

**rsn**

Iraq war veteran and writer Josh Stieber backpacking for peace, 08/14/09. (photo: Josh Stieber)

If you didn't feel connected by anything human to the WikiLeaks Video, Josh Stieber and Ethan McCord's Letter of Reconciliation to the victims and the community will do it.

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## Mike & Friends Blog



[Josh Stieber](#)

Iraq veteran Josh Stieber was deployed to Baghdad with Bravo Company 2-16

April 17th, 2010 11:36 AM

### [An Open Letter of Reconciliation and Responsibility to the Iraqi People](#)

#### **From Current and Former Members of the U.S. Military**

By [Josh Stieber](#)

*(Written with Ethan McCord, who pulled injured children from van in Wikileaks 'Collateral Murder' video)*

Peace be with you.

To all of those who were injured or lost loved ones during the July 2007 Baghdad shootings depicted in the "[Collateral Murder](#)" Wikileaks video:

We write to you, your family, and your community with awareness that our words and actions can never restore your losses.

We are both soldiers who occupied your neighborhood for 14 months. Ethan McCord pulled your daughter and son from the van, and when doing so, saw the faces of his own children back home. Josh Stieber was in the same company but was not there that day, though he contributed to the your pain, and the pain of your community on many other occasions.

There is no bringing back all that was lost. What we seek is to learn from our mistakes and do everything we can to tell others of our experiences and how the people of the United States need to realize what have done and are doing to you and the people of your country. We humbly ask you what we can do to begin to repair the damage we caused.

We have been speaking to whoever will listen, telling them that what was shown in the Wikileaks video only begins to depict the suffering we have created. From our own experiences, and the experiences of other veterans we have talked to, we know that the acts depicted in this video are everyday occurrences of this war: this is the nature of how U.S.-led wars are carried out in this region.

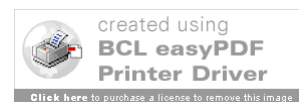
We acknowledge our part in the deaths and injuries of your loved ones as we tell Americans what we were trained to do and carried out in the name of "god and country". The soldier in video said that your husband shouldn't have brought your children to battle, but we are acknowledging our responsibility for bringing the battle to your neighborhood, and to your family. We did unto you what we would not want done to us.

More and more Americans are taking responsibility for what was done in our name. Though we have acted with cold hearts far too many times, we have not forgotten our actions towards you. Our heavy hearts still hold hope that we can restore inside our country the acknowledgment of your humanity, that we were taught to deny.

Our government may ignore you, concerned more with its public image. It has also ignored many veterans who have returned physically injured or mentally troubled by what they saw and did in your country. But the time is long overdue that we say that the value of our nation's leaders no longer represent us. Our secretary of defense may say the U.S. won't lose its reputation over this, but we stand and say that our reputation's importance pales in comparison to our common humanity.

With such pain, friendship might be too much to ask. Please accept our apology, our sorrow, our care, and our dedication to change from the inside out. We are doing what we can to speak out against the wars and military policies responsible for what happened to you and your loved ones. Our hearts are open to hearing how we can take any steps to support you through the pain that we have caused.

Solemnly and Sincerely,



## Comments

# **Jyl** 2010-04-17 16:16

+20

Too little, too late. The damage that 'the coalition' has done and the US continues to do, with gusto, is absolutely irrevocable. I, were I Iraqi, would not be prepared to shift one iota towards forgiveness. In fact, I would be about as willing to forgive the US for its ever-increasing transgressions as it is willing to forgive 9/11, which has been shoved down our throats \*every single day,\* since it occurred.

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)
# **Glen** 2010-04-18 03:14

+7

I met a woman last year who declared she could be driving along and begin to cry if she allowed herself to think about the deaths occurring in the Middle East. Most, though, either do not even think about it or are as a 26 year old where I work, quoting returning military or whoever, saying we are rebuilding Iraq, things are better, etc.

How do you bring back the thousands of dead, rebuild their cities and towns, find homes for orphans, help the refugees, stabilize a region that has been turned to chaos? A letter may soothe a few but most, as Jyl says, will hate the U.S. forever and pass that hatred to the next generation.

There will come a time when the U.S. will pay for the Middle East along with every other country they have invaded.

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# **Christopher S. Brudy** 2010-04-18 06:22

+1

We will get repaid when the continued reliance on burning petroleum fuels causes the Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets to melt. Of course, the Icelandic volcano is helping us (but not the German PV industry), by blocking sunlight.

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)
# **wc** 2010-04-18 05:32

+5

To "forgive" a deed does not involve "condoning" the deed. It involves "letting go". It is precisely the adamantly vengeful US posture re 9/11 that allows their representatives in Iraq to behave in such appalling ways.

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)
# **Arthur** 2010-04-18 08:03

+6

It is never too little or too late. A healing process must begin somewhere.

The letter Josh and Ethan wrote is both beautiful and powerful.

Compassion is the order of the day.... for those who've been on the receiving side of 'shock n' awe' and for those who carried out these deeds of mindless horror.

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)
# **Denise** 2010-04-18 10:40

+5

Also agree with you 100%, Jyl. The audio track from the video tells us that the soldiers not only carried out what they were commanded to do, they were at best cold-blooded, at worst, enthusiastic, about doing it, even though civilians were killed. And why does this "letter of reconciliation" come almost three years after the fact, and ONLY after the video was leaked?

As for Americans' taking responsibility for what was done in "our" name, I absolutely resent that comment. This war is not being conducted in MY name!!! I marched in protest many times, I wrote and called my representatives, and I voted against any candidate who supported the war. This war was NOT fought for "God and country," not by any means! It was fought to satisfy the agenda of a madman and his cohorts.

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# **Stephanie Remington** 2010-04-19 23:54**+1**

Jyl,

Take a look at this interview with Josh Steiber. [http://www.democracynow.org/2010/4/12/this\\_is\\_how\\_these\\_soldiers\\_were](http://www.democracynow.org/2010/4/12/this_is_how_these_soldiers_were)

And watch as much as you can of the Winter Soldier testimony on the Iraq Veterans Against the War Website: <http://www.ivaw.org/wintersoldier/testimony>

You may or may not be ready to forgive, but you'll definitely understand what happened -- and how it could happen --better.

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)# **anniek** 2010-04-17 21:44**+8**

I think the guys that wrote this made a profound effort at looking at the harm they have done. Since the US hasn't apologized in this way, this country obviously can't be forgiven and agree with you about 9/11 but for goodness sakes give these guys the credit they deserve. Have a heart.

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)# **ED MCC** 2010-04-17 21:47**+3**

It is good to see that there is such a thing as a conscience working in some of these guys, although it does come late in the game...too late to change the pain and suffering that has been caused. At least a few guys are man enough to admit the wrongs that have been done. Seems the guys at the top who direct all this in their nice expensive suits, in offices far from the disasters their decisions wreak/wreck upon the lives of so many innocent people who just happen to be expendable from their point of view haven't become real men yet....nor can we expect those who hide under the rocks after leaving office or poke their heads out to try to cover up their crimes to admit any culpability...it will all go to the graves with them... but I believe in karma and there will be a price to pay by each of them, including Obama who cannot seem to rise any higher than those who came before him. Pity.

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)# **JJ** 2010-04-17 22:34**+13**

Every time I saw the video I was absolutely stunned by that soldier's callous, self-righteous editorial: "He shouldn't have brought his kids to a war zone."

Damn it all, man. Get a clue. America illegally brought the war to Iraqi neighborhoods, not the other way around.

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)# **brucespoint** 2010-04-17 23:01**+6**

On a Personal Level, I am SO Proud of these Men, who had the Courage&Integrity, to Admit their Part in Atrocities Shaped by Superior's Order's. I am Happy&Relieved to See that Honor, Still exists in the USA.

Would that there be More Of it, Particularly in Command.

The Fault in these incidents of War, is Not Often with the Actor's Who Actually Commit them. Responsibility Lies Further up the Chain of Command.

For Those who Never served, ask Anybody who Has.

Nothing Like This, institutionalized as it is, EVER Happen's without the Approval of Whomever is Running the Show, The Commanding Officer is Responsible for Actions of His Troops. And on up the Chain of Command to the Top. In an Illegal War of Aggression, He who Gives the Order, is Responsible for the Results. If we Had Our Integrity Still, that Would have Happened. Till that Blot is Addressed, We Are All Stained with it.

BrucePoint

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)# **Judith** 2010-04-17 23:50**+5**

Who among the Iraqis Stieber apologises to are likely to see the apology? Our best apology is to maintain pressure on the White House and the Congress to get the hell out of Iraq. Discussion of reparations can come afterward.

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# **anti\_republocrat** 2010-04-18 15:09

+1

The intended audience for the letter is not really anyone in Iraq, though that is how it is formally addressed. The actual intended audience is the American people, the White House and Congress. By your own statement, that is the best, the only apology we can make other than reparations AFTER complete and total withdrawal so that the Iraqis themselves can determine how to spend the reparations.

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# **Colin Smith** 2010-04-17 23:54

+3

Jyl, you must be prepared to forgive these men who have taken responsibility for their actions. You may not be able to forgive the United States government for sending these men to kill innocent civilians. I can understand that. The United States lost it's reputation decades ago. Because Americans are so isolated, flanked by two vast oceans, with a clone (my country) to the North, and an imperial possession to the South, they have no exposure to other cultures, are easy to propagandize and brainwash, and can only learn how much the US is hated across the world when they leave it.

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# **Harold Mencher** 2010-04-18 14:17

+1

Colin, fire Prime Minister Stephen Harper, & get someone in there that has the courage & the huevos to tell the U.S. to stick it where the Sun doesn't shine. Get someone to lead Canada as a sovereign nation, independent of any influence or pressure by the United States, & make sure that when you do have elections, that the U.S. in no way interferes in the internal affairs of Canada as they did in Mexico. You have a beautiful country. I think that it's worth fighting for, don't you? Many prominent peace activists in the United States have been prohibited from entering yours because of Stephen Harper. Why is that? You need to purge your govt of Stephen Harper and all of his cronies, and you need to allow American soldiers, who don't want to kill, or no longer want to kill, anymore in illegal wars of aggression by the United States, full and complete unfettered sanctuary in your country as your country allowed to happen during the Vietnam war.

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)
# **Jyll** 2010-04-18 18:49

+1

No, I mustn't, Colin. I watched and listened to the video. It is as though the shooters are picking off tin ducks, playing paintball, or shattering clay pigeons, rather than terminating human lives. I find the video to be appalling as well as an absolutely accurate depiction of the sport of war.

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# **Eddy** 2010-04-18 00:01

+5

Concur with Jyl's COMMENTS 100%.

I found the letter arrogant, arrogant in that the writers can return home and live their lives in an environment that does not reflect what they've inflicted upon the Iraqis.

Were I Iraqi, and my family decimated as thousands have in Iraq, I would not hesitate to strap on a bomb vest and take as many with me as I could in pay back.

Americans, AND their Government still publically pursue an connection with Sept 11 and Iraq that was NEVER THERE.

As long as that prevails, I cannot accept any claimed apology, nor can any apology ever cut ice with the Iraqi people.

Let's NEVER FORGET, the Iraqi citizenry did at not time, ever, lift a finger against even ONE American citizen.

Yet Americans chose to bomb Iraq back to the stone age and murder millions of it's citizens.

There IS no apology that can ever make up for such an act.

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# **Hors-D-whores** 2010-04-18 01:18

+3

I do hope that Iraqis will be able to reconstruct their lives and gain something from this disaster of an occupation. The sooner we can leave them alone, the sooner they can start.

The letter was touching and I'm glad they wrote it, and they are two brave and wonderful men, but as they said, and JYL said, how do we even begin to make it up to them. I would be a lunatic if this was happening to those I loved and had to live in that, and never would I forgive. Support the Troops, BRING THEM HOME.

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# **Susan McLucas** 2010-04-18 02:22

+8

We are trying to stop this war. We are terribly sorry for all the pain it has caused.

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# Kathleen 2010-04-18 03:12

+5

Josh and Ethan: Thank you for your courage and humanity. You are both very brave.

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# StPete 2010-04-18 03:32

+5

It's not too little and it's not too late. It is extremely important for individuals who were there, and all of us, to speak up and over the official silence and cold pragmatism that drives what we do around the world. Stieber and McCord's statements are valued, helpful and appreciated here, and I hope they make it to Iraq.

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# Sal Mangiagli 2010-04-18 05:21

+5

The pain and sadness I felt while seeing this video almost made me not watch anymore but I watched the whole thing because we need to see what are policies have brought to the people of Iraq. I am sorry for the pain and suffering and try in my way to expose the lies and deception that allow this illegal war to continue.

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# hantala33 2010-04-18 05:39

+8

The best apology in the world for be FOR AMERICAN SOLDIERS TO GO HOME!!! Take your war machines, your hubris, your violence, your narcissism and your dirty bloody flag that is never large enough nor glorious enough to cover the shame of killing innocent people and simply pack up your crap and GO HOME!

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# tibetsun 2010-04-18 07:30

0

I believe this is the sentiment that most Iraqi's would want the US govt. to see. It took a while for these soldiers to expose this war for what it is--a war for oil and natural gas. Our govt. officials care little for lost lives--evident by not first learning about the nations it conquers. What hubris, indeed!

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)

# Kalpal 2010-04-18 06:23

+2

Perchance the USA might somehow offer to make it up to our own aboriginal citizens whose tribes and families were nearly wiped off the face of the earth and whom the USA is still treating poorly while resenting any demands that past abuses be corrected and fully compensated.

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# Harold Mencher 2010-04-18 06:23

+5

Glen, as I believe & I know, with almost absolute certainty, that 9/11 wasn't perpetrated by al-Qaeda or the Taliban, as the Bush admin claimed, if there is another attack on the U.S., a real one this time, not perpetrated by our govt in order to justify what Bush did during his infamous period of tyranny, it will once again be rationalized by our govt as a 1st strike attack on us by terrorists which will have nothing whatsoever to do with our past transgressions against them. Our govt will use some stupid nonsensical rationalizations as Bush did, that we were attacked because they were jealous of our freedoms. How stupid can people be to believe such nonsense. We're not so different from Rome. I'm sure that Rome, at the time, used a similar rationalizations to why the so-called barbarians, people that we call terrorists today, would want to attack them when they were systematically invading & destroying the surrounding nations for world empire.

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# Lynetter Malles 2010-04-18 06:47

+4

STOP the killing of innocent people!

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)



# jayvee 2010-04-18 07:13

+2

Ethan & Josh: Though your apology comes 3 years late and probably only after exposure by wikileaks -- it is still a welcomed and unique occurrence. I would have wished, and shall hope that in future more young US men and women will think and act in advance on similar universally illegal motivations and actions of our government -- particularly in regard to third world and nations of color -- and at the very outset REFUSE to be the cannon-fodder that nourishes these perpetual atrocities. If more young people observed such forethought, the insanity of "Support Our Troops" sloganizing that further feeds US imperial craziness would be halted.

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# jas 2010-04-18 07:24

0

While the letter is all "warm and fuzzy", it will not "do it". We are ALL engaged in a spiritual war in this world. The only thing that will ultimately forgive "our" armed forces is for a true and sincere repentance through Baptism for the remission of sins by them, and ALL of us, that support it through "our" tax dollars. A repudiation, and resignation from, the UN/US military would be a good beginning.

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# ProfPeteB 2010-04-18 07:55

+2

The new military is a voluntary one. While it is now commendable that these men feel remorse, once you commit to a military career, you must clearly comprehend that you are at the mercy and honesty of whomever is in power. You may well end up killing those you do not want to kill. The poor jobs market was created by the Bush team to drive those who lost their jobs to enlist. It is continued by Obama. They want a large pool of enlistees available and if the job market improves they will lose that availability and private debt will grow. Obama has disappointed me and many Progressives like me is ignoring the jobs market. I feel the pain of these men, and that of their victims. But when someone hands you a gun, eventually they will ask you to shoot at other humans, people with souls. I pray that people stop enlisting, forcing a draft which again would face what it faced in the 1960's and we would have a violence-free rebellion and no wars. Men and women, STOP ENLISTING, force a draft.

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# Daniel Fletcher 2010-04-18 08:29

+2

Any concept of justice would require at least four things:

1. All military forces be withdrawn from Iraq and Afghanistan now.
2. The key players in the prior administration responsible for this war should be tried for treason and handed over to the World Court for trial for their crimes against humanity.
3. The US must pay for Iraq's restoration to what it was before the war, and pay it on THEIR terms.
4. As an act of contrition, the US would need to withdraw troops from the region and close half of all military installations world wide and our budget for the military be halved.

Any less is, by definition, an utter perversion of justice which should be intolerable to a people that would claim to possess even a modest sense of decency.

I appreciate the apologies given, but, "I'm sorry" just doesn't cut it. These troops do not have the moral authority to apologize on behalf of anyone but themselves. WE and the commanders are AT LEAST as responsible. Jyl is right.

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)


# lovewatch 2010-04-18 08:38

+2

It is small, sincere gestures of humanity and love that will save the world. Josh and Ethan, thank you for showing your humanity and recognizing the humanity in others. Forgiveness is not for the benefit of the forgiven, it benefits the forgiver far more.

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)


# ahlam 2010-04-18 09:02

+4

my name is Ahlam , I'm women from iraq , i just sateld her in us , I know how it feel , i was there whene every thing happend , i stell hear the voice of poping , plain's , we was facing ded every secound in our life

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)

# **Harold Mencher** 2010-04-18 09:46

+3

Daniel, when you say that all military forces be withdrawn from Iraq & Afghanistan now, you must also emphasize the word "all," that is every single soldier, both private & regular military, down to a man, & not just U.S. forces, but all foreign soldiers. Unfortunately, the Obama admin plans on leaving a permanent occupation force in Iraq of approximately 50,000+, even after the end of 2011, along with those permanent bases that we built, under the guise of training the Iraqi police forces & military, but with a true purpose of continued military operations, covert & overt, in order to protect the oil & natural gas resources, that is the Iraqi oil & natural gas, that we stole from them. By the way, Daniel, did you ever ask yourself as to what happened to the so-called referendum vote that the Iraqi people were suppose to have as a primary condition for the Iraqi parliament's approval of SOFA? Obama forced Maliki to cancel it!

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# **Daniel Fletcher** 2010-04-18 14:35

+2

Agreed Harold, and what an eye opener the last two sentences you wrote. I had forgotten.

Your points are well taken. One has to be cautious about being precise in language as words can be parsed into meanings different than intended.

I think we'd agree that the natural resources of any country belongs to that country and it's peoples. This does not serve our corporate interests one bit, but so what? We'd have sufficient energy resources if we merely harvested grasses along our highways for cheap ethonol production to what ever level of harvesting we'd like. Evidently stealing fuel is more profitable to the military industrial complex.

I am aware that a majority of Iraqis want foreign occupation forces to leave even if it means intensified internal violence between Shia and Sunni occur.

Harold, my regard for Obama is becoming less and less benign. I am less likely to give the benefit of the doubt. Thank you for your insight.

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)
# **Harold Mencher** 2010-04-18 17:53

+1

I don't think that oil companies can make enough money off of the grasses growing on the side of our highways. Corporations will ultimately be the death of us all. The oil companies don't have control of the renewable energy resources as they have over the oil resources. And, in their quest to improve their bottom line each & every year, their profits, so that they can make their stockholders happy campers & pay their CEOs their hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation, corporations will continue to support war & more war, & not just for oil. We will need, more & more, of those rare elements used for high efficient batteries, Lithium, & for building high density silicon chips. After the middle east, Africa is next on America's hit-list along with South America for all of the above resources, including oil. Bolivia is rich in these elements & energy resources, and Evo Morales is in danger of a U.S. coup in his country along with Hugo Chavez.

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# **Daniel Fletcher** 2010-04-18 20:40

+1

What you say is too true. My point is that the existing technology for ethonol from mere grass, enumerated as far back as the late 1940's, could wean us from foreign oil permanently within two years. I don't have the reference to cite at the moment but I've read from the bible on ethonol production that if each state set aside a thousand miles of highway shoulder per state to harvest the grass there 3 or 4 times a year, the country would be independent from foreign oil for a fuel costing \$1.20 at the pump, an estimate of course.

You highly articulate exactly why this won't happen. The corporations couldn't control it since plenty of ethonol could be distilled in our back yards cheaply. They could not possible profit to the extent they can now and they would destroy, and I do mean kill, anything or anyone that stood in the way of their bottom line.

Militants targeting government make a big mistake. They should be targeting corporate America.

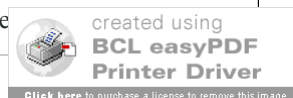
[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)
# **Bart** 2010-04-18 10:02

+2

This kind of subhuman brutality will never stop as long as involvement in the military, any military, is considered in any way virtuous.

What if they had a war and nobody came?

The amoral men and women in the Pentagon and Congress, the blood merchants at Northrup Grumman, Lockheed, Raytheon, and Boeing -- none could do what they do without the complicity of millions of younger Americans willing to march into other people's countries with weapons in hand.

[Reply](#) | [Re](#)




# **Harold Mencher** 2010-04-18 10:03

+1

Daniel, you also stated that "The US must pay for Iraq's restoration to what it was before the war, and pay it on THEIR terms." How does one do that when we physically destroyed much of their culture & their antiquities by literally bombing their country into the stone age? We allowed unfettered looting of their museums. And how do you clean up cities & a countryside that has been saturated with millions of tons of radioactive poison like Depleted Uranium (DU) that has a half-life of billions of years? Not only will the Iraqis have to live with this & continue to breath this poison in for perpetuity, dying & generating massive birth defects, even when the U.S. does finally leave Iraq, something I doubt very much will happen anytime soon, our very own soldiers have breathed this stuff in & will continue to breath it in, and will take this home with them when they return to the U.S. to get sick and to die and to birth abortions. Who pays for this?

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)# **Daniel Fletcher** 2010-04-18 14:48

0

Harold!!! You expose my true intents! I meant what I wrote for a reason. I grasp the enormity of all that you say. Restoring a country that we have so destroyed should first of all, come at a price the victim names. Further, the cost of removing all of the DU contamination, recovering the lost antiquities regardless of cost over how man generations that takes, providing all the medical care needed for a populations' health and genetic devastation...should be so ghastly a price for our civilization to pay that any thought of launching a war based on lies and theft as this has been, should be considered simply unthinkable in perpetuity.

Who pays? Every American citizen pays with the highest burden placed on those who most profited by this disaster with taxes on the wealthy being increased to 90% as it was under the Eisenhower Administration.

The burden of democracy is that we are obliged to overthrow our government when necessary or pay for it if we won't but should.

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)# **Bill H** 2010-04-18 10:06

+5

Ever since 911 there are those who have looked for people to exact our revenge onto for 9/11/01. I am sorry that those in power have chosen the Iraqi people who had no link to 9/11 and we continue to this very day in "making them pay".

We are taking revenge to a new level and how many Iraqi and Afghani deaths will it take to satisfy our desire for revenge yet we still call it a mission for democracy. The world sees only too well this hypocrisy.

I am relieved that there are people in our armed forces who now realize the harm we have done to these people and want to atone for it.

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)# **Harold Mencher** 2010-04-18 10:17

+3

One final comment. This apology does no good for the very same reasons that the lessons learned by soldiers who returned from Vietnam didn't do any good. Our govt is very aware that most of our soldiers returning from war are damaged goods, that they can't be trusted as soldiers anymore. Our govt knows that our precious young, who haven't experienced war yet, & who yet to be damaged, are waiting in the wings to replace these damaged soldiers & will gladly go in their place to fight current & future wars. We're even training them right now, even tho they haven't yet signed up, by the covert use of these new violent video games portraying war as fun & glorious, as exemplified by what happened that day in Baghdad, while today's parents seem to be oblivious to what's really going on, & then you have the "Leave No Child Behind" Bill that allows the military unfettered access to our young & very impressionable children, & the beat goes on.

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)# **Eileen** 2010-04-18 10:55

+1

Every change must start somewhere. I am grateful to these brave soldiers whose public apology will help us seek an end to this illegal invasion honor these soldiers

[Reply](#) | [Reply with quote](#) | [Quote](#)

# **Terrence Zander** 2010-04-18 11:17

+1

THE GOOD SOLDIER, trained to kill. We even have gay men and women willing to do so and even then they cannot be accepted by bigots. Go figure.

Lies swallowed as though they had some nutritional value. WMD's. Al Qaeda in Iraq. Uranium ore from Niger. This is not about oil. Want more? There's plenty where that comes from, just ask any politician. Especially the long-term professionals.

I did not send money to the IRS this year, but did send a note - "I refuse to support a military with my tax dollars that kills innocent women and children in countries who have not harmed us in any way. Other than in self-defense. In case people have it mixed up, WE are the invaders.

Who you do want running our government? Those who care more about getting re-elected (in order to serve, they say) more than they do about human life; civilian or military.

What can you do? Speak up and speak out.....often. If you're proud of killing women and children stand up and say so. If not, say so.

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# **Harold Mencher** 2010-04-18 12:07

+2

Bill H, you say that the Iraqi people had no link to 9/11, & you're right. But, neither did al-Qaeda or the Taliban. The following are facts, not rhetoric. When Bush demanded that the Taliban turn over Bin Laden to the U.S., the Taliban said fine, they were more than willing to do this just as long as Bush would submit to them the evidence proving his guilt. They had agreed to deliver Bin Laden to the U.S. in a neutral country once the evidence was submitted. Bush didn't even bother refusing their request which I felt was very reasonable. He just invaded because that's what Bush wanted to do in the 1st place. Evidence obtained from torture is not evidence, & everyone of the detainees that confessed were tortured into confessing. The video that was allegedly obtained from Afghanistan was a forgery, completely fabricated, just like the Niger documents. Bill H, Bush didn't invade Afghanistan out of revenge, but as a plan for world conquest.

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# **Daniel Fletcher** 2010-04-18 14:53

+1

Yes Harold, and the Bush crime family in particular should be stripped of every single dime in their possession as a down payment on the restoration the victims of this family deserve.

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# **Guineu** 2010-04-18 14:38

+1

How could anyone, Iraqi or American, accept the apology of the helicopter pilot who radioed his superiors that men were picking up a body AND weapons, when the video clearly shows they were only interested in getting the wounded man into their van, where their children were, and displayed no weapons? That pilot was bloodthirsty, and blatantly deceived to get permission to kill more people. If I were a relative of the slaughtered men in the van, I MIGHT accept an apology from him if delivered from behind bars, at the start of a life sentence in a federal prison. I don't believe he represents any significant percentage of our American military.

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# **Harold Mencher** 2010-04-18 16:21

+1

Guineu, in your last statement, you say "I don't believe he represents any significant percentage of our American military." But, there's the rub. Military training today is very efficient & very thorough. Yes, eventually, many soldiers will wake up to the truth about what's really going on around them and what the real goal of the U.S. is in the world today, but, by the time that they do, it's already too late. They do tremendous damage to indigenous populations & their culture in those countries where they're sent to fight, according to our illustrious govt, for America's freedoms. What a joke! I'm sorry to say that a much larger percentage of our soldiers do reflect the sentiments of that helicopter pilot, a lot more than you think. We're very good at manipulating young & very impressionable minds into born killers, & I'm not really wanting to even think about the new crop that will be coming along via the use of these violent video games.

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# **louise lynch** 2010-04-18 16:58

+1

War is hell-  
there is NEVER any justification- no such thing as a just war, especially in this day of unmanned weapons , etc.  
the horror of watching that video stays forever- ask any parent - or any human being - if what we are doing as a nation is making us feel any better- all that money could be building up and repairing what we have done to them -and for NO REASON- but death is final and there is no repairing that  
BRING THE TROOPS HOME- FOR ALL OUR SAKES!!!!

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# **JV** 2010-04-18 18:42

+1

We need these people, these soldiers, on our side, for peace now. Thank god for their return of conscience and public contrition. Their words cannot be easily dismissed by anyone, and most importantly, not by the powers that want to perpetuate warfare for nefarious reasons.

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# **Harold Mencher** 2010-04-18 19:23

+1

More threats against Iran by Robert Gates, Bush's man under Obama. Read the following article:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/us\\_iran\\_gates](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/us_iran_gates)

More war to come for Iran's oil and natural gas resources. This whole thing reminds me of the Birthers, who, if Obama actually showed his birth certificate, they still wouldn't believe that he was born in the United States. Even if Iran were to show absolute proof to the U.S. that they are not building nuclear weapons, it wouldn't matter. The U.S. is out for one thing, and only one thing, regime change in Iran, to replace the government there with a puppet American government as we did in Iraq and in Afghanistan, one that will jump through our hoops. I hope that both Russia and China wake up and protect Iran from whatever the U.S. has planned before it's too late.

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# **EPGAH** 2010-04-18 20:11

+1

Where is this "cheap oil and gas"?  
Were you or anyone else watching when CHINA AND RUSSIA snaked the oil out from under American soldiers?  
They need to issue an open Thank You Note:  
"Dear Americans,  
Thank you for keeping the terrorists busy while we took the oil!  
Pleasure doing business with you, chum...PS!"

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# **EPGAH** 2010-04-18 20:16

+1

China and Russia for PROTECTION?  
China and Russia snaked the oil out from under America, without paying us for the cost of the war, or the American soldiers who had to die so CHINA AND RUSSIA could get cheap oil!

If America got cheap oil...WHERE IS IT?

Oil prices are still almost DOUBLE what they were a decade ago. Obama refused to issue a Windfall Tax on the oil-companies--the WINNERS of the Free Market--citing something about "Free Market"...right before he bailed out the LOSERS of the Free Market with taxpayer money!

China and/or Russia could at least send a Thank You Note:  
"Dear Americans,  
Thanks for keeping the terrorists busy while we took the oil.  
Pleasure doing business with you, chum...PS!"

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# **Harold Mencher** 2010-04-20 08:38

+1

Yes, Russia & China got a part of the action, but not nearly as much as the multinational oil corporations that are tied to the U.S. & Britain. My main point here is that, before we illegally invaded Iraq based on lies & deceptions, the Iraqi oil was owned & controlled by the Iraqi people represented by their govt. Oil & natural gas in Iraq was publicly owned before the invasion. Now, it's all privately owned, & the Iraqi people are being screwed over royally. Bush invaded Iraq to control its oil, & now we do. For what good it does, to invade a country to take control of its natural resources is against international law, & any & every contract that has been signed between the (still) occupied country of Iraq & any agents of the occupied powers, meaning the multinational oil companies, are all illegal, & any future govt of Iraq that wishes to nullify these contracts have the legal right to do so, & I hope that they do.

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# **pink elephant** 2010-04-18 22:13

+2

When the Bush administration has to stand trial for all of this and when the officers running this sick show are mustered out with out pensions perhaps America will begin to regain some of its lost moral high ground. Until then even such well meaning gestures such as this one are empty. The guilty must be held accountable.

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