



VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR, INC

PO Box 408594, Chicago, IL 60640 - (773) 276-4189

www.vvaw.org

vvaw@vvaw.org

January 2008

Dear fellow activist,

2008 will be one of the most crucial years in recent memory. On many fronts, we have the possibility of changing the direction of our country. One event in particular will have a huge impact on the course of the wars currently being waged abroad – *Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan*.

From March 13-16, 2008, Iraq Veterans Against the War will gather in our nation's capital to break the silence about the real stories of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and hold our leaders accountable for the devastation they have caused. We hope that you'll join in supporting this, because this is a story that every American needs to hear!

This spring, the largest gathering of US veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as Iraqi and Afghan eyewitnesses, will share their experiences in a public investigation called *Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan*. They will provide testimonies to war crimes the United States perpetuates with the ongoing wars and occupations, as well as the poor treatment of returning veterans by US government agencies here at home.

Vietnam Veterans Against the War's main priority this spring is to support *Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan*. Since Iraq Veterans Against the War's inception, it has been a priority of VVAW to support them by providing guidance through the trials and tribulations faced by many veterans and veterans speaking out against war. VVAW intends to attend, participate and provide support that IVAW deems appropriate and necessary for this event. We sincerely hope that you will join us. If you made a contribution to Vietnam Veterans Against the War recently, we want to express our great appreciation. You may not be in a position to support another effort so soon, but if that is a possibility, I urge you to consider making a financial contribution to this historic event.

Iraq Veterans Against the War faces similar challenges to those that VVAW faced 40 years ago. War crimes in places like Haditha, Fallujah and Abu Ghraib have assisted in turning the public against the war. But once again, politicians and generals repeat history by blaming 'a few bad apples' for such atrocities, rather than examining the military policies that destroyed Vietnam then and are destroying Iraq and Afghanistan now.

Veterans have the most powerful voices for speaking out about what is really happening during war because they have survived the experience of war. As such, Vietnam Veterans Against the War understands that Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, when they speak about the horrors of war, MUST be heard. We learned first-hand what can happen when veterans

Speak out. In January 1971, VVAW held the Winter Soldier Investigation, where Vietnam Veterans testified about war crimes and atrocities they committed or witnessed in Vietnam. This action helped expose how atrocities committed during Vietnam were not the work of "a few bad apples," but essentially military policy, a policy that continues in the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Veterans participating and attending the upcoming Winter Soldier Investigation will undoubtedly receive backlash similar to VVAW members in 1971. However, history is on our side, and the truth is on our side, that is, on Iraq Veterans Against the War's side.

It is VVAW's commitment to get IVAW members and other Iraq and Afghanistan veterans to Washington D.C. March 13-16 for *Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan*. Beyond the money VVAW has already committed to support this event, we are sending out this mailing to make it possible for us to raise even more funds to provide transportation and housing in Washington, DC for these veterans during the event. **Your financial support will make it possible for us to do this!**

Thomas Paine, writing during the Revolutionary War, said: "The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman." It is time for all of us to support these true Winter Soldiers.

All contributions for Iraq Veterans Against the War's Winter Soldier Investigation will go specifically towards this event. Please make a generous tax-deductible donation. Doing so will make it possible for us to offer further financial support to our brothers, sisters, sons and daughters in Iraq Veterans Against the War.

Sincerely,



Barry Romo
Vietnam Veterans Against the War
National Coordinator

I am sending Vietnam Veterans Against the War \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other to enable VVAW to give additional financial support to Iraq Veterans Against the War's historic project: *Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan*. Please make your check payable to VVAW and put IVAW in the memo line. Your donation is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Please use this coupon and the enclosed return envelope.

Name (print) _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
E-Mail Address (please print clearly) _____