

t
truthout

Cindy Sheehan one mother's stand



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"The president says he feels compassion for me, but the best way to show that compassion is by meeting with me and the other mothers and families who are here," Sheehan said. "Our sons made the ultimate sacrifice and we want answers. All we're asking is that he sacrifice an hour out of his five-week vacation to talk to us, before the next mother loses her son in Iraq."

-- Cindy Sheehan, Camp Casey, Crawford, Texas

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issues

truthout | One Mother's Stand

By Scott Galindez

Saturday 13 August 2005

2:00 PM

About 500 supporters of Cindy Sheehan held a rally at a park adjacent to the Crawford football stadium. It's August in Texas and it was hot but the crowd poured out its support for Cindy and other military veterans of Iraq, Vietnam and Korea as they stepped to the microphone, calling to for an end to 'this war based on lies.' The event was peaceful and orderly ending without incident. Sheehan's supporters are caravanning their way back to Camp Casey.

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environment

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VIDEO REPORTS



3.motorcade.081205.grab



truthout | Bush

Motorcade

08.12.05

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t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By Scott Galindez

Saturday 13 August 2005

10:13 AM

I decided to stop at the Peace House, which has shuttles to both the camp and the stadium for the rally. It's like Grand Central Station here. People coming and people going. Inside it there is a buzz similar to a campaign office. Phones ringing, people meeting in small groups. It reminds me of election day at a grassroots campaign headquarters.

I'm going to head to the rally site now and get set up to film it. We will get footage online from the rally in the next couple of days

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By Scott Galindez

Saturday 13 August 2005

8:34 AM

Today will be a big day at Camp Casey. We are expecting hundreds to join Cindy in this remote location in central Texas. I plan to make short trip to the camp and give a quick report on what is happening there and then head to the rally location to get a good spot for filming.

I just saw a CNN report that said Cindy was taking a break. Nothing is further from the truth, she comes to the Peace House for short breaks but is spending most of the day at the camp. After the rainstorm on Wednesday, Cindy had a fever and spent one night in a bed and breakfast but she was back at the encampment the next night. I would like to see Wolf Blitzer spend half the time at the camp that Cindy has.



t r u t h o u t | Press Conference

08.11.05

QuickTime

DSL | 56K

Windows Media

DSL | 56K

RealMedia

DSL | 56K



t r u t h o u t | Tammara

Rosenleaf

08.11.05

QuickTime

I'm off to Camp Casey

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By Scott Galindez

Friday 12 August 2005

9:45 PM

The last couple of hours were amazing. The soldier from Fort Hood who is being deployed to Iraq met with Cindy at the Peace House. Cindy told him that she was doing this for him and the other troops. He responded by telling that we need more people like her. The 35 year old soldier doesn't believe in this war and described Iraq as a 360 degree killing zone. This young man knows the history of the region, so he knows this an unnecessary, un-winnable war. The group talking to the soldier included Ray McGovern, and Medea Benjamin who offered to tie him to the chair so he wouldn't have to go to Iraq.

While this was happening back at the camp a busload of counter demonstrators visited the camp and laid flags in front of the crosses. The camp sang America the Beautiful as the counter demonstrators chanted "we don't care." One of the counter demonstrators showed his humanity and while visibly shaking, asked a military family member for hug. They only stayed for a short time and then got back on their bus and went home to Irving.

People are still arriving here in Crawford, preparations are under way for tomorrow's rally which is at the high school football stadium in town at 12 noon. After the rally there will be a caravan back to Camp Casey.

Back at the Peace house there is buzz in the air. The phones are ringing off the hook and messages of support are coming in from all over the country ... Corretta Scott King, Rosa Parks, Barbara Lee and others have made statements of support. Cindy has awakened a movement in the country, one that George w. Bush can no longer ignore.

DSL | 56K
Windows Media
DSL | 56K
RealMedia
DSL | 56K



**t r u t h o u t | Reverend
Johnson
08.11.05
QuickTime
DSL | 56K
Windows Media
DSL | 56K
RealMedia
DSL | 56K**

I am worn down from the sun and am going to get some rest now to prepare for what should be an exciting day.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By Scott Galindez

Friday 12 August 2005

7:27 PM

I am roasted ... so much so that I just bought a cowboy hat and went to the Peace House to cool off. I have never had a cowboy hat in my life. The only other options were baseball caps with W on them.

I am at the House now and there is a soldier who is being deployed to Iraq in one month. He is talking about how his unit has staff shortages. He said that while he opposes this war he is not a conscientious objector. I'll talk with him now and report more later.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By Scott Galindez

Friday 12 August 2005

2:56 PM

After all of the excitement generated by the motercade there is a calm over the camp. Various groups are meeting to plan tomorrow's rally. There are also discussions under way on how to respond to counter demonstrations.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By Scott Galindez



**t r u t h o u t | Jodie
Evans**

of Code Pink

08.11.05

QuickTime

DSL | 56K

Windows Media

DSL | 56K

RealMedia

DSL | 56K



Friday 12 August 2005
1:30 PM

At 1:25 the motorcade returned from the fundraiser and the crowd chanted "Meet with Cindy!"

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand
By Scott Galindez

Friday 12 August 2005
11:30 AM

Bush's motorcade went directly past us at 11:15, the crowd chanted peacefully.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand
By Scott Galindez

Friday 12 August 2005
10:55 AM

The Bush motercade is expected to pass Camp Casey at noon. The secret service is securing the area. All is calm and everyone is cooperating with the police to make sure that there is no conflict.

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Cindy Sheehan Controlled by Far Left Elements
News Hounds

**t r u t h o u t | One
Mother's Stand**
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2 sons lost: Cindy Sheehan with Bill Mitchell at a Crawford, Texas, vigil. Both have lost sons in the fighting in Iraq. (Photo: Jason Reed / Reuters)

Wednesday 10 August 2005

Cindy Sheehan decided not to appear on The Factor tonight so Bill O'Reilly predictably attacked her again. This time, he painted Sheehan as a victim of "far left elements" who are exploiting her for their own purposes. O'Reilly announced with a sneer that Cindy claimed that she would not appear on his show because he had lied about her last night.

Acting as if that was a ridiculous notion, O'Reilly began another smear of Cindy Sheehan. However, his plans were ruined by Dolores Kesterson, another grieving Mother and brave patriot.

Using his all knowing and tolerant tone, O'Reilly claimed that he supports Cindy Sheehan's right to express dissent. Then he bashed Maureen Dowd for glorifying Sheehan in her column today. The Baltimore Sun also got a knock for praising Sheehan, prompting Bill to dismiss it as an anti Bush paper.

Bill was especially ticked that Cindy Sheehan was "using" the Michael Moore website acting as if that was a shocking and subversive thing to do. Prompting him to ask his viewers, "If you were Mr. Bush, would you meet with Cindy Sheehan."

Then O'Reilly introduced Dolores Kesterton who did not bend or back down throughout the interview. Her son Eric died in Iraq and had been an unwavering supporter of the administration. Kesterson claimed that she had been against going into Iraq because she believed we should have finished the job in Afghanistan. Although O'Reilly tried to intimidate her into saying that Eric had died for a noble cause, Dolores would not give an inch.

Kesterson went on to describe the meeting she had with Bush after her son's death. She requested time alone with him and was granted three minutes in a tiny cubicle. According to Kesterson, Bush marched in and "was in my face" "I'm George Bush, President of the United States and I understand that you have something to say to me in private." Kesterson was not impressed with the

meeting claiming that Bush did not seem to care.

At this point O'Reilly decided to use the lecture/soliloquy technique. Using his fatherly tone he told Dolores that he respected her opinion but didn't want to see her used like Cindy Sheehan. "I think Cindy Sheehan is being used by far left elements who object to our way of life. Everyone knows. Hillary Clinton knows"

Kesterson firmly objected to the notion of being used and O'Reilly started to get steamed attacking Michael Moore and the Fenton Group who writes Cindy's press releases. Fenton Communications is a very well established PR firm and O'Reilly's attack on them was nonsense.

Then he peppered her with a string of bizarre questions. "Do you believe that we're a bad country and evil country?" "Do you have Michael Moore's view of the US?" "If you had to choose, would you go with President Bush or Michael Moore?"

Dolores Kesterson without a moment's hesitation gave her answer. "Michael Moore has not killed thousands."

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By Scott Galindez

Friday 12 August 2005

9:21 AM

Just before I left Camp Casey last night, there was a meeting to prepare for today. One of the highlights may come when the President has to make a trip down the road to another ranch for a fundraiser. There are plans for some people to march down the road to rally in front of the gate to the fundraiser. Stay tuned for more details.

The Murder of Casey Sheehan

By Marjorie Cohn

t r u t h o u t | Perspective

Friday 12 August 2005

For seven days, Cindy Sheehan has been camped down the road from George Bush's Crawford ranch where the President is on a five-week vacation. Cindy says she will never enjoy a vacation again. Her heart is broken. Her precious son Casey was murdered in George Bush's war on Iraq.

Cindy Sheehan is a patient woman. She will wait until Bush comes out and talks to her. She will wait until the man who ordered the invasion of a country that posed no threat to us explains why Casey did not die in vain.

Her skin parched by the blazing sun, her throat inflamed from the intermittent rains and the 200 interviews she has given, Cindy will wait.

I first met Cindy at a support rally in San Diego for Pablo Paredes, who was on trial for refusing to deploy with a ship that was loaded with 300 Marines and bound for Iraq. "I was told my son was killed in the war on terror," Cindy told the crowd. "He was killed by George Bush's war of terror on the world." People wept quietly as they viewed Casey's baby picture. Cindy always carries it with her.

Camilo Mejia also came to support Pablo at his court-martial. The son of the famed Sandinista troubadour Carlos Mejia Godoy, Camilo had lived in three countries in two years before coming to the United States. He joined the US Army because he was promised an education, a community, camaraderie, and friendship. But after five months in Iraq, where he witnessed the killing of innocent civilians as well as his own comrades, in a war he came to believe was illegal, Camilo refused to return to Iraq. He was court-martialed, convicted of desertion with intent to avoid hazardous duty, and served nine months in prison.

Camilo accompanied Cindy and nine other veterans to Crawford on the

Impeachment Tour bus. The harassment started as soon as they arrived, Camilo told me. The sheriffs warned Cindy she would be arrested if she didn't walk in the 3-foot ditch on the side of the road. "It was horrible," Camilo said. "It was right next to a barbed wire fence; the terrain was uneven." The cops and the reporters walked on the road, but Cindy and her supporters had to walk in the ditch.

Some of the vets gave speeches. They talked about conscientious objection and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). "It was very emotional because the war is still going on," said Camilo. "We are still dealing with our demons." One-quarter of American soldiers who return from Iraq will likely develop PTSD. Some experts believe 100,000 will suffer from mental problems.

Camilo was moved by Cindy's courage. "She is an ordinary person who did something really extraordinary."

Bill Mitchell's son Mike was killed in Iraq in the same battle with Casey Sheehan. Bill is in Crawford with Cindy. "My life's been devastated," Bill told the editor of the Iconoclast. "It's been turned upside down. Very few aspects of my life have a similarity to the past. It just kind of churns you up, shakes you out, and drops you off. I'm doing much better than I have been."

"The death of any child is a devastating event for a parent," Bill said. "A piece of your heart dies when your child dies. So I just want to stop this. I don't want to hear about anybody else dying, American or Iraqi."

It is coming together with other families of the slain that empowers Bill. "I met Cindy shortly after our sons' deaths," he said. "We did some military speak-out events together. I realized there was a power in her speaking and in her stories."

Cindy Sheehan wants to ask Bush, "Why did you kill my son? What did my son die for? Last week, he said my son died for a 'noble cause' and I want to ask him what that noble cause is."

Cindy's grief is still raw. She visits the Defense Department web site each morning to see who else died in Bush's war while she was sleeping. "And that rips my heart open, because I know there is another mother whose life is going to be ruined that day. So we can't even begin to heal."

Bush claims we must stay in Iraq to honor the sacrifices of those who have fallen. Cindy says, "Why should I want one more mother to go through what I've gone through, because my son is dead ... the only way he can honor my son's sacrifice is to bring the rest of the troops home - to make my son's death count for peace and love, and not war and hatred like he stands for."

Cindy challenges Bush to level with her: "You tell me the truth. You tell me that my son died for oil. You tell me that my son died to make your friends rich. You tell me my son died to spread the cancer of Pax Americana, imperialism in the Middle East. You tell me that, you don't tell me my son died for freedom and democracy."

When questioned about the war, Bush invokes his mantra of September 11. "Yeah, but were any of those people in Iraq?" Cindy asks. "And the people who flew those planes into the Trade Center, were they from Iraq?"

"I don't believe [Bush's] phony excuses for the war," Cindy told a CBS reporter. "I want him to tell me why my son died." She said, "If he gave the real answer, people in this country would be outraged - if he told people it was to make his buddies rich, that it was about oil."

Many members of Gold Star Families for Peace, a group Cindy co-founded, Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW), and Military Families Speak Out (MFSO) are in Crawford with Cindy. Both IVAW and MFSO are calling for the United States to immediately and unilaterally withdraw from Iraq.

Only 38 percent of Americans approve of Bush's handling of the war in Iraq, according to a recent Associated Press-Ipsos poll. That number could decrease as Cindy's patient protest continues.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By Scott Galindez

Friday 12 August 2005

8:36 AM

Will Pitt is on his way back to Boston. After hearing Reverend Johnson of the SCLC talk about issuing a national call to join the vigil, I decided to stay until at least Sunday. I understand my friend Will's concerns about this historic event growing too big, but I believe that Cindy has already attracted a core of supporters and volunteers that will not allow their message to change or be expanded.

Cindy would love to see this continue to grow. I have been involved in many organizing efforts over the years. There is something special about this one and everyone should experience this. If you have a chance to get here and spend a few hours, a few days or weeks, it will be an experience you will never forget...

I am not the prolific blogger that Will is but I will try to keep you up to date throughout the day. Video updates are coming as well. t r u t h o u t will stay on top of this story. Please stay tuned to this page.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005

10:35 PM

I am back in the hotel room, sunburned and ant-chomped and utterly thrilled. Being here these last two days was the rarest privilege. It was a Happening in the truest sense of the word, and it is growing. If you can get here, get here.

BUT: Understand that this thing could be killed by its own success in two ways. 1) It could get so large that the cops would be forced to shut it down. Remember, there is very little available space for people and cars. We were all in ditches. 2) A lot of people could show up and turn the thing into a multi-faced multi-subject disorganized mess, and that would be a disaster. If you go, focus on Cindy and the families of the fallen soldiers, and ending the war and calling George to account. Period.

I am off to Boston tomorrow morning but am going to try to get back soon. Meanwhile, t r u t h o u t Editor Scott Galindez is staying here with camera in hand, so the videos will continue on this page.

Cindy and the other families, and all the activists who were there, and everyone keeping this vigil, are patriots and the rarest of heroes. Don't let disgruntled outsiders or blathering right-wing pundits tell you any different. It was an honor to stand in that ditch, to watch these Americans demand accountability from the public servant over the hillside.

Thanks for reading, and keep an eye here for more videos over the next several days. This is William Rivers Pitt, signing off from Crawford, Texas. Peace y'all.

A Nation Rocked to Sleep

By Carly Sheehan

Sister of Casey KIA 04/04/04

Sadr City, Baghdad

Have you ever heard the sound of a mother screaming for her son?

The torrential rains of a mother's weeping will never be done

They call him a hero, you should be glad that he's one, but

Have you ever heard the sound of a mother screaming for her son?

Have you ever heard the sound of a father holding back his cries?

He must be brave because his boy died for another man's lies
The only grief he allows himself are long, deep sighs
Have you ever heard the sound of a father holding back his cries?

Have you ever heard the sound of taps played at your brother's grave?
They say that he died so that the flag will continue to wave
But I believe he died because they had oil to save
Have you ever heard the sound of taps played at your brother's grave?

Have you ever heard the sound of a nation being rocked to sleep?
The leaders want to keep you numb so the pain won't be so deep
But if we the people let them continue another mother will weep

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005

8:05 PM

I spoke to Cindy about the "so-called" family who attacked her today. This godmother, according to Cindy, did not know Casey at all. They saw each other maybe once a year. As for the other family members, they have always been at political loggerheads, so their response is no big shock.

Cindy treated it with a shrug. Her husband will send out a more detailed response soon. In the meantime, Cindy says the letter is to be treated as little more than bad, dumb noise.

The vigil goes on.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005
7:55 PM

The sun is almost gone and the sky has turned a deep pure blue. Most of the crowd is gone, leaving the hard core behind to stand the watch as they have done all week. I am going to start saying my goodbyes to these remarkable, heroic people.

I will post some final thoughts in a bit. If something else happens, I will of course post it.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005
7:22 PM

As remarkable and heartwarming as this has been, there are those moments that stomp your heart out. A woman arrived here not long ago with her teenage son. Her husband had been killed in Iraq. She had never in her life been involved in any activism, but heard about this and came out. She too, wants answers, like Cindy.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005
6:49 PM

The sun is finally beginning to set behind a small line of trees, and the crowd has begun to thin out. The official count for today's gathering was 705, not counting press. Given the fact that we are in a drainage ditch by the side of the road in the middle of nowhere, that is a great number.

It will grow tomorrow again.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005

6:34 PM

Update: the Saturday rally at the Peace House will be at noon, Texas time.

It might be in the local football stadium.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005

5:35 PM

A couple of coming events. There will be a rally at the Crawford Peace House on Saturday, details to be announced. On Sunday, there will be a meditation/interfaith service at the House at 1:30PM.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005
5:22 PM

I may sound like a bit of a heretic saying this, but I have a rogue nerve tingling a concern right now.

Until today, the group here was relatively small, everyone knew each other and everyone was entirely on the same page.

Now there are a bunch of new folks here, and they all mean well, but a number of them appear to be interested in dragging the whole thing towards whatever other cause inspires them.

There is Pamphleteer Guy with his anti-theocracy newspaper buttonholing everyone he can find to buy his paper. There are the young radicals who are arguing with themselves about what actions they can take, whether or not those actions have anything to do with Cindy.

There is nothing wrong right now. I just hope the people who have just come, and the people on the way, remember to be down for the main cause that started this. It would be a real tragedy if this turned into an ANSWER rally, with everyone rocking their own rallying cry. Right now this is laser-focused. It needs to stay that way.

It is a good thing this has gotten big. Don't get me wrong. But if you're coming, pledge to stick to the main tent.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand
By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005
5:06 PM

Another sudden influx of cars and again this quiet, desolate spot endures a traffic jam.

The Reverend Johnson is here to give a seminar on nonviolent protest. The folks here could give that seminar all by themselves.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By Anita Garcia

Thursday 11 August 2005

4:20 PM

Here is the latest information from Buddy Spell, the house attorney for Camp Casey:

"We've met for the last hour with two representatives of the McLennan County Sheriff's Office - Lt. Side Franklin and Sgt. John Kolinek." The legal team, comprised of Louisiana and Texas attorneys, and the Sheriff's office have a deal with the shared stated goal of having no one arrested, period. And we are prepared to say that any rumors of pending arrests of anyone at Camp Casey are false."

Also, Buddy has informed us that the Texas Civil Rights Project has found contributors of portalettes so that the protesters are able to have bathroom facilities on site. They expect the bathrooms will be delivered within the next few hours.

Buddy states that there are about 400 people total around the triangle. Roughly 100 media personnel and 300 protesters. He says that he has met Argentinean, Asian, German and BBC news people.

Families and supporters are building a mock-cemetery around the original tents. They have been working on the project since 6:30 AM this morning.

There is a huge awning above the tents. Families on site have crosses for their children right up front, the rest are comprised of crosses for others killed in the war. They are filling up along the road, about 50 to 70 yards long, 3 deep.

Buddy relates that he and the rest of the legal team feel confident enough with the deal made with the local Sheriff that the Texas legal team was able to leave, which leaves Buddy and Annie on site as house attorneys for the protesters.

Pictures should be forthcoming, if they are not up already. NOGoddess from politicalswitchboard.com will be getting them up as soon as possible.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005

4:11 PM

I think I am going to be on with [Randi Rhodes](#) at 4:30 Texas time. [Tune in.](#)

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005

3:59 PM

The port-o-potty has arrived. And there was great rejoicing.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005
3:54 PM

The walk-up, it turns out, did not happen. The bedlam after the press conference made it not a feasible action. For now.

It is hot, damned hot. But there are guitars going and songs are being sung. The press truck with the satellite is still here. The fire ants have hopefully gone to hell where they belong. And the line of crosses stretches further down the road.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005
3:35 PM

Barry Crimins is here. Got damn.

The soldiers who did the walk-up aren't around right now. Cindy's spokesman is likewise unavailable because his wife is suffering heat stroke. I will catch up on the letter thing and get a statement when I can. I know they are aware of it.

The cars parked along the side of the road are stretching beyond view, and more are coming. The crosses in the Arlington West cemetery stretch nearly as far. Everyone is settling in for the remains of another day here in the ditch.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005

2:26 PM

We are on the road back to the site after stopping for some supplies. I will get answers to this relative's letter thing, and also to catch up on the thing I couldn't report on before. Basically, several Iraq vets were going to walk up to the ranch gate to see if they could talk to someone inside.

We will be there shortly.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005

1:41 PM

A letter is floating out from some right-wing radio host allegedly from Casey Sheehan's godmother, which has been signed by "various grandparents and cousins" etc. The letter attacks Cindy and says the family stands with Bush. I am heading back to camp and will ask her about it. The letter is signed Cherie Quarterolo.

Sounds like some crap. The swift boating of Cindy begins.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005

11:54 AM

We are back at the hotel to get our video uploaded, and so I can put some stuff on the forty fire ant bites my feet will be taking home as a souveneir. Ouch.

Today was the biggest day of this event so far. I am not sure how the whole health inspector thing is going to shake out, but the sheriff has said to several reporters that no arrests are planned. We will see if that holds true.

Back soon.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005

10:55 AM

I walked in the grass and my feet got attacked by fire ants. I am hating Texas right now.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005

10:47 AM

I am destroyed. Cindy and the other families of the fallen just had their press conference. By the end, all were weeping. All denounced the war, Bush, and demanded the troops be brought home. It ended with these families just holding each other, surrounded by flowers and cameras, to the side of the Arlington West cemetery that has been erected here.

We will get our footage of this up as soon as we can.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005
10:25 AM

The health inspectors are poking around in every tent, backed up by the sheriff and a deputy. They are surrounded by clicking cameras.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005
10:18 AM

The police have brought in a health inspector. Maybe they think campers are pooping on private property. Not happening. Everyone goes to the Peace House.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005
10:13 AM

There are six police cars stacked up down the road with their dome lights going. Methinks our distinguished visitors may be on the way.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005
9:52 AM

There is a large gathering of press here waiting for the conference. Lawyers are here with Complaints to be filed regarding infringement of First Amendment rights. The cars keep coming and coming. Another convoy of cops and trucks just went slamming by.

Something very interesting is also about to happen. Can't write about it yet. Stay tuned.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005
9:15 AM

There is a smoking gun right here in camp.

It has been reported that the US started bombing Iraqi sites well before the so-called diplomacy was completed, to deplete Iraq's war capabilities, and also to goad Saddam into a war. For many, this is prima facie evidence of a war crime.

Tim Goodrich, Air Force veteran here in camp, participated in that bombing while in Iraq. We have an interview with him which will be up later today.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005

8:19 AM

The crowd here is growing exponentially as the sun gets higher. Lots of press and cameras, lots of tent moving and reorganization. The cars are stacking up. Old school organizers are teaching the younger folks how to do the do.

A big black pickup just came into the camp and is sitting here leaning on his horn. He was not being blocked. It went on for a good couple of minutes. The natives are getting restless.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005

8:19 AM

An Iraq war veteran named Goodrich has arrived with his decorations and salad bar on his camo shirt. It is warming up.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005

8:19 AM

Light dawns on marble head. Those fourteen SUVs that went by were probably Condi and Rummy running the gauntlet, or the press corps getting delivered to the Bush house.

We are back at the site. A large contingent of military families is coming in, and the camp press conference is in about two hours.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005

7:21 AM

The sun came up hazy this morning, with the sky divided between blue and high clouds. It feels like a hot one coming on, in more ways than one

I got a call from the campsite at five thirty this morning. Apparently, fourteen white Secret Service SUVs went blasting up the road. It was almost certainly either a security shift change or augmentation, but it made all the demonstrators cat-nervous.

We are getting coffee and are on the way in.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005

1:10 AM

It is after one and the concerns have passed. We are packing it in for the night, again. Cindy is telling stories and the others are slowly drifting back to their tents.

We will be here first thing in the morning for the arrival of Condi and Rummy and we will do this all over again.

Question for the night: Who will get arrested first, Cindy or Osama?

Hm.

Good night.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005

12:55 AM

It is close to one in the morning here, and the threat appears to have passed. Anyone who has been on edge over this should understand the tension. These folks are on the edge of things out here, and the cops plus the flat bed tow truck made for ominous feelings.

Good news: Cindy will be on the cover of People Magazine. Time and Vanity Fair will interview her tomorrow. How many millions of readers do those magazines have?

Lots of millions.

To repeat, we are standing down for the time being.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By David Swanson

Wednesday 10 August 2005

11:30 AM

Report from Camp Casey

I just spoke by phone from DC with Cindy Sheehan and Ann Wright in Crawford, Texas. Cindy has been doing interviews non-stop for the past few days. Ann and Diane Wilson and others have been doing most of the speaking

with the police.

Cindy had hoped to spend the night tonight in the Crawford Peace House, but is heading out to the ditch along the road instead. "If anybody's going to be arrested, I need to be out there," she said.

Ann could not confirm any specific threat of arrest, but she said that she took the rumors seriously. The rumors are that the Sheriff's men will come arrest everyone after midnight.

Cindy said that Will Pitt from Progressive Democrats of America and Scott Galindez from t r u t h o u t will be filming anything that happens. Ann said the media have been alerted.

Supporters around the country have been independently arriving at identical proposals, namely that if Cindy is arrested, we should go en masse to our local police stations, inviting the media, and asking to be arrested. I think this makes sense, and that it should happen the day after Cindy is arrested, meaning Friday if she's arrested tonight. Noon. Friday. Everyone.

There are 70 - 80 people on the site at Camp Casey at the moment, Ann said. If they are asked to leave or be arrested, many if not all of them will likely opt for arrest.

Another rumor has it that someone has already purchased the URL freecindy.org or freecindy.com.

I've been managing two sites related to this: MeetWithCindy.org and AfterDowningStreet.org.

Having been unable to find a server capable of handling a database-driven site with the traffic being received by meetwithcindy.org (and I've tried some of the best), I've put a simple static page there that will be updated as soon as the server recovers to include a link to this section on the afterdowningstreet site, which contains all the latest news about Camp Casey:

<http://www.afterdowningstreet.org/?q=taxonomy/term/13>.

I spoke with Ann Wright for quite a while, and she gave the following report.

It's raining for the third night. There are 70-80 people on site and another 80 out in hotels or houses. Another 50 or 60 stopped by during the day to spend some hours.

The rain let up around noon and they had a very pleasant afternoon. A crew came and filmed an ad to air on local TV in Crawford (I'm trying to get a digital copy).

"There's been an incredible outpouring of donations," Ann said. People are driving for hours and staying a while and driving home, and they're bringing cases of water and other supplies. "We've got people here from Georgia, Montana, California, Alabama, New York, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Pennsylvania. The enthusiasm is amazing. People have driven 12 hours to be here.

Tomorrow, Ann said, they will be putting up 500 crosses "to symbolize the unnecessary deaths of Americans and the unnecessary deaths of Iraqis."

Where will they put them?

They will have to put them in the two slivers of roadside ditch permitted them, each about 12 by 300 feet according to Ann, and the two making up sides of a triangle. The center of the triangle would be better for a demonstration, but the local owner had the police kick everyone off.

"Now," said Ann, "the cops are always coming through to clear out cars with an inch of tread on the road or people with chairs with one leg on the road. It's not the best place if we had planned - but this wasn't planned, and that is why it's so successful."

Ann enthusiastically recounted the power of Cindy's speech on Friday night at the Veterans for Peace Convention in Dallas.

The speech: <http://www.afterdowningstreet.org/?q=node/1226>.

"Cindy announced she was going and said 'Who can drive me?' and people looked around and then all the hands in the room went up.. We had a caravan of 15 cars and a bus at 8:30 the next morning. And it had spread like wildfire on the internet, so 40 or 50 activists from Dallas and Austin came out."

Slowly the assemblage has acquired tents and chairs, through purchase or donation. Someone supplies everyone with sub sandwiches every lunchtime. About 50 flower arrangements have arrived and been arranged in a "beautiful flower memorial," Ann said.

Ann expressed ongoing amazement at the energy coming to the site. "People are diverting vacation trips to come here instead. People on business trips in Austin and Houston are staying an extra day to come here. Texans who have never been to Crawford and never wanted to come to Crawford are here. And the military families that are here find it so heartening to be supported by all these people."

Ann described a wife of a soldier preparing to ship out to Iraq, the mother of another who died, and an active-duty Sergeant from Fort Hood who's been to Iraq once and is going back again, but who has been speaking in uniform at Camp Casey about "the need for mothers to speak out to save their sons and daughters."

Ann was interrupted while we were talking, but came back and said, "Yeah, it really is powerful. The rain is letting up, and people are coming out of their tents. People all came here to be together and share ideas. And all because one woman came and said 'I'll sit here until the President of the United States talks to me.'"

Last night in a horrible thunderstorm, Ann said, she shouted over to Cindy's tent and asked "Are you awake?" The answer: "Are you kidding?" Cindy had a fever, a sore throat, and general exhaustion - at least that's what everyone

says. She sounds anything but exhausted on the phone and through the media.

All the latest news about Cindy: <http://www.afterdowningstreet.org/?q=taxonomy/term/13>.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005

12:55 AM

Cindy has emerged, wrapped in a poncho, and the camp mood just lifted twenty feet off the ground.

The debate happening now is what to do if they try to move people. Cindy says, standing next to me here, that she won't leave unless she is carried out. Everyone else says, "That's all I need to hear."

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005

12:25 AM

The cop went by again. Hard to tell what his purpose is. They may well just be checking things out. Twenty-five minutes have passed since the alleged deadline. No warnings have been issued. The mood here is light. Bob, who was just on with Bernie Ward, has no intention of going anywhere.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005
12:15 AM

The campers are making plans for what to do if the cops come in. No one is afraid.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand
By William Rivers Pitt

Thursday 11 August 2005
12:06 AM

Midnight has come and all is quiet. It looks like it was a camp rumor after all, and besides, it would be a political disaster.

Going to stick around a while anyway. Not sure what that cop with the lights was trying to do. A Secret Service SUV went by a moment ago. It is totally dark and the land is flat, so no one can sneak up on the camp.

I will report back when I know more. Meanwhile, the singing goes on.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand
By William Rivers Pitt

Wednesday 10 August 2005
11:55 PM

The cop split and all is quiet. I have never seen so many stars in the sky as I do here. The camp singing continues.

The cop went by again.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Wednesday 10 August 2005

11:45 PM

A cop is here with spotlights blazing. He shined us, turned, and pulled to the side of the road.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Wednesday 10 August 2005

11:30 PM

A large flatbed tow truck has been spotted by the side of the road a couple of ranches down. There are a lot of reasons for a ranch to have something like that. Still, it is an ominous sign.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Wednesday 10 August 2005

11:20 PM

Spirits are high here despite the rain and arrest threat. Several campers are clustered together under a makeshift tent singing Thin Lizzy songs. People are still arriving.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Wednesday 10 August 2005

11:15 PM

We are back at the camp site and everyone is ready for the rumored arrests to come within the hour. The rain has begun again. I will let you know what transpires. Stay tuned.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By Ray McGovern

Wednesday 10 August 2005

Dear Cindy,

You are, in biblical terms, salt that has not lost its flavor...or its ability to catalyze! You certainly have catalyzed me.

Oddly, two things have kept rumbling through my mind this past week.

~ A poem by a Russian poet Nekrasov, "the poet of Russian pain." The poem is titled "Vnimaya Uzhazom Voiny" - "Paying Attention to the Horrors of War." Nekrasov singles out mothers: "Mothers are the only ones who will never forget their children fallen on the battlefield-just as a willow tree will never be able to lift its drooping branches."

It sounds a lot better in Russian. I look forward to sharing the whole poem and translation with you after I arrive at Camp Casey outside of Crawford on Saturday.

~ A passage from Dr. Martin Luther King's "Letter from Birmingham City Jail:"

"So we had no alternative except that of preparing for direct action, whereby we would present our bodies as a means of laying our cause before the conscience of the local and national community."

It has been great to know that fellow Veteran Professional for Sanity, Ann Wright, has been with you throughout. We have been well represented; hope you are ready for reinforcements. I was delighted to hear from Ann today of the arrival of the crosses, stars of David, and crescents from Arlington West. Over 1800 of them now. There were only 1700 just a month or so ago, when I had the privilege of helping put them up on Santa Monica beach early one Sunday morning.

Keep looking to the hills for the horses and chariots of fire, and remember - there are more of us than there are of them. And I am sure more and more will be coming in the weeks ahead.

Your friend,
Ray McGovern

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand
By William Rivers Pitt

Wednesday 10 August 2005
10:40 PM

Camp rumor says there will be arrests made at midnight at the camp, so we are heading back. Stay tuned.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Wednesday 10 August 2005

10:10 PM

The dark is complete and the activists are bedding down. We will be here early tomorrow. Until then, keep these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Wednesday 10 August 2005

9:30 PM

Nine thirty at night and we are back at the encampment. It is deep-country dark out here. A sliver of moon sneaks out from behind the clouds, but the only real light comes from the occasional headlights and the strobing blue and red from the sheriff's bubble lights.

Conversations mutter along the sides of the road as the demonstrators prepare their tents and make plans for the morning. The crickets cree from the underbrush. I don't know where Cindy is right now. I assume she is in a tent herself, getting some rest.

Tomorrow will be interesting. Condi and Rummy are coming for a confab at some point. The police may well clear the road before that. On Friday, Bush is going down the road a piece for a fundraiser. We know how much he likes to see protesters, so if they don't clear is out tomorrow, they might the next day.

The people out here are ready for whatever happens. The word people are using all through this site is "community." Everyone is taking care of everyone. A woman off in the dark to my left talking on a cell to her son, who is a soldier.

From the sound of the talk, he supports her completely.

This weird little triangle of road in the middle of nowhere has become the center of everything. The crickets could care less, but there it is.

The folks here are having a press conference at ten thirty tomorrow morning. We will be here.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Wednesday 10 August 2005

7:10 PM

We have sprinted back to a spot with high speed Internet so we can upload our interviews. The highway we took to get here was 84, otherwise known as the George W. Bush Parkway. Yes, the car almost wound up off the road.

Things seemed settled back at the protest site. We will head back as soon as we can, and will be there again first thing in the morning. Apparently, the threat from the cops about moving people tomorrow was not so empty. Cindy has vowed to sit herself in the road and not move should that happen.

We will be back soon.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Wednesday 10 August 2005

6:03 PM

Heading back to an Internet connection so we can upload the interview we

just got with Cindy. Hopefully, it will be ready in a couple of hours, and then we will head back here. Stay tuned.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Wednesday 10 August 2005

5:38 PM

A fellow in a big doublewide just rolled by and gave everyone the finger. He didn't stop, though. No big surprise.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Wednesday 10 August 2005

5:26 PM

I just videotaped an interview with Jodi Evans of Code Pink. She has been on a hunger strike out here since Saturday and is weakened but holding firm. Imagine fasting while sleeping in a tent after getting blasted alternately with searing heat and thunderstorms that drop four inches of rain in an hour.

There is more courage by the side of this road than I have seen anywhere in a long, long time.

And the crowd continues to swell. More rain in the forecast.

t r u t h o u t | One Mother's Stand

By William Rivers Pitt

Wednesday 10 August 2005

4:55 PM

After a rather uneventful journey from Boston, I am standing on a country road in Crawford TX. There are maybe fifty cars parked here and perhaps five dozen activists. It seems this is a transitional phase. Some have headed back to the Peace House and others are on the way down the road.

The police are being polite and deferential, and word has it the looming arrest threat may have been more a miscommunication than anything. We shall see.

Cindy Sheehan is in high spirits despite being sun-blasted and tired. She is also back at the House doing radio interviews.

A long caravan is coming down the road right now. More Iraq families, more veterans, more activists. The Crawford siege continues.

Address to Veterans For Peace Convention

Cindy Sheehan

t r u t h o u t | Transcript

Friday 05 August 2005

It's so great to be here.

Last year when you guys had your convention in Boston, my son had only been dead a few months, and we were really honored because the Santa Barbara chapter took my daughter's poem "A Nation Rocked to Sleep" (and they did it again this year), and I remember Michael Cervantes, he brought the booklet over to our house and showed it to us, and I never dreamed in a year I'd be standing here in front of you as one of the speakers at your convention. I never dreamed I'd be doing this at all, but isn't it weird what life hands you.

I never heard about Veterans For Peace until, I can tell you the exact day I heard about VFP, it was May 4th, 2004, and my son had been dead exactly a month, and I was watching CNN, and something came on - it was a report on Arlington West in Santa Barbara, and we lived about 6 hours north of Santa Barbara, and it was the May 4th before Mother's Day, which was May 8th, and VFP was going to put it up on Sunday, every Sunday - so I called my husband and I said, "There's only one place I want to be on Mother's Day this year, I want to be at Santa Barbara. I want to go and see Arlington West."

When we went, the first time we went, there were a little over 700 crosses. Now there are over 1,800 crosses.

And I'm glad to hear everybody else's words, because somebody's gotta stop those lying bastards. Somebody has to stop them.

I got an email yesterday - if you guys heard, I just had a story published called "Where Do I Live?" - it talks about an Iranian-American who got the shaft because a recruiter liked him, and the recruiter falsified his paperwork, so he ended up in prison.

He's been in prison since November without due process.

Another mother whose son was found dead in Iraq, they told her that he died from a drug overdose. Three months later, they got the toxicology report: no drugs. She was devastated. She said, "I know my son, he did not do drugs." She was told that her son's wife and his battle buddies said in a report that yes, her son abused drugs in Iraq. But when she got that report it said categorically that no, he did not abuse drugs. So how did her son die?

And then there's Kevin and Monica Benderman. Kevin did exactly the right thing and got 15 months in prison. Whereas, like Dahr [Jamail] said, the war criminals in Washington DC, they don't even lose a night's sleep.

Then we have this lying bastard, George Bush, taking a 5-week vacation in a time of war. You know what? I'm never going to get to enjoy another vacation,

because of him.

My vacation probably ... this is really sad because I have a really cute dress I was going to wear to the banquet tomorrow night, but I'm either gonna be in jail or in a tent in Crawford, waiting until that jerk comes out and tells me why my son died.

Anyway, I got an email, I kinda got off track, a man emailed me yesterday, I get contacted by all kinds of people with their stories, and he said Cindy, I read everything you write, I read it on LewRockwell.com, he said, "I get tears in my eyes, but today I cried real tears, and I screamed, because my dear sweet nineteen ear-old cousin was killed in Iraq."

And he said, "Cindy, why didn't I save him? Why didn't I knock him out, why didn't I take him to Canada?" and I wrote him back and I said, "You know what? We all think that."

I said to my son not to go. I said, you know it's wrong, you know you're going over there. You know your unit might have to kill innocent people, you know you might die. And he says, "My buddies are going, I have to go." He said, "If I don't go, someone's going to have to do my job, and my buddies will be in danger."

So what really gets me is these chicken-hawks who sent our kids to die, without ever serving in a war themselves. They don't know what it's all about.

Thirty of our bravest young men have already died this month, and it's only the 5th of August. And the tragedy of the marines in Ohio is awful.

But do you guys remember back in March when we were having our 2nd year anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, which was pre-empted by Terry Schiavo, so that's all that was on the news, not 5,000 of us in Fayetteville. Wolf Blitzer said it was insignificant, but they put Terry Schiavo on, and I wrote something then called "The Amazing Hypocrites" and I asked, why does she deserve life more than my son, and the Iraqi people? And more than the other people that this war has killed.

But do you think George Bush will interrupt his vacation and go visit the families of those 20 marines who have died in Ohio this week? No, because he doesn't care, he doesn't have a heart. That's not enough to stop his little "playing cowboy" game in Crawford for 5 weeks.

So, as you can imagine, the grieving parents who lost - lost, I don't like to use that word - whose child was murdered, it's extremely difficult, you can't even get a small scab on our wound, because every day it rips open. Every day, I don't know why I do it because I already know that war is ugly, I already know that war is hard. But I open up the DOD site to see who became an angel while I was sleeping.

And that rips my heart open, because I know there is another mother whose life is going to be ruined that day. So we can't even begin to heal.

So anyway that filth-spewer and warmonger George Bush was speaking after the tragedy of the marines in Ohio, he said a couple things that outraged me.

Seriously outraged me.

And I know I don't look like I'm outraged, I'm always so calm and everything, that's because if I started hitting something, I wouldn't stop 'til it was dead. So I can't even start, cause I know how dangerous that would be, but George Bush was talking, and he never mentioned the terrible incident of those marines, but he did say that the families of the ones who have been killed can rest assured that their loved ones died for a noble cause.

And he also said, he says this often, and this really drives me crazy, he said that we have to stay in Iraq and complete the mission, to honor the sacrifices of the ones who have fallen.

And I say, why should I want one more mother to go through what I've gone through, because my son is dead. You know what, the only way he can honor my son's sacrifice is to bring the rest of the troops home. To make my son's death count for peace and love, and not war and hatred like he stands for.

I don't want him using my son's death or my family's sacrifice to continue the killing. I don't want him to exploit the honor of my son and others to continue the killing. They sent these honorable people to die, and are so dishonorable themselves.

So, as many of you have heard, and I didn't mean to cause any problems with the convention, but I was writing an email to everybody, and I was so mad, like I said, and I just had this brainstorm, I'm going to Dallas, I don't know where Crawford is. I've been in Texas, Casey was stationed at Fort Hood. I drove from northern California to Fort Hood one time - it took, like, 30 hours. And I thought, I could be driving for days to get from Dallas to Crawford!

But I don't care, I'm goin'. And I'm gonna tell them, "You get that evil maniac out here, cuz a Gold Star Mother, somebody whose blood is on his hands, has some questions for him."

And I'm gonna say, "OK, listen here, George. #1, you quit, and I demand - every time you get out there and say you're going to continue the killing in Iraq to honor the fallen heroes by continuing the mission - you say, except Casey Sheehan."

"And you say, except for all the members of 'Gold Star Families for Peace' cuz we think not one drop of blood should be spilled in our families' names. You quit doing that. You don't have my permission."

And I'm gonna say, "And you tell me what the noble cause is that my son died for." And if he even starts to say "freedom and democracy," I'm gonna say "bullshit."

You tell me the truth. You tell me that my son died for oil. You tell me that my son died to make your friends rich. You tell me my son died to spread the cancer of Pax Americana, imperialism in the Middle East. You tell me that, you don't tell me my son died for freedom and democracy.

Cuz, we're not freer. You're taking away our freedoms. The Iraqi people

aren't freer, they're much worse off than before you meddled in their country.

You get America out of Iraq, you get Israel out of Palestine.

(massive round of applause)

And if you think I won't say "bullshit" to the President, I say move on, cuz I'll say what's on my mind.

So, what's gonna happen? I started this, I thought it was gonna be just me and my sister driving to Crawford, but it kind of mushroomed and people from as far away as Dayton, Ohio are coming, to help us, to stand behind us, because I travel all over the country, I speak, I write, I get feedback on my writing, and just in the little over a year that I've been doing this, I've seen a major turnaround in this country.

People don't just want to hear it - they want to know, what can we do?

What can we do to get him out of power? And I'm gonna say the "I" word. Impeach. And we have to have everybody impeached that lied to the American public, and that's the executive branch, and any people in congress, and we gotta go all the way down and we might have to go all the way down to the person who picks up the dog shit in Washington because ...

We can't let somebody rise to the top who will pardon these war criminals. Because they need to go to prison for what they've done in this world. We can't have a pardon. They need to pay for what they've done.

So anyway, I'm gonna go to Crawford tomorrow, and I'm gonna say I want to talk to him, and they say he's not coming out, I'm gonna set up my tent there until he comes out to talk to me.

And I have the whole month of August off, just like him. It's just the way it worked out, I was supposed to go to England tomorrow to do some Downing Street things, but Conyers cancelled, so hey, I have a lot of free time on my

hands, and I'm gonna stay until he comes out and talks to me. And if he quits his vacation and goes to DC, I'll pull my tent up, I'll go to DC and put it on the White House lawn, and I'll be waiting for you guys when you get there September 24th.

Another thing that I'm doing is - my son was killed in 2004, so I'm not paying my taxes for 2004. If I get a letter from the IRS, I'm gonna say, you know what, this war is illegal; this is why this war is illegal. This war is immoral; this is why this war is immoral. You killed my son for this. I don't owe you anything. And if I live to be a million, I won't owe you a penny.

And I want them to come after me, because unlike what you've been doing with the war resistance, I want to put this frickin' war on trial. And I want to say, "You give me my son, and I'll pay your taxes."

I live in Vacaville, come and get me if you can find me there and put me on trial, because like Camilo (Mejia) - Camilo knew what was right. And he went to prison for that. And Henry David Thoreau, he went to prison, he refused to pay his poll tax, and Emerson - I call them HT and RW - and RW came to visit HT and said, what are you doing here, buddy? And HT said, why aren't you here? This is the only place for a moral person in an immoral world.

It's up to us, the people, to break immoral laws and resist. As soon as the leaders of a country lie to you, they have no authority over you. These maniacs have no authority over us. And they might be able to put our bodies in prison, but they can't put our spirits in prison. And I know that Camilo came out a much stronger person, he's one of my heroes, it's great a row of heroes in front of me here.

And everyone gave such great testimony this evening, I have to wonder, why do we keep doing this to each other? Why do we let this continue time and time again, why do we let it happen? And it's because our country is so good at demonizing people. I still have relatives from WWII that still call Japanese people "Japs." And we demonize the Iraqi people, where most of this country

doesn't even think we're killing innocent people.

Because, "Oh Cindy, don't you remember what happened on September 11th?"

"Yeah, but, were any of those people in Iraq? And the people who flew those planes into the Trade Center, where they from Iraq?"

When I was growing up, it was "Communists." Now it's "Terrorists." So you always have to have somebody to fight and be afraid of, so the war machine can build more bombs, guns, and bullets and everything.

But I do see hope. I see hope in this country. 58% of the American public are with us. We're preaching to the choir, but the choir's not singing. If all of the 58% started singing, this war would end.

I got an email the other day and it said, "Cindy, if you didn't use so much profanity ... there's people 'on the fence' that get offended."

And you know what I said? "You know what? You know what, god damn it? How, in the world is anybody still sitting on that fence'?"

"If you fall on the side that is pro-George and pro-war, you get your ass over to Iraq, and take the place of somebody who wants to come home. And if you fall on the side that is against this war and against George Bush, stand up and speak out."

But whatever side you fall on, quit being on the fence.

The opposite of good is not evil, it's apathy. And we have to get this country off their butts, and we have to get the choir singing.

We need to say, bring our troops home now.

We can't depend on the people in charge bringing our troops home.

Because you don't plan on bringing the troops home when you drop so much of the reconstruction money into building permanent bases.

I was hoping to come to the banquet tomorrow night, but unless George comes out and talks to me, I'll be camping at Crawford.

Thank you

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