

FEBRUARY 15: SHUT DOWN THE BERKELEY MARINE RECRUITING STATION!

Join World Can't Wait, Code Pink, high school and college students, anti-war veterans and many others at 64 Shattuck Sq. in Berkeley (2 blocks from Berkeley BART). Nonviolent Civil Resistance all day beginning at 7AM. Rally and Convergence 3PM. Waterboarding re-enactment. Public debate.

When the Berkeley City Council called U.S. Marine Corps recruiters "uninvited and unwelcome intruders" and invited them to leave, millions around the country cheered! And Fox News, rightwing talk radio and bloggers went ballistic.

Into this charged situation, last week for two days World Can't Wait led a lively protest to shut down "business as usual" at this recruiting station. There was nonviolent mass civil resistance action, with protestors chaining themselves to each other and to the gate, videotape strewn everywhere, representing the CIA's destruction of the torture tapes. Suddenly a riot formation of 40 police arrived to arrest the three nonviolent resisters.

The Right Wing is Mobilizing... But So Are The People!

Pro-war rightwingers intend to force Berkeley to back down. A South Carolina Senator has introduced the "Semper Fi" Act to take federal funding away from Berkeley and transfer it to the Marine Corps! The City Council and Mayor Bates have been getting thousands of emails, the hostile ones largely orchestrated by the rightwing noise machine. One eloquent anti-war council member has

even received death threats. They are attempting to intimidate and silence any potential antiwar movement.

Now the rabid right is organizing an invasion of Berkeley next Tuesday, the day the City Council meets. The pro-war Move group "Move America Forward" is announcing its attack will begin at 5:00 AM next Tuesday, going on all day till they invade the 5:00 PM City Council meeting.

Everyone who supports the Berkeley City Council's courageous stand against the war must make our support public, loud, and real. The whole country is watching. We are the majority, in Berkeley, in this country, and in the world. But the pro-war, pro-torture side is mobilizing, and they are well-funded, and loud. Are you against war and torture? It does not count if you think good thoughts but do not actively resist.

"That which you will not resist and mobilize to stop, you will learn – or be forced – to accept."

--- from the World Can't Wait Call

FEBRUARY 12: Support the Berkeley City Council's Stand!

EMERGENCY 24-HOUR VIGIL Gather on City Hall lawn, 2134 MLK Jr. Way, Monday Feb. 11 7:00 PM until Tuesday Feb. 12 7:00 PM. **Bring tents, sleeping bags, food, your family & friends, your signs, music.**

COME TO THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING at 5PM: City Hall, City Council Chambers

The city council members and Mayor Tom Bates need to hear from you now in support of their resolution declaring the Marine Corps Recruiting Center to be "unwelcome" in Berkeley. Email or call them your support and cc: sf@worldcantwait.org

District 1	Linda Maio	(510) 981-7110	lmaio@ci.berkeley.ca.us
District 2	Darryl Moore	(510) 981-7120	dmoore@ci.berkeley.ca.us
District 3	Maxwell Anderson	(510) 981-7130	manderson@ci.berkeley.ca.us
District 4	Dona Spring	(510) 981-7140	spring@ci.berkeley.ca.us
District 5	Laurie Capitelli	(510) 981-7150	lcapitelli@ci.berkeley.ca.us
District 6	Betty Olds	(510) 981-7160	olds@ci.berkeley.ca.us
District 7	Kriss Worthington	(510) 981-7170	kworthington@ci.berkeley.ca.us
District 8	Gordon Wozniak	(510) 981-7180	GWozniak@ci.berkeley.ca.us

World Can't Wait! Drive Out the Bush Regime www.worldcantwait.org

Contact us: 415 864-5153 sf@worldcantwait.org myspace.com/sfbaycantwait

Why shut down military recruiting centers?

Because 1 million Iraqis have been killed.
Because 4.5 million have been driven from their homes. Because this is an illegal “preemptive” war of aggression, no weapons of mass destruction, no ties to Al-Qaeda.
Because lying to and preying on the youth is not acceptable, and killing and dying for oil, power and empire is not a career opportunity. Because torture, rape, collective punishment – like cutting off water supplies, shooting at ambulances, raiding hospitals, and destroying whole cities – are being carried out every day by the U.S. military, and these are war crimes. Military recruiting centers represent the Bush Regime’s unending war on the world, and those of us who don’t want to live in an empire that goes around the world murdering in our name need to take a stand.

Why don’t we just rely on “politics as usual” and wait for Obama or Hillary to stop this war?

Because Americans voted the 2006 Democratic Congress into office to stop the war. The first thing they did was give Bush billions and send 20,000 *more* troops in. Because all the “viable” candidates support the “war on terror” and none of them are talking about repealing the Military Commissions Act, the Patriot Act or addressing the gross abuse of executive power. Obama has promised that as president he will expand the U.S. military by 90,000 more troops.

I’m against the war, but are you saying you don’t support the troops?

We do not support a military that is engaging in war crimes and crimes against humanity. When U.S. soldiers sign up for the military, they give up all their rights. They can be executed for disobeying orders.

Think about the orders that are being given, *and carried out*. U.S. troops may be “just doing their job,” but think about what that job is. During the Civil War, would you have “supported” the Confederate troops that were defending slavery? We don’t hate individual soldiers that get sucked into this war machine, but we hate what they do... and they should too. We support the troops, like Ehren Watada and many others, who refuse to fight.

Don’t the recruiting centers have a right to “free speech”?

First of all, let’s be clear: the First Amendment was designed to protect people’s speech from government infringement, not government speech from people’s infringement! The Marine Corps IS the government. They have billions of dollars at their disposal to lie to the youth through advertisements that make war seem like a video game. It is actually OUR speech, the voices that oppose this criminal war, that is being marginalized by the corporate media and monitored by government surveillance.

On another level, this really isn’t about “free speech.” This is about what people are being recruited *for*. This is about what kind of future we want for the youth. People making this argument should think about whether it would be OK if there was a Nazi recruiting station in Berkeley.

OK, but isn’t Berkeley totally out of touch with what the rest of the country thinks?

The majority of people in this country are against war, torture, and the Bush administration. It may be true that Berkeley has the only City Council to take such a courageous stand. But this wouldn’t be the first time that Berkeley led the way and did what was right – and others followed.