

**MEDIA RELEASE – DESERT GREENS GREEN PARTY OF UTAH**  
**DESERT GREENS SCHEDULE SERIES OF EVENTS**  
**TO OPPOSE CONTINUING OCCUPATION OF IRAQ**

**Contact information: 801-201-0219, [gpu@gput.org](mailto:gpu@gput.org)**

**01.15.07 Salt Lake City** – Bush's announcement of plans to escalate the war in Iraq has spurred a groundswell of opposition across the country. On Thursday, January 11 anti-war protests took place in more than 1,000 communities. The peace surge will escalate with a major national march on Washington on Saturday, January 27 to push Congress to stand up to the Bush Administration and bring the war to a close. Utah residents, along with millions of people throughout the United States, say it's time to end the Iraq war. The Desert Greens Green Party of Utah joins others from every corner of the country to tell Congress and the White House: De-escalate the war and bring the troops home now.

"It's unbelievable that after the voters, the soldiers, and the Iraqis said they want an end to this war, President Bush is going to escalate it," says Deanna Taylor, Co-Coordinator of the Desert Greens. "They've tried escalations before. All they've done is increase resentment and violence in Iraq. Congress needs to follow the will of the voters, take bold action, and cut off the funds for both Bush's escalation and the war as a whole."

Nearly four years after the U.S. invasion of Iraq, a majority of Americans polled believe it's time to end the war. According to two January polls, 62% believe launching the Iraq war was a mistake, 70% oppose an increase of troop levels, and 54% say we should withdraw all troops immediately or within a year. More than 3,000 U.S. soldiers have been killed in the war and nearly 23,000 have been wounded; according to Johns Hopkins researchers, Iraqi civilian deaths number in the hundreds of thousands. The war's cost is approaching \$360 billion--money that could have been spent on education, housing for Katrina evacuees, healthcare and other basic human needs.

The Desert Greens, member of the Green Party of the United States Peace Action Committee, has planned these events as opportunities for Utah citizens and can also be viewed at:  
[www.desertgreens.org/events.html](http://www.desertgreens.org/events.html)

*Empty Shoes of War* ~ Saturday, January 27, 9am to 5pm

An exhibit of shoes and photos of Iraqi children, symbolizing the death toll of children and families in Iraq  
Library Plaza Square, 200 East 400 South

**STOP THE WAR FILM SCREENING** - Saturday, February 24 ~ 3:00pm

Downtown Salt Lake City Library, Room 4, 200 East 400 South

*Why We Fight*

**STOP THE WAR RALLY**

Saturday, March 17 ~ 2:00pm Federal Building Plaza, 100 South State Street

**STOP THE WAR PANEL DISCUSSION**

Sunday, March 18 ~ 2:00pm

Downtown Salt Lake City Library Auditorium, 200 East 400 South

This series of events will send a clear message to Congress: De-escalate. The Iraq war must end. It's time to bring all the troops home.

More information: Eileen McCabe, 801-201-0219, [gpu@gput.org](mailto:gpu@gput.org), [www.desertgreens.org](http://www.desertgreens.org)