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Peace Activists Welcome Mayor Daley's Conversion To Their Ranks

CHICAGO -- After nearly 7 years of war in Iraq and over 8 in Afghanistan, peace activists are lauding Mayor Richard M. Daley's stated conversion to their ranks now that his son is facing another deployment to the theater.

As reported by WBEZ-FM's sister station Vocolo Tuesday night, after using his police force and permit authority over the past several years to repeatedly thwart activists' attempts to exercise their 1st Amendment rights, the mayor is now calling for anti-war marches on Michigan Avenue (<http://blogs.vocolo.org/ccahan/2010/02/mayor-daley-on-war-protests-what-happened-to-america/14738>).

"We are very happy to oblige the Mayor's heartfelt wishes by organizing a march on Michigan Avenue this year on Thursday, March 18th, the seventh anniversary of the United States invasion of Iraq," said Andy Thayer, one of the city's more prominent peace activists. The protest is scheduled to begin at 5:30 PM that day with a short rally at Federal Plaza, corner of Dearborn and Adams Streets, followed by the march.

"Now that our Mayor has decided that the peace movement was right about the war all along, and that marching against it on Michigan Avenue is a **good** thing, we're sure he'll soon be issuing an apology to the over 800 people who his riot police arrested at the corner of Michigan and Chicago Avenues on March 20, 2003 at the start of the invasion."

"We're truly grateful that he'll apparently be issuing an apology to those of us arrested for participating in a press conference on the corner of Michigan and Oak on the third anniversary of the war, for suing us to overturn the permit we won last year, and for the periodic spying on and infiltration of our movement by his police force. We're gratified to learn that he'll soon have the city's Law Department throw in the towel in its defense of the City in the lawsuits arising out of these matters. For all of this we are sincerely grateful."

More information about the March 18th march on Michigan Avenue can be found at www.ChicagoMassAction.org or by emailing CCAwr@aol.com

The March 18 action is sponsored by over 50 groups including: 8th Day Center for Justice; Albany Park, North Park, Mayfair Neighbors for Peace and Justice ; American Friends Service Committee; ANSWER Chicago ; Aurora Peace & Justice; Brother Joe; Chicago 911 Truth; Chicago Area CodePINK; Chicago Chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation; Chicago Chapter, World Can't Wait; Chicago Coalition Against War & Racism; Chicago Committee to Defend the Bill of Rights; Chicago Labor Against the War; Chicago Media Action; Chicago Solidarity; Chicagoans Against Apartheid in Palestine (CAAP); Chicagoans Against War & Injustice (CAWI); Christian Peacemaker Teams - Chicago; Comité Anti-Militarización (CAMI); Committee on Philippine Issues; Cook County Green Party; DeKalb Interfaith Network for Peace and Justice; DuPage Green Party; Friends of Leon Berger; Gay Liberation Network; Hyde Parkers for Peace and Justice (HPPJ); Illinois Green Party; Industrial Workers of the World Chicago GMB; International Socialist Organization; International Solidarity Movement - Chicago; Labor Beat / Labor Express; Logan Square Neighbors for Justice and Peace; Near West Citizens for Peace & Justice; Neighbors for Peace; News & Letters; Nicaragua Solidarity Alliance for Global Justice; North Shore Coalition for Peace Justice and the Environment; North Suburban Peace Initiative; Northwest Suburban Peace & Education Project; Oak Park Coalition for Peace and Justice; Palestine Solidarity Group - Chicago; Pax Christi Seed Planters; Peace Pledge; Progressive Democrats of America - Chicago; Public Workers Unite!; ReaCH-Refugee Center for Hope; UIC Political Discussion and Action Group; Veterans for Peace; Vietnam Veterans Against the War; Voices for Creative Nonviolence; Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ; West Side Greens; West Suburban Faith-based PEACE Coalition; and, Witness for Peace - Great Lakes Region

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