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| http://www.militaryfamiliesspeakout.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/cropped-blue-tagline-long-skinny.png  Summer, 2017 |

**MFSO Demands:**

**NO TROOP INCREASE IN AFGHANISTAN!**

By Paula Rogovin, MFSO Steering

Committee, MFSO NJ

“Obama set a cap a year ago of 8,400 troops in Afghanistan… Nevertheless, there are at least another 2,000 US troops in Afghanistan not included in the official count. These include forces that are technically considered temporary even if they have been in the war zone for months.” (Guardian, June 15, 2017)

Now, the Trump administration is considering sending 3000-5000 additional troops to Afghanistan!

MFSO says:   
NO TROOP INCREASE IN AFGHANISTAN! BRING ALL TROOPS HOME FROM AFGHANISTAN NOW!   
TAKE CARE OF OUR TROOPS WHEN THEY GET HOME!

The Steering Committee of MFSO calls on members and friends to immediately work with others to:

* **Work with other groups to plan a demonstration to be held the day after (or soon after) the Trump Administration announces another troop level increase in Afghanistan.** Check the MFSO website ([www.MFSO.com](http://www.MFSO.com)) or Facebook Page (Military Families Speak Out), Veterans For Peace ([www.veteransforpeace.org](http://www.veteransforpeace.org)) , as well as United for Peace and Justice ([www.unitedforpeace.org](http://www.unitedforpeace.org)) Feel free to use the calls in CA and NJ to help you prepare for your demonstration.
* **Contact members of Congress** to say NO troop increases in Afghanistan. National Priorities Project provides phone # and e-mail addresses for members of Congress, and it has lots of information about the costs of the wars. <https://www.nationalpriorities.org/take-action/contact-your-representative/>

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| **JOIN**  **VETERANS FOR PEACE, Chapter 110**  In a demonstration against another troop level  increase in Afghanistan.  **4:00 p.m. the day after the Trump Administration makes the announcement**    PCH and Main St. in Huntington Beach by Congressman Dana Rohrabacher’s office  **Bring a sign**   Please join veterans, military families and other peace groups that are opposed to the increase of troop levels in Afghanistan. Each new sitting president has increased troop levels and it’s time to  **“END THESE ESCALATIONS”** |

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| Join Veterans, Military Families, and other residents *the Wednesday of-or-after* the announcement of increase in troop levels in Afghanistan. **Teaneck Peace Vigil** National Guard Armory Teaneck Road and Liberty Road, Teaneck, NJ  4-5 pm **No Troop Increase! Bring all troops home from Afghanistan!** MFSO, Bergen County, VFP, Chapter 21 NJ |



  
*MFSO, Bergen County, VFP, Chapter 21 NJ and friends in the* ***Peace Contingent*** *of Teaneck’s 4th of July parade, 2017*

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| VFP LogoMFSO members and friends will be a presence at the Veterans For Peace Annual Convention in Chicago, IL at the Palmer House from **Aug 9-13.**  Please join us there. The theme of this year’s convention will be:  ***Education Not Militarization***  On Sunday, Veterans For Peace will **March for "Education Not Militarization!  Support Children, Youth, Community"**, mustering at 11:30. Wrap up with the amazing **Jackson Browne**, who has generously offered to [host a concert](https://www.ticketfly.com/purchase/event/1493447" \t "_blank) to benefit Veterans For Peace.  Go to [www.VeteransForPeace.org](http://www.VeteransForPeace.org) for details. |

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| **CAREER     EDUCATION     TRAVEL**  Military Families Speak Out  https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/G9QCBVnzwo0H4RW-cZebT5VISUW3TnazM-c7CPIp2bU8b6_P60esGmTEqS1d-v7VqFKohpPgYTtY7aqmF5i8x07CyIDyA64CO5BA4mnzHZOmw_nZP6mtpT9Xo041mtEKbgENNUeOb7Ni2NrX2w An Interactive workshop  **THE VET, THEIR FAMILY**  **AND**  **THE TRUTH ABOUT JOINING THE MILITARY**  FRI. Aug 11, 9:00am – 10:30am  6th floor Millennium Parlor at the VFP Convention  **PTSD TBI PROSTHESIS** |

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| [Image result for mfso logo](https://www.bing.com/images/search?q=mfso+logo&id=414F45843D7A2A3FF8137AF1FF83941995D012C8&FORM=IQFRBA) **MFSO mixer**  Friday, August 11. 5 pm  MFSO Hospitality Suite,   at the VFP Convention Meet MFSO Steering Committee members and other military families. Free drinks and food. Contact Pat Alviso (565-579-3980) or Tim Kahlor ([951-216-9620](tel:(951)%20216-9620)) |



Please sign this Petition: [No Attacks on Syria – Stop Endless War](http://mfso.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b157954592e8722ea38da948e&id=49c1d9ee48&e=e71366a884)   
 **Keep up the Pressure: No Attacks on Syria –   
Stop Endless War!**

The devastating war in Syria rages on.  We must step up our efforts to stop our government from expanding its war in Syria and to stop Endless War.

The Syria Petition created by United for Peace & Justice is directed to Congress.  MFSO is co-sponsoring this important Petition along with these additional outstanding organizations:    
AFSC Peace and Economic Security Program  
Catholic Conference of Superiors of Men Religious  
Code Pink  
Out of Syria-Boston  
People Demanding Action   
Veterans for Peace   
US Peace Council  
Western States Legal Foundation  
September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows

Please read and sign the Petition:

Sign the Petition today, [No Attacks on Syria – Stop Endless War](http://mfso.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b157954592e8722ea38da948e&id=49c1d9ee48&e=e71366a884) calling on Congress to:

* Recognize that there is no military solution to terrorism; stop widening the conflict in Syria and instead try to end it.
* End all bombing missions and aerial strikes; bring home U.S. troops and special operations teams; stop supplying arms and revoke the 2001 AUMF.
* Increase humanitarian aid and help resettle more Syrian refugees in the United States.
* Abide by international laws, treaties, diplomatic norms, and our Constitution.
* Reverse current escalations of military action and instead work to de-escalate and demilitarize conflicts around the world.

The unimaginable brutality of the war in Syria must end.  This war, as with all other wars, kills, injures, poisons the water and land, creates refugees and crushes the hopes and dreams of millions of people.

**“This Madness Must Cease”.**  (MLK)

**More War For Iraq and Afghanistan’s   
Oil and Minerals?   
*WE SAY NO!***

**IRAQ: Trump said, “Keep the oil. For the victor belongs the spoils.” (CNN)**<http://www.cnn.com/videos/politics/2017/01/23/donald-trump-iraq-oil-isis-starr-lwe-tsr.cnn>

**AFGHANISTAN: “Trump Finds Reason for the U.S. to Remain in Afghanistan: Minerals” (New York Times)**

“President Trump, searching for a reason to keep the United States in Afghanistan after 16 years of war, has latched on to a prospect that tantalized previous administrations: Afghanistan’s vast mineral wealth, which his advisers and Afghan officials have told him could be profitably extracted by Western companies.

Mr. Trump has discussed the country’s mineral deposits with President Ashraf Ghani, who promoted mining as an economic opportunity in one of their first conversations.” Read more: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/25/world/asia/afghanistan-trump-mineral-deposits.html>

Military Families Speak Out reaffirms our opposition to military involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan. We say – It’s not our oil! They’re not our minerals. Support Our Troops. Bring Them Home NOW! Take Care of Them When They Get Here! We call on all military families to join this effort! By Paula Rogovin, MFSO Bergen County, NJ

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| Image result for military families speak out logo**JOIN MFSO!**  If you have a loved one serving in the military, please join MFSO.  For more information: Contact Pat Alviso at [mfso@mfso.org](mailto:mfso@mfso.org). Find MFSO at [www.mfso.org](http://www.mfso.org) or at Military Families Speak Out on Facebook.  Call: 565-579-3980  **Donations are welcome.** |

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| **A MESSAGE FOR ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS from  ABOUT FACE: VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR**  **About Face 2017 National Convention: Veterans Organizing at the Intersections of Militarism**  Join us for our 2017 National Convention in Stony Point, NY September 1st-4th with an opening event in Brooklyn, NY Thursday, August 31st. Continuing the legacy of our organization, founded in 2004, this is the first convention since deciding to change the name of the organization from **Iraq Veterans Against the War** to **About Face: Veterans Against the War.** This year is especially exciting as we roll out our new brand we also begin a new era of outreach and organizing at the intersections of US Militarism.  Join us for workshops and plenaries on work with our allies, our place as veterans in movements for social change. We will develop our campaign to Drop the MIC (military industrial complex), and our work to stand against the rise of right-wing bigotry in our Vets Vs Hate work. In addition to digging into these and other important issues we will also spend time strengthening our community through building healing spaces, taking time in nature, and sharing delicious and healthy meals together.  <http://www.ivaw.org/about-face-2017-national-convention-veterans-organizing-intersections-militarism> |

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| **Troops vs Military Contractors in Afghanistan**  **U.S. Troops Contractors**  **2016: 9,142 16,055  2017: not available 26,022**  In 2016 approximately 72% of total DOD employees were contractors. Sources: “Boots on the Ground,” monthly report to Congress. DENTCOM Quarterly Contractor Census.  There is even less accountability for contractors than for the U.S. military. This is troublesome. |

**Stay Involved!**

**Military Family Members, please work with groups in your community to protest U.S. military involvement in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria.  
Participate on one of the vigils listed below.**

* **Check with United For Peace and Justice to see if other actions are planned in your community or region.** [www.unitedforpeace.org](http://www.unitedforpeace.org)
* **Work with other groups in your community to plan**
* **Community forums or teach-ins**
* **Meetings with your Senators or Representatives in Congress**
* **Vigils or demonstrations**
* **Actions at a Federal Office, a National Guard Armory, a war memorial, a busy corner, or other high traffic area in your community**

**Send a press advisory, then call the press so you can spread the word.**

**Ongoing vigils:**

**Long Beach, Orange County, CA: EVERY Friday**. 7-9

pm. 2nd and Nieto in front of the Chase Bank in

Belmont Shore. MFSO with the Long Beach Area

Peace Network

**Huntington Beach, CA: EVERY Sunday**. 12 noon. at

the foot of the Huntington Beach Pier. ENOUGH

campaign.

**Orange, CA: 3rd Thursday** of every month. 5:30-7pm. Chapman and Glassell (in the Traffic Circle) in Orange. MFSO and Code Pink

**Seal Beach, CA: Last Wednesday** of the month. 5-

6:60 pm. in front of the globe at Leisure World.

Senior Patriots for Peace

**Los Angeles, CA: EVERY Sunday**. 6am-4pm. Just north of the Santa Monica Pier, under Bubba Gumps.

Arlington West

**Huntington Beach CA: First Sundays**. 7:30am to

3:30pm. 6th and PCH. Arlington West

**Teaneck, NJ: EVERY Wednesday**, 4-5 pm. National

Guard Armory. Corner of Teaneck Rd. and Liberty Rd.

in Teaneck. Teaneck Peace Vigil. MFSO, Bergen

County, Veterans For Peace, Chapter 21 NJ.

**Leonia, NJ: EVERY Sunday**, 4-4:30 pm. Broad Ave.

and Ft. Lee Rd. Leonia Peace Vigil Group.

**Yellow Springs, OH**: **EVERY Saturday**. corner of Xenia

Ave & Limestone.   
**Missouri – Kansas City: ‘Patriots for Peace’ Demonstrations.** Weekly, Every Tuesday, 5-6 pm  
63rd and Ward Parkway (Median Strip on South Corner) Kansas City, MO. Contact: [schwartzkatz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:schwartzkatz@sbcglobal.net)

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| **MFSO’s New Media Team** Do you want help writing a press advisory or release for your event? Would you like to share National MFSO releases with press in your community? Do you have a loved one who is currently active duty and deployed? Has your loved one died by suicide? Has your family suffered in other ways from the impact of the current wars? Would you be willing to speak to the press? Melissa and Tim would like to hear from you.  **Melissa Castaneda**  **Press Releases**  [**mfso.melissa@gmail.com**](mailto:mfso.melissa@gmail.com)  **Tim Kahlor**  **Media Contact**  [**tkahlor@outlook.com**](mailto:tkahlor@outlook.com)  [**951-216-9620**](tel:(951)%20216-9620) |

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| [https://ci6.googleusercontent.com/proxy/2n55WbJN4oJOU3u6OYWzLX4ybiJrN9zEHyNTCiGhslH2gLCIvXJ1Qqvic0EpCjui6VVReWaD1u91YaWQZOqfOFgk3RLw3r0gG1x130ZJqkc7rA=s0-d-e1-ft#http://onearthpeace.org/sites/default/files/logo-oep_100.jpg](http://onearthpeace.org/)MORAL INJURY Bill Scheurer, Executive Director of [On Earth Peace](http://onearthpeace.org/), and member of the MFSO Steering Committee, has shared these two podcast episodes on moral injury and moral exploitation in war hoping that they will be helpful in our work. <https://hiphination.org/episodes/episode-two-moral-exploitation-jan-31-2017/>   * <https://hiphination.org/episodes/episode-3-the-morality-of-war-feb-7th-2017/> |

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| [**www.icasualties.org**](http://www.icasualties.org)**.   Icasualties** provides data about deaths (not including suicides) and injuries of U.S. service members in Iraq and Afghanistan. It’s another important tool for educating the public about the impact of the wars. |

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| ***A Call for Your Writing!***  **Military Family members - We welcome poems, articles, and stories. Send to Paula Rogovin, MFSO newsletter editor.** [**MFSO@mfso.org**](mailto:MFSO@mfso.org) |