

RAW NEWS



COMMERCIAL-FREE NEWS FROM THE ONTARIO INDEPENDENT MEDIA CENTRE
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independent
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Millions act for peace

Humanity says NO to war against people of Iraq

International day of action

February 15, 2003 saw people across the globe, on all continents (yes, including Antarctica!), over 40 countries, well over 11 million people all told, all out with a common goal: to voice their opposition to declaring war on the people of Iraq.

Leading off on Friday the 14th was a protest of 200,000 in Melbourne, Australia, the largest in that city's history — setting the tone for what would come across the world the following day. On the 15th, the biggest protests took place in Rome, Italy, with estimates

running between 2 and 3 million. Turnout in London neared 2 million, Barcelona and Madrid in Spain each neared 1.5 million, while Paris, Berlin and New York City each had turnouts between half a million and 1 million.

In Budapest, Hungary, after several weeks of protest bans, 3000 people came out, and in a show of solidarity, formed a peace chain on the liberty bridge crossing the River Danube. Large rallies in major cities were just part of the story: people gathered in groups of all sizes in many, many smaller communities, wherever they could, all over the world.



Rome, Italy—between 2 and 3 million people



Strong opposition in the U.S

Citizens of the United States voiced their opposition to Bush's push for war. Over 500,000 protesters braved sub-freezing temperatures, the lack of a march permit, an oddly timed "Code Orange" terror alert, and an avalanche of pro-war propaganda from the commercial media to seize the streets and protest war in Iraq. The rally at Dag Hammarskjold plaza stretched north along 1st Avenue for fifty-nine blocks and featured an array of local and international speakers. The event was described by observers as being inspiring and largely trouble-free, but west of the police-designated rally location, chaos reigned in the streets. Multiple reports were received of spontaneous marches, creative direct actions, sit-ins and police brutality, with at least 350 arrests.

FUTURE ACTIONS

March 5:

Students on campuses all over the U.S. and elsewhere will join in a one-day strike

March 8, Int'l Women's Day:

A day of action against the war, led by women

Huge numbers of people marched elsewhere in America. Over 100,000 took to the streets of Los Angeles, some 55,000 demonstrated in Seattle, and many other cities had turnouts in the thousands.

A mass march was taking place on Sunday February 16 in San Francisco, where over 200,000 people protested for peace a month earlier on January 18.

SOME LOCATIONS AROUND THE WORLD WHERE FEBRUARY 15 PEACE ACTIONS WERE HELD INCOMPLETE LIST, ALL NUMBERS APPROXIMATE — SEE WWW.INDYMEDIA.ORG FOR MORE

OCEANIA: AUSTRALIA - Canberra 16,000 - Hobart 15,000 - Lismore 7,000 - Melbourne 250,000 - Newcastle 20,000 - Perth 30,000 - Sydney 300,000 - NEW ZEALAND - Auckland 10,000 - Wellington 7,000 - PHILIPPINES - Manila 6,000; **EUROPE:** AUSTRIA - Vienna 30,000 - BELGIUM - Brussels 100,000 - BULGARIA - Sofia 2,000 - CROATIA - Zagreb 10,000 - DENMARK - Copenhagen 40,000 - FINLAND - Helsinki 15,000 - Turku 5,000 - France - Paris 250,000 - Montpellier 20,000 - Toulouse 10,000 - GERMANY - Berlin 500,000 - Stuttgart 50,000 - GREECE - Athens 200,000 - Thessaloniki 70,000 - HUNGARY - Budapest 20,000 - IRELAND - Dublin 150,000 - ITALY - Monza 5,000 - Rome 2,500,000 - Turin 1,500 - NETHERLANDS - Amsterdam 80,000 - NORWAY - Bergen 8,000 - Oslo 60,000 - Stavanger 5,000 - Trondheim 11,000 - POLAND - Warsaw 1,500 - SPAIN - Algeciras 15,000 - Andalusia 20,000 - Barcelona 1,500,000 - Bilbao 100,000 - Cadiz 100,000 - Ferrol 15,000 - Huesca 5,000 - Lugo 12,000 - Madrid 1,500,000 - Malaga 50,000 - Oviedo 200,000 - Las Palmas 100,000 - Santander 35,000 - Seville 250,000 - Valencia 300,000 - SWEDEN - Gothenburg 30,000 - Malmo 5,000 - Stockholm 35,000 - SWITZERLAND - Berne 40,000 - UNITED KINGDOM - Belfast 30,000 - Glasgow 61,000 - London 1,750,000 - Dublin 100,000 - UKRAINE - Kiev 2,000; **N. AMERICA:** UNITED STATES - Asheville 2,000 - Austin 10,000 - Chicago 7,000 - Dallas 3,000 - Houston 1,000 - Lansing 10,000 - Madison 3,000 - Milwaukee 5,000 - New Orleans 1,000 - New York 750,000 - Philadelphia 10,000 - Seattle 55,000 - San Jose 5,000 - Sacramento 10,000 - MEXICO - Mexico City 10,000; **CARIBBEAN:** CUBA - Havana 5,000; **S. AMERICA:** VENEZUELA - Caracas 5,000; **ASIA:** CHINA - Hong Kong 1,000 - INDIA - Kolkata 10,000 - KAZAKHSTAN - Almaty 50 - JAPAN - Atsugi 120 - Osaka 1,000 - Tokyo 25,000 - KOREA - Seoul 10,000 - RUSSIA - Moscow 1,000 - THAILAND - Bangkok 3,000 - Pattani 10,000; **WEST ASIA:** IRAQ - Baghdad 100,000 - PALESTINE - Gaza 15,000 - Syria - Damascus 200,000 - TURKEY - Istanbul 5,000; **AFRICA:** EGYPT - Cairo 2,000 - SOUTH AFRICA - Capetown 5,000 - Johannesburg 10,000