



Contact: Ateqah Khaki, Riptide Communications, 212-260-5000
 Nancy Lessin, Military Families Speak Out, 617-320-5301

Media Availability

MILITARY AND GOLD STAR FAMILIES TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONWIDE IRAQ WAR PROTESTS ON OCTOBER 27

Families Send A Message To Congress: Funding This War is Killing Our Troops

Nationwide, October 25, 2007 – Military and Gold Star families from across the nation will participate in regional demonstrations opposing the war in Iraq on October 27th, organized by United for Peace and Justice. These families whose loved ones are or have been on the frontlines of this war will be calling on Congress to vote against the upcoming appropriation that would allow the war in Iraq to continue. **Military Families Speak Out (MFSO)**, an organization of over 3,700 military families who are opposed to the war in Iraq, is the largest organization of military families opposing a war in the history of the United States.

WHO:	Military and Gold Star Families from across the United States
WHAT:	Press availability for short and in-depth interviews prior to rally and march
WHERE:	New York, Boston, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Salt Lake City, Chicago, Philadelphia, Orlando, Denver, Dubuque (IA), Little Rock, Phoenix, and Smithfield (NC)
WHEN:	Saturday October 27, 2007 (see www.oct27.org for exact times for rallies and marches in each location)
VISUALS:	Military families with banners, posters, photos of loved ones

Military families from 22 states will be marching in contingents with members of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) and Veterans For Peace (VFP) and speaking at the regional rallies as well as other demonstrations around the country. Families are available to discuss a range of issues, including:

- The situation on the ground in Iraq – the “ground truth” as families understand it to be, from loved ones who are there
- Troop extensions, multiple redeployments, stop-loss orders and the impact of extended and multiple combat tours on service members and families
- Dealing with psychological wounds and PTSD upon a loved one’s return
- The pain of losing a loved one to combat or suicide in this war
- Deciding to speak out against the war, including the experience of families living on military bases

Military Families Speak Out (MFSO) is a national organization of over 3,700 families who are opposed to the war in Iraq and have loved ones in the military. For more information about Military Families Speak Out, please visit: <http://www.mfso.org>

Gold Star Families Speak Out (GSFSO) is a chapter of Military Families Speak Out, made up of families whose loved ones died as a result of the war in Iraq. For more information about Gold Star Families Speak Out visit <http://www.gsfsso.org>