

100,000 Rings

Mon. 10/ 24 through Thurs. 10/27 12-2pm and 4-6pm
Union Square

Voices for Creative Nonviolence (vcnb.org) and Justice Not Vengeance (www.j-n-v.org) call for bell ringing ceremonies to grieve and protest the deaths of Iraqis in the US/UK war and occupation. In the days leading up to the *October 29th* anniversary of the release of the first study in 2004 tallying Iraqi dead; we are gathering in public places for simple and solemn "Bell Ringing" ceremonies.

Mouths Wide Open is joining 100 other groups, each group doing 1,000 rings, to pay tribute to the unacknowledged dead in this war. We are grieved by the almost 2,000 U.S. soldiers who have died in Iraq and for the 10's of thousands of Iraqis who have died. This war is being fought on their streets, in their cities, towns and villages. Their communities are being destroyed. Innocent civilians are being killed. And we grieve for them.

We are glad the press is now acknowledging the losses of our American forces; their families and communities deserve this support. We respect their sacrifice and grieve for them. There is a human

The U.S. military and the (U.S.-backed) interim Iraqi government are suppressing casualty figures. We must acknowledge all the dead in this war. 100,000 bells brings attention to the Iraqi's who have lost their lives. Please join us.

During the era of sanctions on Iraq, the U.S. and British governments sought to obscure the 'price' being paid by the Iraqi people for U.S. and British foreign policy. Today, George W. Bush and Tony Blair seek to hide the mounting toll of death in Iraq as a result of the war and occupation. In doing so, they seek to limit our compassion. They seek to stifle our opposition and resistance. They wish to manage our compassion for our fellow citizens fighting in Iraq and the depth of our grief for the families of those who have died. They wish to silence us.

We are appalled by their disregard for the welfare of American and British citizens sent to fight in Iraq. We are appalled by the silence surrounding the suffering and death of the Iraqi people, caught in the crossfire of a war they didn't start or invite...

*In the last year, three major published reports have estimated deaths caused in Iraq by war and occupation; the **Lancet** study, published in October 2004, the **UN Development Program** report published in May 2005 and the **Iraq Body Count** study published in July 2005.

Please support the call of the '*Count the Casualties*' campaign (www.countthecasualties.org.uk) for a government commissioned comprehensive, independent, peer-reviewed inquiry into Iraqi casualties since the US/UK invasion in March 2003.

This call is supported by: *Amnesty International UK, Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT), Human Rights Watch, International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), Iraq Body Count, Medact, the National Union of Students, Oxford Research Group and Waging Peace.*

To join Mouths Wide Open for other events,
email us at speak@mouthiswideopen.org
10/31/05 We will be marching in the Halloween Parade on Monday. "STOP U.S. TORTURE"
11/02/05 Wednesday we will be marching our Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse Crusade as part of the nationwide "World Can't Wait" protest on the anniversary of the 2000 and 2004 elections

www.mouthiswideopen.org

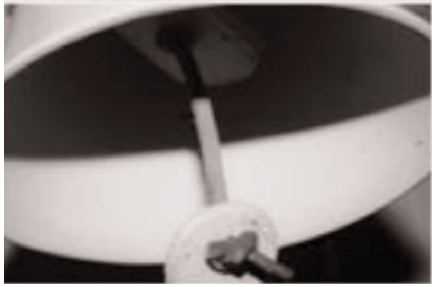
"The job of a citizen is to keep your mouth open." Gunter Grass



The lives lost by Iraqi citizens have no official importance. They are nameless. They are not even numbered. They do not even exist as statistics...

As people opposed to the US/UK war and occupation of Iraq, we act to end the silence about the suffering and death in Iraq and to publicly unlock the grief that it has caused in our communities.

Together we can help end the silence on suffering and death in Iraq. With our combined strength, we will send a clear message to our governments and media, a message as clear as the sounding of a bell. Our combined rings will reverberate with our grief, strengthen our solidarity, and break the silence surrounding the suffering and mounting toll of death in Iraq.



100,000 Rings



Honoring Iraqi War Dead