

Christian Peacemaker Teams

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SHINE THE LIGHT: JUSTICE FOR IRAQI DETAINEES

Photo below, for more photos and other materials, please consult our website
www.cpt.org/iraq/shinethelight.php

TORONTO, CANADA - Earlier this evening, several hundred members and supporters of Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) paraded through central Toronto to the U.S. Consulate, calling for an end to the U.S. led occupation of Iraq. Five people dressed in orange jumpsuits and wearing black hoods, representing the 16,000 Iraqis illegally detained, led the procession. Participants carried photos of Iraqi detainees and of the four members of CPT who went missing in Baghdad two months ago.

This was the last of fourteen daily processions to the U.S. Consulate in Toronto, and was part of CPT's "Shine the Light" campaign, which included events throughout the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

In Washington, D.C., daily processions began at institutions that bear key responsibility for the war in Iraq such as the Pentagon and the C.I.A., and ended at the White House.

"We are continuing the work that James Loney and our other missing colleagues were doing," commented CPT Canada Coordinator Rebecca Johnson. "They would want us to continue calling for an end to the occupation and to the abuse of Iraqi detainees, even as we wait for their safe return." The "Shine the Light" campaign connects the disappearance of the four CPTers to the suffering of ordinary Iraqis.

Since 2003, CPT has documented over a hundred cases of detainee abuse. This work was partially responsible for the 2004 disclosure of the abuses committed by U.S. soldiers in Abu Ghraib prison. Journalist Seymour Hersch, who first reported the Abu Ghraib abuse scandal to the mainstream media, has referred to the work of CPT's Iraq team as "cutting edge." CPT has been present in Iraq since October 2002, providing first-hand, independent reports from the region, advocating on behalf of detainees and their families and training others in nonviolent intervention and human rights documentation.

We in CPT and the families of Jim, Norman, Tom and Harmeet acutely feel their absence. We know that thousands of Iraqi families share our grief and yearning as they wait for loved ones caught in a prison system over which they have no control. We also know that the world cares less about their fate than it does about westerners, and for this we are truly sorry.

Shine The Light, US Consulate, Toronto

