

No New AUMF - End Endless War!

February 17, 2015 Press Conference at Oakland Federal Building

Statement by Jackie Cabasso, National Co-convener, United for Peace and Justice
and Executive Director, Western States Legal Foundation, Oakland, CA

Two days ago, it was February 15. On February 15, 2003, the world said no to war. Over 20 million people in at least 600 cities around the world took to the streets to oppose the impending invasion and occupation of Iraq, giving voice to the sentiment of billions. The New York Times called it the rise of a new superpower: *world public opinion*. Nearly half a million people from around the country marched in Manhattan to appeal to the U.S. Government and the United Nations to prevent the imminent disaster of war and occupation of Iraq. United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ) organized the New York demonstration and co-organized demonstrations around the country.

Aside from the millions who participated in that mass action, exponentially more were influenced by it, and a multi-issue movement was built around core values of nonviolence, cooperation, social and economic equality and environmental sustainability, connecting the skills and relationships of lifetime peace and justice organizers with newcomers to activism.

Despite movement fatigue, the economic collapse of 2008, and the emergence of dozens of new crisis, after nearly a decade and a half of endless war, UFPJ continues to serve the peace and justice movement as a leading and unifying voice for action around issues involving militarism, racism, and the environment, both internationally and in our communities.

UFPJ has issued a call, “Time for the Global Superpower for Peace and Justice to Rise Again! Take Action on February 15 and Beyond...”

- We Say NO to Global Wars!
- We Say NO to Militarizing Our Communities!
- We Say No to War on the Planet!
- We say YES It’s Time to Rise Again!

It’s time for the global superpower for peace and justice to rise again. When we started planning this campaign, we could not imagine that today we would be in a situation where the President is asking Congress for a blank check to wage war in Syria – so parallel to the situation we confronted in 2003 with respect to Iraq. At the same time, the conflict between Russia and the U.S./NATO over the Ukraine has brought into focus the ever-present danger of nuclear war and the urgent need for progress on the abolition of nuclear weapons.

February 15 kicked off a new series of coordinated actions that will culminate in the Peace and Planet Mobilization for a Nuclear-Free, Just and Sustainable World in New York City on the eve of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference, April 24-26.

###