



Bellingham GI Sanctuary City

November 2008

Contact Us:

Check out our website at:
www.sanctuary-city.org

Email us at:
sanctuary.city@gmail.com

Who We Are:

We are a group dedicated to nonviolent improvement of our community (locally and globally) by providing a sanctuary for members of the US military that are resisting war. By creating legal and social framework to support these military members, we hope to make Bellingham into the first war resister sanctuary city in the United States. Through community outreach and public forums, we hope to engage the public in this critical discussion. Let's work together to make sanctuary a reality.

What will sanctuary look like and mean for Bellingham?

We hope to engage the city council in a community dialog about the implications of our wars in the Middle East, and their effects on our troops and our community.

We do not expect droves of AWOL soldiers to flock to Bellingham to seek Sanctuary. Instead we envision a community equipped to better assist members of the military who are classified as

AWOL and *all* veterans to receive the rights they are entitled too. Resources that will help funding for legal, medical and housing needs are in the process of being assembled as we help AWOL soldiers in their struggle.

This is a critical community dialog. Desertions rate have increased by 80% since the occupation began. Over 4,177 United States soldiers have lost

their lives because of the occupation. Our economy is in freefall with 1.5 billion dollars being spent every week for the War in Iraq. Passing an ordinance of this nature will make Bellingham a community for peace, extending previous resolutions such as the Troops Home Resolution. Bellingham does not support these wars and is willing to support those soldiers who don't.

Upcoming Events: Check Them Out!

Resisting Empire: A Soldier of Conscience

November 6, 7:00pm
VU Multipurpose Room
Featuring Camilo Mejia, former staff sergeant who served 6 months in Iraq and refused to return, and author of *Road from ar Ramadi: The Private Rebellion of Staff Sergeant Camilo Mejia*

Soldiers Experiences After War

November 13, 7:00pm,
WWU's Communications Facility, Rm. 115

Join a discussion with local veterans and those directly affected by the Iraq war, as

they share stories of what it means to return after wartime. The community is invited to participate in this unbiased, depoliticized discussion.

The Desserter: A Benefit

November 14th, 7:00pm
Whatcom Peace & Justice Center

Join the Bellingham GI Sanctuary City Campaign as we celebrate an evening to benefit war resisters in Bellingham, with dessert, live music, dancing and more! Join us for an evening of celebration and conversation. \$5-20 dollars sliding scale, no one turned away.



How you can help?

Come join our discussion, as we engage the community in dialog about the rights of all veterans and military members.

-Attend a Weekly planning and organizing committee meeting. Monday's 7:00 P.M. Contact for location (sanctuary.city@gmail.com)

-sign our petition or go to our website (www.sanctuary-city.org/) and download information and petition sheets

-Get involved at one of the community events coming soon (see upcoming events schedule).

Courage To Resist - www.couragetoresist.org
Iraq Veterans Against the War - www.ivaw.org
Veterans For Peace - www.vfp.org
Vietnam Veterans Against the War - www.vvaw.org
Military Families Speak Out - www.mfso.org
Guerrero Azteca - www.guerreroazteca.org
Citizen Soldier - www.citizen-soldier.org
Different Drummer Internet Café - www.differentdrummercafe.org
Ehren Watada support campaign - www.thankyoult.org
Catholic Worker/Jonah House - <http://www.jonahhouse.org/refuse.htm>
GI Rights Hotline - www.girightshotline.org
Military Law Task Force (NLG) - <http://www.nlgmltf.org>
GI Special - <http://www.williambowles.info/gispecial/2006/index.html>
Soldier Say No / Project Safe Haven - www.soldiersayno.blogspot.com

In Canada: War Resisters Support Campaign - www.resisters.ca

Remember Robin Long?



Robin Long was the first Iraq War resister that the Canadian government carried out a deportation in July. Robin Long is now serving a 15-month sentence in a military prison. He

was housed overnight in Whatcom County Jail, in downtown Bellingham, where 60 supporters of Sanctuary gathered in a vigil to show our support to Robin. For more information check out Gerry Condon's (of Project SafeHaven) article "The Extraordinary Rendition of Robin Long" at <http://www.soldiersayno.blogspot.com/>

Or to send Robin letters of support, write

to robinlong@couragetoresist.org, they will print out your letters and mail them to Robin. Or to send letters directly to him, express that you want to be on his approved mailing list in your email and you will be added.

"I feel as if I were a paw, a gift from one regime to another (Harper to Bush)."

- Robin Long, September 21, 2008