

PRESS RELEASE - February 5, 2007

**Hartford Area Marking the Start of Court Marshal Proceedings
of Lieutenant Ehren Watada
Monday, February 5th at Ribicoff Federal Building**

For Immediate Release

Hartford, CT: Concerned about the United States' reasons for invading Iraq and the tactics used by our military to quell Iraqi discontent with our ongoing occupation, U.S. Army 1st Lieutenant Ehren K. Watada stepped forward as the first commissioned officer to refuse deployment to the Iraq War and occupation. He faces court martial and up to 4 years imprisonment for his refusal to deploy, and for speaking out against a war that he believes is illegal.

First Lieutenant Ehren Watada is America's equivalent to Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Václav Havel, Andrei Sakharov, Wei Jingsheng, Aung San Suu Kyi, and others. These brave souls are the ones persecuted for protesting illegal military interventions and war crimes around the world.

Where a generation ago, the peoples of the world wondered where were the "good" Germans; today, they likewise are asking, "Where are the "good" Americans?" Of course, just like the many brave Germans, there are many brave Americans willing to take a stand against a regime they believe to be committing illegal and immoral acts in the name of an inherently moral nation built on the rule of law.

In invading Iraq, the Bush administration is responsible for undertaking a war of aggression, crimes against peace, crimes against humanity, and war crimes that are legally akin to those prosecuted at Nuremberg. In international legal terms, this war constitutes an ongoing criminal conspiracy under international criminal law in violation of the Nuremberg Charter, the Nuremberg Judgment, the Nuremberg Principles, and the Geneva Convention.

As a consequence, American citizens and soldiers such as Lieutenant Watada are obligated, under international law and the United States domestic law, including the US Constitution, to engage in acts of civil resistance in order to prevent, impede, thwart, or terminate ongoing the criminal activities perpetrated by US government officials in their conduct of foreign policies and military operations.

We will be rallying in support of Lt Watada:

**Monday Feb 5th 5:00 – 6:00 PM,
A.A Ribicoff Federal Building, 450 Main Street, Hartford**

For more information, please view the Watada web site: <http://www.thankyoult.org>, our web site <http://www.hopeoutloud.org> or contact: Wayne Coste, Connecticut Coalition for Peace and Justice, (860) 234-5405, wayne@hopeoutloud.org