

Thoughts on Resistance

"The government is targeting us! Targeting the youth. And we have to be the ones to say no. We can't vote yet, so we have no voice. So [getting arrested in a protest] was my way of finding my voice, of saying, "You're not allowed to do this."

Ana Grady-Flores of Ithaca, New York is a third-generation activist. (Her grandfather was one of the Camden 28 of Vietnam days.) In the protest leading up to the present Iraq war in 2002, she was arrested and tried for an act of civil disobedience. She was 16.

"When I came to act, I had to weigh the damage to my soul by not acting versus the possible risks of acting. And at that point, I couldn't not act. You see, we can get hurt if we do something, and we can get hurt if we don't do something, so we might as well try to do what we think we ought to do."

Dr. Barry Roth, a psychiatrist and Buddhist from Brookline, Massachusetts, was a participant in a Plowshares Action in 1991 against an Aegis-equipped Cruiser docked at the Bath Iron Works in Bath, ME.

"Without action, there's no hope. It doesn't mean we're without hope now. It means we're without enough action."

Grace Paley, feminist, poet, activist

Civil Disobedience Resources

Tracy, James. *Direct Action: Radical Pacifism From the Union Eight to the Chicago Seven*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996.

ESSAYS

An Appeal for Redress from the War in Iraq @ www.appealforredress.org.

Launched by two active-duty soldiers who, following the battle of Falluja, came to believe the withdrawal of U.S. troops was overdue, the appeal has been signed by over 1,000 mostly active-duty, reserve and guard service members. It went to Congress Jan. 16, 2007, in time for Martin Luther King Day. Their appeal appeared on "60 Minutes" Feb. 25, 2007; a link to the program 'Dissension in the Ranks' is at the website. It reflects one 'repertoire of protest' that cannot easily be ignored.

Cheney, Dick, Elliot Abrams, Paul Wolfowitz, et al. 1997. "Statement of Principles," in *The Project for a New American Century*. Washington, D.C.: New American Century @ www.newamericancentury.org/statementofprinciples.htm.

Members of the hawkish PNAC are also known as 'neoconservatives' and their ideological framework, briefly stated in this statement of principles, served as the basis for the U.S. pre-emptive strike on Iraq and invasion of Afghanistan, according to anti-war activists.

_____. 2002. "National Security Strategy of the United States of America." Washington, DC: Project for a New American Century.

This paper has served, since 2002, as a "blueprint" for the neoconservative "Grand Strategy" for maintaining U.S. global pre-eminence, militarily, economically, and politically. It also served as the rationale among neo-cons for staging the Global War on Terror.

Sheehan, Cindy. 2006. "It's time for Civil Disobedience: Bring Our Children Home from Iraq," In *Peace Power: Berkeley's Journal of Principled Nonviolence and Conflict Transformation*, Vol. 2, Issue 1. Winter. www.calpeace.org.

Speaking at the Berkeley campus November 2005, Sheehan applauded the campus counter-recruitment movement and called upon students to use civil disobedience to bring an end to what she called an illegal, immoral war. She said her founding Camp Casey in August 2004 outside Bush's ranch illustrated what individuals can do.