



Manufactured Fear

Forum I: Impact of Fear on the Nation: The Patriot Act and Homeland Security

Presenters: **Ben Stone**, Executive Director, Iowa Civil Liberties Union
Chuck Larson Sr., District Attorney for Northern Iowa

Subject: How have our rights been curtailed, our safety improved, our lives changed by this politicalization of fear? Are you willing to forego the traditional political freedoms we take for granted in America?

Place: **Beems Auditorium**, Cedar Rapids Public Library

Date: **Thursday November 3, 2005**; Refreshments at 6:30; Speakers at 7:00 p.m.

Moderator: **David Loeb sack**, Cornell College Professor of Political Science

Forum II: Impact of Fear on the Community: The Costs of Heightened Militarism

Presenters: **Miriam Meyer**, Iowa City Veterans Administration
Kathleen McQuillen, American Friends Service Committee

Date: **Thursday January 26, 2006**; Refreshments at 6:30; Speakers at 7:00 p.m.

Moderator: Wendy Barth, Women for Peace Iowa

Forum III: Impact of Fear on the World: Demonizing Opponents

Presenters: **Charles Vernoff**, Cornell College
Rev. Rick Koyle, Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist

Date: **Thursday May 4, 2006**; Refreshments at 6:30; Speakers at 7:00 p.m.

Moderator: Judith Pedersen-Benn, Women for Peace Iowa



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WE are living in a time of collective fear...fear encouraged by our government and exacerbated by our media. Perhaps this fear has its origins in the shocking events of 9/11. The sense of vulnerability created by this event quickly became a justification for much that has been done by our government ever since. Two wars have been fought and our constitutional protections have been threatened all in the name of a "war on terrorism." The justice department claims the power to hold American citizens in prison indefinitely, without access to lawyers, because they have been labeled "enemy combatants." Questioning the legitimacy of these actions, including the preemptive war on Iraq, is seen by many as un-American and giving comfort to the "enemy." How can we, as concerned citizens of a democracy, legitimately question and redirect this administration? This may be the only time in our history when we are warned not only to be afraid but are told exactly how afraid we should be (red, orange or yellow alerts). And yet, regardless of how afraid we should be, we are given no advice about what to do. What better time to step back and reflect upon the political uses and abuses of *politicized fear*?

The 2005/06 Women for Peace Iowa forum series urges all of us to consider how the "war on terror" and the "manufactured fear" that support that war impact us locally, nationally and globally. Speakers will address a diverse spectrum of issues including: the Patriot Act and homeland security; the costs of heightened militarism; and the outcomes of demonizing opponents. Each session stands alone but all give a more complete picture of the consequences of the politics of fear.



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