

# The Conscience to Resist

Source: "Protesters at Fort Hood in Killeen Block buses deploying troops to Iraq" by Alice Embree, *the Rag Blog*, August 23, 2010



On August 23, 2010, under darkness at about 4 a.m., buses carrying combat troops from Fort Hood, TX to planes heading to Iraq were stopped by a group of five protesters that included two Iraq War veterans, one Afghanistan War veteran, and one military spouse.

Participants, left to right: Iraq War vets Bobby Whittenberg-James and Crystal Colon; Jeff Grant; military spouse Cynthia Thomas; and Afghanistan War vet Matthis Chiroux.

Supporters of the Fort Hood Disobeys group held banners and signs: "Occupation is a Crime" and "Please Don't Make the Same Mistake We Did. RESIST NOW." Police with automatic weapons and dogs beat them out of the roadway.

**The military spouse participating in this protest is Cynthia Thomas.** Even though her husband suffered fractures in his back and his pelvis and PTSD from his second deployment, the Army deployed him a third time. That devastated her and her family.

Soon after, her stepson joined the Marines. She said, "That was the exact moment I realized that our children would be fighting these endless wars. I decided that I needed to start resisting."

She has heard countless stories from vets, active duty soldiers and military families that would shock people awake if they would just listen!

She said, "If these wars are destroying our soldiers and military families with 12 to 15-month, often repeat deployments, **how do you think the Iraqi and Afghan people doing? They have been living these wars 24/7, 365 days a year for nearly a decade!**"

"My youngest daughter was less than one-year-old when her father left to invade Iraq. **I look at her, and I see an Iraqi or Afghan child having to live in constant fear with no end in sight!** I am doing this for our community, for my girls, for my husband and our Marine. I am doing this for the Iraqi and Afghan People."



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