



Rockland Coalition
for Peace & Justice

A Withdrawal in Name Only

Source: "A Withdrawal in Name Only" by Erik Leaver & Daniel Atzmon, Foreign Policy In Focus, June 25, 2009



June 30, 2009 was the deadline for U.S. to withdraw its troops from Iraqi cities, according to an agreement signed between the U.S. and Iraq last November.

But the agreement is full of loopholes, and tens of thousands of U.S. soldiers will remain in the cities after the "deadline" passed.

For example, 3,000 U.S. troops stationed within Baghdad at Forward Operating Base Falcon won't be moved, because **U.S. commanders have determined that despite its location, it's not within the city.**

U.S. troops that are no longer sleeping in the cities will still take part in operations within Iraqi cities, because **they are reclassified as military trainers not combat troops.**

The larger loophole in the agreement is that there has been little mentioned of the **132,610 military contractors in Iraq. They are mercenaries and they will remain in Iraq indefinitely.**

It seems that **the military had planned for a withdrawal from Iraq in name only.** Instead of sending soldiers stationed in cities home, the military has been expanding and building new bases in rural areas to accommodate soldiers affected by the June 30 deadline.

President Obama plans to bring U.S. combat forces home from Iraq in 2010, and the U.S. and Iraq have agreed that all U.S. forces would leave by 2012. But General George Casey, Army chief of staff, on May 26 gave a statement contradictory to President Obama's commitment. **Gen. Casey said that the U.S. combat troops could be in Iraq for 10 years!**

We say, "Withdraw all our troops and mercenaries: OUT OF IRAQ NOW!"



Join 347th Peace Vigil to end the war!
Every Saturday, 1-3pm, at Rte. 59 & N. Middletown Rd. in Nanuet, NY

For info: www.rocklandaction.org

7/11/09

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