MARCH 19, 2013: 10th ANNIVERSARY OF US INVASION OF IRAQ 2003

For a full list of US military deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan, go to: casualties.usatoday.com.

But where are the Iraq and Afghan lists?? This is nationalism and ethnocentrism devoid of compassion except for our own.

GLOBAL IS LOCAL, LOCAL GLOBAL

“Conflicts in our age have become both local and global, blurring the distinction between the two. We can no longer speak of local and national conflicts without considering their international implications, nor can we ignore the impact of global trends and relations on local issues.” Ibrahim Kalin, “Islam and Peace,” in Crescent and Dove, ed. by Qamar-ul Huda (USIP, 2010, p. 30).

My blog: War Department/Peace Department
http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/

My Newsletters:
http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/

Index:
http://www.omnicenter.org/omni-newsletter-general-index/

See OMNI Patriotism Forum, Patriot Day

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The Yellow Birds, Google Search
Davies, CIA and Other War Crimes
2013 Violence Highest Since 2008
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OPERATION DESERT STORM, CHAPTER 4, RICHARD PAYNE,
THE CLASH WITH DISTANT CULTURES

The Clash with Distant Cultures
Values, Interests, and Force in American Foreign Policy

Richard J. Payne - Author
and the U.S. is deeply involved in the occupation and war in Iraq still.

Tomas Young, Dying Iraq War Veteran, Pens 'Last Letter' To Bush, Cheney On War's 10th Anniversary, and Film Body of War

The Huffington Post | By Nick Wing | Posted: 03/19/2013 1:31 pm EDT | Updated: 03/19/2013 10:59 pm EDT

[A friend, Gil S, sent me this article with Young’s statement after the March 19 posting of my 2013 anniversary newsletter. But the excellent statement is just as relevant today and deserves a wide readership. Perhaps it will arouse the public to demand trial of Bush and Cheney for war crimes. –Dick]

Days after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, Tomas Young, then a 22-year-old from Kansas City, Mo., made a decision repeated by many other Americans around the country: He was going to enlist in the military in hopes of getting even with the enemies who had helped
coordinate the deaths of nearly 3,000 men, women and children.

Less than three years later, Young's Army service placed him not in Afghanistan -- where then-President George W. Bush had told the nation the terrorist plot had originated -- but in Iraq. On April 4, 2004, just five days into his first tour, Young's convoy was attacked by insurgents. A bullet from an AK-47 severed his spine. Another struck his knee. Young would never walk again, and in fact, for the next nearly nine years, he would suffer a number of medical setbacks that allowed him to survive only with the help of extensive medical procedures and the care of his wife, Claudia.

The incident turned Young into one of the most vocal veteran critics of the Iraq War. He has, however, saved his most powerful criticism for what he claims will be his last. Young says he'll die soon, but not before writing a letter to Bush and former Vice President Cheney on the 10th anniversary of the Iraq War. From Young's letter, published on TruthDig:

I write this letter, my last letter, to you, Mr. Bush and Mr. Cheney. I write not because I think you grasp the terrible human and moral consequences of your lies, manipulation and thirst for wealth and power. I write this letter because, before my own death, I want to make it clear that I, and hundreds of thousands of my fellow veterans, along with millions of my fellow citizens, along with hundreds of millions more in Iraq and the Middle East, know fully who you are and what you have done. You may evade justice but in our eyes you are each guilty of egregious war crimes, of plunder and, finally, of murder, including the murder of thousands of young Americans—my fellow veterans—whose future you stole.

Young goes on to attack the "cowardice" of Bush and Cheney for avoiding military service themselves, and to encourage them to "stand before the American public and the world, and in particular the Iraqi people, and beg for forgiveness."

(Read Young's entire letter here.)

Young was the subject of the 2007 documentary "Body of War," which was about his recovery process and the Iraq War. At a February screening of the film, Young told the audience that he planned to end his life in April.

According to the Ridgefield Press, Young announced that he would stop taking all nourishment and life-extending medications at that time. He's since said that the deterioration to his body from the injury and ensuing complications would make it physically impossible for him to commit suicide in any other way.

"It's time," he told the audience over Skype, while seated beside his wife. "When I go I want be alert and aware."

Young spoke more about his decision in a recent interview with journalist and Iraq War critic Chris Hedges.

"I made the decision to go on hospice care, to stop feeding and fade away," he said. "This way, instead of committing the conventional suicide and I am out of the picture, people have a way to stop by or call and say their goodbyes. I felt this was a fairer way to treat people than to just go out with a note."

For the rest of Hedges' interview with Young, click here. For the rest of The Huffington Post's coverage on the 10th anniversary of the Iraq War, click here.

Need help? In the U.S., call 1-800-273-8255 for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.
Body of War is an intimate and transformational feature documentary about the true face of war today. Meet Tomas Young, 25 years old, paralyzed from a bullet to his spine - wounded after serving in Iraq for less than a week.

*Body of War* is Tomas’ coming home story as he evolves into a new person, coming to terms with his disability and finding his own unique and passionate voice against the war. The film is produced and directed by Phil Donahue and Ellen Spiro, and features two original songs by Eddie Vedder. Body of War is a naked and honest portrayal of what it’s like inside the body, heart and soul of this extraordinary and heroic young man.

*Body of War* unfolds on two parallel tracks. On the one hand, we see Tomas evolving into a powerful voice against the war as he struggles to deal with the complexities of a paralyzed body. And on the other, we see the historic debate unfolding in the Congress about going to war in Iraq.

The film opens as Tomas and his fiancé Brie prepare for their wedding. However, because of his disability, we see how the simple everyday activities for Tomas are involved and challenging. War is personal and the film takes us into the skin and bones of what it means to have no control over basic bodily functions. In many remarkable scenes, we directly experience how vulnerable and open Tomas is as he interacts with his wife, family, and friends.

Watch the full documentary now (playlist - 1 hour, 28 minutes)

http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/body-war/

Tomas Young GOOGLE SEARCH 5-4-2013 first page

1. In his last act, *Iraq veteran's* mission turns deeply personal - CNN.com
www.cnn.com/2013/04/14/us/anti-war-vet-suicide

Apr 15, 2013 – **Tomas Young** returned severely injured from Iraq and emerged as a voice against the war. Now he ... Crisis hotline saves suicidal war veterans ...

2. **John Bruhns: A Pledge to Iraq War Veteran Tomas Young**
www.huffingtonpost.com/sqt.../tomas-young-pledge_b_2953369.html

Mar 29, 2013 – It is a sad time in our history when an American combat veteran must resort to such an ... A Pledge to **Iraq War Veteran Tomas Young** ... of my physical deterioration and
imminent death, but I would at least have the comfort of ...

3. **Wounded Iraq Veteran, Thomas Young, to Commit Suicide by ...**
   
   www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Nf8e8hKCG4
   
   Apr 6, 2013 - Uploaded by Dprippa
   
   Wounded Iraq Veteran, Thomas Young, to Commit Suicide by Starvation ... He says that battle — and the ...

4. **Exclusive: Dying Iraq War Veteran Tomas Young Explains Decision ...**
   
   www.democracynow.org/.../exclusive_dying_iraq_war...
   
   Mar 21, 2013
   
   Tomas Young, Iraq War veteran and the main subject of the ... form of liquid through a feeding tube — a ...

5. **More videos for Tomas Young Iraq War Vet suicide »**

6. **Tomas Young - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia**
   
   en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tomas_Young
   
   Tomas Young (born November 30, 1979) is an American military veteran of the Iraq War. ... complications and he is currently on hospice care, awaiting his death. ... to Kansas City, Missouri and joined the Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW).

7. **Exclusive: Dying Iraq War Veteran Tomas Young Reads "Last Letter ...**
   
   www.democracynow.org/.../exclusive_dying_iraq_war_veteran_tomas_...
   
   Mar 21, 2013 – Iraq War veteran Tomas Young was left paralyzed in a 2004 attack in Iraq. ... through a feeding tube — a decision which will hasten his death.

8. **'I write this letter, my last letter, to you, Mr. Bush and Mr. Cheney ...**
   
   www.nydailynews.com/.../dying-veteran-tomas-young-writes-letter-bush-c...
   
   Mar 28, 2013 – Tomas Young, a paralyzed Iraq vet who became an outspoken critic against the ... A few months ago I saw a documentary called “Body of War” made by Phil ... endured and done in Iraq have led to suicide and on behalf of the ...

9. **BBC News - Tomas Young: Suicidal veteran takes parting shot at Bush**
   
   www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-21952852
   
   Mar 30, 2013 – An Iraq war veteran who has decided to end his life takes ex-President George W ... Tomas Young: Suicidal veteran takes parting shot at Bush ...
Lesson From Iraq: No Accountability
By Ron Forthofer  http://www.countercurrents.org/

The pundits and most of the politicians who were involved in spreading the lies that led to the colossal disaster in Iraq were not held accountable. None of the political leaders from either major political party were put on trial for their roles in the war crimes against Iraq. In addition, most of the media 'experts' escaped accountability for abetting these war crimes.

Global Paradox: Peace Not Wars
By Mahboob A. Khawaja  http://www.countercurrents.org/

“Lies of the Iraq War” the 10th anniversary of the Iraq’s genocide approximately 3 million human beings massacred and human habitats destroyed under the false pretext of WMD. This week, the global news media hurriedly doing the damage control of its complacent image and showing the belated facts of the bogus “War on Terror.” The facts were facts in March 2003, when George Bush, the Congress and Tony Blair planned aggression against the innocent people of Iraq, the Western news media served as a weapon to launch the cruel war. Now it wants to distance itself and perhaps repair the self-inflicted and well sponsored atrocities carried out against the mankind
B. Photojournalists on War

The Untold Stories from Iraq

By Michael Kamber

Introduction by Dexter Filkins

With visceral, previously unpublished photographs and eyewitness accounts from the front lines, three dozen of the world’s leading photojournalists reveal the inside and untold stories of the Iraq war in this groundbreaking oral history.

May 2013

Not yet published; available for pre-order

$65.00$43.55

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HARDCOVER

10 x 12 | 300 pp. | 164 b&w and color illustrations

ISBN: 978-0-292-74408-0

Look Inside
With previously unpublished photographs by an incredibly diverse group of the world’s top news photographers, Photojournalists on War presents a groundbreaking new visual and oral history of America’s nine-year conflict in the Middle East. Michael Kamber interviewed photojournalists from many leading news organizations, including Agence France-Presse, the Associated Press, the Guardian, the Los Angeles Times, Magnum, Newsweek, the New York Times, Paris Match, Reuters, Time, the Times of London, VII Photo Agency, and the Washington Post, to create the most comprehensive collection of eyewitness accounts of the Iraq War yet published. These in-depth interviews offer first-person, frontline reports of the war as it unfolded, including key moments such as the battle for Fallujah, the toppling of
Saddam’s statue, and the Haditha massacre. The photographers also vividly describe the often shocking and sometimes heroic actions that journalists undertook in trying to cover the war, as they discuss the role of the media and issues of censorship. These hard-hitting accounts and photographs, rare in the annals of any war, reveal the inside and untold stories behind the headlines in Iraq.

[The excerpt from the book’s Introduction published in *Columbia Journalism Review* (May/June 2013) emphasizes censorship as “the starting point for this book,” both official (dead troops, Iraqi prisoners, et al., off limits) and professional (editors of media as censors). –Dick]

**KEVIN POWERS’ THE YELLOW BIRDS, GOOGLE SEARCH 9-25-13**

1. The Yellow Birds: A Novel: Kevin Powers: 9780316219341: Amazon ...
   www.amazon.com › Books › Literature & Fiction › Genre Fiction › War

2. **Book review: 'The Yellow Birds' by Kevin Powers - Los Angeles Times**
   articles.latimes.com/2012/nov/.../la-ca-ja-kevin-powers-201211...
   by Hector Tobar - in 87 Google+ circles

   Nov 10, 2012 - Author Kevin Powers and the cover of his novel, 'The Yellow Birds. ... Powers, an Iraq war veteran, has said he wrote "The Yellow Birds" as an ...

3. In 'The Yellow Birds,' veteran highlights emotional hardships of Iraq ...
   minnesota.publicradio.org/.../daily-circuit-kevin-powe...

   May 22, 2013

   Iraq war veteran Kevin Powers' new novel, "The Yellow Birds," follows two young American soldiers as ...

4. The Yellow Birds - Kevin Powers
   www.kevincpowers.com/the_yellow_birds_114142.htm

   “Beautiful, haunting, heart-wrenching. The Yellow Birds is one of the finest novels to emerge from the Iraq war. Mr. Powers has an extraordinary ability to show ...

5. The Yellow Birds by Kevin Powers - Reviews, Discussion ...
   www.goodreads.com › War › Military
Sep 6, 2012 - Richard said: The **Yellow Birds** wins the 2012 Guardian First **Book**Award! ... In Al Tafar, **Iraq**, twenty-one-year old Private Bartle and ... **THE YELLOW BIRDS** is a groundbreaking **novel** about the costs of **war** that is destined to ...

6. **The Yellow Birds** by Kevin Powers | [9780316219341](http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-yellow-birds-kevin-powers/1108616399) | **Paperback** ... 

A **novel** written by a veteran of the **war** in **Iraq**, **The Yellow Birds** is the harrowing story of two young soldiers trying to stay alive. The **war** tried to kill us in the ...

7. **Ain't Them Bodies Saints** Director Set To Adapt **Iraq War Novel** The ... 

Like most excellent **novels** of this sort, **The Yellow Birds** is psychologically harrowing in its depiction of soldiers getting used to the stress-filled ...

8. **'Yellow Birds'** author Kevin Powers picks his favorite books 

May 13, 2013 - Out now in paperback, Kevin Powers' debut **novel** of the **Iraq War**, **The Yellow Birds**, was one of the most celebrated books of 2012: It won the ...

9. Kevin Powers, **The Yellow Birds** - National **Book** Foundation 

Poetic, precise, and moving, **The Yellow Birds** is a work of fiercest principle, ... and the nightmare landscape of the **Iraq war**, through days of waiting, through the ...

10. **'The Yellow Birds'** by Kevin Powers - **NYTimes.com** 

Review by MICHIKO KAKUTANI 

Sep 6, 2012 - "**The Yellow Birds,**" a brilliantly observed **novel** by a veteran of the **war** in **Iraq**, stands with Tim O'Brien's enduring Vietnam **book** "**The Things** ...
by DOUGLAS VALENTINE and NICOLAS J.S. DAVIES

In February the Guardian and BBC Arabic unveiled a documentary exploring the role of retired Colonel James Steele in the recruitment, training and initial deployments of the CIA advised and funded Special Police Commandos in Iraq. The documentary tells how the Commandos tortured and murdered tens of thousands of Iraqi men and boys. But the Commandos were only one of America’s many weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Along with US military forces – which murdered indiscriminately – and various CIA funded death squads – which murdered selectively – and the CIA’s rampaging palace guard – the 5,000 man strong Iraq Special Operations Forces – the Commandos were part of a genocidal campaign that killed about 10% of the Sunni Arabs of Iraq by 2008, and drove about half of all Sunnis from their homes.

NicolasDavies’s blog

Login or register to post comments

Read more

2013 VIOLENCE HIGHEST SINCE 2008

“July Deaths Most Since 2008 in Iraq.” Arkansas Democrat-Gazette (8-2, 13). “More than 1,000 people were killed in Iraq in July, the highest monthly death toll in five years, the United Nations said. . . . Violence has been on the rise all year.” Cause? “sectarian tensions” soaring.

Take Action! Support People's Right to Heal

War Resisters League [wrl@warresisters.org]

To: James R. Bennett

Monday, March 25, 2013 8:24 AM

Sign the Right to Heal Petition and Support Reparations for Iraqis

"Iraqis have been building alternatives to militarism and domination for a long time, and one of the goals of the US occupation was to undermine that organizing." -Ali Issa, WRL National Field
"I can't demand reparations from the US government for my rape while in the military without being in solidarity with Iraqis who were raped during the occupation." -Joyce Wagner, Iraq Veterans Against the War

"You can't bring anything good by bombing and killing. It's an arsenal of killing that was sent to the other side of the world" -Yanar Mohammed, Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq

These are all quotes from the past few days since the Right to Heal project was launched by the Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI), Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW), the Center for Constitutional Rights, War Resisters League, and other supporting organizations.

On Tuesday, we held a press conference in Washington DC, demanding the right to heal for Iraqis and US military veterans and reparations for the Iraqi people for the devastation that the US war left in its wake. The US government has been ignoring the needs of those people most deeply impacted by the nearly 9-year US occupation of Iraq. In response, this strong coalition effort has been formed to bring the questions of healing and reparations before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, a part of the Organization of American States whose mission it is to promote and protect human rights.

We have have received much media coverage, including interviews with Yanar Mohammed of OWFI and Maggie Martin of IVAW on Democracy Now!, France24, and CurrentTV, among others.

On Wednesday, with the help of the Brecht Forum in NYC, WRL organized an event with Mohammed, Martin, and Eve Ensler, with WRL’s own field organizer, Ali Issa, moderating: "Iraq Now: Reparations, the Right to Heal and Possibilities for International Solidarity." The next Right to Heal event is this Tuesday, March 26th at Harvard University in Boston.

What can you do?

Please sign the petition to ask for a hearing at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights that will respond to Iraqi and US veteran demands for a right to heal. You can also donate directly to the Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq through the Right to Heal website. The funds raised will go directly to buying what OWFI’s clinic in Haweija needs the most, including medicine, wheelchairs, and physical therapy.
equipment. Your donation will go towards building a vision of mutual aid and solidarity beyond governments and large institutions. Make your contribution today.

Also, please join WRL organizer Ali Issa as well as author and oil analyst Antonia Juhasz tomorrow, March 26th at 8:30PM (Eastern) for a phone briefing hosted by United for Peace and Justice addressing these questions: What is the state of Iraq today? What is the condition of Iraqi society, infrastructure and economy? What is the United States doing in Iraq today and what role does the peace movement have in helping the people of Iraq heal their nation? Connect by calling:

Conference Dial-in Number: (218) 632-0550
Participant Access Code: 468455#

WRL News

Check out these photos from the March 19th no drones action, targeting prominent drones manufacturer L3, which was organized by the NYC chapter of WRL. We want to hear from you! Send any of photos or video from local actions for the March 19th Iraq War anniversary to wrl@warresisters.org.

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Kucinich Steadfast
Bennis: Iraq War Continues
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Leave Iraq When Promised
Van Buren: We Meant Well?

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END IRAQ NEWSLETTER #15

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Dick Bennett

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