



Thank You Lt.org

Ehren Watada

for refusing an illegal war



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Army charges Lt. Watada with contempt towards president; Faces over seven years military prison



Refusing illegal war and occupation is not a crime!

International day of action and mass mobilization at Fort Lewis, Washington

National education and action campaign underway



On July 5, U.S. Army First Lt. Ehren K. Watada was formally charged with three articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice: two counts of contempt towards officials (Article 88) - specifically President G. W. Bush, three counts of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman (Article 133), and one count of missing movement (Article 87). If convicted of all six charges by a general court-martial, Lt. Watada could be sentenced to over seven years in a military prison.

Lt. Watada's lawyer, Eric Seitz, said: "We expected the missing movement charge, but we are somewhat astounded by the contempt and conduct unbecoming charges. These additional charges open up the substance of Lt. Watada's statements for review and raise important First Amendment issues. We are delighted that the Army has given us the opportunity to litigate these questions."

Most previous prosecutions of Article 88 took place during the Civil War and World War I, and the last known prosecution was in 1965 (Howe vs. U.S.). Lt. Henry Howe protested U.S. foreign policy during the Vietnam War.

Even before Lt. Watada refused to ship out to Iraq on June 22, the Army was focusing their investigation on his speech. The formal charges confirm that the Army's primary objective is silencing Lt. Watada's dissent.

National education and action campaign responds

We are asking you and your organization to do what you can to make support for U.S. Army First Lieutenant Ehren K. Watada a priority in the coming weeks and months.

email address

We believe that Lt Watada's stand offers a historic opportunity to assert our power to challenge and end the illegal war and occupation and to support the courageous soldiers and officers who fulfill their commitment to refuse illegal orders to participate in illegal war, occupation and war crimes. We intend to make Lt Watada's stand count as a significant step towards a better, just and more peaceful world.

International day of action; Mass mobilization at Ft. Lewis

Friends and Family of Lt. Watada is calling for an international mobilization of support the day before Lt. Watada is scheduled to be court marshaled – possibly sometime in September.

ThankYouLT.org

On June 22, **U.S. Army First Lieutenant Ehren K. Watada** became the first commissioned officer to publicly **refuse deployment to the unlawful Iraq War** and occupation.

Lt. Watada fulfilled a **pledge to resist** he first made at June 7th press conferences in Tacoma and Honolulu.

On July 5, Lt. Watada was **formally charged** with missing movement , contempt towards officials, and conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

Supporters nationwide have already staged a **national day of action** on June 27 to stand with Lt. Watada. Larger mobilizations are now being organized in the lead up to any possible court martial.

Your support, including **donations to Lt. Watada's defense fund**, are urgently needed today.



June 27 National Day of Action to Stand Up with Lt. Watada reports!



Play Video

Message to supporters



Posters and more

We are asking groups to begin planning demonstrations, rallies, marches, vigils and/or educational events at appropriate sites in your community (federal buildings, military recruiting centers, highly visible intersections, etc.).

Groups and individuals in the Pacific Northwest, and friends that can travel, are asked to converge at Fort Lewis (south of Seattle/Tacoma, north of Olympia) for the actual court martial and a series of educational events and actions prior.

Illegal war and occupation education and action campaign

We are asking supporters to make a concerted effort in the coming months to educate their groups, networks and community about Lt. Watada's stand and about the illegality of the war and occupation of Iraq.

This could include articles in newsletters, on websites, letters to the editor, guest editorials, teach-ins, video screenings, etc.

We will send out updates and post information on the website with education ideas, resources (videos, ideas for teach-ins, down-loadable educational materials, etc), and more in coming days and weeks.

Goals for the Lt. Watada support campaign

These are the goals that are guiding the support campaign for Lt. Ehren Watada.

- 1) No punishment for Lt. Watada.
- 2) Build mass public support for Lt Watada and others who uphold international, military, and US law by refusing to participate in illegal war and occupation.
- 3) De-legitimize the illegal Iraq war and occupation.
- 4) Create a social, political and economic cost to prosecuting illegal war and occupation refusers and to continuing the illegal Iraq war and occupation.

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Friends and Family of LT
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