

## AFT PEACE AND JUSTICE CAUCUS

Founded in July, 2006, we are a peace and justice organization registered as a issue caucus in the American Federation of Teachers.

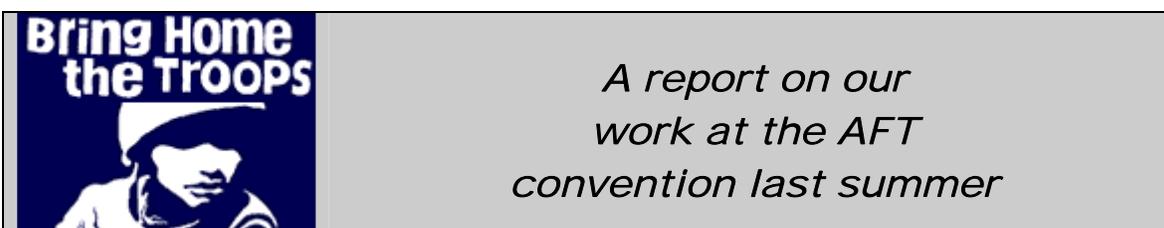


### MISSION STATEMENT

The AFT Peace and Justice Caucus will be an issue caucus with the mission to promote peaceful solutions to world conflict and economic and social justice at home and abroad. The Caucus will advocate that AFT work for public policies that

- Work for world peace & disarmament
- Reduce the military budget and increase funding of education and other social needs
- Reduce violence
- Increase awareness of basic human and civil rights
- Support the right of all workers in all nations to organize and bargain collectively
- Support the concept of a free, quality public education for all, free from the fear of pre-emptive war and the restrictions of wartime occupations

The Caucus will also undertake to educate AFT members about various issues that address the above concerns through literature, forums, and other public events.



*We first came together at the bi-annual national convention of the AFT held in Boston this past summer. Our initial work focused on building an anti-war movement in the AFT, advocating for the AFT to play a role in promoting progressive immigration policies and supporting a special order of business at the convention in defense of striking teachers in Oaxaca, Mexico.*

- *We maintained and staffed a P & J Caucus table at the convention, distributing thousands of leaflets on the Iraq War, advocating for immigration reform, signing up 135 members, talking to delegates and organizing forums on (1) the Mideast, (2) veterans and military families against the war and (3) education reform, with Jonathan Kozol as the featured speaker. But our main work was on the convention floor. The AFT passed anti-war resolution that resolved that: "The American Federation of Teachers oppose the war in Iraq and call upon our country's leaders to withdraw all troops, bases and military operations in a rapid and timely manner and to put a stop to the unending military presence that will waste lives and resources, undermine our nation's security and weaken our military...[emphasis added]"*
- *The AFT build anti-war movement by "encourag[ing] its state and local affiliates to join the AFT in working with the AFL-CIO to end the war in Iraq and bring the troops home rapidly."*

*The AFT Peace and Justice Caucus played a crucial role in strengthening the language in these two "resolves," putting the federation on record as "oppose[d] to the war" and committed to building an anti-war movement with its "state and local affiliates" and the AFL-CIO.*

*AFT leadership at the convention introduced a special order of business that in essence, supported Israel's attack on Lebanon. Peace and Justice Caucus delegates spoke and fought against the resolution and presented a more balanced alternative which was narrowly defeated.*

*The convention also passed a special order of business in support of striking teachers in Oaxaca who had been attacked by police and paramilitary forces.*

**Update: At its recent annual convention, the California Federation of Teachers, with leadership from Peace and Justice Caucus members, passed a resolution opposing expansion of war into Iran (similar to the one proposed on the reverse side).**

For details, go to our website at <http://www.aftpeaceandjusticecaucus.org/>

Turn the page please ►►

**Bring Home  
the Troops**



## Going Forward: Our Work at the NYSUT RA

**There are three resolutions that we are supporting at the NYSUT RA**

- Resolution #3 – The War in Iraq
- Resolution #4 -- Restore Habeas Corpus
- Resolution #5 – Oppose Political Repression in the Wake of the Oaxaca teachers' Strike

In addition, we are supporting a call for a special order of business on Iran.

### OPPOSE U.S. EXPANSION OF THE WAR INTO IRAN

**Whereas**, since February 2007 expansion of the disastrous U.S. war in Iraq into its more powerful neighbor Iran seems more and more possible to informed observers of differing political views, and would lead to devastating loss of life in Iran, a further drain on the education and health budgets in the U.S., and catastrophic consequences for the region and the world; and

**Whereas**, preventing U.S. expansion of the war into Iran is in the spirit of the NYSUT, AFT, NEA and AFL-CIO union resolutions calling for rapid withdrawal from Iraq; and labor action against the war has now grown to the point where the national coalition U.S. Labor against the War represents over 4,000,000 union members; and

**Whereas**, concerns about Iran's use of nuclear technology should be addressed through negotiation and diplomacy; and

**Whereas**, instead, the Bush administration and most of Congress support keeping on the table all military options against Iran including nuclear strikes, and have sent two carrier battle groups into the Persian Gulf in classic colonial-style gunboat diplomacy; and

**Whereas**, the Bush administration's pretexts for expanding the war to Iran bear a striking resemblance to its false pretexts for the invasion and occupation of Iraq (including selectively demonizing Iran while not the equally repressive Saudi Arabia); and

**Whereas**, such U.S. military and covert operations against Iran go back, first, to 1953, when the CIA was involved in the overthrow of the lawful and popular government of Mohammed Mossadegh in order to install the Shah, and, second, to 1980-88, when the U.S. provided substantial aid to Saddam Hussein's war against Iran; and

**Whereas**, NYSUT stands in solidarity with our sister and brother workers in Iran oppressed by the right-wing, anti-labor Ahmadinejad regime, which would only be strengthened by Iranian national outrage at a U.S. military attack; therefore be it

**Resolved**, that NYSUT unequivocally condemns the reactionary regime of Ahmadinejad and his shameful, anti-semitic Holocaust denials; and be it further

**Resolved**, that NYSUT also condemns any U.S. military intervention in Iran, and demands that the Bush administration and Congress take all military options off the table in dealing with Iran; and be it further

**Resolved**, that NYSUT will communicate this resolution to the AFT, the NEA, the AAUP, and the AFL-CIO, and urge them to educate and organize teachers, students, and union members to oppose U.S. military intervention in Iran.



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Purchase A Caucus Button!**

**You can sign-up for membership and/or  
purchase a button at our table**

**Or go to our website:  
[www.aftpeaceandjusticecaucus.org/](http://www.aftpeaceandjusticecaucus.org/)  
More On Reverse Side▶▶**