

CODEPINK

Women for Peace

media kit



George Bush will eventually go back to Texas,
but CODEPINK is here to stay”

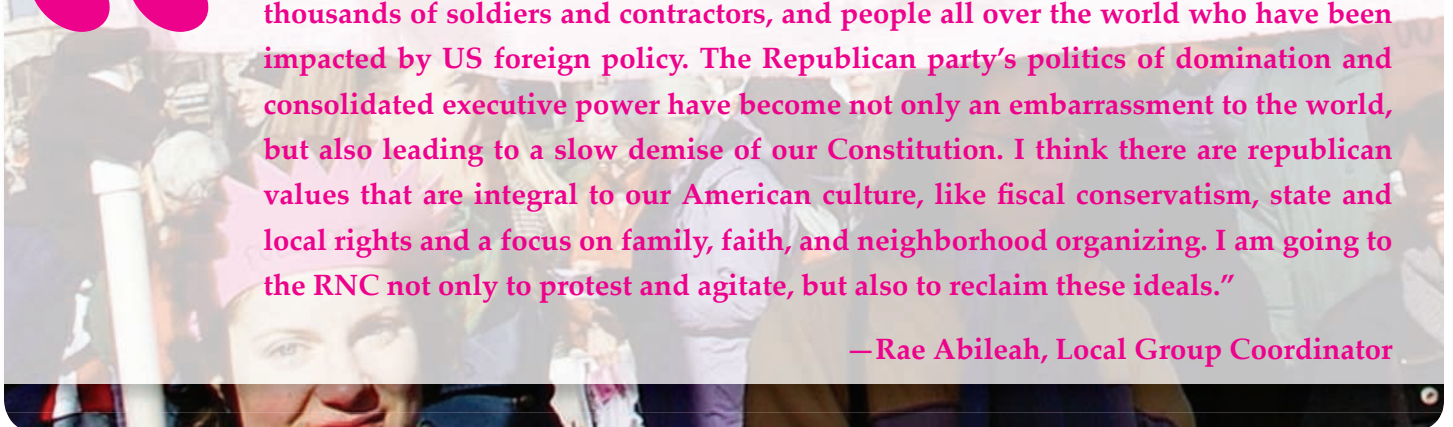
—Griff Jenkins, Fox News





Someone once sang, “Bush stole the best years of my twenties,” and I think that’s true for most of my peers—not to mention the innocent lives of over a million Iraqis, thousands of soldiers and contractors, and people all over the world who have been impacted by US foreign policy. The Republican party’s politics of domination and consolidated executive power have become not only an embarrassment to the world, but also leading to a slow demise of our Constitution. I think there are republican values that are integral to our American culture, like fiscal conservatism, state and local rights and a focus on family, faith, and neighborhood organizing. I am going to the RNC not only to protest and agitate, but also to reclaim these ideals.”

—Rae Abileah, Local Group Coordinator



CODEPINK Founders and Staff

Medea Benjamin is a cofounder of both CODEPINK and the international human rights organization Global Exchange. She has been a tireless advocate for social justice for more than 20 years. Described as “one of America’s most committed—and most effective—fighters for human rights” by New York Newsday, and called “one of the high profile leaders of the peace movement” by the Los Angeles Times, Medea has distinguished herself as an eloquent and energetic figure in the progressive movement.

Jodie Evans has been a community, social and political organizer for the last 30 years. She has used her skills, for the protection of the earth, to give voice to communities and people who go unheard and unseen, in the area of human and civil rights, to protect the rights of women, to raise the minimum wage for farm workers, to protect dolphins, in El Salvador in the early 80’s and with Zapitistas since ‘94. From 1973 to 1982, she served in administrative capacities in all of Jerry Brown’s campaigns and in his staff and cabinet as Director of Administration. Breakthroughs in wind and solar energy happened while she was overseeing the office of Appropriate Technology.

Gael Murphy serves on the executive committee of CODEPINK. She has been active in the peace and justice movement and is a member of the Board of Directors of the International Occupation Watch Center. She also serves on the steering committee member of United for Peace and Justice.

Dana Balicki is CODEPINK’s Campaign Coordinator. She has project managed the CODEPINK book **Stop the Next War Now**, coordinated work camps in New Orleans, organized countless fundraisers and events, among many other projects with CODEPINK. After much traveling she has finally settled in New York City and runs the NYC office there.

Rae Abileah is the CODEPINK local groups coordinator. She connects CODEPINK’s national campaigns with the grassroots

women’s movement for peace, and brings organizing resources to local coordinators.

Nancy Mancias is coordinating CODEPINK’s presence at the RNC. She also serves as CODEPINK cofounder Medea Benjamin’s assistant. Nancy is known for her key role in organizing actions with San Francisco’s peace activist community.

Zoë Williams is CODEPINK’s Denver coordinator for the Democratic National Convention in August 2008. She has been busy planning peaceful, creative and vibrant events during the Convention as well as writing Action Alerts and community building this summer.

Deidra Lynch is the Conventions Volunteer Coordinator for the DNC and the RNC this summer. She is co-coordinator for CODEPINK Florida and Orlando, an advocate for the homeless for over twenty years, an artist, trainer, program specialist and events planner with a passion for gardening.

Jean Stevens is the National Media Coordinator for CODEPINK. Previously a reporter for several years, she works to maintain CODEPINK’s presence in national media, helps coordinate media coverage for local groups, and develops press materials for the Web site and other media. She is based in New York City.

CODEPINK D.C. House activists include **Desiree Fairooz**, a former schoolteacher and grandmother from Texas who joined us in D.C. when she became angry with the war, and **Liz Elizabeth**, an Arizona resident who spends most of her time keeping candidates dedicated to peace, especially her own representative, Sen. John McCain. Liz serves as media coordinator in D.C., when Jean is in New York City.





CODEPINK Background

CODEPINK is a women-initiated grassroots peace and social justice movement working to end the war in Iraq, stop new wars, and redirect our energies and resources into healthcare, education and other life-affirming activities!

CODEPINK rejects fear-based politics that justify violence, and instead calls for policies based on compassion, kindness and a commitment to international law.

With an emphasis on joy and humor, CODEPINK women and men seek to activate, amplify and inspire a community of peacemakers through creative campaigns and a commitment to non-violence.

The CODEPINK Story: How it all started

On November 14, 2002, about 100 women gathered in front of the White House for a vigil, standing up for peace. Through the next four months, on each cold, somber day, they held their ground. Their vigil, led by Medea Benjamin, a longtime peace activist, Jodie Evans, a community, social and political organizer for the last 30 years, Diane Wilson, a Texan environmentalist, Starhawk, writer and ecofeminist, inspired people from all walks of life, and from all over the country to stand for the same message. Many organizations joined them, including Greenpeace, WILPF, WAND, Public Citizen, National Organization of Women, Women for Women International and Neighbors for Peace and Justice.

The vigil culminated on March 8, International Women's Day, when we celebrated women as global peacemakers with a week of activities, rallies and a march to encircle the White House in pink. More than 10,000 people participated, and a group of 25 women, including acclaimed author Alice Walker, poets Maxine Hong Kingston and Susan Griffin, Starhawk, Evans and Benjamin, were arrested for taking our peaceful protest right up to the White House gate.

Since then CODEPINK has become a worldwide network of women and men committed to working for peace and

social justice. We have become famous for confronting the warmongers, whether in the halls of Congress, the national conventions of both the Republicans and Democrats, George Bush's fundraisers, Donald Rumsfeld and Nancy Pelosi's house. We have supported countless women in their courageous fight to mobilize and bring peace to the forefront of their communities. Today, there are more than 250 local CODEPINK groups in the U.S. and around the world!

We've also built global ties. We sent our own peacemaking delegations to Iran in 2005, attended the international war tribunal in Turkey and Britain's Stop the War assembly, and participated in the World Social Forum in 2005 in Brazil. CODEPINK is one of the only international groups getting aid to the war-terrorized people of Iraq. We delivered over \$600,000 in humanitarian aid to Iraqi civilians after the destruction of Fallujah.

» In 2007, we led a 15-person delegation to Guantanamo to call for the closing of the infamous prison. We mobilized members for the United for Peace & Justice March and Lobby Day in Washington DC, kicked off with a Women's Convergence featuring Jane Fonda, Sean Penn, Eve Ensler and 3,000 of our closest friends! We coordinated a series

of actions around the country, including Congressional Phone-a-thons, bi-coastal “Camp Pelosi”, a national Bird-Dog Hillary campaign, and more. We traveled to Pakistan to support an ongoing presence of U.S. human rights observers. Last year we also set up a headquarters in D.C., a rented “Pink House” blocks from the Capitol Hill, allowing CodePinkers nationwide to be a daily presence in the Halls of Congress. The house has been the subject of dozens of articles, news broadcasts and documentaries around the world. It is also home to summer activist training camps.

- » In 2008, we hosted “Kiss Ins” for peace on Valentine’s Day at military recruiting centers across the country. We convinced 41 mayors to sign on to the “Mayors For Peace” resolution, which asks Congress to prohibit the use of funds to carry out military action against Iran without explicit Congressional authorization. We are currently working to pressure Congress to withdraw House Resolution 362, which calls for sanctions on Iran and a naval blockade of its ports, with many creative teach-ins and actions, including the staging of a pink “peace blockade” around the Washington, D.C. houseboat of Congressman Gary Ackerman.
- » At the Democratic and Republican National Conventions this year, we also plan to launch the beginning of our newest campaign, “War Is Not Green,” which encourages Americans who support peace and sustainability to fight war; the U.S. military is the single largest consumer of oil in the world and the world’s larger polluter, generating 750,000 tons of toxic waste annually. It maintains over 700 bases worldwide, contaminating local communities and causing increased rates of cancer, kidney disease, birth defects and miscarriages.



- » Familiarize yourself with the full herstory of CODEPINK by visiting our About Us section:
<http://www.codepinkalert.org/aboutus>
- » Check out past campaigns by year:
<http://www.codepinkalert.org/pastcampaigns>
- » Download our glossy brochure of achievements and goals from December 2007:
http://www.codepinkalert.org/downloads/Annual_Letter_07.pdf

CODEPINK FAQs



What is CODEPINK?

CODEPINK is a women-led and women-initiated grassroots peace and social justice movement dedicated to stopping the war in Iraq, preventing future wars and redirecting our country's resources into life-affirming activities: education, health care, veteran's benefits and social services. CODEPINK emerged out of a

desperate desire by a group of American women to stop the Bush administration from invading Iraq. We have given "PINK slips" to poor leaders, PINK badges of courage to good ones—we hold vigils and marches to pressure Congress. We now have over 250 local CODEPINK groups throughout the US and overseas, and a supporter list of more than 200,000 people.

What does the name mean?

The name CODEPINK plays on the Bush Administration's color-coded homeland security alerts — yellow, orange, red — that signal terrorist threats. While Bush's color-coded alerts are based on fear and are used to justify violence, the CODEPINK alert is a feisty call for women and men to "wage peace."

Who is a CODEPINK Member?

We do not ask for dues, nor do we have an official induction or secret handshakes to learn. We don't require official affiliation to speak, act, or protest with CODEPINK. Though initiated by women and composed primarily of women, CODEPINK does not discriminate on the basis of gender, sex, ethnicity, age, religion, or social-economic status.

People who:

- » are committed to creative protest against militarism and injustice are CODEPINK.
- » want to influence a shift in the focus of world society and governments from militarism to life-affirming endeavors are CODEPINK.

- » are not ashamed to wear a big pink button, and thereby encourage conversation are CODEPINK.
- » are not afraid to be unreasonable or to be called un-patriotic in the name of peace and social justice are CODEPINK.
- » realize that you must be the change you want to see in this world are CODEPINK.

Can men join CODEPINK?

Yes! There are many men in CODEPINK who are supportive and respectful of women taking on leadership roles.

What does "Stop the Next War Now" mean?

CODEPINK started with the intention of stopping the invasion of Iraq before it started, but during our visit to Iraq, it became clear that war was imminent. Now, we are dedicated to creating a movement that is capable of stopping the next war, whether it is in Iran or anywhere else. We seek to educate ourselves, expose the truth to the public and create a culture of peace and compassion before we are saddled with another expensive, unjust war.

Is CODEPINK a feminist organization?

CODEPINK is a women-led organization that seeks to empower women politically, creating space for women to speak out for justice and peace in their communities, the media and the halls of Congress. As an organization, we embrace many feminist values but we do not self-identify as feminist, though many members self-identify as such. Furthermore, women are not better or purer or more innately nurturing than men, but men have busied themselves making war — so we are taking the lead for peace.

How are donations used?

Our program funding mostly comes from individual donors. CODEPINK National is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. Each contribution helps us get the anti-war message out by unfurling pink slips, organizing marches to end the war in DC, collecting humanitarian aid for innocent civilians in Iraq, rebuilding New Orleans, and working for peace.

How do local CODEPINK chapters form?

Interested individuals sign up to be a local coordinator on our website and access our online organizing tools to inspire their communities into becoming peace activists.

How many local chapters are there?

- » There are more than 200 local chapters nationwide and around the world, including Australia, Brazil, England, Japan, Canada, Liberia, Pakistan, Fiji, Bangladesh, Germany, New Zealand and Cameroon. See the complete list here: www.codepinkalert.org/groups.php
- » Sixty local chapters have their own web presence.

What do local chapters do?

- » Local chapters create their own actions—inspired by a variety of campaign ideas, tools and conversations offered by the CODEPINK National group—to help end war and create peace nonviolently. Their upcoming activities are listed on our calendar: www.codepinkalert.org/calendar.
- » Between July 07–08, local chapters listed more than 200 actions with photos, stories, YouTube videos, and media links here: www.codepinkalert.org/spotlight.

How are local chapters and individual members involved in the DNC and RNC?

By August 1, more than 200 CODEPINK members nationwide had registered to attend the conventions, with more sign-ups coming each week. Local groups are busy preparing for the country's biggest parties by throwing their own Peace Room house parties or art parties to build props, galvanize their communities in local actions, and plan for an incredible two weeks of celebrating and spreading the message of peace alongside thousands of Americans!

CODEPINK D.C. Activist House

- » CODEPINK activists and allies are welcome to stay our very own house in Washington, D.C., which opened in March 2007. By staying at the house, activists can easily attend Congressional hearings and other sessions on the Hill, as well as participate in actions, marches and other events to help stop the war and prevent future wars.

What are your current campaigns?

- » **PeaceRoom2008:** initiated by CODEPINK's 501(c)(4) issue advocacy organization, CODEPINK Action Fund to include:
 - **Busting McCain:** to tell the truth about what John McCain is really selling (endless war, occupation, military spending, and conflict), and pressure McCain to move in the direction of diplomacy and de-escalation instead

of continued war and escalated international violence.

- **Moving Obama:** to push Obama to move into becoming a true peace candidate, to end the war, and to be worthy of his movement for real change in the White House.
- **Give Peace a Vote:** Encouraging people to pledge their vote for peace candidates, making visible a powerful political force that politicians cannot ignore.

» CODEPINK National campaigns:

- **Don't Iraq Iran:** dedicated to preventing war with Iran.
- **War Is Not Green:** devoted to awareness-raising about the damaging effects of war on the environment, and promoting sustainable, life-fulfilling war-alternatives.
- **Counter-Recruitment:** supporting war resisters and raising awareness about military sexual trauma suffered by women in the military.
- **Women Say NO to War:** raising awareness about the plight of Iraqi women, children and refugees, and creating actions to support peace in countries around the world.

How many websites does CODEPINK have?

CODEPINK has two main award-winning websites and several special campaign microsites:

- » **www.codepinkalert.org:** for CODEPINK national campaigns and local groups resources.
- » **www.codepinkaction.org:** for Congressional pressure and elections-related work.

CODEPINK won the 2008 Progressive Source Awards Judges' Choice for "Best Microsite" in 2008, and in 2007, we won their "Best Homepage" award.

What does the CODEPINK Store offer?

Supporters can order CODEPINK yoga pants, t-shirts, hats, and more at the online store, www.codepinkalert.org/catalog/. The mission of the store is two-fold: to support sustainable and socially responsibly products, services and businesses and to promote the idea of creating and living in a peaceful world. All proceeds support our causes. We also sell delicious fair-trade, organic coffee, grown and harvested through Las Hermanas, a women-initiated project of the Soppexcca Cooperative of Nicaragua, and roasted by the artisan coffee roaster the Thanksgiving Coffee Company. The company was recently profiled in the August issue of "O: The Oprah Magazine"!

CODEPINK In the News

Since CODEPINK began in 2002, it has been a media sensation. Outlets including Fox News, The Associated Press, The Washington Post, Huffington Post, Salon.com, The New York Times, Pacifica Radio and many more have covered CODEPINK demonstrations, meetings and Congressional press conferences, interviewed members, spent time in the D.C. house, and have generally expressed interest in CODEPINK's activities and members. It has been mentioned in hundreds of blogs, and maintains an active presence on YouTube, MySpace and Facebook. It plans to launch its own online media community space by the end of August. For more about CODEPINK's presence in the media, visit <http://codepinkalert.org/section.php?id=29>.

Protestors block Rep. Ackerman's houseboat

By Janie Lorber, Newsday, July 9, 2008

WASHINGTON - Rep. Gary Ackerman might be the only member of Congress who really knows what a naval blockade feels like -- thanks to peace activists who early yesterday morning gathered around his Potomac River houseboat with a naval blockade of their own. It wasn't much, a mini-flotilla of three canoes and an inflatable raft -- not even enough to surround Ackerman's aquatic home. But the 15 activists from Code Pink wanted to encourage Ackerman (D-Jamaica Estates) to tone down his rhetoric against Iran. After enduring nearly 30 minutes of sirens, whistles, drumbeats and megaphone chanting, Ackerman—wearing his trademark carnation in his lapel and a floral tie—emerged with a kiss and a hug for the ringleader. But he said he would go ahead with a resolution calling for stiffer sanctions against Iran. Code Pink wants Ackerman to withdraw the legislation because it believes it symbolizes the first step on a path to war. The group wants direct talks with Iran's government instead.

"This House resolution—they claim that it's a diplomatic measure and we say its not. It's a very provocative measure," said Desiree Fairouz, who received national attention for trying to smear fake blood on Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice during a congressional hearing last year. Ackerman, whose district covers part of Nassau County, said he would be willing to meet with any Iranian government official without pre-conditions, including President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, but would not retreat from his legislation.

"This is not an embargo," Ackerman told the protestors. "We're not calling for a blockade. It is basically what the UN is doing. The UN has imposed sanctions on Iran."

The legislation asks President George W. Bush to "increase economic, political and diplomatic pressure on Iran." But

as a nonbinding resolution, it will never be presented to the president for signature and does not have the force of law.



www.newsday.com/news/local/ny-liack0710,0,6993692.story

Protests link Bush to McCain, urge end to war

By Lindsay Collom and Senta Scarborough,
The Arizona Republic, May 28, 2008

Was that George Bush in women's lingerie? Protest rallies in Phoenix took a turn for the dramatic Tuesday, as crowds used street theater to punctuate anti-war messages.

Activists mocked a man wearing a Bush mask as members of Code Pink, a non-profit women's peace group, wrangled a lacy pink slip over his business suit.

"If I did my job as poorly as this man did his job, I would be fired in a minute," Lisa Blank of Code Pink told a gathering of about 300 people at Cesar Chavez Memorial Plaza in central Phoenix. "George Bush, you are terminated."

It was one of several demonstrations in Phoenix and Mesa on Tuesday. Activists at both events called for an end to Operation Iraqi Freedom, increased support for troops abroad and at home, and warnings that a McCain presidency would only carry on the Bush administration. Among their messages: "Drop Bush, not bombs." "John McCain is living proof George Bush has been cloned." "McCain, (you're) not Moses. We don't want to wander in the desert for 40 years." The first rally was held about 3 p.m. outside the Silverado Cable Co. in Mesa, where Bush toured the factory and spoke about the economy.

Art Sheikh, 42, of Mesa, said he attended to make his opinion



I want to reclaim what was taken away from our country under the GOP leadership—compassion, democracy, truth, equality—these are principles which have been stripped away.”

—Nancy Mancias, CODEPINK San Francisco

known. “We have had enough,” Sheikh said. “It was enough four years ago. ... We are not getting any better, we are getting worse.” But Jeff Miller and his wife brought their four boys to the event to teach them that, above all, the president deserves respect.

“I wanted to bring them to show a little bit of support (for Bush),” Miller said.

A number of protesters from the Mesa rally took their message to the 5 p.m. demonstration at Cesar Chavez Memorial Plaza. Meanwhile, representatives from the AFL-CIO in Arizona and the Alliance for Retired Americans held a protest outside the Phoenix Convention Center to condemn what they described as a McCain-Bush agenda to privatize Social Security. Group

officials said the plan would undermine retirement security for Arizona seniors by exposing workers’ retirement to a risky market and reducing Social Security payouts.

The convention center was originally slated to be the site for a McCain fundraiser, but organizers changed the venue to a private residence in the Biltmore area. Peace activist Virginia Hauflaire said the move felt like a victory even if demonstrators’ turnout Tuesday was less than expected. She and other Code Pink members left the central Phoenix protest to camp out on the corner of Camelback Road and 24th Street near the evening fundraiser. “We think we won,” Hauflaire said.



www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/28/20080528protest0528.html

CODEPINK In the News continued...

Caught Between Two Worlds: Being a Woman and a CodePink Peace Activist, By Jonna Knappenberger,

Kansas City News, March 23, 2008

On any given night, around dinner time, a woman in a pink apron in a cozy kitchen northeast of the Capitol is cooking dinner and thinking about war. On Thursday that woman was Desiree Fairouz, 51, a former librarian from Arlington, Texas, who moved to Washington to lobby Jonna Knappenberger against the Iraq war. In large black letters, her apron reads, "Clean up the House. Don't buy war." The small row house is rented by CodePink, a national women's peace organization, with more than 250 chapters nationwide. After dinner, sometimes into the wee hours of the morning, a group brainstorms for clever protest themes.

Though they accept male members, CodePink defines itself with femininity. Members often dress for protests in gowns and feather boas. These ladies find themselves at the intersection of the women's movement and the anti-war effort.

The organization was founded in November 2002 by about 100 women at a four-month vigil outside the White House. Last year, CodePink moved into the house on 5th Street NE. The activists of CodePink repeatedly attract the attention of the news media for their witty and gutsy tactics. For example, in October, Fairouz confronted Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice at a congressional hearing. Fairouz put red paint on her hands and yelled, "The blood of millions of Iraqis is on your hands, Condoleezza Rice."

She was arrested—as were five other CodePink women. Fairouz was charged with assault of a police officer and disorderly conduct, and was required to stay away from the Rayburn House Office Building. The disorderly conduct charge is still pending; the other was dropped. "It was luck. It happened really fast," Fairouz said. "There were no Secret Service agents right in front of me. When you watch it now, it sounds like I'm shouting it, but I feel like I just said it."

At a White House press briefing that day, Press Secretary Dana Perino called Fairouz's actions "despicable," and said, "Unfortunately, it seems that increasingly Congress is being run by CodePink."

The women back at the house would disagree. Carol Marsh, 66, visiting from Missoula, Mont., asked every senator to read Naomi Wolf's book, "The End of America." Marsh, a retired editor from a newspaper in Yakima, Wash., said she met first with Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., in October to give him the book. "He said his mother actually gave it to him ... and told him to read it," Marsh said. She blogged about the meeting. Within an hour, she got a message from the book's publisher offering as many copies as she wanted. "I said, 'Great! I'll take 100 and I'll give them to the entire Senate,'" Marsh said.

Members pride themselves on their sense of humor. Marsh and other CodePink members sent a press release out under the name of Blackwater, a contractor for the U.S. military. The release said the contractor was creating a "department of corporate ethics" and listed the CodePink phone number as the contact. Within five minutes, Marsh said, confused Blackwater workers were on the phone.

"ABC called and scheduled an interview for the morning shows, but that fell through over the next couple of hours," Marsh said. Many CodePink women are mothers and wives. The organization embraces the feminine identity associated with the color pink and uses it as a platform for a message of peace. "In the hindbrain of anyone who listens to us, we're momma," said Eileen Coles, 45 of New York who came to Washington for Wednesday's protest of the fifth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. "Somewhere in their head they're hearing their mother say, 'You're doing wrong. You're being bad. Cut it out.' We are the creators of life, and we have that power."

Other members have a different perspective. "It's violating gender stereotypes," said Sarah Begus, 65, a CodePink member and retired political theory professor from Baltimore, who wore a pink gown and beads at Wednesday's demonstration. "Never in my life have I worn pink because I'm against gender stereotypes. But CodePink takes that and turns it on its head. It takes pink, which has always been a froufrou, passive, female color and makes it into something outrageous, something assertive."

Begus said the group's super-feminine props have kept protest fun and uplifting through the last five "depressing" years.



I am going [to the party conventions] because I want to stand for the politics of caring—the politics of the people. The politics that I will illuminate and glorify are those that would not wage an unjust war and occupy an innocent country—they would instead use that money for healthcare for all our country's citizens and to make sure education is fully funded to nourish young minds about the possibility of democracy."

—Jodie Evans, CODEPINK Cofounder

While it may seem natural for these political activists to take sides in the Democratic race for the presidential nomination, as a non-profit group, CodePink does not endorse candidates. The group targets both liberal and conservative lawmakers based on their war records.

"I'm a feminist for Obama because Hillary Clinton has betrayed the feminist movement by supporting the war. She's just a careerist," Begus said.

Fairooz said the group counts four California Democrats among its strongest supporters - Reps. Barbara Lee, Maxine Waters, Diane Watson and Lynn Woolsey.

Men who join CodePink tend to become followers instead of leaders. Tighe Barry, 51, a prop designer from Santa Monica, Calif., is a regular helper in the basement of the house, where

costumes and props, including oversized papier-mâché heads of administration officials are made and stored.

Though many members have families back home, they risk arrest, showing the high priority they give to ending the war in Iraq. After five jail stays, Fairooz plans to file a complaint with the American Civil Liberties Union about her treatment by U.S. Capitol Police.

"I'll file it," she said, as she turned back to the sink, "when the house is clean and there are not quite as many people here." Scripps Howard News Service intern Thalia I. Longoria also contributed to this story.



www.infozine.com/news/stories/op/storiesView/sid/27609/



For more CODEPINK news clips, please visit our press room: www.codepinkalert.org/pressroom

CODEPINK Fact Sheet

War in Iraq: a brief timeline

Source: The New York Times

- » **Jan 29, 2002:** President Bush names Iraq as part of “axis of evil” in his State of the Union address
- » **April 27, 2002:** Administration plans for an invasion using 70,000-250,000 troops
- » **Oct 11, 2002:** Senate votes 77-23 to authorize the use of force against Iraq.
- » **Nov 8, 2002:** Facing pressure from the U.S., the U.N. Security Council approves Resolution 1441: Iraq must disarm or face consequences
- » **Jan 18, 2003:** Anti-war demonstration in D.C.
- » **March 19, 2003:** Combat starts.
- » **April 16, 2003:** Bush signs \$79 billion wartime supplemental (U.S. DoD, 4/16/03)
- » **May 1, 2003:** Bush declares “Mission Accomplished”
- » **May 22, 2003:** U.N. votes to end sanctions against Iraq and gives the U.S. an international mandate to occupy/rebuild the country
- » **Sept 8, 2003:** Cost of war reaches \$166 billion
- » **Nov 6, 2003:** Bush requests \$87 billion supplemental (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/11/20031106-4.html>)
- » **April 28, 2004:** Abu Ghraib abuses revealed
- » **May 20, 2004:** House approves \$447 billion military spending including \$25 billion for Iraq/Afghanistan operations through 2005
- » **June 28, 2004:** U.S. authorities give formal sovereignty to Iraqi leaders
- » **Sept 7, 2004:** U.S. troop death toll = 1,000
- » **Sept 16, 2004:** U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan declares Iraq war illegal (BBC, 9/16/04)
- » **Dec 21, 2004:** 18 U.S. troops killed
- » **Jan 30, 2005:** “First free election” in 50 years; around 8 million vote
- » **July 13, 2005:** Iraqi civilian death rate = over 800/month, 8,175 Iraqis killed between August to May
- » **Oct 26, 2005:** U.S. troop death toll = 2,000
- » **Oct 29, 2005:** U.S. estimates Iraqi civilian death toll = over 25,000
- » **Dec 15, 2005:** First Parliamentary Election
- » **March 13, 2006:** Rumsfeld’s resignation called for by retired generals
- » **July 18, 2006:** The daily average for civilian deaths reaches 100
- » **Sept 7, 2006:** Senate votes 98-0 to approve military spending of \$63 billion for a total of almost \$470 billion
- » **Nov 5, 2006:** Saddam Hussein sentenced to death by hanging
- » **Nov 8, 2006:** Rumsfeld resigns
- » **Dec 30, 2006:** Saddam Hussein hanged
- » **Dec 31, 2006:** American death toll = 3000
- » **Jan 10, 2007:** Bush plans to deploy 20,000 more troops
- » **Jan 31, 2007:** Report reveals that electrical output and oil production are below prewar levels despite spending \$108 billion on reconstruction
- » **Feb 14, 2007:** Bush blames Iran for undermining security in Iraq
- » **May 24, 2007:** Congress votes to spend \$100 billion more in Iraq to pay for operations through September but does not create a timetable for withdrawing
- » **July 12, 2007:** House passes bill to withdraw troops by April. The House today voted 223 to 201 to withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq by April 1, 2008, despite a veto threat from President Bush. (MSNBC, 7/12/07)
- » **July 25, 2007:** House bans permanent bases in Iraq.
- » **Sept 16, 2007:** Blackwater guards kill 17 civilians
- » **Oct 22, 2007:** Bush requests \$46 billion more for Iraq and Afghanistan, bringing the total to \$196 billion
- » **Feb 29, 2008:** John McCain expresses interest in maintaining a U.S. military presence in Iraq indefinitely (Denver Post, 2/29/08)
- » **March 16, 2008:** Millions of people in Iraq are still deprived of clean water and medical care
- » **March 23, 2008:** American death toll reaches 4,000
- » **April 8, 2008:** General Petraeus requests that Congress halt withdrawal of U.S. troops, leaving 140,000 in Iraq
- » **June 12, 2008:** It is projected that costs of the Iraq war might come to \$2.7 trillion
- » **July 8, 2008:** Iraq refuses security deals without a date for the withdrawal of foreign troops (BBC, 7/8/08)
- » **July 14, 2008:** Sen. Barack Obama calls for a timeline for withdrawal from Iraq.

Costs of War

Source: The Huffington Post

- » **4,119:** American troops who have died in Iraq since the start of the war. (icasualties.org, 7/14/08)
- » **30,182:** Number of U.S. service members that have been wounded in hostile action since the start of U.S. military operations in Iraq. (http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/iraq_casualties.htm)
- » **5:** Number of times the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment has been sent to Iraq. They are the first Marine Corps unit to be sent to Iraq for a fifth time. (San Francisco Chronicle, 2/27/08)
- » **2,100:** Number of troops who tried to commit suicide or injure themselves, increased from 350 in 2002 to 2,100 last year. (US News and World Report, 2/25/08)
- » **5,188:** Number of global terrorist incidents in from January- September 11th, 2006 (up from 1,188 from Jan-Sept 2001). (American Security Project, "Are We Winning?," September 2007)
- » **30:** Percent increase in violence in Afghanistan from 2006 to 2007. (Reuters, 10/15/07)
- » **68:** percent of Americans opposed to the War in Iraq (<http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/05/01/bush.poll/>)
- » **\$720 million:** Cost of war per day (or \$500,000 a minute) (Washington Post, 9/21/07)
- » **\$12 Billion:** Direct cost per month of the Iraq War. (Washington Post, Bilmes and Stiglitz Op-Ed, 3/9/08)
- » **\$50-60 Billion:** Bush Administration's pre-war estimates of the cost of the war. (New York Times, 12/31/02)
- » **\$526 Billion:** Amount of money already appropriated by Congress for the War in Iraq. (CRS, 2/22/08)
- » **\$3 Trillion:** Total estimated cost of the Iraq War. (Washington Post, Bilmes and Stiglitz Op-Ed, 3/9/08)
- » **\$5 Trillion - \$7 Trillion:** Total cost of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan accounting for continued military operations, growing debt and interest payments and continuing health care and counseling costs for veterans. (McClatchy, 2/27/08)
- » **85,966-93,778:** Estimate of Iraqi civilians casualties from violence since the beginning of the Iraq War. (Iraq Body Count)
- » **4.5 Million:** Number of Iraqi refugees both inside and outside the country. (Washington Post, 3/17/08)
- » **12,000:** Target for number of Iraqi refugees admitted into U.S. by September 2008 (AP Report, 7/1/2008)
- » **40,000:** Number of Iraqi refugees admitted into Sweden since 2003 (AP Report, 7/1/2008)
- » **61:** Percent of Iraqis that believe the U.S. military presence makes the security situation in Iraq worse. (Agence France-Presse, 3/17/08)
- » **127:** Number of journalists killed in Iraq since March 2003. (Committee to Protect Journalists)
- » **\$145:** Cost of a barrel of oil on July 14, 2008 (up from \$33.51 in March 2003). (<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/12400801/>)
- » **132,000:** Number of U.S. troops in Iraq in January 2007, before President Bush's escalation. (Brookings Institution, Iraq Index, 3/13/08)
- » **155,000:** Number of U.S. troops currently in Iraq. (Brookings Institution, Iraq Index, 3/13/08)
- » **35,000:** Number of private security contractors operating in Iraq. (Human Rights First, Private Security Contractors at War)
- » **180,000:** Number of private contractors operating in Iraq. (Human Rights First, Private Security Contractors at War)
- » **8:** Number of times a majority of the Senate has voted to change course in Iraq. (Huffington Post, 3/19/08)
- » **7:** Number of times Bush Republicans in Congress have blocked changing course in Iraq. (Huffington Post, 3/19/08)



“

On my rolltop desk I keep a photo of my nephew and his bride. She's wearing a long satin white dress with a red sash, and he's wearing his Marine lieutenant dress uniform. I'm going to represent them [at the conventions] and say: bring the troops home from Iraq and take care of them once they return! On my other desk near my laptop, I keep a laminated photo of an Iranian girl of about 11, taken by my friend Leslie Angeline. I'm going to represent both of them and say: No War on Iran!”

—Janet Weil, Local Group Resource Diva