

FIRE THIS TIME

Movement for Social Justice



Update on War **#3**

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FREE

STOP THE WAR NOW! US, UK OUT OF THE MIDDLE EAST!



While the US and UK mobilize their militaries against the people of Iraq...



...The people of the world mobilize against this unjust war.

People of the world, people of Canada, People of BC, People of Vancouver: All out against this immoral, unjust, brutal, criminal, bloody war against the people of Iraq and all of us.

All-Region Anti-war Meeting

Sunday March 23rd at 7 PM
Queen's United Church
529 Queen Avenue

(Queen and 6th)

New Westminster

For more information contact
hajones@sfu.ca

A meeting to coordinate the expansion of Stopwar.ca throughout the lower mainland to include all regions and communities.

All Out Against the War on Iraq!

At the Peace Camp (US Consulate, 1095 W. Pender)

Monday 5 PM March 24th	Tuesday 5 PM March 25th	Wednesday 8 PM March 26th	Thursday 5 PM March 27th	Friday 5 PM March 28th
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**At the Vancouver Art Gallery:
Saturday March 29th
12 Noon**

Daily actions against war continue worldwide

Since the bombing of Iraq started on Wednesday night, people have come together into the streets of the world even more constantly than the bombs have fallen upon Baghdad. As George Bush brags that Saddam Hussain is losing control of the people of Iraq, he is blind to his own country coming apart at the seams over the initiation and expansion of his war. Behind his words and beyond his control, the people of the world have stepped up their internationally coordinated campaign against the war and against American interest, and this conflict has spread throughout the entire world, on far more fronts than the US can possibly fight.

On Thursday, one thousand five hundred people were arrested in **San Francisco**. The police reported that they filled the jails beyond capacity. On Friday, after "Shock and Awe" began, many of these same people were released from jail to return to the streets and compose the largest anti-war rally in the US, where dozens were arrested again. On Friday, thousands of people rallied in **Seattle** and **Chicago**, where they were confronted with lines of riot police. Dozens of people lay in the streets around the White House. In **New York**, days after New York City council passed a resolution against the war, demonstrators surrounded Senator Charles Schumer's office and demanded peace.

On Friday, hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated around the world. Protests were held all around the **Middle East** where people burned American, Israeli and British flags. Thousands of Palestinians stood together in support of the Iraqi people. In **Yemen**, 30,000 people marched to the US embassy. When the police failed to disperse the crowds with tear gas, they opened fire and murdered four protestors. In **Anman**, Jordan, a crowd of 10,000 was tear gassed when they came together to oppose the war. In **Beirut**, thousands swarmed around the US, British, Qatar and Kuwaiti embassies. Some of the most determined protests

took place in **Egypt** where 10,000 people were attacked by riot police, and in **Istanbul** where thousands were assaulted by police tear gas and clubs.

Thousands marched to confront the conservative Prime Minister in **Spain** and were met by the police wielding tear gas and rubber bullets. In **England** thousands of people in cities and towns all across the country walked out of their schools and jobs to join together in the streets against their government's war. In **Athens** on Friday, 200,000 people joined the rest of Greece in a mobilization against war. In **Sao Paulo**, Brazil, tens of thousands of people marched against the war. On Thursday, in **Melbourne** Australia, 30,000 people marched to the US Consulate. On Friday, in **Victoria**, Australia, thousands again joined in a labour union march against war. In Canada, thousands in Ottawa thronged the streets while some chained themselves to the gates of the British embassy.

Saturday, March 22nd, people all around the world promise massive coordinated action against the war. Organizations on every continent promise to shake the streets with popular opposition to the war. Already, in **Perth**, Australia, 10,000 people have marched against the war. In Paris, thousands have filled the streets as part of a mobilization that shook all of France. In **New Mexico**, organizers plan to march to the home of US Secretary of defense, Donald Rumsfeld. In Canada, from **Halifax** to Vancouver and everywhere in between, people will be taking the streets for an end to this war.

As B-52 bombers and thousands of cruise missiles make it clear that this war is not "focused on presidential palaces and government offices" the people of the world are rallying before the palaces and offices of US domination and building our power to stop this war of aggression. When we take the streets of Vancouver, we are in all the streets of all the world, all at once and all together against the war on the people of Iraq.

One, two, three...and Vancouver protests the war

The mobilization of 2000 people that formed on Wednesday night at the Vancouver Art Gallery, within minutes of the beginning of the US & UK assault on the people of Iraq, was just the beginning of the swelling anti-war movement that is building in Vancouver and across the world.

The international call out, which had been endorsed by Stopwar.ca organizers in Vancouver, was to mobilize on the day the bombs began to fall. This action continued from Wednesday night through to Thursday with a student led walkout that paralyzed downtown Vancouver, beginning with the 12 PM walkout and continuing throughout the afternoon. At 5 PM the students were joined at the VAG by hundreds of other angry and energized people to form a mass of 2000 protesters, which burst into spontaneous chants against US imperialism, Canada's involvement in the Middle East, and the unjust assaults on the people of Iraq. Despite hours spent in the streets and in the rain, people were not prepared to go home without ensuring their message was heard and their strength felt. Student representatives addressed a crowd that was swelling and completely filling all open space from the gallery steps to the south side of Robson Street. After many

rousing speeches, throughout which the crowd maintained its dynamic of anger and resistance to this military aggression, they took their message down to the US consulate and remained for many more hours to share their anti-war messages through an open mic at the Peace Camp. Throughout Thursday 10,000 leaflets went out around the Lower Mainland to notify people of the next mobilizations which are being demanded by an ever-growing, increasingly active and increasingly powerful anti war movement in Vancouver.

Friday once again proved that Vancouver is matching the global escalation of action against the war on Iraq. People gathered at the Art Gallery in torrential rain to take to the streets for the 3rd day in a row. After half an hour of speakers the crowd made a choice to follow in the history of the Vancouver anti-war movement and take the Burrard Street Bridge. Hundreds of people marched for over 2 ½ hours that night, soaked to the bone, and blocked the bridge. After half an hour of speakers they then turned around and marched back to once again deliver a message to the US Consulate, a message that says we will be back and we are gaining strength; as you mobilize troops we will mobilize people; this is a war of numbers and we will win.

This Update on War was published by the

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Phone/Fax: (604) 322-1764
Email: info@fire-this-time.org
Mail: PO Box 21607
Vancouver BC
V5N 5T5

Get involved with STOPWAR.CA!

**General Meetings
Every Wednesday
5:30 PM
Maritime Labour Centre
1880 Triumph St
(Triumph & Victoria)
Vancouver**