



# Marrickville Peace Group

E: [marrickvillepeacegroup@gmail.com](mailto:marrickvillepeacegroup@gmail.com) W: [www.marrickvillepeacegroup.org](http://www.marrickvillepeacegroup.org)

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Against Australia's military involvement in Iraq

The Marrickville Peace Group (MPG) is adding its voice to opposition to Australia's involvement in hostilities in Iraq.

The group believes this latest intervention is doomed to fail in the same way as previous campaigns.

Spokesperson for MPG, Mr Nick Deane, said: "The policy of military intervention in the Middle East has a proven track record of failure. The problem of extremist factions challenging the West is worse now than it has ever been. After 13 years, military intervention has hardened the resolve of fanatics; boosted their recruitment, and, increased anger towards the west because of civilian casualties."

"Our group doesn't merely oppose more war. We can see a number of positive things that might have been done, other than going to war."

MPG points out these alternatives:

- making diplomacy and humanitarian assistance the priority;
- improving relations with Iran and seeking that country's assistance;
- halting the flow of finance to ISIS;
- restricting the supply of weapons to the region, generally;
- re-starting negotiations within the UN to end the civil war in Syria;
- tackling the underlying humanitarian problems of the region—poverty, hunger, drought, joblessness – through the auspices of the UN.

"Instead of putting effort into any of these options, we have resorted to sending high explosives," said Mr Deane. "This is anything but a 'humanitarian' response."

"The decision to send Australia to war again has had too much influence from the USA and not enough from the Australian Parliament."

"RAAF assets were pre-positioned in Saudi Arabia three weeks ago and there was time for parliament to publicly debate our participation in the conflict," said Mr Deane.

"In Australia we give too much authority to the National Security Committee of Cabinet - and this has given disproportionate influence to our American allies."

"Millions protested the invasion of Iraq in 2003. We expect large numbers to express their outrage at more bombing. The cost will run in many millions of dollars that should have been spent on social services at home."

Contact:

Nick Deane

0420 526 929

[marrickvillepeacegroup@gmail.com](mailto:marrickvillepeacegroup@gmail.com)

17 October 2014