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Our Mission

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents a growing number of area residents of diverse backgrounds brought together over the Iraqi crisis.

We support multilateral action for non-violent conflict resolution, human rights, ecological integrity for the planet and international law, through education and dialogue locally and globally.

We encourage everyone's participation as we strive for peace and justice to build a better world for future generations

The Boundary Peace Initiative meets: 2nd & 4th Thursdays @ 7 pm Selkirk College.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Come join us in support of the **War Resisters** staying in Canada on **January 13th @ 7 pm at Selkirk College** for a film and discussion.
- **No Boundaries Film Festival** upcoming in **February**. Watch for ads. The BPI will once again be providing lunch and concession throughout so **members please keep in mind the need for donations of food**. For info Laura @ 442-0434.

Wikileaks documents show US Iraq War resisters were right
Canadians renew call for Harper and Kenney to let Iraq War resisters stay

From: The War Resisters Website: <http://www.resisters.ca>

Newly released US Military documents from Wikileaks, detailing widespread civilians deaths in Iraq, provide unequivocal proof that Iraq War resisters did the right thing. The government of Canada should heed the will of the majority of Canadians who support the stance taken by these young men and women, and stop deporting them to jail in the US.

The leaked Pentagon files reveal that according to the US military's own statistics, the Iraq War has so far killed more than 109,000 people, of whom more than 66,000 were civilians.

The documents affirm the wisdom of Canada's decision not to participate in an illegal war that has produced widespread atrocities from the individual torture in Abu Ghraib to the mass killings documented in the recently leaked files. They provide further justification for the position of the majority of Canadians who continue to oppose the war, believe the Prime Minister's statement that the Iraq War is "absolutely an error" because weapons of mass

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Wikileaks documents

destruction were never found, and support the US troops who came to the same conclusion.

By the Nuremberg Principles soldiers have an obligation to refuse unlawful orders. Yet in a stunning move, Minister of Immigration Jason Kenney has sought to label those US soldiers who refused to follow unlawful orders in Iraq as "criminals."

Operational Bulletin 202 issued by Citizenship and Immigration Canada on July 22, flags US Iraq war resisters as potentially "criminally inadmissible" to Canada.

Peter Showler, former chair of Canada's Immigration and Refugee Board, says, "The bulletin implies that military deserters from the US should be treated differently than deserters from other countries. There is no basis in law for that proposition."

Amnesty International Canada has also written to Minister Kenney, calling for the withdrawal of Operational Bulletin 202 because it "misstates the law and seeks to intrude on the independence of both IRB members and Immigration Officers."

Minister Kenney's announcement that Canada will extend measures for Iraqi refugees, merely hours after the Wikileaks documents were released, was deliberately timed to be a distraction.

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(From page 1) **Wikileaks documents**

“Of course our government should be doing more to help Iraqi families who have suffered from this unnecessary war,” said Michelle Robidoux, spokesperson for the War Resisters Support Campaign. “Minister Kenney must also stop his vendetta against veterans who tried to end the Iraq War sooner. Minister Kenney’s announcement today was timed to distract from his party’s record on the Iraq War and the fact that he and Mr. Harper are deporting Iraq War resisters who did the right thing.”

Parliament has voted twice to stop the deportations and to let Iraq War resisters stay. Mr. Harper’s belated realization that the Iraq War is ‘absolutely an error,’ will continue to be lip service until he stops punishing these courageous men and women who, like Canada, refused to participate in this unjust war.

Hall students show support for war Resisters

By Bill Rea: Nov. 11, 2010

The American military action in Iraq has sparked lots of controversy, as some argue whether it’s justified. Many students at Robert F. Hall voiced their support for war resisters Tuesday as they took part in a march around the school. Roughly 250 took part. They were joined by Chuck Wiley, originally from Kentucky, who spent 17 years in the U.S. military (most of it in the navy) who left the forces over problems he had with the way the war was being conducted. Hall religion teacher Jozef Konyari said the march was an effort to put Catholic social teaching of participation into practice by raising awareness of the issue of war resisters trying to stay in Canada. The kids marched around the school, shouting slogans like “War resisters — Welcome here!” and “Hey-hey, ho-ho — The illegal war has got to go!” Konyari told the marchers their journey around the school would have seven stops, in recognition of the seven years the war has been going on.

Students from Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School marched around the facility Tuesday in support of war resisters trying to stay in the country. On hand for the march was war resister Chuck Wiley. There were also a number of declarations of why war resisters should be welcomed. He cited such facts as how the Trudeau government welcomed draft dodgers and war resisters during the Viet Nam conflict. He said between

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(From last column) **Hall students**

50,000 and 80,000 people (both dodgers and resisters) arrived in Canada. Konyari also mentioned the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees freedom of thought and conscience. As well, he said the actions of war resisters are consistent with international law, including the Geneva Convention and the Nuremberg Principles. “Soldiers have not only the right, but the responsibility to refuse to participate in war crimes,” Konyari declared.

March participants took part in a “die-in” at the end of the event. It was to be symbolic of the roughly 109,000 who have died in the Iraq war, including some 66,000 civilians. He also argued that most Canadians agree that U.S. military personnel who resist the war should be taken in. He cited resolutions to that effect that were passed in the House of Commons in 2008 and ‘09 that called on the government to start programs to allow resisters and their families to stay in Canada. As well, Konyari said allowing them to stay is consistent with Canadian immigration law, which states those seeking to stay here should be allowed to remain if they face “undeserved” or “disproportionate” hardships if they return to their own countries. He said Wiley could be looking at five years in prison if he’s sent home.

War resister Chuck Wiley lay down as part of the “die-in” Tuesday. He also stated that many soldiers have been experiencing emotional or psychological problems from their war experiences, such as post-traumatic stress disorder. Finally, he said “the war was declared illegal by the United Nations.” Citing statistics from Wikileaks, Konyari said some 109,000 people have died so far in this war, and about 66,000 of them have been innocent civilians.

Wiley, 38, said he was serving on an aircraft carrier that was deployed in 2006 in support of the operation in Iraq. He had issues with several of the missions and didn’t believe he could continue. He said he eventually requested a transfer, and learned he was heading to another ship that was soon to be redeployed to Iraq.

(from page 2) **Hall students**

About 250 students marched around the campus of Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School in support of resisters to the war in Iraq. Missions he had trouble with included air strikes to demolish residential buildings that had been abandoned. The concern of the authorities was that insurgents might move in and start operating from them. But he said his problem was no one had checked these buildings in weeks, so no one knew if innocent people were occupying them. Other missions he cited involved getting populations moving so insurgents could be captured. The problem was civilians were pushed into areas where they could be ambushed. "It created a lot of dangerous situations that didn't need to happen," he remarked.

He contacted the GI Rights Hotline, and was told if he wanted to stay in the U.S., he would either have to obey orders or go to jail. He came to Canada in February 2007. He is now officially absent without leave (AWOL), and said if he were to cross the border back to the States, there would be a federal warrant for his arrest waiting for him.

Hall religion teacher Jozef Konyari cited seven reasons why war resisters should be welcome in Canada. There have been questions as to how legal the U.S. action in Iraq has been. Wiley said the American government tried to get the backing of the United Nations Security Council and couldn't. He couldn't say if Saddam Hussein should have been allowed to stay in power, but he maintained there were other avenues available that were never tried.

Wiley observed that it's "hard to say" what's next for him. He said he hopes the Canadian government will create a rule that will allow war resisters to apply for permanent residence. If that doesn't happen, he said he might be eventually asked to leave the country. While he's not married, Wiley said he has a partner living in Toronto. He is working as a facilities engineer at a private school in the city. He added his parents are still living in the States. "I have friends and family back in the States who I miss," he commented. He added he hopes the American government will eventually declare an amnesty for war resisters, as was done in the 1970s for draft dodgers. "I'm hopeful we'll get to that point eventually, but I really don't know," he said. He told the students he was impressed with their involvement in the issue. He praised them for having heard of something that shouldn't be happening, and stepping out of line to try and do something about it. "That, to me, is what heroism is all about," he told them. "Doing something when you don't have to do it." Konyari also said about 800 kids signed a petition calling for war resisters to be allowed to stay in the country, and that will be going to Dufferin — Caledon MP David Tilson. He added an aim of Tuesday's march was to let students actually see what happens when people follow through with their consciences.

"They walked away with something valuable, in relation to the theme of conscience and resistance," he said.

CANADIANS CONTINUE CAMPAIGN TO GET STATUS FOR IRAQ WAR RESISTERS
Federal Court of Appeal ruling in Hinzman case stands as government chooses not to appeal: September 29, 2010

OTTAWA--Despite support by the majority of Canadians for US Iraq War resisters, Bill C-440 An Act to amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (war resisters) failed to pass at second reading in the House of Commons on Wednesday evening.

While the bill received strong support from a large majority of opposition members of parliament, it needed 7 more votes to pass.

"This is a setback for Iraq War resisters seeking permanent resident status in Canada, but our campaign to make the government respect the will of the majority of Canadians on this issue is far from over," said Michelle Robidoux, a spokesperson for the War Resisters Support Campaign. "These courageous men and women have the support of two-thirds of Canadians across the country, and they are still threatened with punishment if returned to the United States."

"Over the past few weeks, some MPs had expressed concern about the scope of Bill C-440 as it was presented," said Robidoux. "We will be working with opposition MPs to find a way to give effect to Parliament's two votes, in 2008 and 2009, in favour of letting Iraq War resisters stay."

Two motions that were previously adopted by Parliament which directed the Conservative minority government to immediately cease deportations of Iraq War resisters and facilitate their requests for permanent resident status have been ignored despite public opinion polls indicating that 64 per cent of voters support Parliament's direction.

The Harper government has repeatedly interfered with the cases of war resisters that are supposed to be considered on a case-by-case basis by making blatantly prejudicial comments and issuing an operational directive that intrude on the independence of both Immigration and Refugee Board members and immigration officers.

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(From page 3) **CANADIANS CONTINUE CAMPAIGN TO GET STATUS FOR IRAQ WAR RESISTERS**

Coincidentally, Wednesday was also the last day of the Government of Canada's window to challenge the Federal Court of Appeal decision in the case of resister Jeremy Hinzman. In a unanimous ruling on July 6, 2010, the Federal Court of Appeal held that the government's assessment of Mr. Hinzman's bid to stay in Canada on humanitarian and compassionate grounds was substantially flawed because it did not take into account his sincerely held religious, moral and political beliefs against service in the war in Iraq. Jeremy's case will now be sent back for reconsideration by a different immigration officer in accordance with the court's ruling.

The government's failure to file an application for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court in Mr. Hinzman's case means that the Federal Court of Appeal's decision stands.

Canadians expect that their government will treat everyone with basic fairness," said Robidoux. "Minister Jason Kenney must ensure immigration officers stop issuing the cookie-cutter decisions that have ignored the Iraq War resisters' motivations for coming to Canada, and instead follow the direction of the court that each individual's circumstances should be considered."

Email: resisters@sympatico.ca

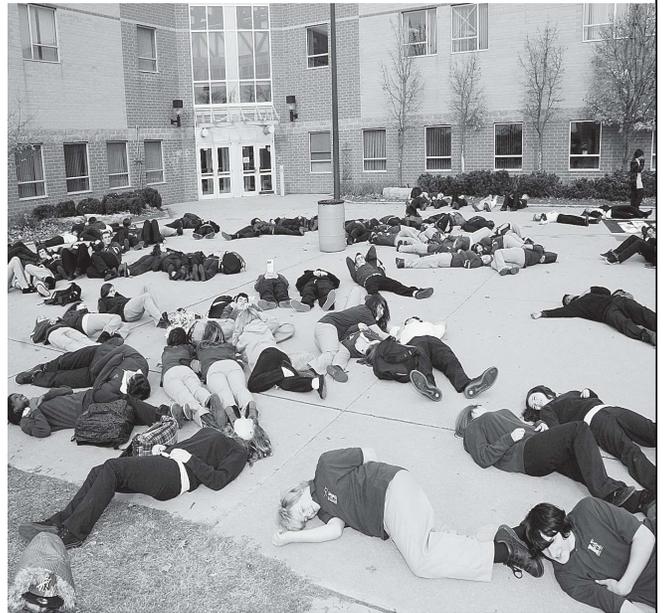
RECOMMENDED:

Canada wants US war resisters to stay
by Paul Copeland, [Guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk)
<http://bit.ly/c7a2pO>

Iraq war resister marks one year since taking sanctuary in Vancouver church
by Tamsyn Burgmann, The Canadian Press
<http://bit.ly/c9REhl>

Filmmaker Loach presses Canada to let US war resisters stay
by Michel Comte, Agence-France Presse
<http://bit.ly/anOVuv>

VIDEO - Michael Moore & Paul Laverty criticize the Harper government's treatment of U.S. Iraq War resisters
<http://bit.ly/9FDHv9>



Hall Students Die-In

Probably, no nation is rich enough to pay for both war and civilization. We must make our choice; we cannot have both.

Abraham Flexner

No matter what political reasons are given for war, the underlying reason is always economic.

A. J. P. Taylor

The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing.

~Albert Einstein

The Boundary Peace Initiative (BPI) welcomes articles, which are the sole responsibility of the authors and may not be common consensus. To contribute please contact **Laura** at **250-442-0434** or **l4peace@telus.net**. The BPI is a member of: Southern Interior Peace Coalition, Canadian Peace Alliance, Abolition 2000, Lawyers Against the War, Uranium Free Kootenay Boundary, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace and an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation as well as other local and global groups.

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