

Courage. Conscience.

U.S. SOLDIERS SAY NO TO WAR

STANDING FIRM: ANTI-WAR SOLDIERS

In the U.S. military, soldiers are told that proving your worth means proving you know how to fight -- and kill. **But more and more soldiers are deciding that real courage means taking a stand against the war in Iraq.** Known as military resisters, these soldiers say Bush's war is immoral. And they refuse to take part in it.

Some resisters obtain Conscientious Objector (CO) status and are honorably discharged. Others do not receive CO status but still refuse to deploy to Iraq.

Military resisters face court-martial and prison time, as well as loss of veterans' benefits. They also must break with a military culture that tells them they are being disloyal if they follow their conscience.

But these soldiers say real courage is taking risks for your beliefs. The growing ranks of military resisters challenge us to match their strength and conviction.

DISSENT IN THE RANKS

More than 5,500 soldiers have been designated as "deserters"

Over 2,000 soldiers in the Individual Ready Reserve have filed for delays or exemptions.

The GI Rights Hotline Reports over 3,000 calls a month from soldiers looking for a way out.

At least 15 soldiers are seeking refugee status in Canada.

Stephen Funk Jeremy Hinzman Dan Felushko Carl Webb Wilfredo Torres Diedra Cobb Perry O'Brien Joel Klimkewicz Chas Davis Blake Lemoine Joshua Despain Michael Blake Brandon Hughey Abdul Henderson Charmaine Means Ghanim Khalil

MILITARY RESISTERS

Cliff Cornell Eric Riley Hart Viges Jimmy Massey David Sanders Abdulla Webster Michael Sudbury David Bunt Darrell Anderson Adam Mowery Joshua Key Preston Betts Chris Harrison Aidan Delgado Camilo Mejia Pablo Paredes Kevin Benderman

AIDAN DELGADO:

Served one year in Iraq as an E-4 Specialist.

Received Conscientious Objector status in 2004.

"Working closely with prisoners of war was what really began to change my mind and my heart about serving in the war...I really began to change on a spiritual level. I looked at these guys and I thought, 'these are young, poor, uneducated guys who didn't have a lot of choices in their life and were forced to fight us.'

And I looked at the guys in my unit and I thought, 'man, they're exactly the same'... And when I came to that realization, I felt all the fighting spirit just bleed out of me...

I'd been a Buddhist for two years before I arrived... **But being in Iraq forced me to take a moral stand.**

The moment I told my command that I didn't want to fight, that I thought the war was wrong, they turned immediately hostile. The first thing they did was they took away the armored ballistic plates that go in my vest... But the more they pressured me... the more adamant I became."



CAMILO MEJIA:

Joined the U.S. Army in 1995. Served 5 months in Iraq.

Served 9 months in prison for refusing to return to Iraq.

"People would ask me about my war experiences and answering them took me back to all the horrors... The time I saw a soldier broken down inside because he killed a child, or an old man on his knees, crying with his arms raised to the sky, perhaps asking God why we had taken the lifeless body of his son...

I thought of the suffering of a people whose country was in ruins and who were further humiliated by the raids, patrols and curfews of an occupying army...

By putting my weapon down, I chose to reassert myself as a human being... I have not been disloyal to a country. I have only been loyal to my principles.

My time in prison is a small price compared to the price Iraqis and Americans have paid with their lives. Mine is a small price compared to the price Humanity has paid for the war."

(from "Regaining my Humanity")



This flyer was prepared by War Times/
Tiempo de Guerras (www.war-times.org)

To get out of the Delayed Entry Program, go to objector.org or call the GI RIGHTS HOTLINE: 1-800-394 9544. Learn more at: www.ivaw.net, www.mfso.org, www.veteransforpeace.org, www.resisters.ca and at www.unitedforpeace.org, www.projectyano.org, www.citizen-soldier.org