9/15/04, and H. Res 494, introduced in the 108th Congress on 1/20/04 by Rep. Jim Leach (R-IA).

² Charlie Cray, “The Government’s Business,” *Multinational Monitor*, May/June 2004.

³ See “The Honest Leadership and Accountability in Contracting Act of 2006” (S. 2361) and H.R. 2767, “The Contractors Accountability Act of 2003.”

⁴ See H.R. 2767 “The Contractors Accountability Act of 2003,” as well as the Project on Government Oversight’s contractor misconduct database, <http://www.pogo.org/db/>

⁵ See S. 2590, the “Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act.”

⁶ AFL-CIO State Procurement Fact Sheet. At: <http://www.aflcio.org/issues/legislativealert/stateissues/upload/govcontractors.pdf>

⁷ Section 808 of the FY 1998 National Defense Authorization Act made unallowable the costs of compensation in excess of a level established annually by OMB. See Public Law 105-85, Nov. 18, 1997, Section 808.

⁸ <http://www.buildingtrades.org/govaffairs/policies.html>.

⁹ <http://www.corporatepolicy.org/issues/taxtraitors.htm>.

¹⁰ <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d06342.pdf>.

¹¹ See www.revolvingdoor.info for more information.

¹² See H.R. 5112 and H.R. 1317.

¹³ http://www.citizen.org/congress/campaign/state_local/pay_to_play/articles.cfm?ID=10982

¹⁴ See <http://www.pogo.org/p/contracts/c/co-040101-contractorb.html#brecommendations>. For information on state bans, see Progressive States Network, “Stateside Dispatch,” April 10, 2006. At: <http://www.progressivestates.org/dispatch>

¹⁵ See AFSCME, <http://www.afscme.org/private/tools05.htm>

Center for Corporate Policy
 PO Box 19405, Washington, DC 20036 tel: 202.387.8030
www.corporatepolicy.org



Mission: CorpWatch investigates and exposes corporate violations of human rights, environmental crimes, fraud and corruption around the world. We work to foster global justice, independent media activism and democratic control over corporations.

<http://www.warprofiteers.com/> & <http://www.corpwatch.org/>

Information is Power

At CorpWatch, we believe that information is power and that the pen is mightier than the sword, so we encourage you to seek out the facts (and what better way, than at our websites?) and then take action, by making your voice heard. Write a letter to your local and national political leaders, write an editorial, talk to the media, or make a presentation to your local community group or school.

When you have a group of people with you, you are more powerful than a single voice, although one voice is better than none at all. If you want to challenge power directly, put your words on a poster, a picket sign, a bumper sticker or a T-shirt, and take your message to popular public locations, even if you can't get your voice into the mainstream media. People who see your sign will get a message that they don't normally hear.

You don't have to be confrontational if you don't want to be. You can write down the facts and then practice being persuasive with someone you disagree with. Remember to listen to what the other person has to say and then present them with what you have to say. People who are convinced of your arguments will join you, so try to win people to your side.

Get the Facts

Start here: <http://www.warprofiteers.com>. We have a whole set of reports and fact sheets on each of the big companies that are profiting out of war (see company profiles on the left) and the latest news on the right hand column. In the middle are our latest investigative features (don't forget to check out Khalil Bendib's cartoons!) Find out which companies have taken money but failed to provide needed services to Iraqis, which companies have overcharged the taxpayer and which ones have stolen money or abused human rights.

If you really want something tangible you can feel and show people, why not get our reports? We have three, not one, but THREE alternative annual reports on Halliburton: starting with "Houston, We Have A Problem" in 2004, all the way up to "Hurricane Halliburton: Conflict, Climate Change and Catastrophe" in 2006. We have a whole book on the war profiteers, titled "Iraq, Inc.: A Profitable Occupation" and an update report called: "Baghdad Bonanza: What Happened to Iraq's Oil Money?" coming out this fall. Write to us and we'll send you a copy (for a small donation) but if you're in a hurry, almost all of the

reports are available for free download on our website (except "Iraq, Inc.")

Things You Can Do

Look up companies like Bechtel, Halliburton & Raytheon in your phone book. Do they have a local office? Sometimes the company may have a subsidiary under a different name, so check out their website or just go to your favorite search engine, type in the name of the company and the name of your town, to see if you can track them down. Call them up and say you want to talk to them, and if they don't agree, go over and try to catch the workers during their lunch break.

Remember that the workers aren't the problem and they may even agree with you. You can do it as often as is convenient but make sure that you check what the police rules and practices are - remember you have the right to assemble peacefully, to protest and to hand out literature to anyone who will take it. If you find a disgruntled worker or whistleblower, tell them to call us. That's how we get most of our information.

You can also go to company annual meetings to talk to the owners of the company. You might even meet the CEO yourself and get an opportunity to tell him or her what you think in person. It's not that hard - maybe your pension fund or a local church owns a few shares in that company, which means they can send you to attend the meeting. Or if you're feeling especially wealthy go out and buy a share in the company. That's what we do right here at CorpWatch, and we think you can do the same. (Yes, we do own one share of Halliburton and we go to the meetings every year and speak to all the gathered shareholders. Why don't you join us next year?)

If you want more ideas, email us at our cwadmin@corpwatch.org or call us directly at +1 510 271 8080 and ask to speak to Sakura Saunders.

The Institute for Policy Studies

The Institute for Policy Studies is a multi-issue progressive think tank founded in Washington, DC in 1963. For the past two years, IPS has teamed with United for a Fair Economy to produce an annual study of CEO pay among major defense contractors.



IPS

MAJOR FINDINGS FROM “EXECUTIVE EXCESS 2006”

Personal Profits in a Privatized War: Since the “War on Terror” began, the CEOs of the top 34 defense contractors have enjoyed average pay levels that are double the amounts they received during the four years leading up to 9/11. Their average compensation jumped from \$3.6 million during the pre-9/11 period of 1998-2001 to \$7.2 million during the post-9/11 period of 2002-2005. By contrast, pay for CEOs at large U.S. companies as a whole is only slightly higher on average today than it was before 9/11.

Military Pay Gap: Defense CEO pay was 44 times that of a military general with 20 years of experience and 308 times that of an Army private in 2005. Generals made \$174,452 and Army privates made \$25,085, while average defense CEO pay was \$7.7 million.

Allowing excessive defense CEO pay in wartime:

- sends the wrong message to those on the frontlines,
- drives the debilitating “revolving door” between the military and private contractors, and
- creates the risk of a profit motive for continuing the Iraq War or getting into new ones elsewhere.

That is a risk no one should have to bear – whether you support the Iraq War or not.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

Demand a Ban on Obscene Pay for Wartime Contractors

It is public money which defense CEOs are siphoning off for their own grotesque personal profits. Taxpayers have every right to insist that strings be attached to these contracts which would set a more reasonable standard for defense executive pay (e.g., management guru Peter Drucker and others have argued that CEOs should make no more than 20 times the compensation of their workers). Corporations whose CEOs are unwilling to focus on serving the country rather than maximizing their personal profits should be ineligible for contracts.

Demand Stronger Government Oversight of Wartime Contracts

The defense CEOs’ fat paychecks are particularly outrageous, given the widespread evidence of fraud, corruption, and waste. Congress should establish an investigative committee to go after war profiteers, modeled after the World War II-era Truman Committee. Led by Harry S. Truman when he was still a senator, that committee is credited with saving taxpayers some \$15 billion (in 1940s dollars) and preventing hundreds, if not thousands of deaths by uncovering faulty military equipment. Similar investigative zeal is needed today.

For more information:

Institute for Policy Studies

1112 16th Street, NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20036

Tel: 202 234 9382

<http://www.ips-dc.org>



Military Families Speak Out (MFSO) is an organization of people opposed to the war in Iraq and who have relatives or loved ones in the military. MFSO was founded in November, 2002 by two military families speaking out to try to prevent a U.S. invasion of Iraq. As of August, 2006, MFSO has over 3,000 member families, with new families joining daily. MFSO's goals are to end the occupation of Iraq, bring our troops home *now*, take care of them when they get here, and ensure that our troops are never again sent to kill and be killed in an unjust and unjustifiable war, a war based on lies. MFSO is the largest organization of military families speaking out against a war in the history of the United States.

The Context

In the fall of 2002, as the drumbeats for war were getting deafening in the United States, military families who were opposed to the rush to war noticed that so many of those saying, "We gotta go to war!" were not going anywhere – nor were their loved ones. It was our loved ones who would be sent off as cannon fodder in a war that we believed was about oil markets and dreams of empire.

As military families we know that our loved ones volunteered and signed a contract to protect and defend country and Constitution. But the invasion and occupation of Iraq has nothing to do with protection of country and Constitution. We also know that contracts have two sides – and the implied vow of the U.S. government is that it will never send our troops into harm's way – to fight and die – in a war based on lies. But that is just what the President, backed by the majority in Congress, did - -and in doing so, betrayed our troops, their families and this nation.

As of August, 2006, over 2,600 U.S. service men and women have died and tens of thousands of Iraqi children, women and men have been killed in this war. Countless more have been wounded physically and psychologically.

Adding insult to injury – with U.S. troops being deployed, re-deployed and stop-lossed (held past their service completion date) and having tours of duty in Iraq extended – billions of tax-payer dollars have poured into the coffers of contractors such as Halliburton, who, on top of everything else, are not providing the services that our troops are dependent on.

The Concerns

Below are just a few examples of the problems described by MFSO members (and their loved ones) regarding contractors in Iraq:

- *"My son is back from Iraq A lot of the time there he spent looking for food; I spent money sending him cheeses sausage and care packages as did my mom and [my son's mother-in-law]. A pizza was a slice of bread with ketchup and sliced hot dogs served for a meal in the PX. He remembers being very hungry all the time. I would like to see this exposed. They were ripped off and Halliburton is criminal in this."*
- *"After the first Gulf War, they should have realized the guys would need armored HumveesThey didn't secure the ammunition dumps, just the oil fields [which left vast amounts of weaponry and explosives falling into the hands of insurgents now using them to make roadside bombs.].....Our son was killed by a roadside bomb while he was in an unarmored Humvee. ...His military job was a cook, [but] he was made into a machine-gunner because the Halliburton company was awarded a private contract to provide meals for the military... To lose a child is just devastating...to have the feeling that his life was wasted in this war, that the war was based on lies, that it didn't need to be fought."*
- From an email sent to an MFSO member from her son in Iraq: *"The... thing we're missing here is decent armored vehicles. The "added armor" vehicles are a myth. They don't protect from IEDs [improvised explosive devices], only bullets. We lost two servicemembers last year because of that. The Government gives millions of dollars to groups like Blackwater so they can have armored SUVs, but they don't think we're worth an M114 Hummer."*

What Needs To Be Done

Military Families Speak Out is part of a growing social movement calling for an end to the U.S. occupation of Iraq and for those responsible to be held accountable. The voices of military families and Iraq War Veterans play a crucial role in increasing the awareness and understanding of the public and decision-makers about the war in Iraq and the role that contractors have played.

- If you have a relative or loved one in the military who serves or served during this period of the build-up to and/or the invasion and occupation of Iraq (fall, 2002 to the present) and you are opposed to the war in Iraq, join us! Contact Military Families Speak Out at mfso@mfso.org (website www.mfso.org)
- If you know any military families who are opposed to the war in Iraq, tell them about Military Families Speak Out.
- Promote or organize a forum – in your community, union, educational institution, religious organization, or other group – that features the voices of members of Military Families Speak Out (www.mfso.org) and Iraq Veterans Against the War (www.ivaw.net) talking about the realities of this war. Both organizations can help identify local MFSO and IVAW members in areas across the country.
- Do what you can to add your voice to the growing call for an end to the occupation in Iraq; bringing the troops home *now*; taking care of them when they get here; never sending our troops into unjust, unjustifiable and reckless military misadventures; and holding those responsible for the war in Iraq accountable.

For More Information:

**Military Families Speak Out, P.O. Box 300549, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130; (617) 983-0710.
Website: www.mfso.org; email: mfso@mfso.org**

Mission: Progressive Democrats of America (PDA) exists to carry the progressive agenda from the American grassroots to Congress to develop progressive legislation and support progressive policies at the state and local levels.

PDA's actions regarding war profiteering:

Progressive Democrats of America and our allies on Capitol Hill demand an immediate end to the Iraq War and war profiteering. We also demand accountability for those who lied to the American People and ripped off taxpayers. PDA demands an orderly withdrawal from Iraq, (See: <http://pdamerica.org/articles/news/iraq-exit-action.php>).

The Nation reports, "Even before US troops arrived in Baghdad, looting broke out--in Washington. While Republicans in Congress and their allies in the media yammered about the need to silence dissent and 'support the troops,' corporations with close ties to the Bush Administration were quietly arranging to ink lucrative contracts that would put them in charge of reconstructing Iraq....The Army Corps of Engineers told Representative Henry Waxman that a Pentagon contract awarded without competition to Halliburton subsidiary Kellogg Brown & Root (KBR) ... is worth as much as \$7 billion over two years...." (See "War Profiteering" *The Nation*, May 12, 2003, www.thenation.com/doc/20030512/editors).

The Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) "lost" several billions of dollars. *The American Conservative* decried: "The 15-month proconsulship of the CPA disbursed nearly \$20 billion, two-thirds of it in cash, most of which came from the Development Fund for Iraq that had replaced the UN Oil for Food Program and from frozen and seized Iraqi assets.... [T]here was virtually no accountability over how the money was spent. There was also considerable money 'off the books,' including as much as \$4 billion from illegal oil exports. The CPA and the Iraqi State Oil Marketing Board, which it controlled, made a deliberate decision not to record or 'meter' oil exports, an invitation to wholesale fraud and black marketeering. (See "Money for Nothing" from *The American Conservative*: <http://blog.pdamerica.org/?p=332>).

Vice President Dick Cheney steered no-bid contracts to war profiteers. We need a commission to investigate war profiteering and prevent more abuses. The best way to end profiteering is to end the war. PDA and our allies in the Congressional Progressive Caucus keep working on this but it's not easy. The Republican leadership blocks debate the on the war, profiteering, ongoing lies, torture and other scandals. PDA Board Member Rep. Maxine Waters wrote: "For months, the 72-member 'Out Of Iraq' congressional caucus, which I chair, has called for a full and honest debate on [Iraq policy]. Unfortunately, [the Republican leadership offered] nothing more than a self-aggrandizing, election-year pat on the back for an embattled president and a majority Republican Party poised to lose control of the House of Representatives." (See The Iraq Non-Debate: <http://pdamerica.org/articles/news/iraq-nondebate.php>).

PDA is calling on state Democratic Parties to adopt resolutions to end the war and occupation. (See: <http://pdamerica.org/articles/news/exit-iraq.php>). Contact your local PDA Chapter or State coordinator to work with us and your state and local party officials. (See <http://pdamerica.org/orgs/findstate.php> and also see our petition to end the occupation <http://pdamerica.org/articles/news/iraq-petition-08-2005.php>). We're mobilizing support for Rep. Jim McGovern's H.R. 4232, the *End the War in Iraq Act of 2005*. (See <http://pdamerica.org/articles/news/mcgovern-exit-bill.php>). Help PDA by asking your Representative to cosponsor H.R. 4232 and by joining with us to build a governing Progressive majority in House. Together, we will end the illegal war and disastrous occupation of Iraq, and then hold war profiteers and their enablers accountable.

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Small Business Majority is a national nonprofit organization of business entrepreneurs working to ensure prosperity in the 21st Century economy by advancing a progressive, pro-small business political agenda and organizing entrepreneurs to support the election of candidates who embrace that agenda.

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Action Items:

1. Demand enforcement of federal small business procurement requirements, particularly in military contracting. Currently, the government routinely ignores small business contracting requirements, engages in "contract bundling" that freezes out small business from competition, and rewards small business contracts to businesses that have been purchased by large corporations.
2. Support legislation that promotes and rewards energy efficiency in the small business sector. Current energy laws do not encourage affordable efficiency or conservation measures for small businesses.
3. Support legislation that encourages the development of alternative energy sources. Current legislation rewards continued reliance on fossil fuels, which impedes the growth of the alternative energy market that is primarily small-business based.



VotersForPeace

The power to end the war and prevent future wars of aggression

VotersForPeace is educating and mobilizing a powerful peace voting bloc to end the Iraq occupation and prevent future wars of aggression. Through our **VotersForPeace Pledge**, we're organizing millions of voters to withhold support for any candidate who is not calling for a speedy withdrawal from Iraq and opposing future 'wars of aggression' which are illegal under international law. We hope that our pledge will force those running for office to reconsider their stance on withdrawal and on future US militarism. Likewise, we hope that it will empower peace candidates to run for public office.

How To Help Build the Peace Voting Bloc

- **Sign the VotersForPeace Pledge!** Visit www.VotersForPeace.US and make your commitment: *"I will not vote for or support any candidate for Congress or President who does not make a speedy end to the war in Iraq, and preventing any future war of aggression, a public position in his or her campaign."*
- **Encourage others to sign the Voters' Pledge.** Help us reach the goal of two million signers by spreading the word online and in your community. Go to www.VotersForPeace.US and use our "Tell-A-Friend" function, or download a paper pledge form in our Activist Toolbox.
- **Put the Voters' Pledge in your email signature.** Visit our Activist Toolbox for instructions on how to make the Voters' Pledge a part of all of your emails!

Not sure what to do if you don't have a peace candidate in your area?

- **Launch a local Voters' Pledge signature drive** to pressure candidates and to build membership of your local group. Use the number of signatures you gather to meet with or birddog candidates to persuade them to take a strong anti-war stance. Imagine the impact of telling your federal candidates you've signed up 5,000 peace voters and are working to get thousands more!
- **Organize a 'Cancelled Check' party.** Send a check to a peace candidate in another district/state and send a cancelled check to the pro-war candidates in your district or state. Organize ten friends to join you and send a copy of the checks to your state or local newspaper. Expect to get a call for a meeting!
- **Write letters to the editor** of your local paper about why you signed the VotersForPeace Pledge and/or about your Cancelled Check party.
- **Write in a peace candidate or become one yourself!**

Participating Groups

- Code Pink
- United for Peace and Justice
- Hip-Hop Caucus
- The Green Institute
- Veterans For Peace
- Progressive Democrats of America
- Democracy Rising
- American Conservative Magazine
- ... and many more!

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VotersForPeace Educational Project is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.



The Institute seeks to offer innovative policy proposals for public debate with the goal of developing an internationalist consensus on the measures needed for the management of a world market economy, the development of a workable system of collective security, and the creation of an active transnational civil society.

We seek to promote greater public understanding of the relationship between domestic and international policy and to train journalists, policymakers, business and civic leaders to be capable of understanding emerging world problems and of reconciling the often competing demands of globalization and national policy.

Finally, the Institute seeks to nurture a new generation of writers and public intellectuals committed to internationalist thinking and to provide students in the New School community with an opportunity to gain practical experience in policy research and advocacy on global issues.

What You Can Do: Curbing War Profiteering

From obscene overcharges to outright fraud, the performance of private contractors in Iraq has been a national disgrace. Even worse, these attacks on the public purse have multiple costs – not only do they waste taxpayer dollars, but they put our troops at risk by providing sub-standard support services and draining funds that could be used to provide better protection for forces on the front lines in Iraq. While a few exemplary members of Congress, including Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) and the Senate Democratic Policy, chaired by Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-ND) have helped expose these abuses, they lack subpoena power and other legislative tools needed to put an end to corporate war profiteering once and for all.

Thankfully, there are two major legislative proposals that, if enacted, would change current government policy, which is literally an “invitation to steal” for unscrupulous contractors. The most recent bill is the “Honest Leadership and Corporate Accountability Act of 2006,” co-sponsored by Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-ND) and Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT). Among the features of the bill are a provision to punish war profiteers directly, with penalties of up to twenty years in prison and at least \$1 million in fines; strengthening debarment rules, which allow the federal government to suspend companies that have violated the law from bidding on new government contracts; and prevents federal contracting employees from going to work as lobbyists for companies that they awarded contracts to while serving in government.

The second major legislative proposal aims to create a new Truman Commission which would serve as a permanent subcommittee with a mandate to uncover and punish

corporate contracting abuses. A similar commission run by then Senator Harry Truman during World War II saved taxpayers over \$15 billion, a sum that would be far higher measured in today's dollars. The key to this proposal, which would give Congress subpoena power to call witnesses, is that it would create a permanent watchdog to dig up war profiteering and other contractors abuses. A June 20, 2006 vote on the new Truman

Committee failed by a vote of 52 to 44, with only one Republican – Sen. Lincoln Chafee, (R-RI) voting in favor of the proposal.

As citizens, we can press our elected representatives to enact these needed reforms by writing and speaking to our members of Congress and urging them to co-sponsor or go on record in favor of the legislative proposals discussed above. We can also write letters-to-the-editor, ask for meetings on the issue with editorial boards of local papers, and educate our neighbors on the issues by sponsoring talks at schools, religious institutions, and in other public forums.

Resources

The following organizations can help with information and ideas for citizen action:

1) Taxpayers for Common Sense, www.taxpayer.net

2) Women's Action for New Directions, www.wand.org

Web site includes access to "Capwiz," a tool that allows you to locate details on how to reach your member of Congress and the editors of local newspapers.

3) World Policy Institute, Arms Trade Resource Center, www.worldpolicy.org/projects/arms.