

## Central Ohio Peace Network

*(continued)* requires “massive public expenditures which would be far better spent rebuilding our economy, expanding opportunities for all, and addressing our national crises in employment, health care, education, housing, infrastructure, and the environment.”

Therefore, on March 20, 2004, we stand up for economic justice and defend civil rights and liberties of *all* who live in the United States, citizens and immigrants – demanding money for jobs, education, and universal health care, not for wars and occupations. Our actions honor the spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr. and other non-violent voices of resistance.

### Resources

[www.unitedforpeace.org](http://www.unitedforpeace.org)  
[www.internationalanswer.org](http://www.internationalanswer.org)  
[www.cpanews.org](http://www.cpanews.org)  
[www.centralohioansforpeace.org](http://www.centralohioansforpeace.org)  
[www.zmag.org](http://www.zmag.org)  
[www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org)  
[www.counterpunch.org](http://www.counterpunch.org)  
[www.warincontext.org](http://www.warincontext.org)  
[www.cursor.org](http://www.cursor.org)  
[www.bringthemhomenow.org](http://www.bringthemhomenow.org)  
[www.gp.org](http://www.gp.org)  
[www.monthlyreview.org](http://www.monthlyreview.org)  
[www.occupationwatch.org](http://www.occupationwatch.org)  
[www.btselem.org](http://www.btselem.org)  
[www.electronicintifada.org](http://www.electronicintifada.org)  
[www.stopthewall.org](http://www.stopthewall.org)  
[www.draftresistance.org](http://www.draftresistance.org)  
[www.myantiwar.org](http://www.myantiwar.org)

**Sponsored by** the Central Ohio Peace Network  
**Endorsed by** the Campus Green Party at the Ohio State University, Central Ohioans for Peace, Columbus Campaign for Arms Control, the Committee for Justice in Palestine, the Community Organizing Center, Council on American Islamic Relations (Ohio Chapter), Democratic Socialists of Central Ohio, Faith Communities Uniting for Peace, Islamic Foundation of Central Ohio, Islamic Society of Greater Columbus, the Native American Indian Center of Central Ohio, the Oberlin Peace Activists League, the Ohio Center for Native American Affairs, the Progressive Peace Coalition, Solidarity, the Student International Forum, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation East, United Methodists for Peace, Women in Black

# Central Ohio Peace Network Statehouse Rally *20th March 2004* First Anniversary of the Invasion of Iraq

---

### Hosts

*Connie Hammond*  
*John Wallace*

### Speakers

**Iraq:**  
**Its destruction and occupation**  
*Wendy Ake*  
(Committee for Justice in Palestine)

**Economy and Social Justice**  
*Charleta Tavares*  
(Columbus City Council)

**Palestine**  
*Ahmad Al-Akhras*  
(Council on American-Islamic Relations, Ohio Chapter)

**The Soldier's Plight**  
*Barry Landeros-Thomas*  
(Veterans for Peace/American Indian Movement)

**Civil Liberties**  
*Louise Antony*  
(Professor, Philosophy, OSU)

**Iraq: The Lies**  
*Bob Fitrakis*  
(The Free Press)

### Performers

*Doublethink*  
*Tom Harker*  
*Dave Hawkins*  
*STOPS*

## End the Occupations Now!

*Yoshie Furuhashi*

**On March 20, 2004, the first anniversary of Washington's illegal and immoral war, Central Ohioans join people all over the world and demand an End to the Occupations of Iraq and Palestine Now!**

Washington defied global voices of reason and invaded Iraq on March 20, 2003 – the war waged “for no good reason” driven by “false commitments” in the words of Rev. Vincent Frosh, pastor of the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and co-president of BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity). One year later, the occupation of Iraq still continues, taking a heavy toll on Iraqis, US soldiers, and others: more than 8,400 Iraqi civilians, 550 US soldiers, and 101 UK and other Coalition soldiers have been killed, and 3,164 US soldiers, tens of thousands of Iraqis, and others have been wounded (as of March 6, 2004).

The March 20 Global Day of Action – over 150 protests in the United States alone – comes only ten days before the anniversary of the historic March 30, 1976, Land Day in Palestine, an annual reminder of the Israeli power elite's denial of equal rights to Palestinians and confiscation of more and more Palestinian lands inside and outside the Green Line borders. Since 1976, Israel has been the leading recipient of US aid. Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg points out that the money spent annually in directly subsidizing the existing settlements was estimated in 2001 at \$400 million. The US occupation of Iraq and support for the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza are but the most glaring examples of Washington's foreign policy – the latest is its removal of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide from Haiti – that sacrifices countless lives abroad and burdens working-class people at home who pay for wars and occupations with their lives and tax dollars.

Worse, the unjust foreign policy that benefits the rich few at the expense of the majority

of Americans has been marketed by the Bush administration with “consistent and unrelenting lies” – including the lies about the “Weapons of Mass Destruction” nowhere to be found in Iraq – that are “fundamentally Machiavelian in nature,” says Bob Fittrakis, a political science professor at the Columbus State Community College and an editor of the *Free Press*. Fittrakis is outraged: “The Bush family sees itself as an aristocratic and entitled elite who can lie to the American people in order to plunder the world and ensure its fourth generation of war profiteering.” To date, Halliburton alone has made over \$2.2 billion from the war in Iraq, boosting its net profit for the second quarter of 2003 to \$26 million, which contrasts markedly with the company's net loss of \$498 million in the same quarter of 2002. The US military budget now stands at \$400 billion – up from \$300 billion when Bush took office – and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have racked up \$200 billion in emergency spending to date, over and above normal Pentagon appropriations. As Paul Krugman quipped, the administration's motto indeed seems to be “Leave No Defense Contractor Behind” (“Bush's Aggressive Accounting,” *New York Times*, February 5, 2002).

In contrast, poor men, women, and children *are* left behind in America. Since the recession began in March 2001, 2.4 million jobs have disappeared – the greatest sustained job loss since the Great Depression. From November to December 2003, Ohio suffered the second largest job loss in the nation. Charleta B. Tavares, who supports young men and women in the armed services, observes: “We have spent tens of billions of dollars to finance a war with Iraq while both the State of Ohio and the City of Columbus are suffering fiscal crises,” the fiscal crises that have resulted in “severe program cuts to family services, community health care centers, and the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department.” Tavares' efforts to promote peace are driven by her concern that a long-term US military presence and occupation abroad