

UNLAWFUL INVASION AND OCCUPATION OF IRAQ

To the Honourable Members of the House of Representatives and Senators of the Parliament of Australia:

We, the undersigned, are appalled at Australia's continued involvement in the unlawful US invasion and occupation of Iraq. As a result of the invasion:

- By October 2006 more than 655,000 people had been killed and countless others had been seriously maimed and injured (*John Hopkins University School of Public Health study, published in The Lancet journal, October 2006*) and since that time the slaughter has continued on a daily basis;
- Civilians live in constant danger;
- The health system has been devastated and people die daily from treatable illnesses and injuries;
- 33% of children suffer from malnutrition;
- Rape, trafficking and kidnapping of women has risen and women activists have been assassinated, while other women who refuse to comply with newly restrictive dress and movement rules have been bashed;
- Iraq has gone from being a food exporter to a nation where people suffer from starvation and hunger; and
- More than 2 million Iraqis have fled their country and almost another 2 million have fled their homes and remain in Iraq.

We call on all Members of the House and Senators to:

- Withdraw Australian troops from Iraq immediately;
- Ensure financial and rebuilding support is provided to Iraq;
- Restore Iraqi resources to Iraqi hands; and
- Ensure Iraqi refugees are welcomed to Australia.