

“Indeed, I think that people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of their way and let them have it.”
Dwight David Eisenhower

Following the above suggestion of a former American president and victorious general, Veterans for Peace Inc. is requesting the US government to get out of our way.

Let the Peaceful Waters Flow

Since 1999 Veterans for Peace, a volunteer public service organization founded by and principally made up of US service veterans, has been repairing water treatment plants in Iraq. These facilities, severely damaged, derelict, or inoperable in consequence of two wars and punishing, interminable United Nations sanctions, constitute the heart that pumps the lifeblood of Iraq’s people. Just as in any other coun-

try. But by this measure Iraq scarcely has a pulse. United Nations experts estimate over a million Iraqi civilians have died because access to life sustaining services was taken away from them. They have lost these fundamental services by war in the first place, but afterward—and much more extensively—by power of the deadly sanctions. This is how we punish Saddam Hussein.

While the Bush Administration is promoting peace in the Middle East through belligerent threats and promises of remote control extermination, Vets for Peace goes on fixing water plants without publicity and undiscouraged. So far we have managed to get six Iraqi treatment stations back on their feet and running, thereby improving the lives of close to 100,000 people. We intend to keep this work going until sanctions are ended and Iraq is allowed to rejoin the community of nations.

Four of the water plants rebuilt by VFP are in southern Iraq, focus of much of the fighting in the Gulf War and the previous Iran-Iraq War, while two more are in central Iraq north and west of Baghdad.



Rural treatment plant, central Iraq, prior to IWP restoration. May 2002.

Photo by Tom Sager



VFP delegation working at Labanni, our first rebuild. October 2000

Photo by Barry Riesch

CISPI, Committee in Solidarity with the People of Iraq, an indefatigable group of peace activists in Dallas, Texas.

Delegations

As circumstances permit, Veterans for Peace sends member delegations to Iraq to visit the plant sites and learn about the country and its current political trauma. Actual water system repairs are done by Iraqi civilian workers, supervised by LIFE. Not content to be merely visitors and observers, however, our delegates pick up the often makeshift tools and help with the work, an occasion for both astonishment and good will with the local people, and healthy sweat for ours.

In order to keep costs to a minimum and insure that as much donor money as possible goes into the essential task of providing clean water, all members of VFP delegations must pay their own travel and personal expenses. Nobody receives a salary. This is a strictly volunteer endeavor creating employment for no one other than Iraqi workers.

Would you like to help?

Most Americans, indeed most citizens of the developed world, can scarcely picture life without access to reliable clean water. Imagine living with the dread of cholera in your kitchen sink, or sending your child to a school without a functioning toilet. This is the reality for most Iraqis today, and the poorer they are the worse. Imagine further that your desperation is the product of a political struggle in which you have

On the ground, our work is supervised and coordinated by a partner NGO, LIFE for Relief and Development, an American Islamic charitable organization with offices in the US and Baghdad. We are also assisted by

neither voice nor visibility. Nobody at the highest levels of government—our government at least—seems to care about the afflicted and dying people. This is where we, and you, can make a difference. A difference that will really count not only for thousands of Iraqis but for many, many Americans and others who will hear of this work.



Labanni plant during reconstruction. February 2001

Photo by Alan Pogue

Veterans for Peace is convinced that the use of military intimidation is more likely to aggravate than to resolve political conflict. It is one of our founding principles. Possibly, you too prefer constructive engagement and attempts to establish people-to-people contact and friendship. This is what the Iraq Water Project is all about—saving lives, not removing them. A contribution to IWP effectively constitutes a signal to your government that you endorse our way, not theirs.

Message to the United States Administration:

Veterans for Peace and all its supporters have a radically different approach to the war in Iraq. Take the aforementioned advice of President Eisenhower—make way for us. Get out of the way to peace.

More information:
www.iraqwaterproject.org
www.veteransforpeace.org
Phone numbers and addresses can be found on reverse of this brochure.

Contribution Form

I would like to support Veterans For Peace Iraq Water Project and have enclosed a contribution (payable to "Veterans For Peace Iraq Water Project") of

\$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100
 \$50 \$25 \$__

I am a military veteran and would like to apply for membership (annual dues are \$25.00). Membership includes quarterly VFP Journal. VFP office will soon forward you an application.

NAME: _____
STREET: _____
CITY: _____
STATE/ZIP: _____
TEL: _____
EMAIL: _____

I am not a military veteran and would like to apply for associate membership.

I do not wish to apply for membership but would like to receive more information about Veterans For Peace.

Detach and mail to:
Veterans For Peace
Iraq Water Project
World Community Center
438 North Skinker
St. Louis, MO 63130



contact info



Veterans For Peace
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Photos by Alan Pogue

