

NOT IN OUR NAME!

AS IT BECOMES INCREASINGLY CLEAR that the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq was unjustified and sold to us on false pretenses, and that thousands of detainees around the world are being held with no regard for due process or international law, let it not be said that the people of the United States silently acquiesced to these shameful actions. George Bush and the officials in his Administration responsible for these abuses do not speak for us. They do not represent us. They do not act in our name.

THE DOWNING STREET MEMO describes a meeting which took place between British Prime Minister Tony Blair and high ranking officials in July of 2002. It states that George Bush had already “*made up his mind to take military action*” against Iraq by that time, and that American “*intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy*” of invasion. If this is true, the Bush Administration engaged in a deliberate attempt to mislead Congress and the people of the U.S. about the reasons for invading Iraq. In so doing, they did not act in our name. (The Downing Street Memo can be viewed at <http://www.downingstreetmemo.com>)

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL recently released a report titled “*Guantanamo and beyond: the continuing pursuit of unchecked executive power.*” The report estimates 70,000 people have been detained by our government outside the U.S. during the “*War on Terror,*” though only four have been charged for trial. Detainees have been subjected to shocking treatment while in custody, as evidenced by the photos taken at Abu Ghraib prison, and several detainees have died during interrogation. So far, no independent prosecutor has carried out an investigation to determine all those responsible for this widespread breach of national and international law. In attempting to evade the law, the Bush Administration does not act in our name. (To view the report, visit <http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGAMR510632005>)

IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY to raise our voices to stop the Bush regime from continuing its abuse of power. We believe history will judge us sharply should we fail to act. We therefore make the following calls for action:

1. We call on George Bush to answer the serious questions posed by Congressman John Conyers raised by the Downing Street Memo. (see <http://www.johnconyers.com>)
2. If George Bush refuses to answer these questions candidly, we call on Congress to begin impeachment proceedings against him.
3. We call on Attorney General Alberto Gonzales to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate high level responsibility for the torture and abuse of detainees in the “*War on Terror.*”
4. Finally, we call on the media, including the Fort Collins Coloradoan, to investigate and report vigorously on all Bush Administration abuses of power, particularly those related to the invasion and occupation of Iraq and detainee abuse.

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