# Iraq: Still Recovering
# 18 Years After The US Invasion

## *March and rally*

## Friday, March 19, 2021
## 5:00 PM

### Pioneer Courthouse Square
### (SW Yamhill and Broadway)

*Joe Biden is the 6th consecutive*
*US President to bomb Iraq*

## US airstrike kills top Islamic State leader in Iraq
### January 30, 2021

Iraqi officials said that the attack on an underground hideout avenged the deaths of the 32 Iraqis killed in the Islamic State attack on a Baghdad market last week. More than 100 others were wounded in the attack, the deadliest in Baghdad in four years.

**By: New York Times | Baghdad |** *Written by Jane Arraf and Falih Hassan*



Workers clean a bloody street near Tayaran Square in Baghdad after twin suicide bombings left at least 32 dead, Jan. 21, 2021. (Ivor Prickett/The New York Times)

U.S. airstrikes in a joint mission with Iraqi forces have killed the top Islamic State group leader in Iraq, an attack aimed at stemming the group's resurgence and exacting retribution for a deadly double-suicide bombing in Baghdad last week.

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Join us for a march and rally marking **18 years since the US invaded Iraq in 2003**. The invasion and occupation were based on the false information presented by the **George W. Bush** administration alleging that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction. Members of Congress, including then-Senator Joe Biden, voted to authorize war. After the invasion, no WMDs were found. As part of an agreement by Bush,President **Barack Obama** withdrew troops in 2011, only to send more back in to fight the Islamic State in 2014. **In early 2020, President Trump** deeply damaged US-Iraq relations by using a drone to assassinate Iranian General Soleimani and an Iraqi militia leader. The Iraqi parliament voted to demand the US leave their country. **On January 27, 2021, the US killed an Islamic State leader in an airstrike, making Biden the sixth consecutive US President to bomb the country of Iraq.**

While there are now only 2500 US Troops in Iraq, the instability caused by 13 years of sanctions and war (1990-2003) and 18 years since the second war and invasion, keep many Iraqis from having even their basic needs met. While greatly reduced, attacks by ISIS, which did not exist before the invasion, continue. The US embassy in Baghdad is the world's largest, despite Iraq being the 36th largest country by population and 58th largest in size. It is clear the US wants to stay in Iraq to control the oil resources not just in Iraq but in the entire region.**March 19 also marks 10 years since Barack Obama launched the US war on Libya,** which threw that country into turmoil which is only now seeming to come to resolution with a new unity government forming. It is time to end all US wars and bring the troops home!

This event is part of the weekly Friday rally for Peace and Justice in Pioneer Square,which began shortly after the US invasion of Afghanistan in 2001. Begun by Portland Peaceful Response Coalition, Peace and Justice Works has hosted these rallies since March, 2020.

*Event coordinated by Peace and Justice Works Iraq Affinity Group; endorsed by the Pacific Green Party.*

## For more info: Peace and Justice Works Iraq Affinity Group

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