

Veterans Biking for Peace

Source: "Veterans On Cross Country Biking Pilgrimage to Protest the War in Afghanistan" by Nick Copeland, CommonDreams.org, 7/13/10



US Army sergeant Jacob George (middle) served 3 tours in Afghanistan (www.operationawareness.org)

Jacob George, 28, a US Army sergeant, served 3 tours in Afghanistan from 2001 to 2004.

After years of quiet reflection, he felt compelled to break his silence and clear his conscience. On May 1st, he began biking across the country to protest against the war.

He was accompanied by his brother, **Jordan George**, 19, of the Arkansas National Guard. Jordan is AWOL and is refusing deployment to Afghanistan.

Spencer Hindmarsh, 28, a US Air Force veteran from the Afghan war and a law student at the University of Arkansas, has now joined the ride.

Their ride aims to raise awareness about the disastrous effects of the war on veterans, Afghani civilians, and US citizens. **They see the war in Afghanistan as unnecessary, unwinnable and senseless, and a death sentence for thousands of US soldiers and for tens of thousands of Afghani civilians** who are caught in the crossfire.

They believe that the Taliban poses no threat to the US, provided that the US leaves Afghanistan. George says that the **Afghanis “don’t want occupation.”** He regrets that **the US occupation has turned the oppressive Taliban into legitimate freedom fighters for many Afghanis.** They also think that the war makes US citizens vulnerable to domestic terrorism.

Their ride will end when the Afghan War ends. Some people might think this is crazy. But the riders respond: **“If you think that riding bikes is unsustainable, what about perpetual warfare?”** By taking a stand, a “Ride Till the End” highlights the sheer insanity and cruelty of the war, and embodies the courage needed to create a culture of peace.



Join our 402nd Peace Vigil to end the wars!
Every Saturday, 1-3pm, at Rte. 59 & N. Middletown Rd. in Nanuet, NY
For info: www.rocklandaction.org 7/31/10

Rockland Coalition for Peace & Justice