



IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR ★ IVAW.ORG

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Largest-Ever Gathering of Iraq Veterans Against the War Signals Growing G.I. Movement to Bring the Troops Home *Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans Share Eyewitness Accounts of Occupations* *“Winter Soldier” Testimony to Stream Live at www.ivaw.org*

WHAT: Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan *Eyewitness Accounts of the Occupations*

WHO: Hundreds of veterans, military family members, and related Iraq/Afghanistan experts

WHEN: 7 p.m. Thursday, March 13th to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 16

WHERE: National Labor College, 10000 New Hampshire Ave, Silver Spring, MD

Washington, D.C. – Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) is kicking off a four-day summit *Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan*, a convening of more than 200 veterans in Washington who will share eyewitness accounts of the occupations. This historic event is timed on the eve of the sixth year of the U.S. occupation of Iraq. It is the largest gathering of IVAW members to date.

The event, just outside of our nation’s capital, will bring together veterans and service members from across the country to testify about their experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as present video and photographic evidence. There will also be panels of scholars, veterans, journalists and others to give context to the first-person testimony. Veterans will provide specific evidence related to everything from the killing and injuring of innocent civilians and unarmed combatants, to racism and sexism in the military, to their experiences since coming home.

“Winter Soldier is a historic turning point in a new national dialogue about ending the occupations, and a new era of resistance led by those of us who fought on the ground,” said Kelly Dougherty, IVAW executive director, who will be testifying about her experiences as a military police officer in Iraq.

The name “Winter Soldier” is inspired by Revolutionary War hero Thomas Paine’s call for patriots to act for their country in times of crisis, and invokes the long tradition of veterans speaking out against the corruption of the military and illegal war. The first Winter Soldier gathering in 1971 brought firsthand testimony of the horrors of war in Vietnam to the American public.

“The politicians and the generals have continued these occupations to the point of breaking our soldiers and destroying our military,” said IVAW member Selena Coppa, from Brooklyn, NY who is active duty in the Army. “As veterans and as patriots, many of us feel we must speak out about our experiences in order to change current policies and bring honor and dignity back to our military and our country.”

Iraq Veterans Against the War was founded in 2004 to give those who have served in the military since September 11, 2001 a way to come together and speak out against an unjust, illegal and unwinnable occupation. Today, IVAW has 800 members in 49 states, Washington, D.C. and Canada and on military bases overseas.

Visit www.ivaw.org/wintersoldier/media for updates

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